

W. Cornell, Pioneer Washington Island Fisherman

1 Claude is Pioneer Airman on the Island

MR. JOHN W. CORNELL, veteran fisherman of Washington Island, has been actively engaged in the fishing business for more than fifty years. He is a true native of Washington Island, having been born on the island in the year 1865. Mr. Cornell's parents moved to Green Bay when he was ten years of age, and here he succeeded in getting a good education working during his spare hours in the cooperage trade. At the age of seventeen, in the year of 1882, he moved to the fishing grounds on the west shore of Green Bay near Bark Harbor where he was engaged fishing gill nets of the old cut and stone type, using a small boat to reach the fishing grounds in the Bay. Mr. Cornell fished from this location for four years and then returned to Washington Island and in 1886, where he has been engaged in the fishing business ever since.

Mr. Cornell has lived through and has taken an active part in the many stages of the fishing industry on Green Bay and Lake Michigan, and by conscientious and diligent effort has developed a flourishing, modern fishing enterprise on the island. The first eleven years of his fishing career were spent using sail boats on the waters of Green Bay. Mr. Cornell then adopted the use of steam tugs, which were first coming into general use on the Great Lakes. During the following years he owned and operated five steam powered fishing boats, the last of which was the *Gust* now being operated out of Two Rivers.

At the present time Mr. Cornell is the head of the modern fishing firm known as J. W. Cornell & Sons. Besides Mr. J. W.

40, and Claude C., age 37. The Cornells now operate two oil burning boats equipped with Kahlenberg engines, and have complete gill net and hook fishing rigs, as well as a fine set of fish houses located at Detroit Harbor on the southwest shore of the Island.

Having spent over fifty years as a fisherman, Mr. Cornell is one of the oldest active fishermen of Door County.

Mr. Claude C. Cornell, the youngest member of the firm, is the Island's first aviator and can boast of having the first privately owned airplane in the locality.

The younger Mr. Cornell is shown in the accompanying picture with his plane which he has appropriately named the *Washington Island*. The plane is a Stinson, four passenger cabin ship, is powered with a Kinner 125 horsepower motor, and is fully equipped including starter, lights, etc.

Mr. Cornell received his flying training from Lieutenant Walter Arntzen of the U. P. Air Associates at Escanaba, Mich. Lieutenant Arntzen is perhaps the most capable and experienced instructor and flyer in the Northwest, and his wife is also a licensed flyer, piloting her own plane.

Although Mr. Cornell has just recently taken up flying, he already has had more than 100 hours in the air and anticipates many pleasant trips in the near future.

Editor's Note: We are indebted to Mrs. Claude Cornell for the above story and picture and wish to take this opportunity of thanking her for her cooperation in assembling this material.



Washington Island's Flying Fisherman

Cornell the firm consists of his three eldest sons, William C., age 42, George H., age

Queens of Atlantic Fishing Fleets at Fair

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boats carry a spread of canvas whose extent is nearly 8,000 sq. ft.

The *Bluenose* carries no auxiliary power and must depend entirely upon the wind for propulsion. The *Thebaud*, on the other hand, is equipped with a Fairbanks-Morse 100 horsepower Diesel engine which can be used to propel the boat during periods of calm.

The origin of the famous International Fishing Race goes back to 1920, when that great old sportsman, Sir Thomas Lipton, was making another of his gallant but un-

successful voyages. The attitude of deep sea fishermen, who were following the races with interest, was frankly scornful. They were anxious to see what they could do, and an opportunity was soon to come, for within a few weeks arrangements had been made for the holding of an international race for deep sea fishing schooners. The result of the first of these contests, held off Halifax in October, 1920, was a decisive win for the American representative, the *Esperanto*, of Gloucester, which took two straight races from the *Delawana*, of Lunenburg, representing the Nova Scotian fleet. Although the race has not been held every year, there have been a number of these "classics" since the first

two rivals of the North Atlantic can be arranged on Lake Michigan. While as yet no definite plans have been perfected, efforts are being put forth to have such a contest materialize, and among those most anxious for this naturally are those engaged in the fishing industry.

Just as the recent trip of the *Thebaud* to Washington focused the attention of the Nation on the business of catching fish, so will these two schooners on exhibition in Chicago create widespread interest in fishing and an appreciation of it that will be beneficial to those engaged in the industry. Many of the hundreds of thousands of visitors to the Fair are for the first time seeing the kind of vessels that have played



1928 - visiting Indians attending the Holstein Breeders Association
Picnic ("the bull picnic") held at the new Island Airport;
photo taken by Clarence Koyen

Bill & Fil