

R.T. SEARLES & SONS BOATBUILDERS
1913 - 1977

'Helen' which he built for Mr. E A Johnstone of Malvern in 1915, also a 25 ft Cutter for Mr. J McEachern.

When trade slackened off due to the 1914-1918 War, he became caretaker at the R.S.A.Y.S. in Jenkins Street and we lived in a house on the premises, which was flooded at extra high tide, mainly in the winter.

He left the caretaker's job to take a storeman's position at Unbehaum & Johnstone electrical engineers in Currie Street, Adelaide.

In 1922 he designed and commenced building the 45ft motor launch **'Chum'** for Mr. E A Johnstone at Mr. George Ross's workshop in Woodville West. He was assisted by Fred Lauder and Ted Searles, my first job after leaving school.

The "Chum" was launched at the Harbours Board dockyard at Glanville in 1923.



The "Chum" has changed hands many times and was once owned by Commander W Crozier (R.A.N.) and several alterations were made, including a new wheelhouse.

The "Chum" was last seen at Coffin Bay still going strong after 65 years.

R T Searles commenced business at Waverley Street, Largs Bay in 1923, with Les Searles, in building the undermentioned craft:

The **'Fife'** a 21ft restricted class yacht (1924) for Mr. Lance (Boy) Bennett of Brighton who sailed it in the Forster Cup Class.

The **'Manara'** a 30ft yacht for Mr. Frank Haselgrove (RSAYS).

The 30ft motor launch **'Lady May'** for Mr. Lee Salvemeni professional fisherman of Glanville (lost arm in ice crusher). Now the **'Heron'**, which was last seen up for sale at Mannum in August 2000.



The 33ft motor launch **'Kudos'** for Mr. W Wallace (PASC) furniture storeman in Semaphore Road, Exeter.

The 29ft yacht **'Anyndah'** (left) for Mr. Norman Ford (RSAYS) of Largs Bay.

The 24ft motor launch **'Konetta'** for Mr. Alf Gowling used for fishing excursions from Outer Harbour.