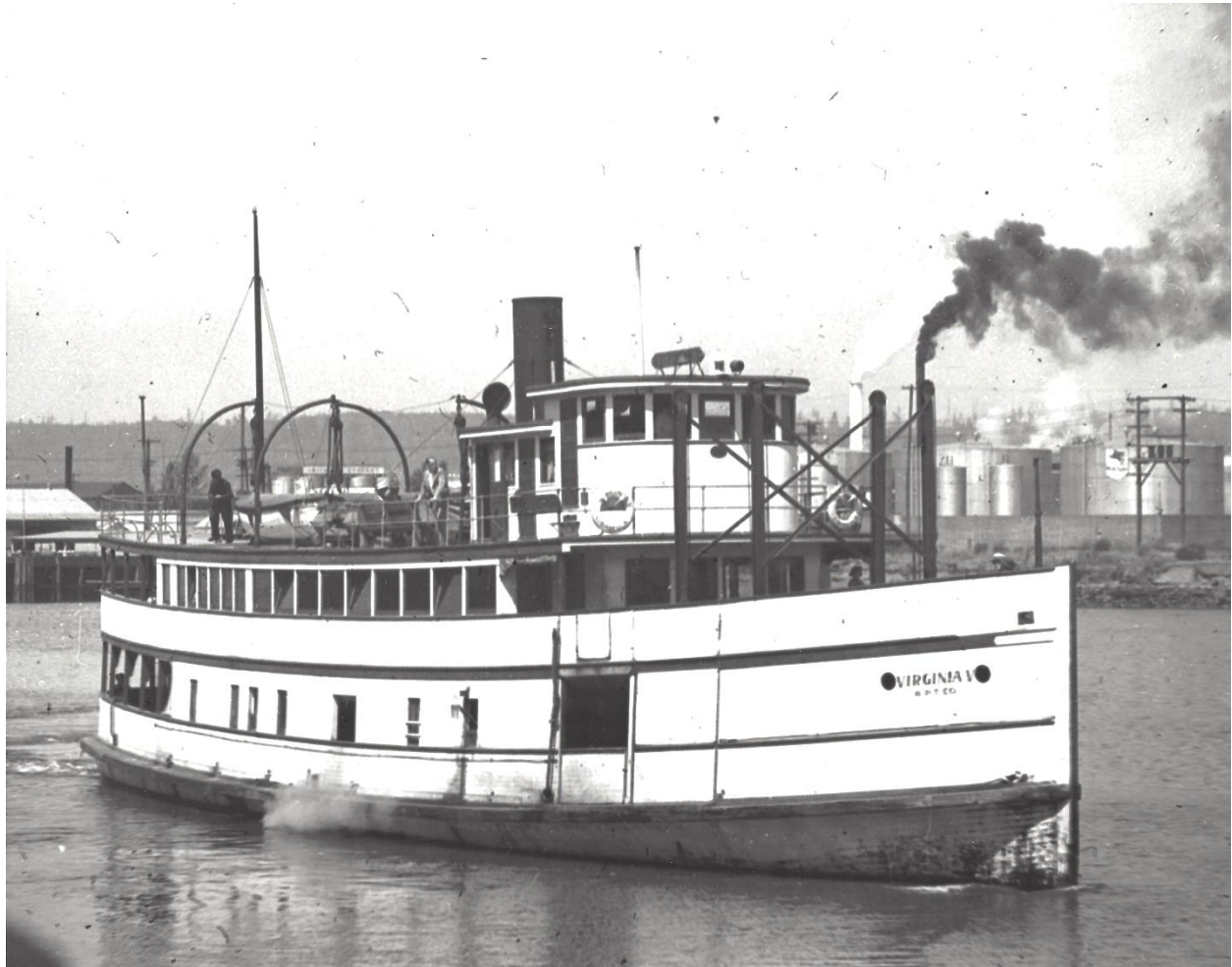


**Comment from Keith Sternberg about the photo below which appeared in our E-news, January 2021, in the “From the Archives” section:**



In the 1930s photo of the V5 approaching the Tacoma Municipal Dock the small oval object below the center wheelhouse window is a cast-brass plate reading "SS Virginia V rebuilt by Lake Washington Shipyard 1935". This plate was in the museum of mosquito fleet history on Stretch Island, last time I saw it about 25 years ago, owned by Bill Somers. Bill did not tell me how or why the plate was removed, or when. Much of Bill's collection, perhaps all of it, is now at the maritime museum in Tacoma.

The wisp of steam emerging below the guard is from the fuel oil heater, which discharged overboard instead of into the condenser to avoid the risk of oil getting into the steam system if the heater developed a leak. This system was in use until the big refit of 1998-2002.

The single fore-and-aft nameboard on top the wheelhouse was typical of the mosquito fleet steamers, but it was replaced with two nameboards during the late '50s. Sometime during the

'60s I was told a story, but don't remember who told it, that a Coast Guard inspector had insisted on nameboards on each side instead of the single board.

A photo at Camp Sealth dock in 1960 (see below) shows the two boards.

Photos during Parker's time show the single board. It seems that the change occurred during the ownership of Captain Phil Luther and engineer Charlie McMahon.



Regards,  
Keith Sternberg, 2-1-21