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〈カリスティ〉の上で笑顔を見せる、
テッド・アボット(左)とケビン・リトワック

Sailed out from Seattle, Arrived in Tokyo with A Lot of Damages

Two-Man Voyage by Ted and Kevin on An American Sailing Boat, “Kallisti”



They said, “We human beings need not only to work but also to take a rest. So we decided to sail out to the ocean apart from work.” Japanese usually might not think as such. From such a reason, 27-year old Americans, Ted Abbot and Kevin Litwack sailed out to the Pacific Ocean. They are Bostonians. They got a sailing boat by searching on the internet and set sail from Seattle, without enough experiences of sailing. They arrived in Tokyo Yumenosima Marina in this April. Let us introduce a cruising style of nowadays youngsters. Written by Asako Nishi. Photographed by Ken Ando.

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Childhood friends, Ted and Kevin had a same idea

After working for a big ship as an engineer, Ted Abbot decided to sail out to the ocean. He mentioned the reason; “I could not leave from the ship on my voyage, even if I found a very beautiful site or got interested in a very exciting event or encountered a joyful weather. Also I could not land nor jumped into the sea. So I had an idea to experience a free voyage.”

On the other hand, Kevin Litwack who had worked for Microsoft as an engineer said, “I wanted to take free time off the work and decided to sail out to the ocean. I had almost no experiences of sailing but it did not come to the reason of giving up challenge.”

They did not mention any story of their dream from childhood nor prepared any money for the sailing. Their motive for sailing out to the ocean seemed very unconcerned.

Ted and Kevin were born in Boston on the east coast of America. They knew each other from their childhood.

Ted said, “When we planned the cruising, our first tasks were to get the license of boat steering for Kevin and for Ted to read books necessary for their cruising.” They are almost amateurs in sailing. Kevin went to a sailing school to learn the skill of boat steering. Ted read all kinds of books related with navigation, boat steering, information of ports they planned to stop and so on, in order to get the knowledge necessary for cruising.

They searched their boat through internet sites of used yachts. They found a 38ft ketch made by Pierson Yacht and bought it for 47,000 dollars. They repaired the rigging, electric parts, etc. using 1,000 dollars at the mooring pier in Seattle. After finished the repairing, they left Seattle in December 2009 for San Francisco, as serving the shakedown. Then they sailed out to the Pacific Ocean from San Francisco and their long term voyage started.



Ted Abbot studied accounting in a college. After worked for Tokyo Mitsubishi UFJ Bank in New York, he became an engineer of a big ship.



Upper: The wind vane at the stern was broken and no more available. The ship name "Kallisti" is a word which appears in the Greek myths and it's said that "Kallisti" is an adjective which means "most beautiful" for women.

Lower: The cockpit is not so large because there is a mizzen-mast. The steering chair had been left broken for a long time but it was repaired while staying in Tokyo. "But one of the screws seems long a little and it hits us on the buttock."



"Kallisti" mooring at Tokyo Yumenosima Marina. A 38ft ketch made by Pierson Yacht in 1978. She is an older woman with a full hip for Ted and Kevin.

Serious troubles happened between Chichijima and Tokyo

Ted said, “Many things had been broken when sailing between Seattle and San Francisco. Especially the exchange of propeller shaft was most expensive.”

After sailed out from San Francisco, they could sail smoothly before the trade wind until Chichijima. On the sailing from Chichijima to Tokyo they suffered as much trouble as they did on the voyage from Seattle to San Francisco. “The biggest trouble was the breakdown of autopilot. We kept handling the steering wheel by turns for one week because we were not allowed to stop any port until Tokyo by the immigration officer in Chichijima. In the meanwhile the wooden main sheet traveler was separated. Then we could not use the main sail. In addition, we suffered a lot of small trouble”, said Ted with smiling. “So many things were broken such as the shower, the toilet, the water maker, the hinge of the hatch, the windlass, the outboard drive for the dinghy, the steering chair, the electric drive bilge pump, etc. The list of damages to be repaired amounted almost two pages,” said Ted with smiling grimly.

“If such damages had happened in the beginning, we might be discouraged. But the damages occurred one after another. Even if the main sheet traveler was separated, it seemed that the situation did not get so worse, because many things already had been broken,” said Ted laughingly. Kallisti on which magnanimous and robust Ted and Kevin were board, was managed to arrive at Tokyo Yumenosima Marina.

Let’s sail for Japan! The original plan was changed

In the original plan, they were going to sail around the world, from Seattle via Hawaii, Micronesia, South East Asia, India, the Red Sea, the Mediterranean Sea, and the Atlantic Ocean to Boston. “On the way, we thought that this voyage was too much in a hurry. Ted and I were much interested in Japan. So we changed our mind to slow down,” said Kevin.



The mail sheet traveler got damaged on the way from Chichijima to Tokyo. They are considering to layer it by fiberglass.



Kallisti on the way from Saipan in Mariana Islands to Chichijima. "When the sea got stormy, I felt dreadful even if the wind wasn't so strong," said Ted.



Kevin Litwack worked for Microsoft, a company symbolizing America in the 21st century. "I have much interest in Japan such a town as a labyrinth, etc.," said Kevin.

They decided to go to Japan in haste. “We could get the conclusion after discussing for two or three days because both of us were the skipper,” said Kevin. “The reason why we sailed directly toward Tokyo Yumenosima Marina was just we wanted to get to the middle of Tokyo,” said Ted. After arriving in Tokyo, Kevin tentatively went to America by air. Soon he came back to Tokyo and rented an apartment near the marina. Ted is staying in the boat in a relaxed mood.

“We consult with the staff of the marina about repairing. We sometimes go to a nearby hardware shop to buy some parts by a bicycle which a Japanese sailor kindly lent us,” said Ted and Kevin. Now they are studying Japanese. They are studying Japanese conversation; Kevin by taking a chance talking with some neighbors near his apartment and Ted by talking with a policeman who often speaks to him when Ted is riding a bicycle.

Continued the voyage with a selfish style

Ted said, “We did not repair almost anything besides the rigging and the electric parts.” This means the outfitting of Kallisti is very simple. Things in the cabin are very few. “We don’t buy more meats and vegetables than they last in the icebox because there is no electric refrigerator. When the voyage lasted long, we took canned food or oatmeal. We took turns watching after 12 hours, that is from 0am to 12am and from 12am to 12pm. We tried 4-hour watching but the 12-hour watching was best for us,” said Ted.

“The navigation was basically made by electric chart. We have some paper charts for backup but we did not use them almost. We have a radar but basically switch it off because it consumes electric power. We use VHF and SSB for the communication with other ships and SailMail(email services for yachts via marine HF SSB radio) and SPOT(real-time location tracking device over the web) for the communication with people on land,” Ted explained. They have almost nothing in the boat for amusement such as favorite magazines.

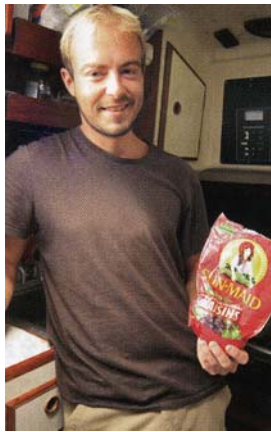
“There is an interesting story,” said Ted. “We took 35 days from Mariana Islands to Hawaii but we did not see any ships during such days. In that area there are few satellites which can receive the signals from SPOT. We could transmit information everyday using STOT before entering that area but it became impossible once entered in that area. Our boat is not carrying any



The inside of the cabin is remained as it was. The photographs on the wall might be displayed by the former owners. Ted and Kevin are the 3rd owners.



The simple navigation desk just with a personal computer and a radiotelegraph. They are navigating mostly using electric charts.



Left:
There is a heater in the cabin. Perhaps it might be set there by the reason that Seattle located on the border between Canada was the home port of Kallisti. "It will be not necessary for us because we are going to sail in the warm area", said Ted.

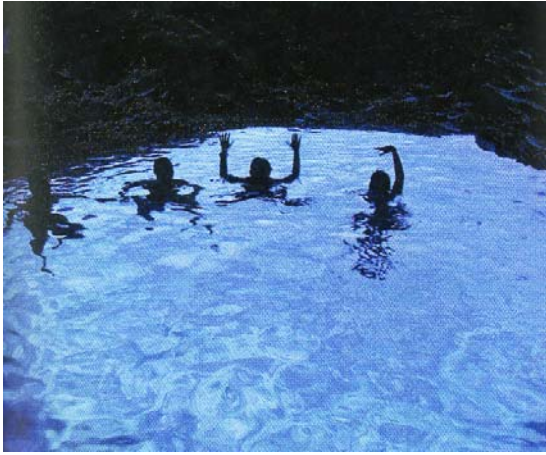
Right:
A girl printed on the bag of raisin became Ted and Kevin's girlfriend during their boat life extended 35 days on the way from Hawaii to Mariana Islands. Ted is smiling wryly.



A page of a note was covered over by the list of parts to be repaired. "I am erasing the finished part by putting a line but the parts waiting for repair increase one after another."

books besides such books as instruction manuals and engineering books nor magazines. The only thing which appeals women to us was the illustration of a girl in the bag of raisin. She looked prettier day after day," they said and laughed.

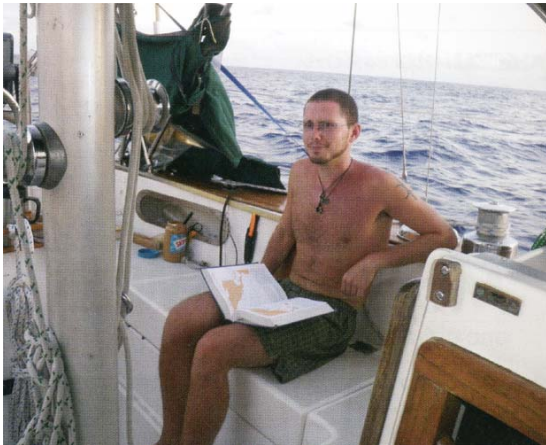
"The most impressive ports we called until now are Pohnpei, Rota in Micronesia Islands and Chichijima in Ogawasara Islands. They have unique and interesting episodes in Pohnpei. Rota is such wonderful in its nature as the full green land and underwater caves in the very transparent sea. They were very kind in Chichijima," said Kevin. He continued, "I am going to visit Chichijima again, not by sailing but by an ocean liner, Ogasawara-Maru." It seems he goes to Chichijima to see a girl whom he met there. Yes such kind of pleasure might be allowable. On the other hand, Ted is recruiting a Japanese sailing partner with whom he is going to sail along the shore of Japan Islands. "If a Japanese sailor comes with me, I'll feel more secure. But my visa will expire at the beginning of this June because I never went outside from Japan since I entered. I am thinking that I should sail out once from Japan or fly to Taiwan or Korea. Anyhow I will join Kevin before his visa will expire and we are going to start again our cruising by keeping away from typhoons."



An underwater cave impressed them very much in the Rota Island.



Liquor is a big pleasure when landed. Ted and Kevin taking a commemorative photograph with a woman met in Guam.



Kevin's reading a cruising guide book on the way from Pohnpei to Guam. He is such a typical American as to lick peanut butter as a snack.



Ted's winding plastic tape around a turnbuckle on their voyage. The boat is sailing comfortably in the trade wind area.

