



REPORT

ISSUE 82

SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA

SEPTEMBER, 1971

PSRMA is offering members and friends an opportunity to relive the golden days of the ferry boats on San Diego Bay. On Sunday, September 26th, a special PSRMA excursion will board the Star & Crescent's "M. V. Monterey," a onetime North Island pedestrian ferry, to retrace the routes of the San Diego & Coronado Ferry Company and the Point Loma Ferry Company and the South San Diego Ferry Company, the latter two having disappeared some years ago as a result of mergers with Star & Crescent.

The "Monterey" will first carry the PSRMA excursion to the Coronado Cays, the nearest navigable point to the old South San Diego landing, and then north to Shelter Island (close to the old Roseville landing). The landings on Coronado, North Island, and perhaps Ballast Point will complete the itinerary for this historic PSRMA tour.

It all began in the 1880's when the steam launch "Della" was placed in service on the Coronado run to transport local folks and real estate speculators to the then-new subdivisions and the under-construction Hotel del Coronado. Soon another ferry was sailing northwards to Roseville taking pleasure seekers for a ride on a steam dummy train which ran through Wabaska Canyon to Cliff House in Ocean Beach. There visitors gathered mussels and picked strawberries. Ferry service to Rockwell Field (the Army name for its airbase on North Island) and the areas of South San Diego (Imperial Beach today) began sometime later.

The PSRMA excursion boat, the "M. V. Monterey," was built in San Diego in 1952. The largest of the boats known as "squareheads" and "nickle-snatchers," it was built primarily to transport civil-

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ian workers to and from North Island. It also has served, and is serving, as a substitute excursion boat.

The era of ferry service on San Diego Bay came to a sudden halt on August 3, 1969, with the official opening of the Coronado-San Diego Bay Bridge. To guarantee the bonds let for this toll bridge, the State of California required all competing service across San Diego Bay be halted, and it was a few minutes before midnight on August 2nd that the San Diego and Coronado Ferry Company's "Coronado" slipped into the dock of her namesake for the last time, ending a tradition on San Diego Bay almost 100 years old.

It will be necessary for the PSRMA excursion to leave the Star & Crescent Boat House, located at Harbor & Market on the Embarcadero, promptly at one in the afternoon of the 26th. In 1964 when PSRMA ran its first ferry route trip, it was not possible to go south of the Navy Repair Base. But now it is, and this extended distance means the "Monterey" has to leave on time if all is to be seen.

Fares are:

Adults.....\$5.50

Jr. & Sr. High Students.....\$3.75

Elem. Sch. Students.....\$2.75

Excursion hours are from one to five p.m. and snack bar service is provided. Also included will be historic data explaining the background of the old routes as they are retraced.

Please make all checks or money orders payable to PSRMA, INC., and mail your ticket orders to: PSRMA, C/O DAVE HOBSON, P.O. BOX 2037, EL CAJON, CALIFORNIA, 92021.

At this late date it might be a good idea to phone your reservations to Excursion Committee Chairman Eric Sanders at 469-1288. Eric also reports he is looking for volunteers for the upcoming Puerto Penasco trip in November. Give him a call if you're interested in helping out.

PSRMA ELECTION

Nominations were received at the July 18, 1971, General Meeting of PSRMA. The election for next year's Association of officers will be held at the October 22 General Meeting. Please note that this is a FRIDAY NIGHT meeting (see GENERAL MEETING in the next column for more details).

Nominations made at the July meeting were:

PRESIDENT:

H. C. Kerr, Jr. (Inc)

VICE-PRESIDENT - GENERAL MANAGER:

George Mazzara

SECRETARY:

John Hathaway

B. V. Parks

TREASURER:

Bill Richards (Inc)

Dave Hobson

BOARD MEMBER (2 YEARS):

George Geyer (Inc)

Herb Ruiz

BOARD MEMBER (1 YEAR)*:

B. V. Parks

Herb Ruiz

Dave Parkinson

REVIEW COMMITTEE (3 YEARS):

Dan Marnell

REVIEW COMMITTEE (2 YEARS):**

Vern Cook

* Unexpired term of Bob DiGiorgio

** Unexpired term of Robert Hastings

These elections give you the individual member an opportunity to let your feelings be known. This is the time for you to be heard in determining the future of PSRMA. Don't pass it up!

GENERAL MEETING

PSRMA's General Meeting for October has undergone some radical format changes in hopes of encouraging more members to attend for the important elections.

In the first place the meeting night has been moved to FRIDAY, OCTOBER 22ND. It is hoped the Friday night date will be more convenient for members to attend.

Also, this meeting will feature a very short "business" session. Instead, members will have an opportunity to talk to PSRMA officials on a one-to-one basis and can get any answers to questions they might have on a personal level.

The entertainment for the night will also be much less formal than before. Members and visitors will have a choice of three separate "shows" to view as well as a number of rare historical displays. These "sideshows" will be conducted by individual members and will consist of slide or movie presentations from their own collections. All three shows will be going on simultaneously during the majority of the meeting, giving visitors the freedom to wander from one to the other. All the shows will be fairly short, but interesting and lively. Next month we'll have a rundown of all the presentations and displays that will be on hand.

As mentioned before, the business session will be fairly short, covering mainly the business on hand of elections. After this it is hoped the informal atmosphere will allow PSRMA members an opportunity to know each other better and become more informed on a personal level.