

August 25, 1960

Dear Jerry:

From time to time I have come across men who have served in the STAR OF INDIA. For the most part they were either fishermen or members of the beach gang and their stories are repetitious.

The enclosed notes have been taken from interviews with Mr. Oscar Ommundsen, a long time cook and steward in steam schooner service. He admitted to having peddled his share of booze during his sea career, having paid for his home in Alameda through such augmented "sales" work while shipping in coastwise vessels. He was second cook in the STAR OF INDIA and gave some detail as to his duties, etc., on that voyage. I included the four letter conversation in the original transcription, otherwise it ##### would have been many pages shorter.

Captain Otto Phillipsen, former Master of the PREMIER and PROSPER; mate of the STAR OF RUSSIA and thirty years master in sundry tank ships, was also in the STAR OF INDIA when she was the EUTERPE.

Captain Eugene Beausang was one time mate of the steam schooner whale ship CALIFORNIA, master of the old ACAPULCO, and in steam schooners, made a trip north in the STAR OF INDIA in 1910. This old gentleman of the sea is about 86 years old and has been blind since 1934. He remarried about five years ago and seems very happy.

The above were "yes" and "no" interviews; very little was volunteered, and what would seem an incident or something worthy of passing along, was merely routine to them.

If there is anything that you may wish to know, concerning the old STAR OF INDIA, let me know and I'll try to obtain the information for you.

Karl has scraped together enough funds to keep me on the job for another ten months; and the Sacramento gestapo has extended my leave for that time, so if there is anything that I can do, while I'm canvassing this area, let me know.

Cordially,

Jack

