

Southern Pacific Company

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IN REPLY PLEASE REFER TO

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GENL. SUPT. MOTIVE POWER
S. M. HOUSTON
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May 6, 1954.

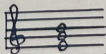
Dear Mr. MacMullen:

I was delighted to receive your letter of April 30th, relative to my writing you all about the Ramona's whistles. Of course, I knew that this news would interest you.

The foundry which is using one of those whistles is the AAA Brass Foundry, 2275 Jerrold St., San Francisco. This is a small outfit specializing in brass and non-ferrous castings, and they do very excellent work, including nautical orders, such as ships' bells, etc. The whistle is now in regular use at 7:45 A.M., 12 noon, and 4:15 P.M. Whenever you should be attempting to listen in on it, you can hear it at best by standing at the gate on the left-hand (east) side of the plant. Perhaps I'd better let you know now that they are being sounded with air (100 lbs. or more) and not with steam; but they sound exactly the same, and I can't detect the least bit of difference tonally. As they are now on a "landlubber job" and are considerably inland, this has a softening effect to the extent that they don't penetrate one's ear drums as they did while on the water, although they are as loud as ever. It is entirely all right if you pass the Ramona story on to your newspaper friends. At this time I'd like to state that I'd always be interested in seeing anything that is ever said in the papers about this story, so would appreciate your sending a clipping of it my way.

I will try at some future date to get the note data on the remaining ferries here and let you know. At present the "Eureka" is laid up for extensive repairs. I wish I could do better in advising you as to your proposed 35-mm documentary, but home-made movies are something I've never gone into and I'm not in touch with anybody that way.

The note data which you gave me on various eastern boats was interesting. I already have the Ramona's and can give it to you now. Both of her whistles are identical twins, sounding the E-minor triad (E, G, and B), as follows:



I never heard what happened to the whistles from Str. Coronado the first. She was already out of service when we first moved to San Diego in 1922 (I was nine years of age then), and I caught a few glimpses of her on the beach; she was taken away about three months later. I had heard of the Morena going to Baja California, but never

