



THE PRESS CLUB OF SAN FRANCISCO

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SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA 94102

19 Clarendon Avenue
San Francisco 94114

Dear Jerry -

July 4 '69

Forgive the familiarity, but I almost feel I know you because of my admiration for your fine and definitive PADDLE-WHEEL DAYS IN CALIFORNIA and my friendship with your late brother Doug.

This note will have to serve instead of the San Diego plane trip I've been contemplating for some time, and never seem to have the time to make. If you will be so kind as to answer a couple of questions for me I'll be most grateful.

As you may or may not know I've been fighting the battle of SHOWBOAT SAN FRANCISCO for what seems like the Thirty Years War, though for the last 10 years (since the FORT SUTTER was destroyed by arson-raiders) I've not actually owned a riverboat. However the political climate has, hopefully, changed for the better -- and at long last it is possible to launch a ferry or riverboat restaurant (plus show, shops, museum of Californiana) now that San Francisco has its Port back after 100 years.

The DELTA KING is the last riversteamer left -- though, gutted of machinery & boilers, this King Lear of riverboats sits forlorn at Stockton but involved in such heavy debts that no one so far has been willing to face the possible legal problems, not to mention the huge cost of reconversion. Yet the KING is still regal in exterior appearance, lacking only the stern-wheel. I'm making progress in getting financial parties interested in saving, for a preservation-for-use program, this once-proud twin to the highly-successful DELTA QUEEN, now an Ohio-Mississippi excursion steamer, as you know.

If not the DELTA KING, however, there are two or three San Francisco Bay ferryboats available locally -- and one more has been offered from your area, the NORTH ISLAND (formerly GOLDEN WEST). As a wooden-huller, is she seaworthy for a trip up the Coast?

My main question, though, involves quite another problem. Recently I had an attractive plan to convert an existing vessel (a sound sugarboat taken off the Crocker run) to a close-as-possible replica of the famous ~~CHRYSOPOPOLIS~~ CHRYSOPOPOLIS. I had a fine color rendering made, using your own excellent drawings as models. Well, I still have the rendering, but the boat is gone -- sold to Alaska fishing operators. It's too bad I couldn't move faster, for it was a most useful vessel for Showboat & restaurant purposes, what with its huge hold and other advantages.

However, just the other day some Sacramento people, well-financed, came to me for information on how to set up a riverboat in cooperation with the current Old Sacramento restoration, rapidly getting under way after a long delay -- which plan includes a hoped-for restoration of the early-day water-

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