

4 Winchester Place,
Burlingame, Calif.,
August 16th, 1933.

Mr. Jerry MacMullen, Director
Junipero Serra Museum
San Diego Historical Society,
San Diego 10, California,

Dear Mr. MacMullen:

Did not get away on 15th as I figured, perhaps in another week or so as several important matters have come up which need my personal attention.

Noted your article in Steamboat Bill - Steamships to San Diego. The article was very interesting to me as I have a full history of Pacific Steamship Lines. Ltd., ex Pacific Steamship Company, ex Pacific Coast Steamship Company ex Goodall, Nelson and Perkins steamship Company, which started out as the Company of Goodall, Nelson & Perkins, March 6, 1867. Also have photos of the steamers involved with their physical descriptions and full histories. All this a hobby of mine.

The CITY OF TOPEKA has rather a unique beginning. She was built by John Roach & Son, Chester, Pennsylvania, July 14, 1884. Roach owned 1/8th interest and the Atchinson, Topeka and Santa Fe Railroad Company owned 7/8th interest in her. On February 1, 1885 she was placed in service between Guaymas, Mexico and other Mexican ports with a view of furnishing traffic for the Railroad. On October 18, 1889 the Railroad sold its interests to the Oregon Improvement Company. Roach followed suit selling his interest to O.I. Co. September 25, 1891. On March 7, 1898 CITY OF TOPEKA became the property of Pacific Coast Company.

Interesting to note during gold rush to the Klondike, CITY OF TOPEKA plied out of Seattle to Skagway and a big money-earner for her owners. Grounded on the rocks near entrance to Wrangell Narrows, luckily pulled off. Had quite a few other mishaps. On January 2, 1919 became property of Pacific Steamship Company and then laid up. Purchased by Inter Island Steam Navigation Company, steamed for Honolulu from S.F. November 20, 1920. Arrived at Honolulu December 14th. Found unsuitable for the inter-island traffic and laid up. They had renamed her WALMEA. Sold to Los Angeles Steamship Company March 23, 1923 and arrived at San Pedro April 6th. Used as a feeder ship for steamers going to Islands. Matson Navigation Company secured control of Los Angeles S.S. Company, January 1, 1931. WALMEA laid up in Los Angeles Harbor, May 29, 1932 and on December 27, 1932 was sold for scrapping.

The STATE OF CALIFORNIA was originally built by Cramps, 1879 for Charles Goodall, President of Pacific Coast Steamship Company. He was the documented owner from March 5, 1879 to May 21, 1879 when he officially turned her over to the Pacific Coast Steamship Company. As you know she struck an uncharted rock off Jew Island in Gambier Bay, Alaska, August 17, 1913 and sank. 33 passengers and 7 crew members went down with her.

The SANTA ROSA was built on speculation by John Roach & Son, February 12, 1884 and immediately chartered her to W.R. Grace & Company for South American Service. When charter expired May 9, 1887 Roach sold her to Oregon Improvement Company. They turned her over to Pacific Coast Steamship Company December 19, 1887.

The CITY OF PUEBLA was completed December 20, 1881 for Francis Alexander of New York. He sold her to Oregon Improvement Company April 15, 1897. She was turned over to Pacific Coast Steamship Company for operation. Became property of Pacific Coast Company March 11, 1898. Sold to Harby Steamship Company of New York, February 9, 1917 and passed into hands of various other owners until February when she was scrapped at Philadelphia the place where she was built.

