

Mr. Jerry MacMullen
C/O Howell-North Books
1050 Parker Street
Berkeley 10
California.

Dear Mr. Mac Mullen,

Permit me to thank you for the nice book "Star of India". Let us hope that this book of yours will create among many people interest in the old sailing ships in time to preserve some of them still afloat.

What an interesting story could be written about the life on "Star of India" and her sister ships if some of the old salts that sailed in them could tell their story, human story of misery and suffering. But this is impossible as most of those that sailed in them in the early days as sailors are all gone.

Being baptised in the life of the sea I am most interested to hear stories of the sea. When I read your story of "Star of India" I could not help but think of the man who told me that he sailed on the Alaska Packers "Star of England" in 1925, "Star of Scotland" in 1926, and that four months on each of the two ships. He told me that on one such trip North while sailing with provisions and workers during a light breeze one evening a young Mexican who was enjoying himself on deck, fell into the sea. There was comotion on board. The officer on duty threw into the water cork ring, but the poor boy could not see it, but managed to get hold of the log rope. The captain was called and was informed what happened. The captain said "let him go" and go he did, as he could not keep holding to the rope of the log. The poor Mexican boy was lost for ever, and his mother never saw him again. But the captain did not finish so well. A few years ago there was a story of this captain jumping from the roof of a second rate hotel to his death on the sidewalk. I am enclosing a card of Mr. Hartman who told me this story, and who could tell you a whole book of most interesting human stories.

May I please ask you whether you have ever come across the name of Captain Stephen Splivalo, my great uncle, who was the first captain to bring Chinese to California in the ship he was the skipper of. The first captain who came from Adriatic to California in his own ship Santa Teresa which was wrecked near Santa Barbara in 1849. This same captain Splivalo piloted through Golden Gate the first ship that came to San Francisco, the paddlewheeler "California". He carried with him his beautiful wife who gave him a son on board the ship near the coast of Chile.

In conclusion I wish to tell you that I have been writing articles of life on the Austrian ships of fifty years ago. These articles are being regularly published in a sea magazine in Yugoslavia "Nase More" (Our Sea) published in the city of Dubrovnik (Ragusa), and I am preparing a book which I hope will be published in Dubrovnik this year. Wishing you the best in health with season greetings.



W. A. (BILL) HARTMANN

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