



GEORGE D. WARD & ASSOCIATES

1126 S. W. 13th Avenue, Portland, Oregon 97205
222-4333

F167-18

ENVIRONMENTAL CONSULTING ENGINEERS

November 25, 1974

Lieutenant General Louis Metzger
Maritime Museum Association of
San Diego
1306 North Harbor Drive
San Diego, California 92101

Dear Lieutenant General Metzger:

It would be appreciated if you would help us in our effort to establish historical facts concerning an incredible ancient old steamer known to have spent many years in San Diego and South America waters.

As indicated from the enclosed reprint taken from the December, 1945 PACIFIC MOTOR BOAT, she was built in 1904 at Ballard, Washington as the Major Evans Thomas. She is known to have served the military out of Port Townsend, Washington for many years; possibly through the First World War. The article suggests she went to "California ports" in 1917 along with her sister ship the Cartwright.

In 1940, she was apparently purchased by Captain Edison Brown of San Diego and rebuilt as the wrecking tug RETRIEVER. One of the photos shows her as a salvage tug when she apparently salvaged two scuttled German ships at some unnamed South American Port.

It would be appreciated if you would search your records and advise us of any information you may have on her. As noted in the enclosed brochure, she is still afloat and in remarkably good shape considering that she is 70 years old.

Cordially yours,

George D. Ward
George D. Ward



P.S. - She may also have been named the Edison Brown about 1936 or 37.

she may also have spent some time in Los Angeles.

GDW:sw
Enclosures