

May 4 En 1965

2501 - 34th Avenue
San Francisco, California 94116

Mr. Jerry MacMullen
Maritime Museum Association of San Diego
Bark STAR OF INDIA
1306 N. Harbor Drive
San Diego 1, California

Dear Mr. MacMullen:

I have before me your letter of December 8, 1964, written to my niece, Mrs. Bernice Burnes, who with my daughter and I, besides six others of the family, were to visit during the Thanksgiving holidays. We flew down and arrived in San Diego that Thursday morning.

Mrs. Burnes had phoned the San Diego Union and made some arrangement, so our party made for the ship and arrived there about 10:30. We were met there by two newsmen with their cameras. I asked about you and was told you were sick. They asked some questions and took photographs and left. The mate on watch (I cannot recall his name) took us around the ship and showed me what they had done and contemplated doing. He tried to contact Captain Reynard, who was due for the watch that afternoon, but our party, which included four children) was on a tight schedule, so we left after a two-hour very interesting visit.

About the ship -- I wish to commend you and your associates for the fine job you have done in restoring the old ship to its authentic appearance in rigging and hull, especially the tight-fitting girdle, which let us hope stays tight a long time. On the inside, the removal of the continuation of the old poop forward to the main mast (the fishermen's quarters) gave the ship the original clean deck lines from fore and aft and added to the authenticity of the ship of her age. The mate showed me what they were in process of doing inside to quarters, etc. I looked at my old room on port side. The old desk and chart table were naturally gone. As to the rest of the restoration of quarters, etc., I would not worry about the authenticity of a ship 100 years old. Your guess is as good as another, and who are they that could dispute you? As sails went out completely after the First World War (including myself), there are very few old sailors left and they have forgotten and have no nostalgic memories of the old ships which were to them a job where you worked hard for poor eats and pay and were commonly remembered and referred to as "old rust-buckets." But to you and your associates, I say you have done a fine job which I hope will be appreciated -- what you have done for love and managed the finances so well for the restoration of this old ship. If I live long enough I may pay another visit.

I don't get around much any more so I thoroughly enjoyed my visit to San Diego. Besides the STAR which had priority with me, the Sea World and Disneyland were marvels of imagination to me. We also saw the high school girls and boys in the Long Beach parade. I looked around for my old landmarks from the time I used to sail down there, but found the whole landscape today changed and the traffic terrible -- a lot had changed in 25 years.

In your letter you refer to your and Jack McNairn's visit with me and about me writing a book -- well, thanks, but you overestimate my ability. The only thing I had in mind was the title - SHIPS AND MEN, NOW AND THEN - but as a writer yourself, you know what that entails - wide research on the subject you write about and keeping a log on yourself

