

REPORT ON RESTORATION OF SCHOONER G. A. THAYER, FOR
USE AS A STATE PARKS MUSEUM-SHIP

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Oakland, California
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The G. A. Thayer is a wooden, 3-masted bald-headed schooner of 452 gross tons, built by Hans Bendixsen at Fairhaven, Calif., in 1895 for the coastal lumber trade; she subsequently was used in South Pacific trading, and in the Alaskan fisheries. Work of her restoration as a museum-ship is nearing completion at Oakland, Calif., by the Division of Beaches and Parks of the State of California. Mr. Harry Dring, who sailed deepwater in the bark Kalulani and for two years was Ship's Manager for the ship Balclutha at San Francisco, is in charge of the project, as well as that of restoring the steamschooner Wapama, the Sacramento River hayschooner Alma, the ferryboat Eureka and a Chinese junk. Rigging work is being handled by Mr. John Dakerhoff, an old square-rigger man who was for many years superintendent of the rigging-loft for the Moore Drydock & Shipbuilding Co. in Oakland; he re-rigged the Balclutha and the four-masted bark Pamir, and did much of the work on Star of India. Planning and construction of exhibits is being directed by Mr. Karl Kortum, Director of the San Francisco Maritime Museum, assisted by Mr. Harland Soeten. All of the work is Class-A. Following are details of the work:

A. DISPLAYS

- I. Theme: The "theme" of the vessel will be the Pacific Coast lumber trade.
- II. Nature of Displays: The ship herself is the display. It is obvious that there will be few artifacts displayed other than those having to do with actually working the ship and cargo -- galley pots and pans, bulkhead lanterns, sea-chests, made-up bunks, tools, etc. There will, however, be many excellent and dramatically displayed photographs, mounted on swinging boards of the "Multiplex" type, but home-made. Each board is slightly oval in shape, carrying out the theme of a barrel or cask, and is covered with actual pieces of sails. The edge is brass-bound, there is a carved wood main caption -- "The Outports" -- "Wrecks" -- etc., at the top; below, hand-lettered in about 3/4" letters, is the "theme" story of each panel; photo captions are done on IBM typewriter with a Roman face. Right-hand margins of the copy of each caption is "justified" and both captions and photos are glass-covered. All photos are sepia-tone prints, it having been found that black-and-white tends to grow yellow with age. (See Fig. 2, attached sketch).
- III. Lighting: "Lighting," says Mr. Dring, "should be adequate but not glaring. Safety is a primary consideration." Although some fluorescents are used, most of the lights are incandescent, their light being more in keeping with the theme of a wooden ship. For lighting the deck, twinned 75-w floods are mounted at regular intervals under the rails. A much larger, shaded lamp is hung over the access-hatch. Lighting of cabins will be tubular.

SECTION OF OAKLAND