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Dear Patrice Manahan:

Thank you for your letter of April 8. As a former newspaperman I don't need to be told how easy it is to think one thing and write something else!!

While on the subject of ferryboats, I can't recall ever seeing anything in Westways about the ferry SACRAMENTO which spends summers as a sport fishing barge off Redondo Beach and winters hibernating across the channel from her onetime running mate SIERRA NEVADA (at Ports o'Call, San Pedro.)

I have seen items in your magazine by Jerry MacMullen (whose new address is Aboard Bark "Star of India," 1306 N. Harbor Dr., San Diego, Cal. 92101.)

The SACRAMENTO traces her history back to 1877--almost 90 years ago--when she was built as the NEWARK. Jerry says he rode her as the NEWARK, a name she retained until her rebuilding as the SACRAMENTO in 1921-23.

Maybe sometime you might have Jerry write you something on the SACRAMENTO. I'm sure most people who fish from her decks don't realize what's under them!

--NEWARK had the largest paddle wheels of any ferry on S.F. Bay. In fact, few ocean steamers of the time had wheels exceeding her 42-foot paddles. (That's equivalent to 4 stories going around!) Her paddle boxes were an artwork in themselves, challenging any decorative design on the Mississippi.

--NEWARK was claimed as S.F.'s largest ferry in 1912, when the San Francisco Examiner superimposed 3 photos of her end to end on a larger photo of the White Star liner TITANIC, to give an idea of TITANIC's size.

--NEWARK's pilot house once was the scene of a marriage, performed by her Captain.

--An amusing incident happened in 1908 when NEWARK and OAKLAND had a right-of-way battle in the fog. NEWARK's souvenir stand was knocked over and her passengers regarded this as an invitation to help themselves without paying. When NEWARK limped into the slip, her Captain wouldn't bring her up to the apron until every last item had been returned or paid for!

I'm sure Jerry MacMullen knows of more anecdotes and could write a very interesting feature. Any feature, I would hope, would include a picture of that boat with her enormous paddle wheels. Anyway all this is just a suggestion . . .

Sincerely,

Rich Brown

