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F113-SA

Pirio

When the British ship Dalgonar towed into port on Dec. 15, 1892, waterfront idlers could truthfully say that San Diego had never seen anything like her before nor would they again; at 2565 tons she was the largest three-masted ship ever built, and bigger than many of the four-masted Cape Horners. Her life was fated to span just a quarter of a century, and her end in 1917 would be marked by ^{a chain of} events still recalled as a classic of courage, tenacity, and seamanship of unequalled quality.

A brand-new ship, she had left Barry Docks in March of 1892, with coke for Port Pirie; from there she went around to Newcastle, N.S.W., to take on a full cargo of coal for San Diego. They unloaded her at Spreckels' Wharf and then, the charter market being slow, she lay idle until Feb. 2, 1893, when she got away for Puget Sound, in ballast. Waterfronters had a chance to admire and to crawl over her, and Don Stewart still recalls vividly her immense masts, so thick that two men could hardly touch hands around them, and her white-and-gold figurehead and long spike bowsprit.

Like all windjammers, she went where cargo was



hauled grain from the Pacific Northwest, she was in the case-oil trade, she