

"Launch of the Vaquero"      Alta, September 10, 1865

The stern-wheel steamer Vaquero, built by Mr. Allen for Dr. Merritt, for freighting between Oakland and Clinton on the eastern shore of the bay and this city (San Francisco) was launched at South Beach between Second and Third Streets, yesterday afternoon. The tide serving, the steamer was launched at half past two p.m., a half-hour earlier than had been announced, somewhat to the disappointment of a large number of people who had started down to see her take to the water. She glided gracefully from the ways and entered the briny element without disaster or detention of any kind whatever. A light collation was served on board after the launch and before she reached the wharf. The dimensions of this neat little craft are as follows: length of keel 100 feet, length of deck 120 feet, breadth of beam 25 feet. Her freight capacity is about (105) tons, and her engines are of 80 horse power. Running light she will draw but about twelve inches. Her wheel is decked over so as to give quite a lengthy promenade deck, and she presents a very neat appearance generally.

