

205 S.W. 102ND STREET
SEATTLE, WASH. 98146
28 JANUARY 1966

DEAR JERRY

DON'T KNOW IF YOU REMEMBER ME OR NOT, BUT I USED TO WORK ON THE SAN DIEGO WATERFRONT (CHECKING AND LONGSHOREING) IN THE MID-THIRTIES WHEN YOU WERE COVERING THAT BEAT FOR SAN DIEGO UNION. I WENT TO SEA FOR SOME YEARS AS RADIO OPERATOR, AND CAME INTO SAN DIEGO ON A COUPLE SHIPS, THE "WILLFARO" (UGH!) AND "BARBARA C." IN 1940 I WENT IN MONITORING SERVICE OF FCC, AND DURING THE WAR WAS IN MONITORING STATIONS IN ALASKA, AT ANCHORAGE AND AT JUNEAU, AND WAS MONITORING OFFICER-IN-CHARGE AT LATTER, THE STATION BEING AT POINT LENA, NOT FAR FROM WHERE "PRINCESS KATHLEEN" WAS LOST SOME YEARS LATER. I TRANSFERRED FROM POINT LENA TO SANTA ANA, AND THEN CAME UP TO WASHINGTON IN 1948 AND HAVE BEEN HERE EVER SINCE. WAS IN COMMUNICATIONS FOR WASHINGTON STATE PATROL (AGENCY VERY SIMILAR TO CHP) ABOUT 10 YEARS AND THEN SWITCHED TO THE "LAZY B" (BOEING), WHERE I NOW WORK IN FLIGHT TEST RADIO STATION IN RENTON. HIRED IN AS ELECTRONIC TECHNICIAN AND WAS IN AN INTERFERENCE CONTROL GROUP ON "MINUTEMAN" MISSILE, BUT A FRIEND TOLD ME THEY WERE LOOKING FOR AN OPERATOR WITH EXTENSIVE BACKGROUND IN OPERATING FOR FLIGHT TEST RADIO GROUP AND I WAS LUCKY ENOUGH TO CONNECT.

I AM NOT WRITING THIS TO GIVE YOU MY LIFE STORY, JERRY, BUT TO TELL YOU THAT I RECENTLY PURCHASED YOUR "STAR OF INDIA: THE LOG OF AN IRON SHIP" FROM YOUR BERKELEY PUBLISHERS AND ENJOYED IT IMMENSELY, AND IT WILL HAVE A PLACE IN MY LIBRARY OF THE SEA. THE RESEARCH JOB WAS QUITE THOROUGH, AND THE LOG EXCERPTS ADDED A TOUCH OF HUMOR. I SAILED IN STEAM SCHOONER "BARBARA C." AND WAS ON STANDARD OIL'S "YANKEE ARROW" FOR 3 1/2 MONTHS WITH "PAINTBRUSH" ANDERSEN AS SKIPPER, AND HIS WRITTEN ENGLISH WAS EXACTLY AS SHOWN IN THE ALASKA PACKER LOGS. ANYTIME HE HAD TO WRITE TO 26 BROADWAY ABOUT ANYTHING I USUALLY EDITED AND RE-WROTE IT FOR HIM. I WAS ON BOARD "STAR OF INDIA" MANY TIMES IN THE THIRTIES, BUT I WAS AWAY AT SEA WHEN SHE FIRST CAME TO TOWN.

SPENT MOST OF MY VACATION IN SAN FRANCISCO LAST AUGUST, AND VISITED THE "BALCLUTHA" AND OTHER SHIPS OF THE MUSEUM, AND ENJOYED IT IMMENSELY. I ALSO WANDERED INTO A BOOKSTORE ON POWELL STREET AND BOUGHT A COPY OF "SHIPS OF THE REDWOOD COAST," ANOTHER GOOD ADDITION TO MY LIBRARY. MY MEMORY EXTENDS BACK TO THE SVEA, F. S. LOOP, SOUTH COAST, SAN ANTONIO, WILLIAM DONOVAN, BERTIE M. HANLON, AND OF COURSE PHYLLIS AND STANWOOD WERE FLEET MATES OF BARBARA C. AND I REMEMBER ALL OF THE HART-WOOD SHIPS, NELSON, SUDDEN & CHRISTIANSON, THE VIKING, JOHN C. KIRKPATRICK, SANTA YNEZ, ALL THE HAMMOND SHIPS, ETC.

THERE IS ONE THING ABOUT "STAR OF INDIA" THAT I WOULD HAVE DONE DIFFERENTLY, AND THAT IS CHANGE HER NAME BACK TO "EUTERPE," WHICH WAS DONE BY THE SAN FRANCISCO MUSEUM WITH "STAR OF ALASKA." I BARELY MISSED GOING NORTH ON THE "KVICHAK" ONE SPRING, AND I KNEW QUITE A FEW GUYS WHO HAD GONE NORTH AS OPERATORS IN THE SAILING SHIPS AND THEN OPERATED AT SOME OF THE CANNERY STATIONS AFTER THEY REACHED BRISTOL BAY, AND WHILE IT WAS A UNIQUE EXPERIENCE, THE WHOLE SMELLY CANNERY STORY WAS NOTHING TO COMPARE WITH THE EMIGRANT TRADE FOR SHAW-SAVILL, FROM THE "SEA STORY" POINT OF VIEW, SO I THINK "EUTERPE" MORE FITTING THAN THE APA NAME.

THERE IS A "STAR OF INDIA" FAN (HE'S ALSO A JERRY MACMULLEN FAN) BACK IN NEW BRUNSWICK PROVINCE WITH WHOM I CORRESPOND, AND I WOULD LIKE TO SEND HIM 3 OR 4 OF THE POSTCARD VIEWS OF THE SHIP (OVERALL VIEWS, TRANSFERRED AND ONE CLOSE-UP OF FIGUREHEAD IF AVAILABLE) AND IF YOU COULD SEND ME (TWO OF EACH) SOME OF THE POSTCARD VIEWS SOLD ABOARD THE SHIP I WOULD APPRECIATE IT. I ENCLOSE A DOLLAR FOR THEM. I SENT HIM "BALCLUTHA" AND HE WAS GREATLY PLEASED.

KINDEST REGARDS

Hugh Compton
HUGH COMPTON

(OVER)