

Sea Breezes

877-2A

Mr. J. A. Donnelley, proctor in admiralty and a member of the State Board of Pilot Commissioners for the Port of San Diego, has been appointed general chairman of a civic committee to restore the 96-year-old barque Star of India as a maritime museum.

Originally Shaw, Savill & Albion's emigrant ship Euterpe, the Star of India is believed to be the oldest iron sailing vessel afloat, having been launched at Ramsay, I. O. M., in 1863. After trading briefly to India, she went onto the New Zealand run, where she remained until about the end of the century. ~~For~~ a few years thereafter she operated in the Pacific Coast export timber trade, first under the Hawaiian and later the American flags. She was purchased by the Alaska Packers Association of San Francisco about 1902, and for the next twenty years carried cannery hands up to Bristol Bay, Alaska, in the spring of each year; in the autumn she would return, loaded with tinned salmon. She has been at San Diego since 1926, slowly deteriorating; during World War II, the Navy rigged her down to the lower masts, as she was declared to be in the way of seaplanes landing nearby. It now is planned to rig her again, as well as completely refurbishing the hull. Technical help already has been given by Mr. Karl Kortum, director of the San Francisco Maritime Museum, which recently restored the Balclutha.

By an odd coincidence, Mr. Donnelley is himself an "alumnus" of the Alaska trade, having sailed, at the age of 15, as a foremost hand in the old barquentine Oriental, out of Seattle.

