

January 25, 1960

Mr. Morgan North
The Howell-North Press
1050 Parker Street
Berkeley 10, California

Dear Sir:

As you may have heard, we are restoring, here in San Diego, the old iron bark Star of India -- whose story is long and varied.

For some time, I have thought that there is a book in the old vessel, and that it should have a good sale, aboard ship and elsewhere, when she is finished and opened to the public, in the manner of the Balclutha. I have discussed it with a Southern California publisher, who thinks in terms of a popular-priced, mechanically bound paperback. One of my co-workers here at the museum goes to the other extreme. "By all means," he says, "you should submit it to Brown Son & Ferguson, of Glasgow!"

Last week Karl Kortum of the San Francisco Maritime Museum came down to lend technical assistance in the planning for the local restoration project, and urged me to write to you. This afternoon by old friend Stanley Croonquist, of Pacific Books, dropped in and added the same views -- with emphasis on the high type of your work.

Briefly, Star of India was launched at Ramsey, Isle of Man, on Nov. 14, 1863, as the British full-rigged ship Euterpe. She was built for the Indian trade, but after a very few years was sold to Shaw, Savill & Albion, who put her into the New Zealand emigrant trade. Around the turn of the century she was sold to a San Francisco firm, who placed her under Hawaiian registry and employed her in the export lumber trade. The Alaska Packers got her in 1902, cut her down to a bark, and re-named her Star of India. She ran to Bristol Bay until 1923 when she was laid up for scrapping. The late James Wood ("Sunny Jim") Coffroth came to the rescue, bought her, and gave her to San Diego as the nucleus for an aquarium and maritime museum. The project failed to jell, and she has gone down hill until recently, when a lively committee was formed to restore her. She has been dry-docked and her hull repaired, and the big campaign will get underway shortly.

She has run the easting down with her 'tweendecks jammed with seasick emigrants. She was in a collision in Glaggow and another in Freemantle. She has been frozen into the ice of the Bering Sea

