



CALIFORNIA PIONEERS

OF SANTA CLARA COUNTY
SAN JOSE, CALIFORNIA

27th June 1973

Dear Jerry,

Thanks a lot for your letter, the photos and newspaper clippings. The photos and clippings will be added to my collection of Ferryboat memorabilia.

You may be sure I was pleased to learn that the Berkeley reached her new berth in good condition. Poor old girl she was easily handled under full steam but had a habit of drifting with the tide under a slow bell. That is why she did so much damage to the slips in San Francisco.

You will recall that the ferry slips in S.F. were shorter than those at Oakland and Alameda, therefore she could not be eased in to S.F. on a slow bell. If the tide was running out the pilot would bring her almost to the pierhead and then, full astern with a jingle. No doubt saying a prayer.

Sleeping quarters on the ferryboats go back to the days of 24 hours on and 24 hours off. When the hours were changed to 12 hours on and 24 hours off all the bedding and some of the bunks were taken off. The change to 12 and 24 occurred before my time but the change to the 8 hour watch came in 1928 and at the same time we got vacations with pay. First one week then two and finally three.

You mention Formosa visiting the Berkeley. Yes he was my oiler for a short time. I remember him but not his first name. He knew his job and never had a hot bearing, to my knowledge.

How do you like our stationery? It was designed by one of our members and is all hand work. The brand on the hip of the ox is his signature. Ralph Rambo, with one R reversed.

Try and keep the Berkeley's smokestack clear. If you don't some wise guy at 65 Market street will notice it and phone down to the ~~what~~ wharfinger at either the Ferry building or Oakland Pier, and he'll tell the Chief.

As ever,

Laum

