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MARITIME MUSEUM ASSOCIATION OF SAN DIEGO
1306 N. Harbor Drive, San Diego 1, Calif.

The following interview with Arnold Little, 6378 Seimitar Drive, San Diego 14, Calif., was taken aboard the Star of India by Jerry MacMallen, Aug. 26, 1964. Mr. Little appears to be about 75, and although hard of hearing, is completely alert mentally. He has been a machinist by trade, and was an "Iron Chink Man" (i.e., ran an Iron Chinaman, or salmon cleaning and cutting machine) in the canneries at Ugashik and at Naknek, Alaska.

I never sailed in the Star of India, but I went up there in the Star of France in 1921 and the Star of Finland in 1926. I also went from Gray's Harbor to Callao with lumber, in the four-masted schooner Forest Home.

The Star of France was a fine ship, full rigged, and fast. The Star of Finland wasn't much; she was flat-bottomed and made about as much leeway as she did headway. Those ships were full of Mexicans and Chinese and Italians, and, later, Filipinos. They used to go down to the San Francisco jail and bail men out, to make the trip to Alaska.

In the Star of France, we were about 180 miles from Unimak Pass when the glass began to go down very fast, and the Old Man yelled "All hands!" to shorten sail. We had everything set at the time. We got everything off of her, down to the main, and the upper and lower tops'ls. We had just furled the t'gallant when the gale hit us. You have no idea of the force of the wind. You can't talk to anyone because of the noise of the wind in the rigging, and the wind hits you in the face like a stream out of a fire-hose.

After about two hours the helmsman, an Italian, went crazy from fear, and deserted the wheel. Before they realized what was up and got someone else to the wheel she fell off broadside to the sea, and we began to lose our deckload -- the stuff stowed on top of the hatches and pigs and chickens. I remember laughing at the second mate, save one of the pigs and not making it. The coops got all stove

