

SAN FRANCISCO

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Maritime Museum

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The President

March 19, 1959

Mr. Jerry MacMullen
2727 Presidio Drive
San Diego, California

Dear Mr. MacMullen

The Maritime Museum has felt some concern over the scrapping of the steam-auxiliary bark-rigged gun-boat RANGER, built in Delaware in 1876. She is now known as the EMERY RICE and is being dismantled in Baltimore by the Boston Metals Company for the metal used in her construction.

The vessel herself is not particularly handsome, being a transition type from sail to steam, but it occurred to us that her 500 h.p. propulsion unit must be the oldest ship's engine from a sizeable vessel available in this country.

For that reason we have endeavored to interest the Boston Metals Co. in presenting the engine to the Museum, and we have had the fortunate on-the-scene assistance of Mr. H. Graham Wood, Treasurer of the Steamboat Historical Society, who has put our case to the shipbreaking firm.

Additionally, we have interested the U.S. Navy, through the circumstance of the aircraft carrier RANGER (the largest ship in the world, I believe) being stationed here in helping us with the transportation of this engine from East to West coasts.

In a recent letter from Mr. Wood, who is also Vice President of the First National Bank of Baltimore, he states that the Boston Metals Company is now ready to remove the engines and donate them to us, but that they would like a value to be put on this engine which they can use as a charitable deduction on the gift to us. They estimate the scrap value of the engines as \$4,000 and the cost of crating the engines for us at \$500. They have indicated that their opinion of the historical worth of the engine is \$7,500, making a total of \$12,000.

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