



NOVEMBER 14, 1863

AUGUST 30, 1923

AUGUST 29, 1970

— ROBERT A. WEINSTEIN

ANOTHER DAY TO REMEMBER!

When the *Star of India* boarded the tug's hawser off the Golden Gate and started clewing up her sails on Aug. 30, 1923, it was even money that she never would set sail again. Steam had won the day, and one by one the Alaska Packers ships were being, to put it delicately, "retired".

In the years which followed the fine little bark would be closer to disaster from the knacker's torch than she ever had been from ice and gales and fire, during the long service at sea which followed her launching at Ramsey, I. O. M., on Nov. 14, 1863. But dedicated (some called them pig-headed) men stood by her through those long, gaunt years, so that at last she began, step by agonizing step, to come back to her former glory—not as an ocean carrier, but as a monument to the ships and the men who played so vital a part in the early development of San Diego.

It was not an easy task. There were times when the frantic volunteer fund-raisers barely kept up with the bills for paint and wire-rope and oakum and hambroline—and there were times when sparks flew in committee meetings as dedicated but angry men failed to see eye-to-eye. But at last rotted decks were replaced, new steel supplanted a ghastly lace-work of rust, lofty masts were "... stayed to strength, and backstayed into rake" and the last of her yards were crossed. Well, there she was—so why not a full suit of sails?

Luckily, Capt. Ken Reynard is also a sailmaker. Material was purchased, a sail-plan was drawn, and the sails were "lofted" on the wide floor of a building in Balboa Park. Then came the hours of sewing, both machine and hand, and the roping and the setting of grommets, down in the orlop. And at last those patched and grimy sails (sold to pay her tow-bill down from San Francisco) were replaced by new ones (more than half an acre of them) of specially treated nylon, good for many years.

Early in the summer, Mayor Frank Curran proclaimed Saturday, Aug. 29, 1970, as "Star of India Day", when her full set of sails would be set (barring a Santa Ana!) for the first time. It proved to be a day never to be forgotten; the Mayor and our president, Joe Jesop, spoke briefly of the ship's importance to the community and then His Honor, wearing the cap of Honorary Captain, let go the starboard mail royal clewline, and

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