



## FERRY RIDERS . . .

As you cross San Francisco Bay on one of Southern Pacific's ferryboats you may wish to know more about the sights you are seeing. To help you do so, this memorandum has been prepared. It is a pleasure to serve you. Have a real nice outing today!

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San Francisco Bay, one of the three largest natural harbors in the world, is so big that all the navies of the world could anchor here at once without crowding.

To cross it, you ride a ferryboat belonging to the Southern Pacific railroad. This ferry is one of a great fleet of ferries that the railroad has used to carry people back and forth across San Francisco Bay since the railroad brought the first transcontinental train here in 1869. There



is only one ferry in operation now, because most people cross the bay on the great bridges.

Around the Bay are the cities of San Francisco, Oakland, Berkeley Alameda, Emeryville, Richmond—to the north, Marin County; to the south, the many Peninsula towns and famous Hunters Point Navy Base.

Berkeley is the home of the University of California. On clear days the famous Campanile bell tower of the University can be seen at the base of the eastern hills.

The great bridge nearby crosses  $4\frac{1}{2}$  miles of water, and with its built-up approaches it is  $8\frac{1}{2}$  miles long—the longest railroad-highway bridge in the world. The center of the bridge is anchored to Yerba Buena Island. It is called the San Francisco-Oakland Bay Bridge. It was completed in 1936 at a cost of \$77,000,000.

The eastern side of the bridge is made up of cantilever and truss spans. Longest span in this part of the bridge is 1,400 feet. The western part of the bridge is made up of two complete suspension bridges anchored midway between Yerba Buena Island and the city of San Francisco to a concrete pier which stands on the bedrock at the bottom of the bay.

Bridge traffic passes through the island in a double deck tunnel which is the largest bore tunnel of any highway tunnel in the world. The bridge has two decks. The upper deck carries six lanes of automobile traffic. The lower deck carries three lanes for heavy trucks and busses, and two tracks for electric trains.

The high island through which the bridge traffic passes is called Yerba Buena Island. Yerba Buena means “Good Herb” in Spanish. The island was named after a sweet smelling herb which grows there, and which the Indians used to wear in their hair in the early days. Yerba Buena was also the first name of the city of San Francisco.

The 400-acre low flat island north of Yerba Buena Island is called Treasure Island. It was built of earth dredged up from the bottom of the bay and was the site of a World’s Fair in 1939 and 1940, celebrating the completion of the two bridges. Treasure Island has been a Navy base since 1941.

Deepest pier of this San Francisco-Oakland Bay Bridge goes down 235 feet, where divers worked in complete darkness. The highest tower rises 518 feet. There are more than 70,000 miles of steel wire in the cables supporting the western suspension spans of the bridge. The bridge stretches and shrinks with changes in temperature. It is what is known as a living bridge, and if it is kept in repair and continually painted, it is expected to live for 1,000 years. But already it is too small for the traffic that flows across it, and possible construction of another great bridge between San Francisco and the East Bay cities is being discussed.

In the far distance toward the northwest is another of San Francisco Bay’s greatest bridges, the Golden Gate bridge, completed in 1937. Its towers are even higher, rising to 746 feet. Its main span is 4,200 feet long, more than four-fifths of a mile—one of the longest clear-spanned bridges in the world. Beyond the Golden Gate bridge is the channel known as the Golden Gate, through which ships pass to and from the Pacific Ocean. The channel is five miles long and is  $1\frac{1}{8}$  miles wide at its narrowest part. It was named by John C. Fremont in 1848.

Ten miles north of the ferry route is the Richmond-San Rafael bridge which is more than 4 miles from shore to shore, costing an estimated \$62,000,000. It was opened for traffic in September 1956. Most spectacular parts of this bridge are the cantilever spans which stretch across two 1000-foot ship channels. It was built by the State of California.

Out of the bay between the San Francisco-Oakland Bay Bridge and the Golden Gate bridge rises a rocky 12-acre island which holds Alcatraz prison, a federal prison known as the “Rock.” No prisoners are ever sent to it directly, only from other prisons. On this island is one of the most powerful lights in the West, visible for 21 miles.

San Francisco is built on hills. Above the wharves to the north is Telegraph Hill, surmounted by a slender tower. The hill was given its name because it was used as a lookout in the early days of the city to sight ships coming in from the ocean. The tower on the hill is Coit Tower, a monument to the firemen who fought to save San Francisco in its early fires.



Behind the big buildings of lower San Francisco rises Nob Hill, where in the early days the men who made their fortunes in the Gold Rush built their large homes. On the near slope of Nob Hill, above the waterfront, is San Francisco's famous Chinatown, largest Chinese settlement outside China. And on the flat this side of Chinatown rise the large buildings in the vicinity of Montgomery Street, the financial center of Western America. Nearest of the large buildings beyond the Ferry Building is the General Office of the Southern Pacific Railroad, on Market Street. It is a squarish building of reddish brick, surmounted by the "S. P." sign. In that building is centered the headquarters of the Southern Pacific Company, the pioneer railroad of the West.

All along the San Francisco waterfront the fingers of piers reach out from the Embarcadero to serve as berths for ships from all parts of the world. The Embarcadero is the wide street bordering the waterfront and connecting all the piers. Into the middle of the Embarcadero comes Market Street, the main street of the city, straight down from a tunnel under Twin Peaks, which can be seen in the distance, to the Ferry Building where the Ferry docks.

The famous Ferry Building, with its tall tower and clock, stands in the center of the waterfront to welcome you to San Francisco. Like all the buildings in this low, flat part of San Francisco, the Ferry Building is built on land reclaimed from the bay. It rests on 5,000 wooden piles driven into the bottom of the bay. On top of the piles are great metal grills, and on top of the grills 111 concrete piers. The great earthquake of 1906 hardly damaged this building at all. The tower of the Ferry Building is modeled after a famous tower in Seville, Spain. It houses a huge siren, besides the clock, and this siren sounds out over the city at 8 o'clock in the morning, 12 noon, and 4:30 p.m.

**Southern Pacific**