



BOAT HANDLING

Editor's Note: This article is the third of a series offering tips on boating skill and seamanship prepared for the O.BEACON by Flotilla 16-3 of the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary.

FUELING PRECAUTIONS

by: Samuel V. Briedis
Mission Bay Flotilla

Suppose you have just fueled your boat. Picnic supplies and fishing gear are aboard. Your passengers are seated. You are now ready to crank up the engine.

Unless you have followed a series of safe fueling procedures, you unwittingly could be sparking a bomb with the explosive force of several dynamite sticks. Fires and explosions on boats account for the second largest number of boating injuries that occur annually across the nation, yet they are so easily preventable.



There are a number of ways boats can be set afire, or an explosion triggered aboard. Some of them...fuel spilled into the bilge, fumes in the bilge from fuel system leaks, electrical shorts, spontaneous combustion in oil-soaked rags, improper use of galley stoves, careless smoking, and a lack of caution in handling fuels.

In its public education classes in boating skills and seamanship, the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary continuously emphasizes to boaters that they recognize gasoline vapors are heavier than air, hence seek the lowest portion of any vessel. Bilges and

similar spaces that can trap gasoline fumes must be well ventilated with a flow of clean air to avoid the risk of explosion. Diesel fuel is somewhat less hazardous but is highly flammable.

Explosions are almost certain to happen to a vessel containing trapped fuel vapors which can be triggered by a spark. Even a running engine can set off an explosion.

Since most explosions and fires aboard boats occur during or shortly after fueling, the Coast Guard Auxiliary suggests a number of safe fueling steps that can help lessen such danger.

As step number one, your boat should be securely moored to the fueling dock. Next your fire extinguisher and the one on the fuel dock should be readily available.

Your engine and all electrical motors such as blowers and bilge pumps should be turned off. And all fires aboard the boat should be extinguished, including cigarettes, cigars, pipes and galley stove plus any electrical appliances.

All doors, windows, ports, hatches or other openings should be closed, to prevent fumes from settling into the bilge.

In the process of fueling, avoid overflow that could allow excess fuel to escape into the boat. While gasoline is flowing through the fuel pipe, keep the fuel hose nozzle pressed firmly against the fueling pipe, thus grounding any possible static electricity charge.

Portable tanks for outboards should never be fueled in the boat. Fill such tanks on the dock.

After fueling, wipe any overflow or drips and dispose of fuel-soaked rags at the dock, not aboard the boat. All hatches, windows, ports and doors now should be opened to allow any fumes to escape. If your boat has a bilge blower, run it for at least five minutes.

As a final precaution before engine start-up, use your nose to sniff around the boat to determine whether any vapors still are present.

This step by step fueling procedure, along with many other subjects related to safer pleasure boating, are discussed in detail at the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary's public classes in boating skills and seamanship. For further information, contact the Mission Bay Flotilla at 272-8130.

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was at times tedious but Billy was patient and strong and Mary began to admire his ability to adapt and adjust easily to any situation.

They talked of their plans to open the trading store and with each conversation their enthusiasm grew. Still, they remained practical in their plans, and prudent with their small fortune.

The trip took three months. The trails were lush and green most of the time but bad weather caused a delay on several occasions. The bustling of newly built cities and towns provided time for rest and excitement, but Billy and Mary knew that their fortunes lay in the sparkling seaport of San Diego.

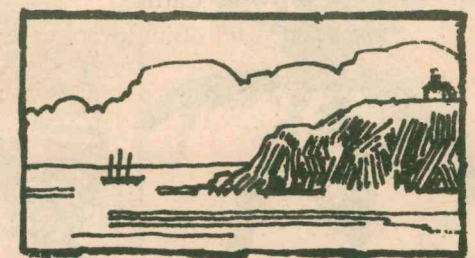
With his gold pouch secured tightly to his waist and the plans for his store neatly folded and safe in his pocket, Billy determinedly headed into San Diego. Mary rode just as determined by his side, her stomach already rounding softly with their first child.

They stayed their first night in a local hotel with the horses and wagons lodged at a local livery stable.

After breakfast the next morning, Billy and Mary set out to scout for a suitable place to set up their business. It was towards the end of the second day when they found the proper strip of land on a small rise overlooking the ocean. It was away from the harbor on the westward side of the peninsula. The ships and sailing vessels from the ports of Los Angeles and San Francisco could easily be sighted before they entered the harbor at San Diego. So it was here that Billy started to build.

He purchased lumber and goods and paid the Mexican workers well for their services. He had already hired a nurse for Mary and just before the completion of his general store she presented him with twin boys. So it was that the Morgans life had really begun.

Billy invested his money in a local bank and opened his store with Mary at his side and his young sons squawling loudly for all their worth.



TRAVEL LIGHT

by: Julia Mottola
Chinese Firecrackers

This is the first in a series of articles describing inexpensive trips around San Diego. Transportation is usually by public transit and costs can often be limited to \$2.00. In upcoming issues we will guide you to Scripps Aquarium, Old Town and Cabrillo.

A short, interesting San Diego daytrip, for July, highlights the intertwining of our country's celebration of Independence Day and a bit of Chinese culture.

For years the Fourth of July was celebrated by American families with rockets and firecrackers imported from Canton, China. These fireworks, although exported by the thousands by the Chinese, were actually made for use in centuries-old Chinese homeland celebrations. Their labels were marvelous, hand-painted creations depicting festive everyday life in China.

At the San Diego Museum of Art there is a colorful display, from a private collection, of many of these labels, carefully saved in the museum's intimate Bijou Gallery.

The museum has a general admission (\$2.00). The Bijou Gallery, however, is in the museum's entrance hall and can be visited free any day of the week (except Mondays, when the museum is closed). If possible, try to see the exhibit on a Tuesday when there is no admission fee to the entire museum. Plan your visit to coincide with a 75 minute tour of the Museum given by a museum docent. Tours are offered on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Fridays (10 a.m., 11 a.m., 1 p.m., 2 p.m.) and on Sundays (1 p.m. only). If you can, make your trip very special by calling the museum (232-7931), one week in advance, and ask that a docent tour, of interest to you, be scheduled. It will be. The museum has a comprehensive Chinese collection and a request for a tour of the collection before or after seeing the fireworks labels would make a memorable tie-in. Afterward, browse in the museum's gift shop; 25¢ will buy a good art quality post card, of something you have seen, to send to someone special.

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