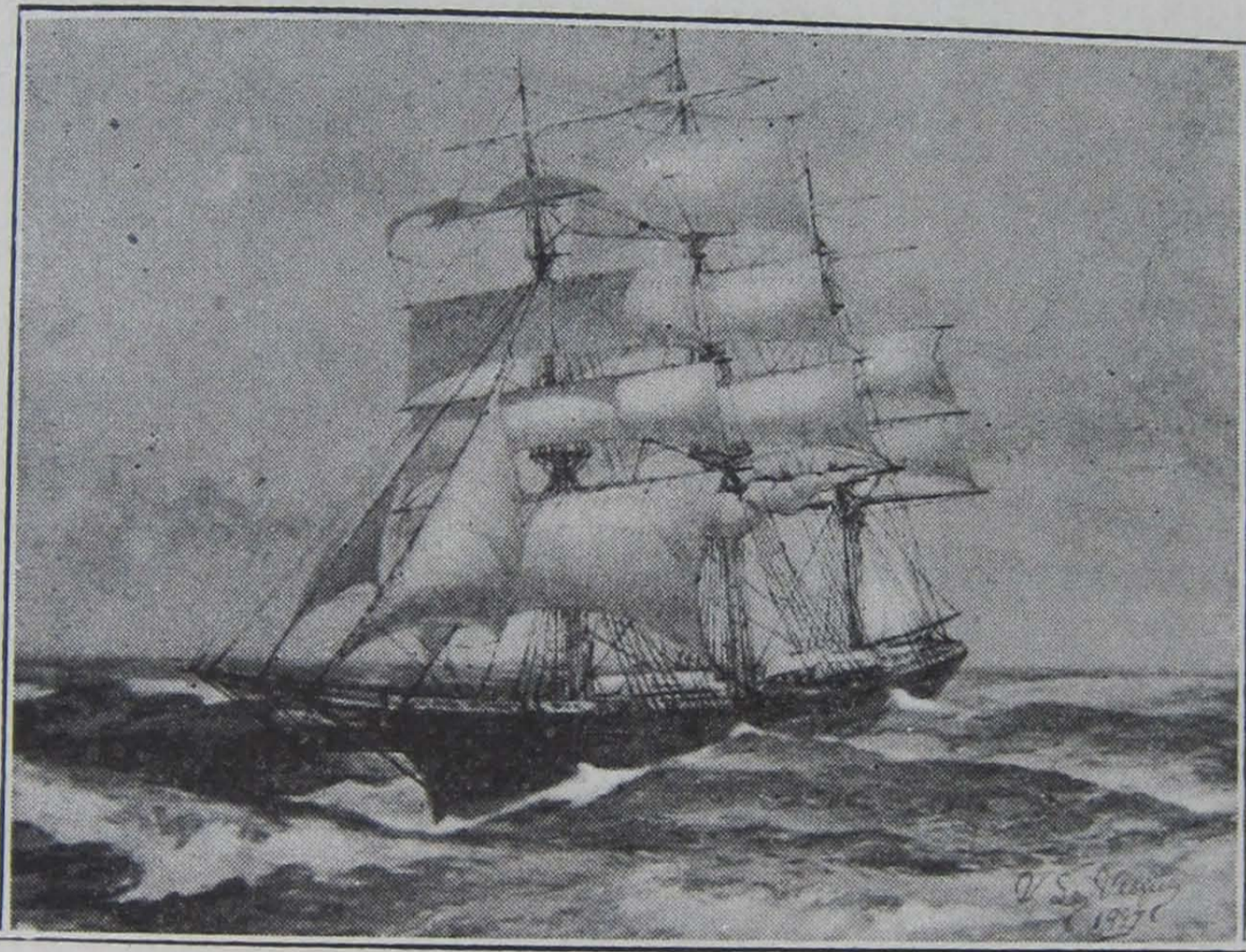


VOL. 2.

NOVEMBER-DECEMBER  
1927

No. 3

# SAN DIEGO ZOOLOGICAL



Star of India

PUBLISHED BY

THE ZOOLOGICAL SOCIETY

OF SAN DIEGO  
*The Zoological Society  
of San Diego*

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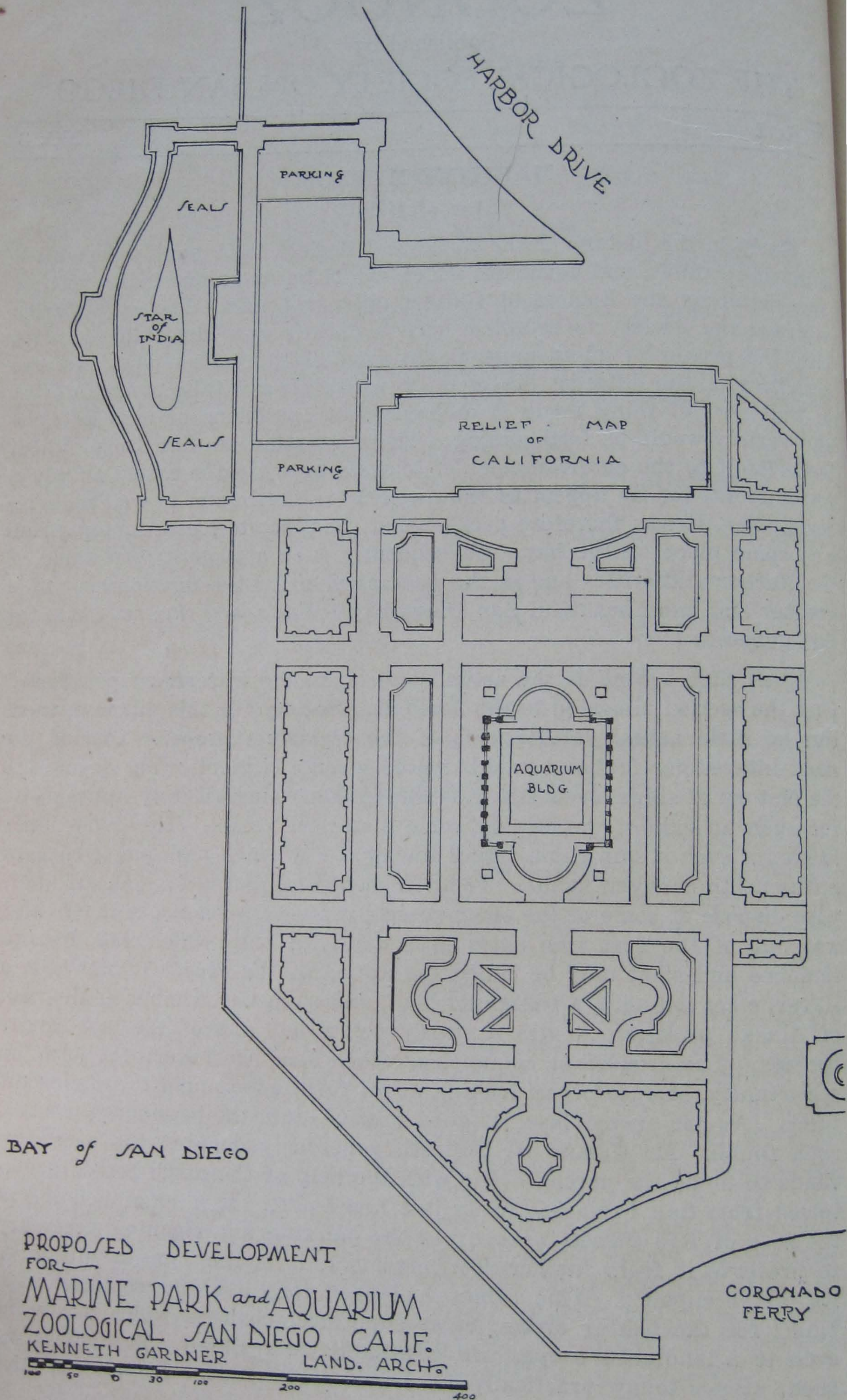
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## MARITIME MUSEUM

### "Star of India"

Early in the history of the Zoological Society it planned to establish a marine exhibit, and aquarium which would be as unique in its setting and detail as the Zoological Garden already begun. The opportunity afforded the Society to establish such a feature was unparalleled. Not only the proximity of an unusual bay front led to such a plan, but the activities of the different Naval units which always take much interest in that sort of thing made it probable that specimens of unusual type and variety would be forthcoming. There is nothing in San Diego which lends itself to the entertainment of tourists to a greater extent than the water front, for its appeal to the dwellers of the inland is well nigh irresistible. It was therefore decided that the place to locate an aquarium was some place on the bay. Consequently such a request was made of the Harbor authorities and in the general plan for the development of a greater and more beautiful San Diego bay front, space was set aside for this purpose.

Until such a time as the actual work upon the waterfront progresses past the section allocated to the Zoological Society for this purpose, there can be little actual development of the aquarium proper. One of the most interesting features in this whole scheme is a collection devoted to the history of ships and sailing, housed in something entirely appropriate for such an exhibit, preferably some historical vessel. The opportunity to secure such a ship came rather unexpectedly when a shipping concern in the north changed hands. The new owners prepared to junk or otherwise dispose of some of the older vessels in its possession. Among these was one of the first iron ships ever built. A ship which had history, romance and what may be called the aroma of the deep. It had been a slaver, a convict ship, a passenger boat, and at last a member of the fleet of Alaska packers. It was a sturdy vessel and one of the last square riggers. The Aquarium committee, which had been alert for such an opportunity, at once began looking about for a good angel to provide the funds. As has always been its good fortune since the beginning, one was soon found. Mr. James W. Coffroth generously donated the necessary funds to make the purchase and with the help of the naval forces it was towed from San Francisco to its last home port. It is now anchored at the foot of Ash Street; aside from the painting and cleaning necessary to preserve it from further deterioration it is in the same condition as its last occupancy. Fine cabins had been torn out and replaced with bunks for the fishing crews; other superficial changes which are mars even to a landlubber's eyes will eventually be restored. The vessel, as such, stands today practically as launched in 1863. Because of the



interest people have had in it, it has been opened to the public for part of the time.

Eventually it will be moved to its selected spot in the Marine park which the society is planning.

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## MARINE PARK AND AQUARIUM

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KENNETH GARDNER

Landscape Architect

Since my association with the Zoological Society of San Diego, which began a number of years ago, many problems, due to the fact that the Zoological Garden of San Diego is unique in every respect, arose which were overcome only after careful study. During these years plans for a Marine Park and Aquarium were frequently brought up for consideration and these ideas and suggestions were always carefully noted so that when it came to planning this garden there were some fundamental ideas decided upon which later became the foundation for the minor details which enter into the present plan of the Marine Park and Aquarium. In making these plans there was no attempt to copy any other aquarium or follow any of the conventional ideas of what an aquarium should be. The project as now submitted to the Aquarium Committee and adopted by the Zoological Society Board of Directors will be so very different from anything that has ever been done along this line that San Diego will be the pioneer in building one of the finest exhibits of its kind in the world.

The site chosen for this development is that designated by Mr. John Nolan in his Plan for San Diego as the Battery, located at the intersection of Market and Atlantic Streets with the two hundred foot Harbor Drive and Esplanade.

A large plaza is provided for the parking of automobiles. The aquatic exhibits will have the arrangement of flower beds in a formal garden and will contain examples of tropical and semi-tropical fish and amphibians. In the center of the park a colonaded aquarium building will house other marine exhibits similar to those in the Bureau of Fisheries Building in Washington, D. C.

The Star of India will be set in concrete in the midst of a naturalistic seal pool. The vessel itself will serve as a museum.

Another feature of this interesting project will be a large relief map of California surrounded by a pool to contain the fish and aquatic flora typical of each section of the state.

The pumps will be located in the center of the aquarium building to provide a constant supply of fresh salt water for all the exhibits.