

# SHIP ASHORE!

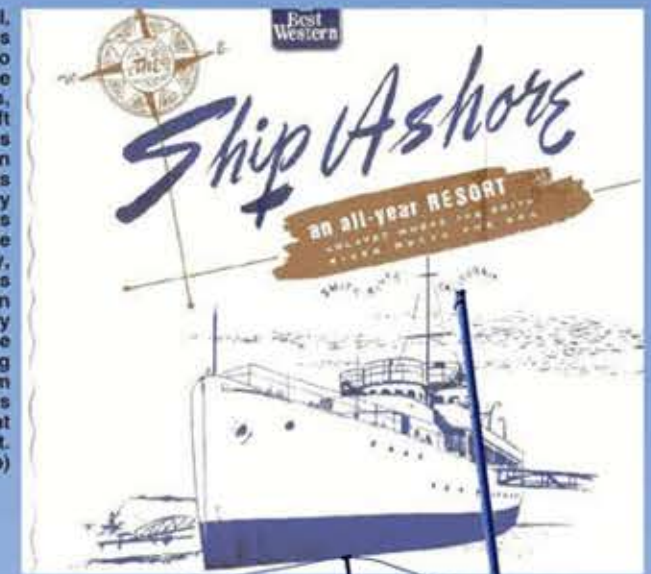
IN NORTHERN CALIFORNIA, TRAVELERS ON HISTORIC HIGHWAY 101 ENCOUNTER A GROUND-BOUND VESSEL THAT STARTED OUT LIFE AS A ROARING TWENTIES YACHT FOR A MILLIONAIRE, THEN BECAME A WWII PATROL SHIP BEFORE BECOMING A ROADSIDE ATTRACTION THAT WAS THE SITE OF ONE OF AMERICA'S EARLY MASS KILLINGS. TODAY, HOPES ARE HIGH THAT IT CAN BE RESTORED TO ITS CLASSIC YACHT CONFIGURATION

BY NICHOLAS A. VERONICO

Traveling on Highway 101 in California near the Oregon border, drivers are greeted by a massive ship along the roadside in Smith River. Known as the "Ship Ashore Resort," it was once the go-to place for anglers looking to make a record-setting catch as it was a year-round recreation area on the sea with access to some of the best salmon fishing streams in the world.

For a roadside attraction, the ship is massive yet simultaneously majestic. She began life in 1925 as the steel yacht *Caritas*, designed by Cox and Stevens of New York City and constructed by the Krupp Germania Shipyard in Kiel, Germany. The yacht was built for J. Percy Bartram (Joseph Percy Bartram) of Caritas Island, Stamford, Connecticut, a retired sugar company executive and member of the New York Yacht Club, at a reported cost of \$500,000 (equivalent to \$8.25 million

Following WWII, all sorts of surplus items were used to create "roadside attractions" — ships, tanks, and aircraft were low-cost items utilized to draw in customers. This was well before the day of massive chains controlling roadside America and today, items from this unusual period in our country's history are quite collectable — including memorabilia from Ship Ashore such as this vintage placemat from the restaurant. (B. Kemp)



The massive, 156-foot-long motor yacht *Caritas* (ex-USS *Garnet*, YPC-15) was moved ashore in 1965, to become the namesake of the Ship Ashore Resort. At various times the ship has served as the resort's office, gift shop, and a museum. It is hoped that one day this majestic yacht can be restored and returned to the sea. (Nicholas A. Veronico)