

Advertisement



Los Angeles Times | ARTICLE COLLECTIONS

YOU ARE HERE: LAT Home → Collections → **Salvage Operations**

Ads by Google

[South Bay Toyota](#)

Large New and
Pre-Owned Inventory
Free On Line Quotes
In Minutes

www.southbaytoyota.com

[Harbor Brake & Automotive](#)

Serving San Pedro
Since 1931 Brakes,
Service and
Alignments

www.HarborBrake.com

[Queen Victoria 2 Ship](#)

Experience Classic
Queen Victoria RT
Departures from LA to
Panama

www.Cunard.com/QueenVictoria

[2-for-1 Caribbean Fares](#)

Explore unique ports
with the luxury sailing
yachts of Windstar.

www.WindstarCruises.com

FIND MORE STORIES ABOUT

- Salvage Operations
- Restaurants -- Los Angeles
- Shipwrecks
- Reefs
- Ship Accidents -- Los Angeles

FEATURED ARTICLES

1 Killed and 11 Injured in Collision of
Copters

December 1, 1985

COLUMN ONE : Defiantly, They Still
Fish the Sea : Tough...

October 26, 1995

Princess Louise Declared Total Loss by
Owners; Future...

December 7, 1989

Undersea Princess

The Louise Will Be Raised, but Only to Be Deep-Sixed Again as an Artificial Reef

May 03, 1990 | CLAY EVANS | TIMES STAFF WRITER

After two weeks of underwater patching and welding on the capsized Princess Louise in Los Angeles Harbor, salvage workers are nearly ready to refloat the once elegant passenger ship and dockside restaurant.

But once raised, the ship that mysteriously sank last October will make only one last, short voyage before it is consigned to Davy Jones' locker. Workers plan to tow the 300-foot-vessel out of the harbor, perhaps as early as Friday, and scuttle it a mile off Point Vicente to create an artificial reef.

Ads by Google

Advertisement

[Photo Of Cruise Ship](#)

Find Images of Oasis of the Seas, The
Largest Cruise Ship Afloat.

www.Bing.com/Travel

[LA Airport Shuttle & Taxi](#)

Always Low Flat Fares. 100% Refunds.
24x7 at LAX, Los Angeles & Ventura

www.rrshuttle.com

In an unusual procedure, the salvagers are pumping air into the ship's hull in an effort to refloat it upside down.

Workers also have cleared the lower half of the ship of all ballast and expect that the ship will roll upside down when it is pulled into deeper water at high tide, said Willem G. Boelman, owner of TriNav Shipping, one of two Vancouver, Canada-based companies engineering the \$1-million salvage operation.

"This has been a very challenging and interesting operation," Boelman said. "We may have T-shirts made up saying, 'I Survived the Salvage of the Princess Louise.' "

After years as a popular floating restaurant moored beneath the Vincent Thomas Bridge, the Princess Louise fell on hard times in 1988 and was repossessed by the Bank of San Pedro. The ship, which the bank hoped to sell, was undergoing repairs at the Southwest Marine shipyard on Terminal Island when it began listing and abruptly sank last Oct. 30. Salvage workers said this week they still don't know what caused the ship to founder.

Some workers on the ship Tuesday said climbing in and around the doomed Princess left them with an eerie, otherworldly sensation.

"I came down in here right after it went over," said Mike McKeown, yard manager for Southwest Marine. "It was really weird, like the Poseidon Adventure," he said, referring to a book and 1972 movie about a capsized ocean liner.

The 67-year-old ship, which once plied the seas between Vancouver, Canada, and Puget Sound and spent nearly 20 years as a floating restaurant in Los Angeles Harbor, has lain half-submerged on its side since it sank. Although most of the vessel had been sealed off to help refloat it, workers Tuesday were still climbing down into the main bar and restaurant salon plugging newly developed air leaks.

Ads by Google

[Harbor Brake & Automotive](#)

Serving San Pedro Since 1931 Brakes, Service and Alignments

www.HarborBrake.com

