

The Post and Courier

Cruise ships add excitement to city

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Let the cruise lines operate. We welcome them. We are slowly becoming a living museum. Let's have life and some excitement. I grew up watching things happen. When there wasn't noise, I helped make it. Now when I raise my voice, I am called down. Jazzed up I have always been, and Charleston should be that way.

We need the people from the cruise ships. What a pleasure to have them stepping into the Holy City that is known for our charm and hospitality. I invite them in from the street to use facilities and to have tea. Many notes and pictures I have received from this gesture.

In my early days I was trained to share what I have. We always had foreigners in our home on South Battery as my father's business was shipping. My grandfather brought the business from Oslo, Norway, in the 1880s. Many have thrived since.

My grandfather, father, brother and now nephew, have all been knighted by the king of Norway for their efforts with shipping in Charleston. These diehards opposing the ships have not been here as long as I have had the pleasure. They have not experienced the bank holiday (crash) of 1929.

How many have had palmetto beetles (roaches) running across their feet when walking, or seen rats poking their noses out of drains for a better environment? How many participated in World War II when gasoline, sugar and shoe rationing existed. I wore shoes with cardboard inserts and walked everywhere. At that time we would see, meet and greet service people who were here.

Guest rooms were rented to help with the war effort. These grouchers have only seen the city in rosy times. Watching the arrival of ships is picturesque and shows that the city by the sea is thriving. More lustre is added to the day.

In 1940 I experienced the ultimate pleasure of boarding the Kungsholm (sister to the Gripsholm), which was anchored midstream in the Cooper River. We traveled in tenders from the rear of the Customs House. The Swedish smorgasbord dinner was elegant. It was an experience not to be forgotten by a 15-year-old.

Let's revive cruise ships as they add beauty to the horizon. The revival of the new terminal will open up that area. Market, Concord and Laurens streets will be developed as part of the city rather than having unattractive buildings and chain-link fences. Allow the area to be beautiful. We need it. Charleston deserves to become a crown jewel of the world.

Union Pier is the correct site for the terminal. Let's drop the unwanted lawsuit and move on as enough money has already been spent on the study. Let the cruise lines operate. We need activity and excitement as we are gasping for breath. Imagine injecting all those new people. We would become a divine paradise, the Holy City would be revived. Look at those church steeples guiding, leading and inspiring as fortresses to almighty God.

Now add hulls of cruise ships, please.

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