



Once upon a time, the Golden Gate Island Resort, floating still and for sale.

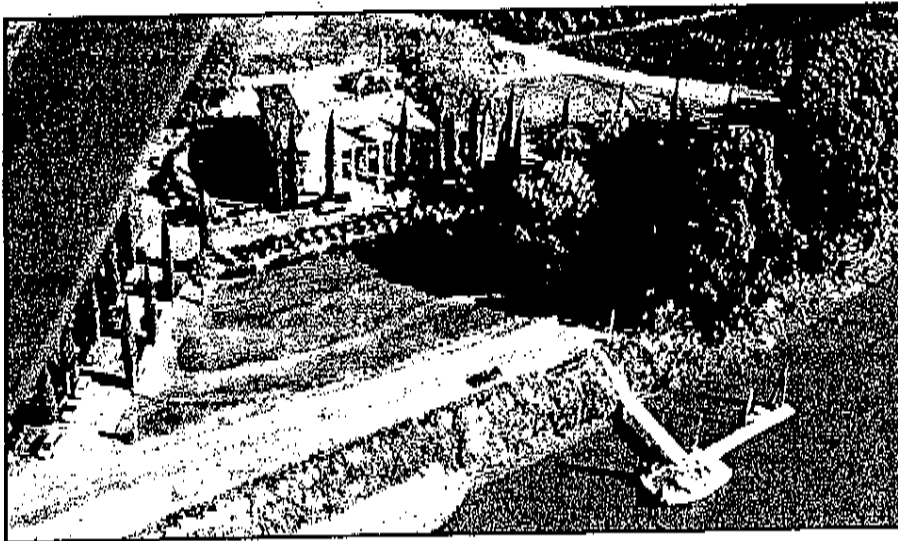
### **Just Call Him John**

You do know that I have sat on the chair on which John Travolta once sat. At least Point Waterfront Restaurant owner Vicki Baumann assured me John arranged himself on that chair, back when he was in town to pick up his newly purchased T-Bird (you remember, I told you that story).

I'm told that John Travolta is back in Delta Country again, filming parts of a movie up at Lucille Peck's old place at the head of Steamboat Slough. The movie is to be called *The General's Daughter*. My sources tell me that it is supposed to be set in Mississippi River territory. There we go again, the Delta never gets to be itself.

Lucille Peck owns the long-closed Steamboat Landing. Nice name. It used to be a fun place. We had the old wood-hull, flat-bottom, Homelite-powered houseboat *Delta Dawdler* tethered to that dock once and enjoyed a good meal in the restaurant. Her late husband was a cropduster, as I recall.

NEAR SNUG HARBOR!



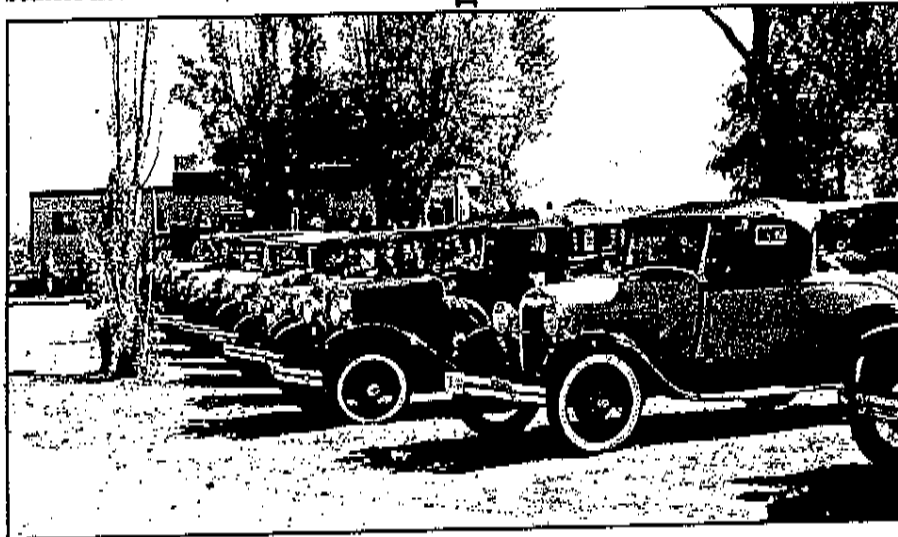
Model A Fords lined up in front of Grand Island Mansion.

*McCoy* is a free-running ferry, meaning that it is not guided by a cable. It can go to wherever the ferry operator points it and it is powered by a pair of strong-sounding diesel engines. We crossed Cache Slough, the very waters in which Humphrey The Whale had swum on his way to deadend Shag Slough. My BART Car looked out of place among all those Fords.

The crossings were made without incident. We turned right, moving along the levee road on the lower tip of Ryer Island, curling back to then have Steamboat Slough on our starboard. We passed beautiful Hidden Harbor, once the home of a little cafe in which a little old lady served Granburgers, but now the home of a sailboat fleet. Powerboaters not welcome, we've been told.

We were heading to Snug Harbor Resort where owner Nicky Suard prepared a nice spread for us, including a decorated cake on which were placed little Model A Ford Models. The sun was shining, the day was magnificent, the snacks and coffee delicious. Snug Harbor actually is an island, unleveed, with access via a culverted roadway. It has a new launching ramp, a fuel dock, berthing, a general store in a mobilehome, and a rarity in the Delta — waterside RV sites, many with their own private docks. It has a sandy beach, another Delta rarity. Soon they will have rental park RVs they are calling Snuggle Inns.

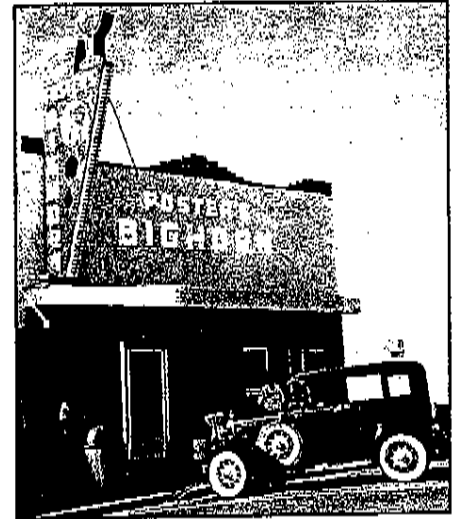
(I can remember a time when the old saloon at Snug Harbor was called Snuggle Inn and could reminisce on



On the "Marina Green" at Snug Harbor Resort.

some good times there. It burned down and is no more.)

There are private dwellings and some mobilehomes on the Snug Harbor island, and a feeling of community to the place. The locals enjoyed the show put on by the Ford folks. Dave Hynes keeps his new seaplane at Snug Harbor and offered me a bird's-eye view of the activities. I've been over the Delta many times in a variety of aircraft, but this is the first time I had to strap myself into a PFD. I wondered if Dave knew something I didn't know?



Foster's Bighorn in Rio Vista where the Delta tour began.

### Grand Island Mansion Bound

By this time, the Fords were boarding the cable ferry *J-Mack* for a ride across Steamboat Slough to Grand Island. They exited smartly, turned left to head upstream toward the Grand Island Mansion, where brunch was planned. If they'd turned right, they could have visited the fine county park at Hogback, and then cross the island to the Sacramento River side to instead have brunch at Ryde Hotel. Well, you can't have brunch at two places at the same time. It was a good day.

### RIO VISTA - RYDE LOOP

This is the coolest wheeled trip in the Delta, which can be accomplished in an easy couple of hours, but could ideally occupy most of your day if you stop to tarry a bit. (Portions of it also