

PH 0506630

DATA SHEET

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY  
RECEIVED OCT 27 1977  
DATE ENTERED MAR 31 1978

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS  
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC  
Delta King  
AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER 48 Km  
Three miles north of City of Rio Vista on State Route 84

CITY, TOWN Rio Vista VICINITY OF 4th  
STATE California CODE 06 COUNTY Solano CODE 095

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE <input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL <input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL <input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	<b>PUBLIC ACQUISITION</b>	<b>ACCESSIBLE</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER: (not in use)

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME Mr. Gus Skarakis, et.al.  
STREET & NUMBER c/o 1020 N Street (Department of Consumer Affairs)  
CITY, TOWN Sacramento VICINITY OF California

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. County of San Joaquin  
STREET & NUMBER County Seat  
CITY, TOWN Stockton STATE California

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE N/A  
DATE  
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS  
CITY, TOWN STATE

# 7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE * _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		*Unknown exactly; moved a number of times.

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DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Delta King, identical twin to the Delta Queen presently operating on the Mississippi, lies at anchor just north of Rio Vista, California, a twin equidistantly located between two of the vessel's former ports of call (San Francisco and Sacramento).

The Delta King, our last remaining sternwheeler in the Delta, was originally owned by the California Transportation Company. It was fabricated in Glasgow, Scotland and assembled in Stockton, California at a cost of \$875,000.00. It weighed 1837 gross tons, was 250 feet long with a 58 foot beam; had a draft of 11½ feet; had a boiler pressure of 225 pounds; had compound engines generating 2,000 horse power with a stroke of 10 feet; and had a steel hull, which is still in good condition.

Four decks high, the Delta King, had a capacity of 200 persons. The upper decks were constructed of oak, teak, mahogany and cedar. The main deck was built entirely of ironwood imported from Siam. Cabin interiors were solid oak with natural mahogany and walnut trim with large plate glass windows. Rooms were equipped with air conditioning and heat. The majority of the state rooms had connecting showers or baths and lavatory facilities. A kitchen was located in the hold along with two pantries and a dining room with plate glass windows, connected by two elevators.

The lower deck was utilized for transporting freight. The sternwheeler carried more than 2,000 tons of freight at a single loading.

The paddle wheel constructed of fir, was originally built with 28 arms, a 28-inch dip and 19-foot bucket length. The cover hood over the sternwheel was constructed with a steel frame, wooden top and copper sheathed sides.

In the 1930's, River Lines Inc., assumed ownership of the Delta King and withdrew the vessel from operation. In 1941 the ship was leased to the United States Navy and was thereafter used as a troop transport on San Francisco Bay. After the war the United States Maritime Commission took possession and offered the vessel for sale. It changed hands four times before coming to rest at its present location north of Rio Vista.

The interior has been stripped of original fittings and appointments, and the paddle wheel and engines have been removed for scrap.

The most recent history of the Delta King is riddled with legal hassles relating to ownership. A decision rendered on April 15, 1976 by Judge Chris Papas, Superior Court of California, County of San Joaquin, No. 102005, is most informative in this regard.

The ship was sold again in August, 1977. The new owners plan to refurbish the vessel for commercial and office space.

# 8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
___PREHISTORIC	___ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	___COMMUNITY PLANNING	___LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	___RELIGION
___1400-1499	___ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	___CONSERVATION	___LAW	___SCIENCE
___1500-1599	___AGRICULTURE	___ECONOMICS	___LITERATURE	___SCULPTURE
___1600-1699	___ARCHITECTURE	___EDUCATION	___MILITARY	___SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
___1700-1799	___ART	___ENGINEERING	___MUSIC	___THEATER
___1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	___EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	___PHILOSOPHY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	___COMMUNICATIONS	___INDUSTRY	___POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	___OTHER (SPECIFY)
		___INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES Constructed 1923-27 BUILDER/ARCHITECT California Transportation Co.

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Delta King, the last of the large river steamers to be built is a significant part of the Sacramento Delta's history. During the late 1920's and early 1930's the vessel plied the waters of the Sacramento River between San Francisco and Sacramento making stops at Rio Vista (until 1932) and other ports along the way. She hauled cargo from San Francisco to Sacramento and back again while also providing rather stately transportation for those passengers wishing to traverse this route. With its sister, the Delta Queen, the Delta King left for San Francisco on alternate days. It soon ran only night schedules between these ports leaving at 6:30 p.m.. The Antioch bridge opened in 1926 and from that point forward, highway transportation eroded their market. During the winter months only a few passengers could be found aboard.

With the advent of Pearl Harbor the ship was leased by the United States Navy and renamed the USS Delta King. Throughout the war the ship was used as a troop transport until it was turned over to the United States Maritime Commission, which offered it for sale. Since that time the Delta King has been purchased several times.

This vessel represents an important aspect in Northern California's transportation history; the relationship between steamboat and trucking modes of transportation is graphically depicted. A renewed interest in things past, in steamboat travel in reclaiming our Delta's history and in encouraging Americans to visit a restored Delta King are our reasons for nominating this vessel for entry in the National Register of Historic Places.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Joseph A. McGowan, History of the Sacramento Valley, Vol. II, N.Y., Lewis Historical Publishing Co., 1961.

Harry S. Drago, The Steamboaters, N.Y., Dodd, Mead & Company, 1967.

Jerry MacMullen, Paddle-Wheel Days in California, Stanford, California, Stanford University Press, 1944

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY less than 1 acre

(Aaron Gallop 2/17/78)  
LEBOUCHÉ

UTM REFERENCES

A 1,0 615 9,6,0 4,2 2,5 4,0,0  
ZONE EASTING NORTHING  
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B  
ZONE EASTING NORTHING  
D

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Located immediately (about one mile) north of Rio Vista. Bounded by west side of Sacramento River; west of ship lies State Route 84; reclamation land located west of State Route 84.

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Edward J. Cereghino, Councilman

ORGANIZATION

City of Rio Vista

DATE

June 30, 1977

STREET & NUMBER

1 Main Street

TELEPHONE

(707) 374-2784

CITY OR TOWN

Rio Vista

STATE

California 94571

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL \_\_\_

STATE X

LOCAL \_\_\_

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

*Kerry Mellon*

10/20/77

TITLE

SHPO

DATE

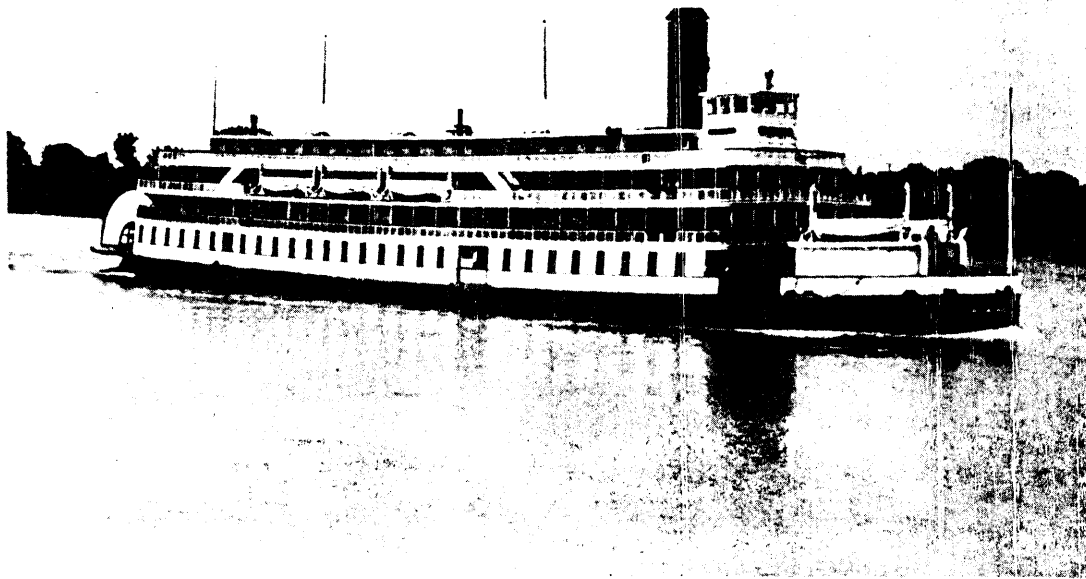
FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHAELOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION  
ATTEST: *William K. Cole*  
KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

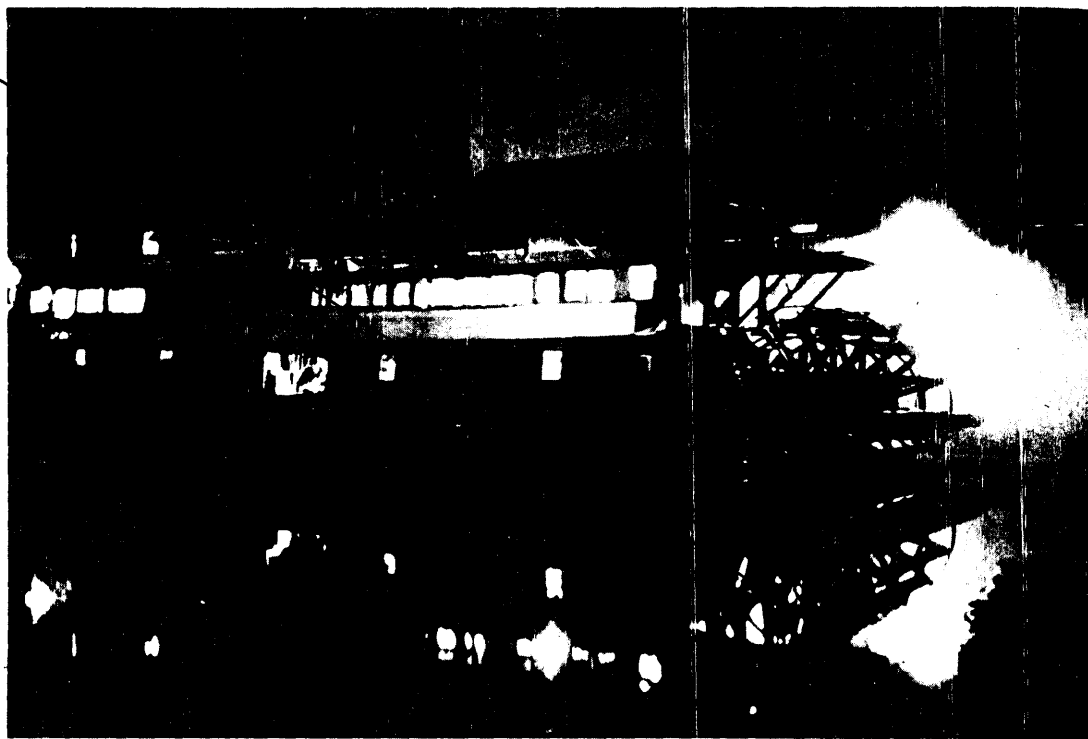
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DATE 3.10.78

Delta King, 1926



G. S. Seal Photo

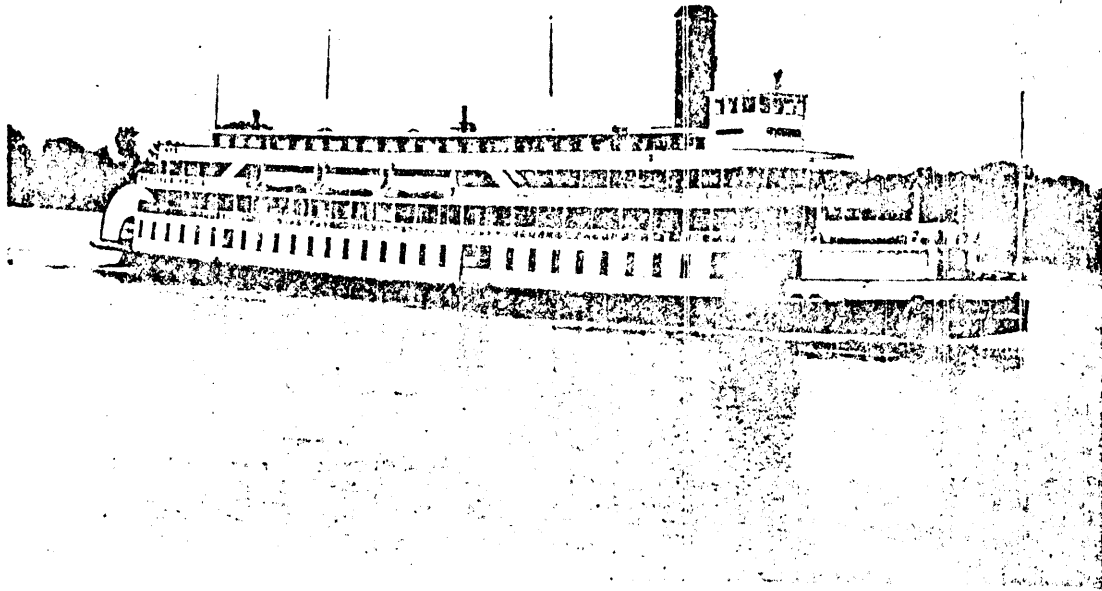
Thousands have traveled in the palatial *Delta King* between San Francisco and Sacramento.



A night voyager, *Petaluma* (No. 3) works cargo during the hours of darkness at the city for which she is named.

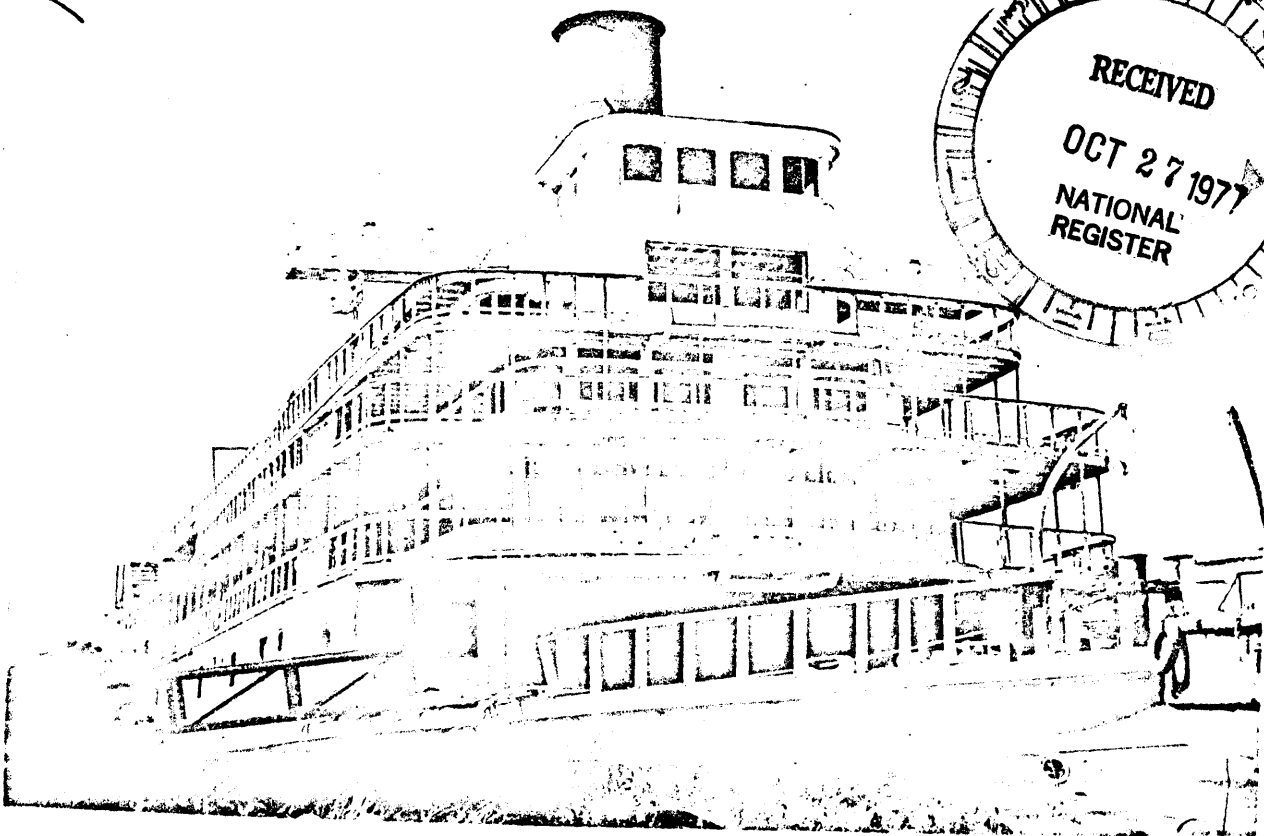
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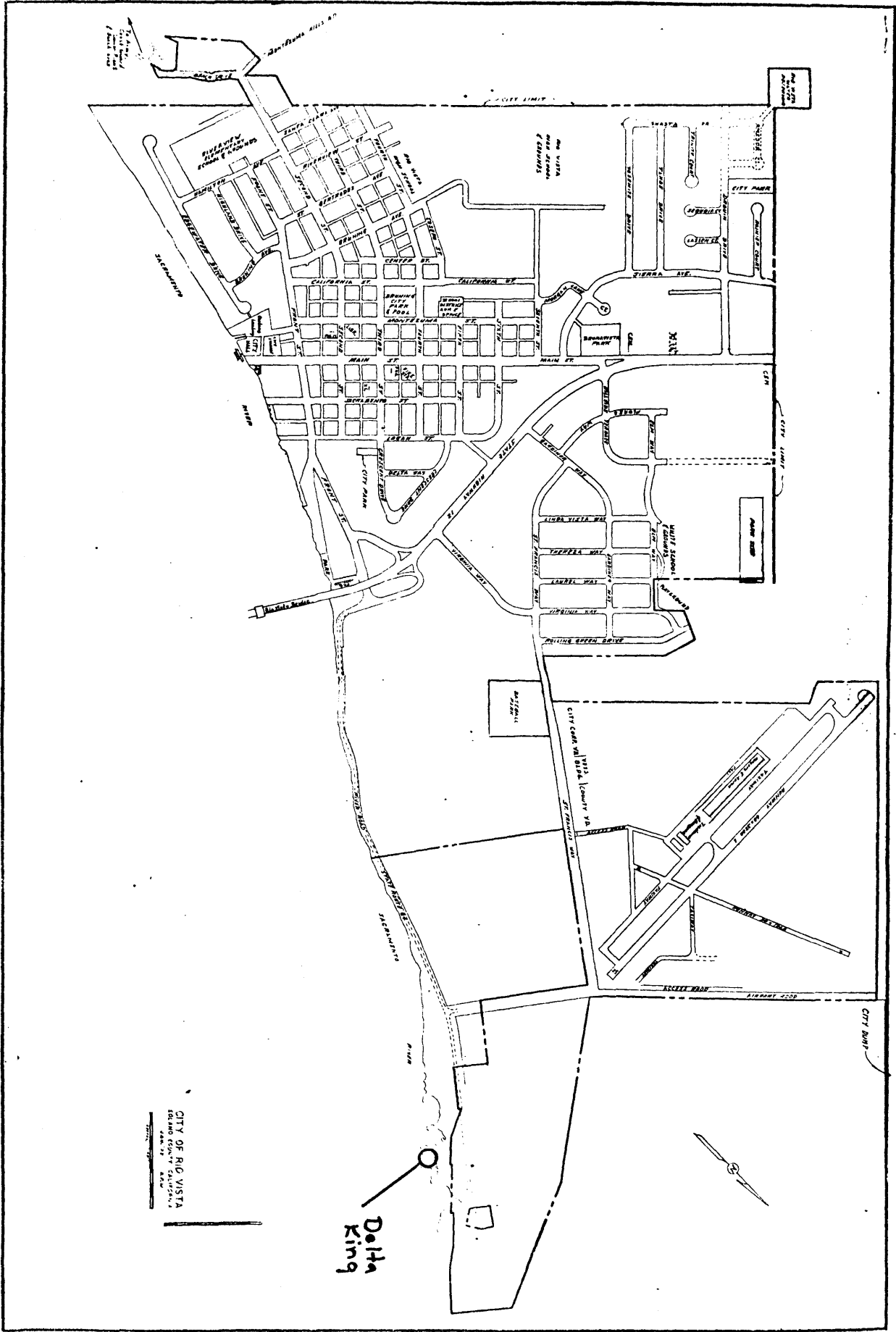
G. S. Seal Photo

Thousands have traveled in the palatial *Delta King* between San Francisco and Sacramento.



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CITY OF RIO VISTA  
 ESCODIDO COUNTY, CALIFORNIA  
 JAN. 27, 1954  
 S.W.

Delta King