

Elsie

Geraldine Knatz and Peter Brueggeman
2012

Before the field station of the University of California Berkeley Department of Zoology that ultimately became known as Scripps Institution of Oceanography located to San Diego, it was located for a few years in San Pedro.



San Pedro laboratory, circa 1902

Marine field work necessitated a boat, and *Elsie* came into use.



Elsie, circa 1901

Elsie was named for Elsie Duffy, born in California in 1884. *Elsie* the boat, was owned by Captain Michael Duffy who was born in County Mayo, Ireland. Duffy started out as a horseman and was a horse buyer; he ended up in California in 1871 and then came to San Pedro in 1882. Duffy started the first ferry service to Terminal Island in San Pedro, using a rowboat. Duffy got more boats naming them *Elsie*, *Blanche*, *Dora*, after his daughters.

“...The new gasoline launch *Elsie*, forty feet in length over all, with a 17-horse-power engine, was hired for three months, from May 15 to August 15 [1901]. The boat proved to be excellently adapted for the purpose, although not built for such service. Contrary to the usual practice in the construction of boats of this type, her entire middle and after portions are without cabin, and are consequently available for working space. The hoisting gear was placed in the middle. The after-deck was supplemented by a temporary structure, extending between it and the hoisting winch, to be used for receiving and sorting the contents of the dredge....”

FROM: A Summer's Dredging on the Coast of Southern California. William E. Ritter. *Science* 15(367): 55-65, 1902