

He'll Use Pier for Pasture

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★ ★ ★ ★ ★ New Zealand Sheep to Live on Wharf Due to Quarantine



By LOU JOBST
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Clad in knee britches, but minus a sheep dog, 22-year-old Richard Lovegrove of New Zealand has set up ranching on a concrete pier at the far end of the Los Angeles Harbor.

The husky Lovegrove, who describes himself as a "city slicker" from Wellington will tend a flock of 52 Southdown sheep for the next 30 days in a hand-built enclosure just behind the harbor department's pilot station.

The makeshift pasture is within a stone's throw of a busy steamship anchorage and the jetty entrance to San Pedro Bay.

Lovegrove brought the sheep, 50 ewes and 2 rams, more than 7,000 miles aboard the German freighter, Cap Colorado.

The animals, carried on deck in wooden crates, were no trouble during the ocean

crossing and "didn't get seasick."

The flock, valued at \$20,000, is destined for a breeding ranch in China owned by Los Angeles County veterinarian Lewis B. Huff.

Originally bred in the south of England, the Southdown sheep is considered the world's finest mutton animal.

Huff hopes the Southdown will through crossbreeding "beef up" the smaller U.S. sheep.

If picked from New Zealand flocks by Huff and his wife, Doris, during a one-month visit to the South Pacific, these sheep are 40 to 50 pounds heavier and generally longer and taller than the variety of Southdown found in the States.

The animals must remain in strict U.S. Agriculture Department quarantine to determine they have no diseases and Lovegrove must

remain with the flock at all times.

Ordinarily, livestock is placed in quarantine in Hawaii and transhipped to the continent, but an exception was made for the Huff shipment.

While tending the flock, Lovegrove, who left the city for the pastoral life just six years ago, will live in a small camper trailer just outside the wooden corral which Huff and his wife built during two weekends.

To keep him company, Lovegrove will have a portable TV and the promise of regular visits from Huff. And, undoubtedly, swarms of curious seamen and longshoremen.

He'll not have a sheep dog, a fixture and constant companion back home, because he didn't bring one.

"It was enough trouble getting the sheep in the country," says the shepherd.

NEW ZEALAND sheep herder Richard Lovegrove (bermuda shorts) and Doris and Lewis Huff look over a flock of breeding sheep in corral on San Pedro wharf.

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THERE
IS NO PLACE
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SAVINGS