

Calendar

Catastrophe Menu

Titanic New Year's Celebration

Maritza Corrales searches for the right word in English. "Authentic," she says. "We're going to raffle an authentic replica of the 'Heart of the Ocean' necklace. It looks like the one they used in the movie."

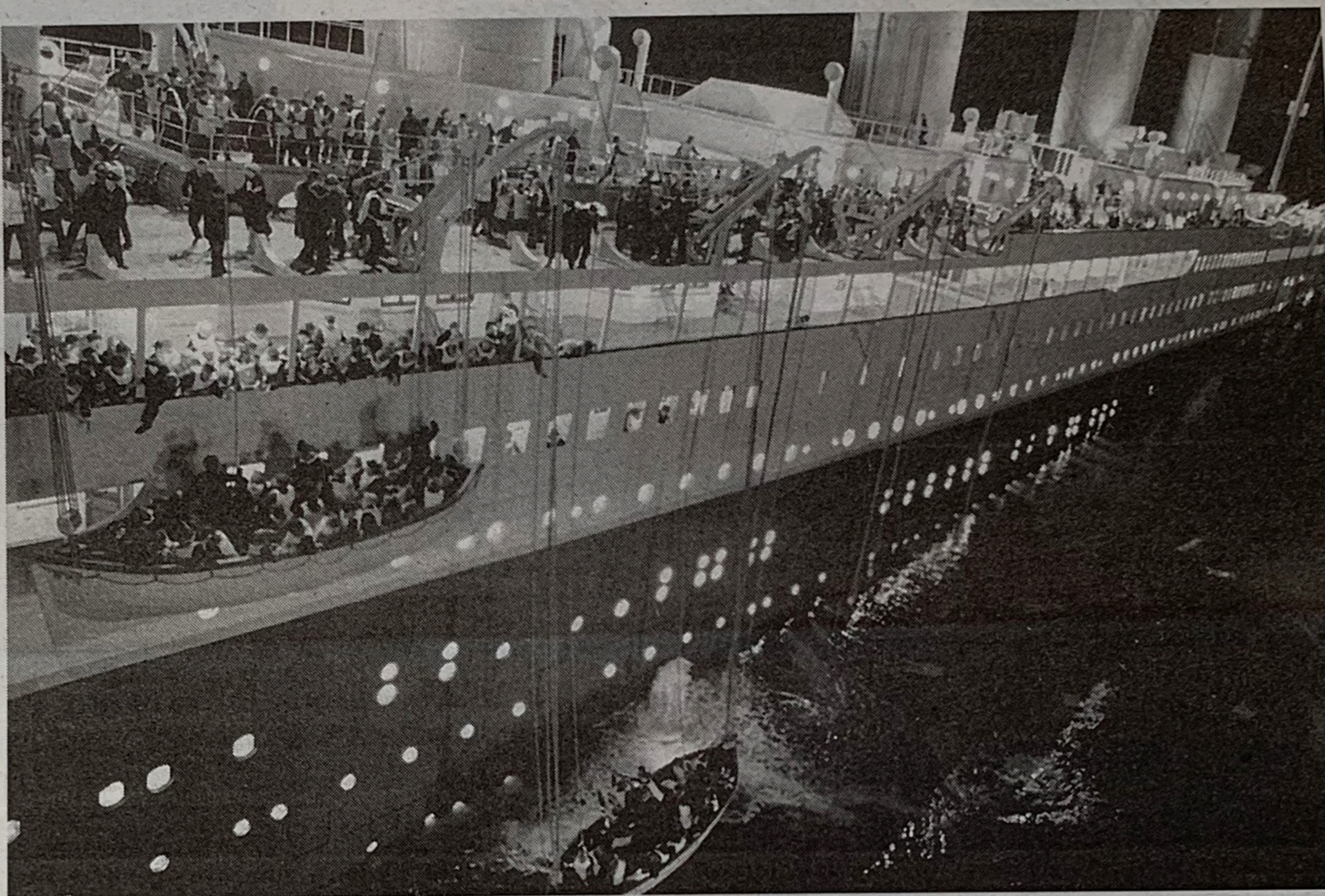
The movie, of course, is the overmilked, ever-schmaltzy *Titanic*. At the Hotel Calafia, where Corrales is sales manager, the necklace raffle is part of the Titanic New Year's Eve Celebration.

But "authentic replica" — it's an oxymoron. Maybe that's the point. Historical accuracy isn't.

Calafia has a year-round Titanic Room, decorated with movie props lent by Fox Studios. For New Year's Eve, Foxploration will lend them others,

including the prow of the ship. Vanessa Armanino, Foxploration's marketing manager, says, "That's the tip of the ship, where Leonardo tells Kate, 'I'm the king of the world,' or something. I think they're going to put it where people can take pictures posed on it. It's the actual one used during the filming. And we're also going to lend them two outfits, a tuxedo and a dress that was worn by Mrs. Astor."

Armanino means the actress who played Mrs. John Jacob Astor IV, the 19-year-old second wife of the richest man in the world. Mr. Astor was 29 years his new wife's senior. The couple had been traveling in Europe and Egypt to escape the scandal caused by the divorce of the first Mr. and Mrs. Astor and subsequent



From the movie *Titanic*

which one) will be worn by mannequins. Corrales says some guests will come dressed in period clothing. "It's not an obligation, but if you wish to do so, you can. Some of the hostesses will be dressed like that, too."

Marjorie Cutter, owner of the Elite Costume House in Escondido, says, "We rent *Titanic* stuff. *My Fair Lady* is the same time period. It was just before the First World War. Women were still wearing long hobble skirts. That meant it was tight 'round the ankles, so they'd have to hobble along. High-neck blouses. Big hats. It's the transition to the flapper time. The men's evening wear would be white tie and tails. I have it all in stock."

As for footwear, says Cutter, "I don't do shoes or boots. They could get those in a lot of the regular shoe stores. The heels should be about two inches high, and they should have the straps across. The women also wore the little button-up ankle boots in those days."

Much has been made of the last meals served to the doomed passengers. Earlier this month, at the auction house

Sotheby's in London, a lunch menu from the real *Titanic* was sold for \$49,500. The size and weight of a postcard (and intended to be mailed as a souvenir), it was bought by a private museum in Belfast, Northern Ireland, where the ship was built. The menu wasn't recovered from the deep. It was given by *Titanic* senior officer Charles Lightoller to his wife before the luxury liner left Southampton, England. Lightoller survived the disaster; he was the last person to be taken aboard the rescue ship *Carthage*.

In 1999, a collector from Houston, Texas, paid \$74,750 for a *Titanic* menu sold by Houston's Hart Galleries auction house. Edward Kamuda, founder and president of the Titanic Historical Society in Indian Orchard, Massachusetts, says it's a reproduction that his own society gave out to its members in the 1960s. They were printed in Pasadena. "People dip them in tea and write on them in charcoal, then try to pass them off," says Kamuda, who has been collecting Titanic stuff since 1952. (He lent some to Fox for the movie.)

The menu sold by Sotheby's, which Kamuda says is authentic, shows that the Astors and others in first class were served salmon, sweetbreads, roast chicken, spring lamb, and golden plover

on toast for that afternoon meal in April 1912. Calafia will have its own *Titanic*-inspired fare. Corrales recites: "Canapés, lemon sorbet, lettuce salad with balsamic vinaigrette, lobster with mousseline sauce, filet mignon 'Lili' with a wild-mushroom sauce and a Madeira wine reduction, mashed potatoes, carrots, French pastries."

Dinner will be served until 11:00 p.m. Live music begins at 10:00 p.m. and goes until 3:00 a.m. You can choose the dining room without the music and dancing if you prefer. The deaths of 1523 real people don't exactly inspire frivolity, do they? Corrales's reply: "That's why on the publicity we say there's a breathtaking ocean view, without the iceberg."

— Jeanne Schinto

"Titanic New Year's Eve Celebration at Calafia"
Wednesday, December 31,
7:00 p.m.-4:00 a.m.
Hotel Calafia
Km 35.5 Carretera Libre
Tijuana-Ensenada, Ensenada
\$44.95 per person
(includes dinner, no drinks except coffee and tea)
877-700-2093,
011-52-661-612-1581,
or www.hotel-calafia.com



Hotel Calafia, Rosarito

marriage of the second. They had booked passage on the *Titanic* back to New York, because the young Mrs. Astor had discovered she was pregnant. He drowned; she didn't. So did the Astors' three servants and their Airedale, Kitty.

"The dress is black with burgundy, a long evening gown," says Armanino. That and a tuxedo worn by one of the main characters (she doesn't know

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