

## **Builder's trial scheduled for Alpha Helix (ship) off Puget Sound**

**December 13, 1965**

Builder's trials for the Alpha Helix, new laboratory vessel which will join the fleet of the University of California, San Diego's Scripps Institution of Oceanography in January, are scheduled within the next two weeks on the waters of Puget Sound, off Tacoma, Washington.

Jeffery D. Frautschy, Scripps' assistant director, said that finishing touches are being put on this unique floating laboratory for experimental biology by the J. M. Martinac Shipbuilding Corporation of Tacoma.

Scripps staff members, including Capt. James Faughn, Scripps' on-site representative at the builder's yard, will also be aboard as observers during the builder's trials.

The Alpha Helix's acceptance trials for Scripps are set for the last week of December or early January, also in Puget Sound. Faughn and the Scripps crew will take delivery of the vessel in January.

The ship will undergo her shakedown cruise from Tacoma to San Diego, where she will be outfitted with additional laboratory equipment.

After brief additional trials in San Diego waters, the Alpha Helix will embark for Baja California waters under the direction of Dr. Andrew Benson, Scripps' professor of biology, for a shakedown of her laboratory facilities in a scientific program.

All the Alpha Helix's sea trials point to a target date of March 1, 1966, when she sails on her first major scientific expedition, an 8-month cruise to the 2 Great Barrier Reef, off the northeast coast of Australia. She is to return to San Diego next November.

Initial planning for the Alpha Helix began more than five years ago by Dr. Per F. Scholander, professor of physiology and director of Scripps' Physiological Research Laboratory which comprises a new three-story structure, a ring-tank laboratory and adjacent seawater pools on the Scripps campus.

Dr. Scholander is in Australia now arranging details of the Great Barrier Reef expedition. He returns to San Diego December 20.

The Alpha Helix was designed by the naval architectural firm of L. R. Glosten and Associates, of Seattle, Wash. She was built at a contract cost of \$1,272,021. Funds for her design and construction were provided by a National Science Foundation grant.