

The Ellen B. Scripps research vessel has been delivered.

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The Ellen B. Scripps, newest in the fleet of research vessels serving scientists of the University of California, San Diego's Scripps Institution of Oceanography, has been delivered to Scripps officials, climaxing her 4,300-mile maiden voyage from New Orleans to San Diego via the Panama Canal.

The "Ellen B." is the first all-new research vessel to serve Scripps scientists. Her numerous predecessors and the five ships which make up the present fleet have been and are conversions of other types of vessels.

Scripps' Marine Facilities Division will outfit her at Navy Electronics Laboratory Piers. Equipment peculiar to the vessel's requirements for her first expedition will be installed prior to commencement of operations, about September 1.

The Ellen B. Scripps was built by Halter Marine Service, of New Orleans, for the Dantzer Boat and Barge Co., Pascagoula, Miss., from whom Scripps will lease her for various types of short- and long-duration oceanographic research expeditions. She replaces the Paolina T., operated by Scripps since 1948 under a U.S. Navy facilities contract.

Basically, the Ellen B. Scripps is the Halter firm's standard 95-foot boat that serves off-shore oil drilling rigs, modified to Scripps' requirements. She will work in short trips mainly off southern California, Lower California, and the Gulf of Mexico, but she has capability of expeditions of up to four weeks duration.

Of prime importance to the scientists who will use her is the vessel's large 1,100-square-foot open after deck area. This cleared space provides versatility and flexibility for the installation of portable equipment such as winches, laboratories, explosives magazines, and trailer-like van facilities for housing additional personnel or equipment. Equipment of this nature is built into other Scripps vessels. Thus, capability for rapid, easy installation and removal of whatever special equipment is required aboard the Ellen B. Scripps for specific scientific missions marks an advancement in research vessels of this type.

This flexibility will also help reduce turn-around time in part, because, while the vessel is at sea, equipment can be installed in the vans and loaded by crane in a short time upon the vessel's return.

Another feature is the vessel's sweeping visibility from the upper deck house, regardless of the types of gear on the aft deck.

The ship's built-in equipment includes both voice and radio telegraph for communications, radar, navigational and scientific echo sounders (fathometers), a gyro compass, and facilities for providing electricity and power to any portable equipment or facilities aboard.

Fabricated of steel, the 95-foot Ellen B. Scripps has a 24-foot beam, a draft of six feet, and a displacement of approximately 115 tons. She will carry 14,000 gallons of fuel oil and 2,700 gallons of fresh water. Her hull is dark blue, her superstructure, a light blue-gray.

Two 340 shaft-horsepower diesel engines power the vessel. She cruises at 12 knots carries a crew of five and a scientific party of eight, and will fly the Scripps blue and gold ensign.

Her upper deck contains the pilot house, a chart room, radio equipment, and crew living quarters. The lower deck is outfitted with a galley, messing space, a laboratory, and living accommodations for the scientists.

Two other Scripps vessels are under construction. The Thomas Washington is being built for the Navy by the Marinette Marine Corp., Marinette, Wis. The Navy will turn her over to Scripps at Boston in mid-September. She will arrive in San Diego next February, after an expedition which will include shakedown of the vessel.

The Alpha Helix, virtually a floating physiological laboratory, will be delivered to Scripps November 1 at Tacoma, Wash., where she is under final construction by the J. M. Martinac Shipbuilding Corp.

Other vessels in the Scripps fleet are the Scripps-owned Horizon and Alexander Agassiz, and three Navy-owned ships, the Argo, the Oconostota and the T-441. Awaiting return to the U.S. Maritime Commission is the Spencer F. Baird which will be replaced by the Thomas Washington.