

Ceremonies held at opening of the Hall of Oceanography

August 7, 1968

Ceremonies opening the Hall of Oceanography in the Thomas Wayland Vaughan Aquarium-Museum, were held Monday, August 5 at the University of California, San Diego's Scripps Institution of Oceanography.

The opening marked the end of several months of refurbishing in the museum area, the installation of eleven new exhibits, and the naming of the museum as the Hall of Oceanography.

Dr. William A. Nierenberg, director of Scripps Institution, presided over ceremonies conducted on the steps of the Vaughan Aquarium-Museum. The Honorable Frank Curran, Mayor of San Diego, and special guest for the occasion, performed ribbon-cutting honors to officially open the Hall.

Dr. William McGill, newly-elected Chancellor of UCSD, commented on the growth of the Aquarium-Museum since its early days.

"The aquarium was established in 1905; the museum in 1910," said Dr. McGill. "Originally located in separate buildings, they were combined in the present building in 1951 as the Vaughan Aquarium-Museum.

"The Aquarium-Museum is operated as a public service for the people of the San Diego community. It is gratifying to us that last year there were more than 300,000 visitors to these facilities, including some 30,000 students participating in special education programs which have been developed over the last three years for elementary and high school students."

Commenting on the addition of the new displays, Don Wilkie, director of the Vaughan Aquarium-Museum, noted that this was the first time since the museum opened that so many new exhibits had been made available at one time.

"None of this would have been possible if it had not been for the interest and generous contributions of donors for the construction of these new exhibits," said Wilkie. "We feel that the Hall of Oceanography will help visitors acquire a better overall understanding of the variety of areas covered in the field of oceanography."

According to Wilkie, the new displays bring to 35 the total number of exhibits dealing with oceanography which are available for viewing. The Vaughan Aquarium-Museum is open daily to the public, free of charge.

The bronze plaque which has been installed at the entrance to the building honors the following donors: E.G. & G. International, Inc.; Francis P. Shepard Foundation; Humble Oil & Refining Company; Kelco Company; National Science Foundation; Van Camp Sea Food Company, Ralston Purina Company; and Westinghouse Electric Corporation.

New exhibits, sponsored by donor's gifts, include: Deep Sea Drilling Project, Deep Sea Tides, Deep Submersibles, Free Vehicle Instruments, Graduate Program at Scripps, FLIP (Floating Instrument Platform), La Jolla Kelp Bed, North Pacific Buoy Program, R/V Alpha Helix Expeditions, Scripps Canyon and Marine Topography, and Wave Propagation. Each exhibit includes illustrations, explanatory passages, and where appropriate, a model of the subject.

In addition to exhibits in the Hall of Oceanography, the aquarium offers displays of marine animals from southern California and Baja California in 24 tanks ranging from 75- to 2,000-gallon capacity.