

## Research vessel Stranger will return to San Diego on June 2

**June 22, 1961**

The research vessel Stranger of the University of California's Scripps Institution of Oceanography will return to San Diego this weekend after two years spent studying the waters of the Gulf of Thailand and the adjacent South China Sea.

Naga Expedition, as the project is known, began on June 15, 1959, when Stranger sailed for Bangkok, Thailand, where she has been based since then.

The vessel is scheduled to dock at the B Street Pier on Saturday afternoon, June 24.

Of the 22 men comprising the scientific party and crew of the ship, 16 are citizens of Thailand who have been trained in oceanographic operations under Naga Expedition. The remaining six are men from the Scripps Institution. Captain of the ship is Frank Miller of La Mesa, Leader of the scientific party aboard is 30-year-old Tetsuo Matsui, Hawaiian-born biologist.

The Thai naval personnel and technicians aboard the ship will remain in this country as visitors for several weeks. The vessel itself is scheduled to go into the shipyard within a week, to be readied for a cruise in the north Pacific this summer.

Naga Expedition was conducted under a contract between the United States of America, as represented by the International Cooperation Administration, and the University of California. It resulted from agreements between the United States and the governments of Thailand and South Vietnam to investigate the marine resources potentially available to the latter two countries and to lay a foundation for later development.

According to James Faughn, Scripps engineer who is Project Officer of Naga Expedition, Stranger completed ten oceanographic-biological cruises in the vicinity of Thailand and South Vietnam. Upon her return to San Diego, she will have sailed more than 56,000 miles. During her two years abroad, more than 100 scientists and technicians have participated in Naga Expedition. They included citizens of Korea, Japan, the Philippines, Hong Kong, and Indonesia, as well as Thailand and South Vietnam.

Anton Bruun, Danish zoologist, served as scientific Project Leader.

Still ahead of the scientists involved in the expedition is the massive job of completing the processing of the oceanographic and biological data taken. Faughn forecasts that the expedition will result in a series of published reports that may require as long as five years or more to finish. Naga Expedition was the first broad scientific study of the oceanography of the area.

The expedition has inspired plans for continued work on oceanography in Thailand, Faughn says. Investigations will be conducted by the Hydrographic Office of the Royal Thai Navy and by the Department of Fisheries in Bangkok.

Personnel aboard the Stranger are:

Frank Miller, Captain, C. E. Smelser, Raymond Blei, Lt-Jg. Cha-Erb Sdubbundith, Sub-lieutenants Yong Yudh Na-Nagara and Bhaisal Sripajumpiya of the Royal Thai Navy, Officer Bhaisal Boonlapo, Warrant Officer Bhinyo Chomsukprakit, Chief Petty Officer Wong Potibutra, Petty Officers Jumnong Songnark, Asani Saomani, Vicharn Boonyuen, and Chalae Yamsri, of the Royal Thai Navy, Frank Strack, Sompong Phoosvad, Tetsuo Matsui, Thumnoon Sunpanich, Kosol Moodharasint, Likit Nugulrak, Satcha Yuenyong, Kanok Indrambarya, and Christopher Banner.