

1964-65 Ship Expeditions Planned

July 15, 1964

Nearly a quarter of a million miles of sailing, enough to circle the globe 10 times, has been scheduled for the seven ocean-going research ships of the University of California's Scripps Institution of oceanography during the next 12 months.

The ships are scheduled for use by faculty and research personnel of Scripps on a fiscal year basis running from July 1, 1964 to June 30, 1965.

Several of the ships will take part in prolonged research expeditions that will take then half way around the world. The others will be confined to waters closer to home on expeditions of shorter duration.

Workhorse of the fleet will be Argo, a 213-foot, steel-hull converted rescue and salvage ship built by the Navy in 1944. Argo sailed from San Diego last April 8 for an eight and one half month, 37,000 mile, exploration of the Indian and Pacific Oceans. She is scheduled to return home December 24 and leave again February 1 for the Eastern Pacific. She will return March 31, spend April, May, and part of June in port, and then sail June 15 on a four month expedition to the Bering Sea.

Argo, owned by the Navy and acquired by Scripps in 1959, has taken part in four Scripps' expeditions, totaling over 150,000 sea miles, prior to leaving on her current expedition.

Oconostota, a 102-foot converted Navy tug, and Alexander Agassiz, a 180-foot light freight ship, will work off the northern Pacific coast through the middle of September. Oconostota left July 10 on Expedition Kayak, a study of the continental shelf from northern California to Alaska. From October through June she will be used for a series of projects by the Marine Physical Laboratory at Scripps.

Alexander Agassiz will leave August 1 on Expedition Ursa Major which will take her to Kodiak, Alaska. From there she will sail to Honolulu and return to San Diego October 2. Through the rest of the year she will make shorter voyages, including expeditions to Cedros Island, Cape Colnett, and other points in Baja California and will be used for research by the Marine Life Research group at Scripps.

Horizon, a 143-foot converted Navy tug, will be used for a number of local expeditions including trips to Cape San Lucas, the waters off central California, and the waters off Baja California. In addition, she will spend much of her time towing FLIP, Scripps' Floating Instrument Platform developed by the Marine Physical Laboratory. She is scheduled for a student cruise June 13.

T-144, a 65-foot converted cargo and passenger ship, is scheduled for local day operations throughout the year but may later be used for a maximum of five continuous days at sea.

Two ships are expected to be decommissioned during the year but will remain in service until they are replaced. They are Spencer F. Baird, a 143-foot converted Navy tug, and Paolina-T, an 80-foot wooden purse seiner.

Spencer F. Baird, owned by the Maritime Commission, was acquired by Scripps in 1951. She is scheduled to begin decommissioning January 1 following trips to Easter Island and Cape Mendocino. She will be replaced by the 208-foot Thomas Washington, being built by the Navy Bureau of Ships and scheduled for launching August 1. Thomas Washington is expected to join the Scripps' fleet next summer.

Paolina-T, owned by the Navy and acquired by Scripps in 1948, will be used by the Applied Oceanography Group until she is replaced by a 95-foot research vessel to be provided by the government in December. Since January, operations of Paolina-T have been restricted to coastwise operations owing to the age and hull conditions of the ship.