

AN HOUR'S CRUISE WITH E. W. SCRIPPS

B. M. Davis

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As a background for this short sketch, attention is called to the interest in Marine Biology on the part of Dr. W. E. Ritter, Professor of Zoology of the University of California. As early as 1893, instructors and students from his department spent the summer at Avalon, Santa Catalina Island, using a tent as a laboratory. A similar group passed several weeks during the summer of 1895 at San Pedro, California. The experience of these two years led to the establishment, in 1901, of a temporary laboratory at San Pedro which was open during part of that year and the year following. Because of Federal harbor improvements the laboratory was closed at the end of the second year and the biological investigations of this area discontinued.

In the meantime, the San Diego region had been looked over. Because of the favorable impression made by a rough survey and of certain financial inducements promoted by Fr. Fred Baker (1) and others of San Diego, the base of operations was moved to that city. During the years 1903 and 1904 the boathouse at Coronado Beach, given and in part fitted up by the Coronado Beach Company, served as a laboratory building.

Sometime during 1903 and 1904 an organization known as the "Marine Biological Association of San Diego" was incorporated under the laws of California. The articles of incorporation included a certain degree of cooperation with the University of California. A definite income was provided by the Association for three years beginning with July 1, 1904. Among those interested in the project were Mr. E. W. Scripps and Miss Ellen Scripps. They were members of the Board of Directors, and each made a substantial

contribution toward meeting the expenses of the project.

Provision was also made for a resident naturalist for the year 1904-1905. I had the honor of receiving this appointment. Instead of having quarters at the Coronado Boathouse, a site was selected on the bay side of Point Loma, some six miles from San Diego. One corner of an old, empty fish-house was fitted up as a temporary laboratory. The crudeness of the building may be appreciated by reference to the picture accompanying this sketch.

The duties of the resident naturalist, aside from his personal research, were three: (1) He was to make a preliminary survey of a littoral fauna of the Bay. (2) He was expected to direct a weekly collection of animals (plankton) from the open sea. These collections were made by Manuel Cabral, a Portuguese fisherman, member of a colony of Portuguese located near the Laboratory. Specimens including certain data were to be preserved for future reference. (3) He was also expected to entertain and give aid to visiting naturalists. I remember especially two visitors: one was a professor of Oceanography of the University of Paris with whom I had considerable language difficulties; the other was Dr. Thomas Hunt Morgan of Columbia University. Dr. Morgan had just been married and his visit was part of his wedding trip. He had quartered at the Coronado Boathouse near which were thousands of Cione which he wished to study.

These duties left plenty of time for my own research. I was fortunate early in the year 1905 to find the eggs of one of the Pacific Coast Enteropneusts, *D. pusillus*. The specimens enabled me to work out the essential stages of the early life history of this animal. The results of these studies were subsequently published

under the title "Early Life History of Dolichoglossus pusillus (Ritter)." I was also fortunate in obtaining from a dredging scow hundreds of specimens of Amphioxus. They were examined with great interest, resulting among other things, in finding a structure hitherto undescribed. About the same time, however, a German investigator found the same structure and published a description before my account was ready for the press.

One Sunday near the end of the year 1904, a yacht sailed into the Bay. It turned about at a point opposite the laboratory. A tender was lowered from the side of the vessel, and rowed by a sailor to the laboratory. I was told that Mr. Scripps wished to see me. Eagerly responding to this request, I soon found myself in the presence of Mr. Scripps. The visual image of my first glimpse of the man is readily recalled. I was impressed by his strong personality, enhanced no doubt by the nature of his attire, one more in harmony with the open country than open sea. He wore a light brown or tan suit, perhaps tweed, a flannel shirt of the same shade, a wide sombrero, and high-top boots. His expressive face was adorned with a blond beard which half concealed a flowing bow tie.

As the yacht cruised lazily around the Bay we talked of various things, mostly of the sea, and particularly of those regions near San Diego. As I remember, the latter part of our conversation consisted mainly of questions from Mr. Scripps and answers by myself. Those questions, general at first--relating to the routine of my work, things I regarded as of biological importance, etc.--gradually

became more specific. In effect they were like these: What would you think of a permanent laboratory where the one now is? What are some advantages and disadvantages of such a location? Finally, he was interested in knowing about the survival of animals that were brought in fresh from the open sea. Could they be kept alive? How were they affected by addition of water from the Bay?

I did not realize at the time the import of his questions. I know now that they were of considerable significance. He was probably pumping me to get information from an unbiased individual in regard to the best place in this region for locating a permanent laboratory for the study of marine biology. Dr. Fred Baker and a number of other men of San Diego favored the Bay as a site. Dr. Ritter, the Director of the Association, favored a location adjacent to the open sea. Mr. Scripps may have been trying to obtain check on Dr. Ritter's choice. At any rate, the answers that came from me certainly confirmed Dr. Ritter's judgment. The animals that Cabral brought in from the open sea soon died. This was due in part to unfavorable temperature and in part to impurities or adverse composition of the water in the Bay.

The hour quickly passed. With a cordial goodby from Mr. Scripps I left the yacht, and from the door of my little laboratory I watched the yacht sail out of the Bay and fade in the distance. The fact that after thirty-one years I am now able to recall vividly in considerable detail that short cruise with Mr. Scripps is sufficient evidence of the lasting impression he made upon me.

Later the yacht was fitted with auxiliary power and collecting equipment, and dedicated to biological research; later the man made possible the important Institution now known as the Scripps's Institute of Oceanography.

(1)

It may be of interest to refer to the probable beginning of Dr. Ritter's association with Mr. Scripps, an association which later became very close. Dr. Fred Baker aside from his medical practice was interested in Natural History, especially in marine molluscs. He had a fine collection of shells and spent much of his time adding to his collection and classifying his specimens. Miss Ellen Scripps, though in a smaller and less scientific way, was also a collector of shells. This common interest lead to an acquaintance which grew into a lasting friendship. It was through Miss Ellen that Dr. Baker came to know Mr. Scripps, and through Dr. Baker that the two principals, Mr. Scripps and Dr. Ritter were brought together.