

"VOICE OF THE SOUTHWEST COUNCIL"

VOLUME 2—No. 1

March, 1972

SWC Convention—1972

The annual convention of the Southwest Council of Skin Diving Clubs for 1971 took place February 4-5, 1972 in Longview, Texas hosted by the East Texas Aquanauts.

A social hour Friday evening, beginning at 7:30 p.m., precluded the business meeting, scheduled for Saturday morning at 8:00. The business meeting was postponed by general consent to allow as many delegates as possible to arrive before business was begun. At 9:20 a.m. the meeting was called to order by President Ben Sleight, who proceeded with the roll call of the officers of SWC. Then roll call of the member clubs was initiated. At this time clubs were informed of their number of votes in Southwest Council. There are 23 member clubs with a total of 65 possible votes. Forty-five of these possible votes were present.

Next, the constitution committee voted to accept the updated Constitution and By-Laws. The work to update the Constitution and By-Laws was due to and done under the supervision of Mr. Benny Sleight.

Since the secretary was not present, and had not arranged a proxy for the reading of the minutes, it was agreed to by-pass the reading of the minutes. Then the treasurer read his report which was accepted.

Next on the agenda was new business. There were four proposed changes to the 1971 Constitution. Also proposed were six articles by the Orca Tamers of Hurst, three of which were Con-

stitutional changes. It was voted to waive the 30 day waiting period so that the proposed changes by the Orca Tamers could be voted upon.

Approved was the proposal to create a novice or rookie division of spearfishing. A committee is to be set up and have a program by the first sanctioned dive of the year. A report from that committee will be published after their meeting on Thursday, Mar. 9, 1972.

Approved was the proposal that there be awarded to all divers who attended all Southwest Council sanctioned contests during the year, some type of recognition in the form of a pin or patch. The results of this committee will also be published at a later date.

Withdrawn was the proposal that trophies for each SWC sanctioned dive cost a minimum of \$100.00

The above proposals were submitted by the Dawton Divers, of Lawton, Oklahoma.

Also approved was the proposal by the Les Hommes De Mer that if an Executive Board member misses three (3) consecutive board meetings, or doesn't send in his proxy, he will be replaced.

Withdrawn by the Orca Tamers was the proposal that a bi-monthly statement on the Council status be published.

It was found that provisions written in the SWC Constitution took care of the proposal that \$1.00 of each \$1.50 fee from par-

ticipants in Council spearfishing contests be set aside to defray expense of the council champions to the Nationals.

In the discussion that followed, the proposal that the Slate be published bi-monthly, the Sea Horse Dive Club volunteered to publish the Slate on a schedule to be approved by the Council.

The proposal that the \$1.00 fee for non-spearfishing contests be dropped, failed.

Also failing was the proposal that the Council incorporate as a non-profit corporation.

Another proposal by the Orca Tamers to fail was that the points for the most fish be reduced from 5 to 2. However, a motion came from the floor that the proposal from the previous Council meeting that the points for the women's division in spearfishing be changed to equal those of the men's division in spearfishing be accepted was discussed and passed.

The new officers elected for the year 1972 are as follows:

- PresidentBenny Sleight (LHDM)
- Executive Vice
- PresidentDennis Corcoran (IDA)
- SecretaryCarolyn Weatherman (Dallas Divers)

(Continued on Page 3)

ACTIVITIES CALENDAR

- LHDM, Possum Kingdom
Mar. 11-12, Sandy Beach
- IDA, Buffalo Blast
Apr. 8-9, Pavillion, Possum Kingdom
- TEXINS, Underwater Safari
May 6-7, Lake Travis
- LAWTON DIVERS
June 3-4, To Be Announced
- LAWTON ARGONAUTS
June 24-25, To Be Announced
- SEA HORSE DIVE CLUB
Aug. 12-13, To Be Announced
- ORCA TAMERS
Sept. 2-3-4-, Lake Travis
- EAST TEXAS AQUANAUTS,
Dec. 9-10, Gar Rodeo
- JIM CLARK MEMORIAL

ADDITIONAL ACTIVITIES FOR ARDENT DIVERS

- Oklahoma Scuba Divers
May 20-21, Rocky Branch Public Use Area, Beaver Lake, Rogers, Arkansas
- June 10-11, Soldier Creek Area, Lake Texhoma, 5 mil. South of Kingston, Oklahoma
- July 22-23, Greers Ferry Lake, Herber Springs Public Use Area, Herber Springs, Ark.
- August 5-6, Lake Eufala, Porum Landing, near Porum, Oklahoma

SCIP Instructors to Take NAUI Crossover

The first Seminar for SCIP crossover into National Association of Underwater Instructors has been set for March 18 and 19 at the Tarrant County Junior College, South Campus in Fort Worth. The program starts at 8:00 a.m. Saturday with Dr. Glen Egstrom and Dr. William Schroeder explaining the procedures and policy of NAUI. Following these briefings, the series of written tests will be given, followed by formal oral presentations. Sunday will be mostly taken up with open water teachings at a nearby lake.

The second crossover seminar is tentatively set for sometime in May at Austin. All SCIP certified instructors in good standing that want to make this seminar should write to the seminar secretary, Judy Crouch, 4718 Maple Ave., Dallas, Tx. Zip Code 75219.

To be eligible for the NAUI certification through these limited certifying programs, each instructor must have attended two SCIP seminars and taught one SCIP certified divers course in the last two years. IQ 3 is valid as a qualifying seminar for those instructors who were in attendance for the three days and registered for recertification.

Several workshops have been held in Houston and Dallas that were attended by many SCIP instructors. In September, the Ocean Corporation put on a two day seminar, "What to do When Everything Goes Wrong," where

all the participants experienced a free ascent and a bouyant ascent in the sixty foot tank. Everyone also enjoyed a "ride" in their recompression chamber. NAUI conducted a one day orienting program, especially for SCIP instructors, in Houston and again in Dallas. The Ocean Corporation offered an Industrial Orientation Course February 26 and 27. The instructors and divers were able to take a look into some commercial aspects of diving including the experience of a trip down in hard hat rigs. They had two days of lectures, discussions, demonstrations, dives on surface supplied hats, and playing with some of the most recently developed equipment in the field.

All of these programs are designed to upgrade the instructor, giving them a greater depth in experience and knowledge. They were especially useful as warm-up sessions for the SCIP instructors planning to go through the crossover.

For our instructors that have only attended one SCIP seminar there is a YMCA seminar being put on by Jan McGinnis, certified SCIP, NAUI, and YMCA, that can be audited and counted for your second seminar, thereby giving you the required eight day seminar experience to qualify for the NAUI requirement.

For information about this, write to Jan McGinnis, 10010 Memorial Drive, Houston, Texas 77024.

From the President

Well, the diving season is here at last. The first dive of the 1972 season was the Gar Rodeo, a non-sanctioned contest held by the Ark-La-Tex Dive Club. The contest was very well organized and the weather was great. Paul Oberle and his club can be proud of the dive and the 92 divers that attended.

For those of you that missed the Convention, you missed a good meeting. The business meeting went very well, and a good slate of officers were elected. We have a group of officers whom, I know, will help the council grow.

I want to thank the Sea Horse Dive Club for volunteering to publish the Slate. With this as

a club project, I'm sure this year's Slate will be one to be proud of. All you Area Vice Presidents get your reports in early so the Slate will serve as the communication media that it was meant to be.

I would like to see this year become the greatest year the Council has ever seen. Get behind your officers and support them. The more help we get from you, the diver, the better we all will function. If each person can contribute some small something, who knows how far we can go.

I hope to see you at each contest this year.

Sincerely,
Ben Sleight,
President, SWC

IDA Buffalo Blast Set for April 8-9

Because Easter is the first weekend in April this year, Inland Divers Association will hold their annual Buffalo Blast at Possum Kingdom the second weekend. For those who are not familiar with the event, the buffalo run once a year when they come to the clear end of the lake to spawn. Over a period of years' research by divers, mainly Tom Davis, it has been shown that the buffalo run when the water reaches fifty-five to fifty-eight degrees and lasts about four days. This temperature usually appears about the first week in April.

Since the run is an annual event and approximately the same period of time each year, the Council awards this time of the year to Inland Divers Association for their spear fishing contest. Divers are attracted from all over the state to this

event. Three years ago, Bill Barada, of **Skin Diver Magazine** attended.

Inland Divers Association has a thirty by sixty pavillion with enclosed kitchen along with running water and restrooms. The club is continually adding to their pavillion or improving their already excellent camping facilities.

For the leisure diver, they have their own dock; there is also a dive shop, air station, and launching ramp only a few yards away.

IDA always seems to come up with fantastic trophies. Last year Tom Davis of Scuba Point donated a trophy measuring 36 inches high. In addition, there will be door prizes and free coffee and donuts.

The contest will begin at 9:00 a.m., April 9, and all contestants and guests will be invited to stay on the property, home of INLAND DIVERS ASSOCIATION.

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The Editorial Page of the Slate

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From the Editorial Staff

The Slate staff would like to express our appreciation to Mr. Bob Harris, former Slate Manager, for the help he has given us in learning about the Slate. We hope future issues will improve in quantity and quality, through experience, with articles of interest to everyone in the underwater field.

Anyone that would like to send in information, ideas, articles, or would like to express an opinion in the form of a letter to the editor may do so by sending them to Ronald Brown, Slate Editor, P. O. Box 154, Arlington, Texas 76010. They will all be gratefully appreciated.

We must announce a slight increase in advertising rates for Slate, due to the usual increasing costs of production, and with the view of bringing you an up-to-date, informative Slate, on a regular basis. The new rates are as follows:

	1 to 3 issues	over 4 issues
1/16 page	\$ 5.00	\$ 4.50
1/8 page	9.50	9.00
1/4 page	18.75	18.00
1/2 page	35.00	32.50
3/4 page	42.00	39.00
Full Page	50.00	45.00

A page is 5 columns (10 inches) wide and .15 inches deep.

THOUGHTS ON TREATMENT OF DECOMPRESSION SICKNESS

The following is taken from a paper written by Luther Swift, NAUI #25, SCIU #8. It is food for thought as the major diving season approaches.

For many years I have heard considerable discussion among sport divers and students concerning the availability of recompression chambers, not only along the Gulf Coast area, but also in "Southwest Council" territory. Many divers are quite concerned because no one seems to know where the nearest recompression chamber is located.

This may seem to some to be an exaggerated, fanciful account. Yet, though the following incident is fictitious, each of the events leading up to the final disaster is a fairly common practice among divers in this area.

"Melvin Schmedlap is a very active diver. He can't afford to dive every weekend, so the weekends he is able to do so, he believes in really making the most of the time. He and his buddies were going out about forty miles offshore to explore an area reputedly the site of an old shipwreck, to see if they could find signs of the derelict. Melvin carried his double tank block, and two singles, just to make sure he had sufficient air.

Melvin had been rather excited about the trip all week. Prodigious plans had been made, and Melvin made out a list of all the equipment he was going to take. Somehow, as it always seems to happen, Melvin put off thoroughly checking his equip-

ment until the last night. After supper, on the night before the trip, he began running all over town to collect various items of equipment he had loaned out from previous trips. Around ten o'clock, he finally had his equipment packed, his lunch prepared, and every item neatly stored in the trunk of his car.

On his way home from his last stop, he dropped in to see some friends, who were having a party. Melvin just couldn't leave without having a drink or two. He drank five or six beers and finally tore himself away from the party about 1:30 in the morning. Melvin was exhausted when he finally hit the sack. His alarm clock gently nudged him awake two hours later, and he drove fifty miles to the boat dock gazing through cherry-red eyes. The sunrise seemed to have a deeper orange tint, as he wearily loaded his equipment aboard the boat.

When they finally got underway, Melvin was able to sleep for about thirty minutes during the trip out to the diving site. After fifteen minutes to anchor the boat, and another fifteen minutes to put his equipment on, he and his buddy descended to the bottom, and Melvin noticed the depth to be about 65 feet. After he went on reserve, he and his buddy ascended to the surface. His buddy wanted to rest for awhile, but 'ol eager Melvin had spotted some interesting looking shells on the bottom just before they finished the previous dive. Melvin quick-

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CONVENTION

The following letter was received by delegates who attended the awards banquet at the 1972 convention in Longview.

February 23, 1972

Dear Council Members,

In the past couple of weeks, our club, the East Texas Aquanauts, have been very concerned over the events that happened at the banquet Saturday, February 5. We had no idea that the menu served would have so many substitutes. It was supposed to include a filet mignon, which we certainly did not get. Also, we were just as surprised as you probably were when we saw another band set up and start to play in the next room.

We met with the motel manager and presented our complaints. We told him that we felt he should make some restitution to the people present for the bad meal, poor service, and the conflict of another party in the next room. We were turned down without even so much as an apology. We will resart the actions of the management to the Better Business Bureau, the Longview Chamber of Commerce, and a few other organizations. Perhaps we can prevent someone else from getting into the same fix.

The band's lead guitar quit the night they were supposed to play for us. They tried to play with a new member, but because they had never practiced together, they were unable to play together. We had to fire them. As a result of this, we saved some money because we didn't pay them the full amount. We feel that this money belongs to the people that were present. This amounted to about \$1.50 per person.

Please accept our check and our deepest apology for the evening.

Sincerely,
Michael D. Young
President
East Texas Aquanauts
MY/by

We of the Slate would like to offer this word of comment. Your apology is most graciously accepted. Taking all things into consideration, your entire club, the East Texas Aquanauts, did a fine job; a job that required a great deal of planning and hard work.

Area Two Report

Many thanks to the EAST TEXAS AQUANAUTS for such a well organized convention. If you did not attend, you missed a great time.

As the new Vice President of this area, I hope I can bring more news in future issues, that is informative and interesting to every diver.

The dive clubs in Area Two are: INLAND DIVERS, GULF STATE, ORCA TAMERS and SEA HORSE. These clubs are already active in various dives. The Orca Tamers Dive Club went to the San Marcos River and Canyon Lake on a great dive trip.

Area Two is proud of a new club of the Southwest Council, The SEA HORSE. This club has volunteered to take on the big project of running the Slate. We know they will do a good job by the examples of enthusiasm already shown.

Inland Divers Certification Classes will start March 21 at Texas Wesleyan College. The certifications offered will be P.A.D.I. and S.C.I.P. Divers Certification classes are important for new and old divers alike. Anyone interested can contact me at any time. (Phone 236-8320 — Rt. 9, Box 262, Fort Worth.)

"BUFFALO BLAST" time is April 8-9 at I.D.A. property on Possum Kingdom. There will be an appetizing meal offered Saturday night and fun for all.

The Inland Divers Club hopes everyone will be able to make this dive and make it better than ever.

Hope to see all you divers at the 1st Contest of the year, March 11-12 at Sandy Beach, Possum Kingdom, sponsored by L.H.D.M.

If anyone in Area Two has any information or questions on any matter, I will appreciate hearing from you.

Matt Wiley
Rt. 9, Box 262
Fort Worth, Texas 76179
(817) 236-8320

The poor service and total lack of consideration shown by the Continental Inn can carry no reasonable excuse. It will, indeed, reflect back to their reputation in the future.

Your club took on a tremendous task and carried it out magnificently. We all say "Thank You!" for a job well done.

Editor and staff.

ATTENTION ALL CLUBS

Members of the SWC, it is necessary for you to send your SWC dues direct to Carolyn Weatherman, along with the IBM. By doing this, you should receive your Slate and membership cards this year. Would all the clubs please send me a list of their members and officers. If you need IBM cards, write me for them. For further information, contact me at 1309 Amherst, Plano, Texas 75074, 424-6460.

From the Secretary
Carolyn Weatherman

Area Six Report

The East Texas Aquanauts hosted the SWC annual convention on February 4-5, 1972. The convention was held at the Continental Inn in Longview, Texas. Registration was February 4, in conjunction with a cocktail party furnished by the host club. The annual meeting was held February 5, with the yearly awards being presented on the evening of February 5, —at the awards banquet, which was followed by dancing.

The Aquanauts were proud to have been selected as the host club for 1972 and all the members worked hard to make it a successful affair.

The Aquanauts held their monthly meeting February 21. The well-known underwater photographer, Mickey Church was a guest and showed slides taken all over the diving world. Mickey is with Subsea Products in California. He was also the assistant cameraman for the Cousteau film on the sea otter filmed in Monterey Bay. He showed slides taken during the filming of that subject.

The Ark-La-Tex held their first annual Gar Rodeo at Lake Bistineau, La. February 27. A fish fry and films of rig diving off the Louisiana coast were shown February 26. The turnout was very good as well over 60 divers attended. I don't have the exact number or the names of the winners, but the club assured me that the information will be forwarded to SWC headquarters in the near future. It may get there ahead of this report. The water was very poor for visibility and the Gar were scarce.

Jack Elliott,
VP — Area 6

SOUTHWEST COUNCIL INSTRUCTOR PROGRAM

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SCIP



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MATT WILEY wins 1st place in the color slide division.



PRESIDENT BENNY SLEIGH presents Matt Wiley with his 2nd place trophy in the Men's Spearfishing division.



Southwest Council Cash receipts and disbursements for the period January 31, 1972 to March 4, 1972.

- President, Ben Sleigh—LHDM
1621 Mayflower, Irving,
Texas 75060
- Vice-President, Dennis Corcoran, IDA
6313 Greenfield Rd., Ft. Worth
Texas 76135
- Secretary, Carolyn Weatherman, TEXINS
1309 Amherst, Plano, Texas
75074
- Treasurer, Kay Kornegy, ORCA TAMERS
300 Booth Calloway Rd., #250
Hurst, Texas 76053
- Area 1 —V.P., Wayne Mathewson
4725 Windsor, Garland, Texas
75040
- Area 2 V.P., Matt Wiley,
Rt. 9 Box 262, Ft. Worth,
Texas 76106
- Area 3 V.P., Jim —Kitterman,
1645 Priscilla Dr., Irving, Texas
75060
- Area 4 V.P., Leo McCollum,
3325 Providence Dr. Midland,
Texas 79701
- Area 6 V.P., Jack Elliott, —
P. O. Box 7023, Longview,
Texas 75601
- Area 7 V.P., Ron Hagle,
531 N.W. 61st St., Lawton,
Oklahoma 73501
- Manager of SLATE, Ronald
Brown, SEAHORSE
P. O. Box 154, Arlington,
Texas 76010
- Public Relations, C. A. Atchison,
ORCA TAMERS,
1020 Carpenter, Azle, Texas
76020

—SWC CONVENTION

(Continued from Page 1)

- TreasurerKay Kornagy
(Orca Tamers)
- Manager of Slate...Ronald Brown
(Sea Horse Dive Club)

Since Mrs. Kay Kornagy has not been in the SWC for one year it was voted to waive the one year membership clause.

Although the Sea Horse Dive Club has not been a Council member for one year, Mr. Ronald Brown of that club has been a member of SWC for a number of years, and is therefore eligible for office.

After the election of officers, the clubs of each area elected their Area Vice Presidents. They are:

- Area OneWayne Mathewson
- Area TwoMatt Wiley
- Area ThreeJim Kitterman
- Area FourLee McCollum
- Area Fiveno delegates present
- Area SixJack Elliott
- Area SevenRon Hagle

The old Area Three in Austin had become inactive and was assigned the new area created between Dallas and Fort Worth in the Irving area.

It was decided to leave Chuck Atchison as the head of the Public Relations Committee.

The Diver of the Year Award went to Mrs. Doris Kitterman for her work on the SWC Constitution and other behind-the-scenes contributions.

The last order of business was the assigning of the SWC sanctioned dives. These are listed in the Calendar of Activities.

The banquet on Saturday night was reserved for the purpose of awarding the trophies and administering recognition. Five door prizes were given away in a drawing conducted by the East Texas Aquanauts. Of these, Inland Divers walked away with three! The door prizes were donated by various dive shops. Trophies were awarded to the following people:

- DIVER OF THE YEAR—
Doris Kitterman
- SPEARFISHING
- MEN'S DIVISION:
1st PlaceEd Ralston
2nd PlaceMatt Wiley
3rd PlaceDennis Corcoran
4th PlaceWilber Knight

- SPEARFISHING
- WOMEN'S DIVISION:
1st PlaceSandra Smith
2nd Place Carolyn Weatherman
- The film festival was excellent, with varied and original entries. The judges for the event were Larry Sandel, Ronald Williams, Jim Kitterman, Ben Sleigh and Sandy Sleigh. The following awards were given:

- NOVICE CONTESTANT (any category): George Marler
- MOVIE DIVISION: Gene Gall
- SLIDE DIVISION:
1st PlaceMatt Wylie
2nd PlaceGeorge Marler
3rd PlaceRon Hagel
4th PlaceJohn Kidd

- BLACK & WHITE PRINT DIVISION:
1st PlaceJudy Crouch
2nd PlaceChuck Atcheson
3rd PlaceRon Christopher
- COLOR PRINT DIVISION:
1st PlaceGene Gall
2nd PlaceJudy Crouch
3rd PlaceChuck Atcheson
4th PlaceWharthon Duke

—Decompression Sickness

(Continued from Page 2)

ly switched his regulator from his double block onto a single tank, grabbed a specimen bag, and peeled off over the stern, plunging straight to the bottom. He became so engrossed in what he was doing, it seemed no time at all before he went on reserve. Instead of ascending, he continued to swim around on the bottom, carefully conserving his air supply by skip-breathing. He was able to remain down an extra twelve minutes on reserve.

Upon reaching the surface, Melvin removed his gear and dropped it casually on the deck. He was fairly tired now, after burning up three tanks of air, so he ate a couple sandwiches and polished off a couple cool cans of brew, and lay down on the forward deck for a little sun bathing. About an hour later, Melvin donned his fourth tank and went back under for a final quick exploratory dive. By now, a deep-running current had begun, and the surface swell had increased. Melvin found that he had to swim vigorously to make any progress at all. He stayed down for fifteen minutes before coming to the surface. Melvin was thoroughly bushed now, after fighting the current. He checked the pressure in his tank after removing the regulator, to discover he had used about 1,500 pounds pressure in only fifteen minutes.

On the way in to the dock, Melvin felt completely fatigued. He noticed a sharp pain in his chest when he took a deep breath, but this really didn't bother him too much, because all of his muscles ached. About an hour and a half later, he was acutely aware of a burning sensation of his skin, particularly over his chest, and a deep-boring pain in his right

(Continued on Page 4)



DENNIS CORCORAN receives 3rd place trophy in Men's Spearfishing division from President Benny Sleigh.



AT THE SWC CONVENTION, Matt Wiley and Dennis Corcoran of IDA awarded a special trophy to Larry Wiley, who was the third man on their team in all of the contests they entered. He never actually did any spearfishing during the contests, but ran an efficient boat.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Southwest Council Cash receipts and disbursements for the period January 31, 1972 to March 4, 1972.

Cash on Hand 01-31-72	\$2039.13
No receipts during this time.	
Disbursements:	
postage	\$ 8.00
checkbook	4.95
Total disbursements	\$12.95
Cash on Hand 03-04-72	\$2026.18

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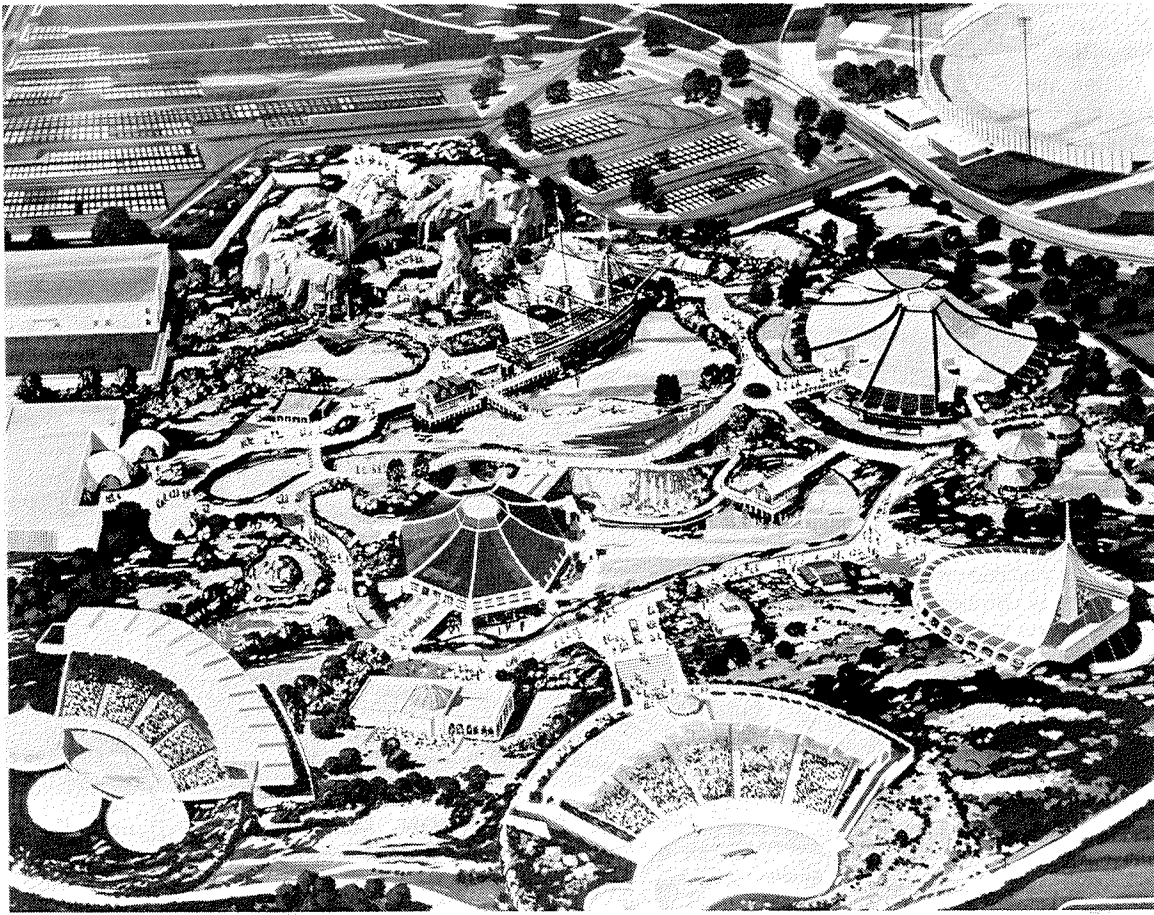
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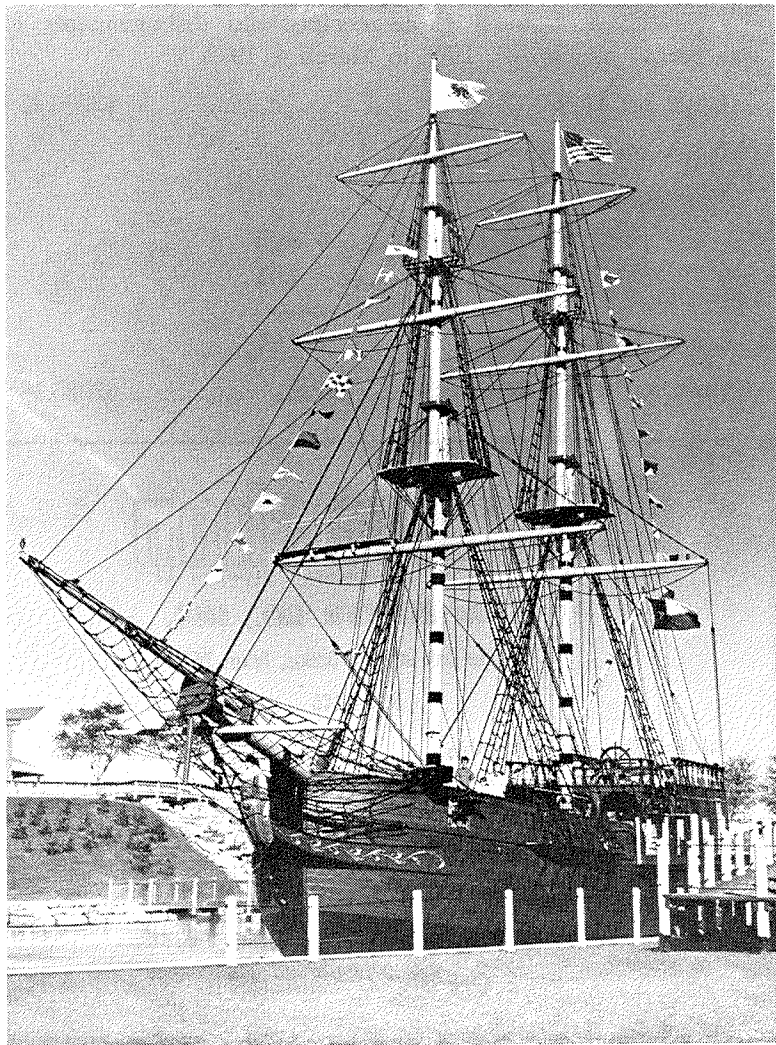


SS Seven Seas



(ARLINGTON, TEXAS) This new multi-million dollar sea-life park is located next to Arlington Stadium and Six Flags. The city-owned family entertainment center will contain sev-

en separate sections representing seven seas of the world. The park will feature performing dolphins, a killer whale, sea lions and roller skating penguins.



THE BONA VENTURE—Located in the Caribbean Sea display at Seven Seas, this life-size replica of an 18th century ship is 120 feet long with a main mast over 105 feet high. The ship has been commissioned into the "Texas Navy" by the Governor of Texas. Inside the hull of the ship is located an elaborate penny arcade. Skilled divers will periodically dive from the mast. (Seven Seas Photo)

—Decompression Sickness

(Continued from Page 3)

knee. He thought he might have hit his knee, but could find no bruises, and noticed the pain was unaffected by walking or standing. He also noticed a mottled-red color of his skin, particularly over his chest. Melvin realized he was "bent".

They were just about an hour away from land, so they notified the Coast Guard by radio to ask for instructions. A Coast Guard seaplane spotted them about a half hour later, and Melvin was transferred to the seaplane. The pilot flew Melvin the sixty-five miles to the nearest chamber, staying about five hundred feet up. The chamber operator just happened to be in a nearby town eating dinner when they arrived. Darkness had fallen after the operator arrived. It was nine o'clock by the time Melvin and an attendant entered the double-lock chamber. Because of Melvin's shortness of breath, the chamber operator raised the chamber pressure to 74 pounds psi (165 feet). Melvin's pain went away after about fifteen minutes; a physician was called.

Four o'clock the next afternoon, Melvin was able to leave the chamber. The physician checked him over, and found no residual sign of "bends" but had Melvin check into the local hospital for further observation, for the next two days. Just before Melvin left the hospital, he got three bills, one each from the hospital, the physician, and

The City of Arlington, Texas plans to open their new nine million dollar sea life park on March 18th. The theme for the 35-acre facility is the seven seas of the world and includes areas designated at the Arctic Ocean, Mediterranean Sea, Indian Ocean, Sea of Cortez, Caribbean Sea, Sea of Japan and the South Seas.

The water capacity for the park adds up to 2,500,000 gallons of manufactured salt and fresh water. The Seven Seas staff will make their own salt water using 275 tons of salt.

Several hundred animals will be on display in the park, including trained sea lions, elephant seals, penguins, dolphins and Newtka, a two-ton killer whale. There are three huge outdoor theaters where these animals will perform. In addition, there is a 108,000 gallon underwater theater where aquatic performers will present a complete show.

On the East edge of the park is a one-half million dollar animated exhibit where guests can ride on an iceberg through the Arctic Ocean. During their trip, they will witness avalanches, snow storms and blizzards. They will also view the spectacular Northern Lights.

Anchored in the Caribbean Sea is the park's own full size 18th century pirate ship, the "Bona Venture." Other special exhibits include a pearl diving pavillion, manatee display, seal-feeding pool, otters, and a dolphin intelligence exhibit.

Of particular interest to the diver and the underwater educator are displays of a variety of coral often seen in the Caribbean. The Florida coast divers may recognize some old friends among the twelve Atlantic bottle-nose dolphins which were captured not far from the Keys. For those interested in underwater sounds, a hydrophone has been placed in the Indian Ocean exhibit for listening to the sounds of whales. Several other educational displays are located throughout the park. Future plans include a collection of common marine invertebrates, several species of Gulf sharks and rays, and even a display of Texas rough fish from area lakes.

The park has a complete seafood restaurant, several refreshment centers, gift shops, and a picnic area. Over 800 young people will be employed during the operational season. From March 18th until June 3rd the park will be open on weekends and from then until September 9th, it will be open daily.



ONE OF THE LOVELY young divers who will take part in the underwater show goes thru her paces in the 100,000 gallon theater tank. (Seven Seas Photo)

the Commercial Salvage Company. The hospital bill was \$36.00, the physician's bill was \$100.00, and the Salvage Company bill was \$475.00. Melvin asked the Salvage Company for an itemized statement. He got the following statement:

1. Recompression chamber—2 days rental at \$100.00 a day \$200.00.
2. Air Compressor—2 days rental at \$37.50 per day — \$75.00.
3. Personnel — 2 attendants — 20 hours at \$5.00 per hour — \$200.00.

Melvin had to pay better than

\$600.00 for treatment of a "simple" case of "bends". All considered, it's fairly expensive. No one has yet been able to assess the value of a human life, or a good pair of legs. Melvin will be more susceptible to "bends" now that he has been "bent". It is more important than ever for Melvin to learn proper use of the decompression tables if he is to continue diving.

Think about it. The closest Naval treatment chambers are in Florida. The best solution in our area is in keeping from getting "bent". Don't go over the no-decompression time!

Ocean Laboratory Planned for Gulf

The Dallas Morning News
Tuesday, August 3, 1971

GALVESTON, TEXAS — If successfully funded, the Flower Garden Ocean Research Institute will be the first permanent far-ocean laboratory located off the United States.

Scientists from around the world could use the facility, to be located about 100 miles south of here, in the Gulf of Mexico.

Design work, started in earnest Sept. 1, and funded by the State of Texas at \$250,000, will produce a hard proposal to government agencies.

The laboratory would be built on top of the Flower Gardens coral reef, named for the beautiful red, orange, and green coral pieces brought to the surface by fishermen.

The fledging project has been "helped immeasurably" by scientists at the U. S. space agency's Manned Spacecraft Center in Houston, Col. Robert W. Martindale said in a telephone interview.

Col. Martindale is Deputy Director for Administration of the Marine Biomedical Institute here, sponsored by the University of Texas Medical Branch at Galveston. The branch also would sponsor the ocean laboratory.

Space scientists feel "here is a good place to transfer their knowledge," Col. Martindale said.

One important thrust might be investigation of the pollutants drained into the Gulf from the North American Continent.

The basic laboratory structure would be a tower similar to an oil rig, Col. Martindale reported.

"We plan also to have available an underseas laboratory," he added. If negotiations are successful, this may be the same underwater structure, or "habitat," used off the Virgin Islands

during the last two years in the Tektite II program of the U. S. Department of the Interior.

Great numbers of fish and organisms common to the Caribbean Sea can be found in the Flower Gardens area, Col. Martindale said.

Biologists want to see how these species react to stress, he explained, and the stress here would be supplied by temperature variations (the Flower Gardens is the northernmost coral reef).

Located on the lip of the underwater continental shelf, the reef is about 75 to 85 feet below the surface and several miles in length.

"The National Weather Service has expressed a keen desire to have antennae and radar out there to gather weather data and track hurricanes," Col. Martindale also said.

Scientists would "rent" space at the laboratory by using funding they arrange themselves through grants or other means.

The scientists would be assigned a "laboratory module." Scientific instruments would be installed in the module, or "shelter," to meet their requirements. Then the module would be hoisted onto the laboratory platform.

"Ocean projects have had the disadvantage of being terribly expensive," Col. Martindale noted. The Flower Gardens Institute would be able to "spread the overhead cost among a great number of scientific projects."

Indications are the cost of building the laboratory could be anywhere from \$15 million to \$40 million.

Two support facilities also would be located in the Galveston area.

Judy Crouch



MATT WILEY & JAMES PERMENTER, Inland Divers Association members, display their haul at last year's Buffalo Blast at Possum

Kingdom. This year the event is scheduled for April 8-9.

International & U.S. Navy Diving Signal

Underwater Society of America
Ambler, Pennsylvania 19002

Sports Divers in the United States and Canada use a red flag with a white diagonal stripe to signal boaters that there is a diver down in the general area. This flag is called the Divers Flag. Sport divers in many other countries and divers of the U.S. Navy use a different flag. The use of this different flag stems from a recommendation of the U. N. Maritime Group, which established the international diving signal.

The International diving signal is the Alpha flag (blue and white). This flag must be flown on the same standard with, and immediately below, the Code Pennant (red and white), and with no other flags. The purpose of the Code Pennant is to alert

approaching vessels that the flag flown immediately below forms a code which is listed in the International Code of Signals.

The Underwater Society of America recommends that the Alfa Flag and Code Pennant be flown whenever diving in international waters or in areas frequented by international shipping. If there is a question as to which flag to fly, it is recommended that the Divers Flag be flown from one standard and the Alfa Flag and Code Pennant be flown from another.

Unfortunately, it has taken the diving community 12 long years to educate the boating public about the divers flag and it is considered inadvisable to attempt to re-educate them to the Alfa Flag.

Director of Training
Ronald D. Young,

BEN SLEIGH, PRESIDENT

I started diving in Oklahoma in 1958. I later moved to Texas and in 1964 joined Les Hommes De Mer Dive Club. I started diving in Southwest Council contests in 1964 with my partner Earl Rhodd, who brought me back to diving.

In 1966 I was elected to the Board of LHDM, and remained

a Boar member until 1970. At that time, I was elected President. In 1971, I was reelected President of LHDM, and also elected Vice President of Southwest Council.

Now, in 1972, I hold the Presidential position of both Les Hommes De Mer Dive Club and The Southwest Council.

GUADALUPE GORMET

Pancho, a huge Northern elephant seal was the subject of a program presented recently at the Sea Horse Dive Club in Arlington. Larry Lawrence, an animal trainer at Seven Seas, and Art Bedford, Curator of Water at the park, presented a slide tour of the park along with detailed information about the capture and training of the animals.

About a year ago, Larry helped capture Pancho on Guadalupe Island in the Pacific Ocean off Mexico. At that time, Pancho was considerably smaller than his present 2,500 pounds and 14 foot length, but as the slides showed, he still put up a real battle. Larry has been responsible for training Pancho for his performances in the Sea of Cortez theater at Seven Seas. All training was done on a reward system, with the "treats" being bits of fish. These treats are in addition to the 100 pounds of fish Pancho consumes daily.

Pancho now does such things as blow his nose, form a do-nut, and he even smokes a pipe. The park recently acquired an additional elephant seal who will soon join Pancho in Show Biz.

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