

(ESTABLISHED JAN. 1, 1914)

TORRANCE, CALIFORNIA, THURSDAY, JULY 29, 1954

PHONE FAirfax 8-4000

Marineland of the Pacific Open to Public Aug. 28

5000 Fish to Find New Home In \$3,000,000 Oceanarium

By TOM RISCHÉ

If a fish knew that he had to be caught, he would do well to swim into the nets of the Marineland of the Pacific.

Collectors for that organization are now seeking specimens to house in the new \$3,000,000 Oceanarium on the Palos Verdes peninsula, which will be opened to the public on Aug. 28.

Although slightly more confined than usual, these marine specimens will be placed in two of the largest fishbowls in the world, together containing more than a million gallons of sea water.

Everything a fish could want will be within easy swimming distance. Instead of having to look for their food, fish will find specially refrigerated food delivered to them six times a day. No more will Mrs. Fish have to worry about a balanced diet.

Temperatures Regulated
Special care will be taken to see that water temperatures are kept constant for migratory fish, which will no longer have a tiring swim to warmer climates. Temperatures will be varied for fish which live year round in Southern California waters. Other special varieties of fish

will find water temperatures to their liking.

The tanks will be equipped with reefs, grottoes, and jetsam, offering that honey touch, and affording protection for the smaller varieties.

One of the tanks will be circular, 80 feet in diameter, 22 feet deep, and will contain 600,000 gallons of sea water. It will be the new home for fish native to California waters, and will have temperatures varying with the weather. Fresh sea water will be drawn from the ocean by pumps through special filters at 2000 gallons each minute.

Hold Migratory Fish
The second tank will be oval, 100-feet long, 50 feet wide, 22 feet deep, and will hold 500,000 gallons of sea water. Water temperatures in this tank will be maintained at a constant level for migratory fish.

Also included in displays will be a specially heated tank, containing many-colored Hawaiian fish, collected specially for the display. A special cold water octopus cave will be the new home of a many-armed sea-monster. Another tank will house special specimens, such as sea horses.

Displays will include all kinds of fish from California, Mexico, Africa, and Hawaii; porpoises, an octopus, sea turtles, moray eels, and other marine specimens. Continual expansion of the collection is planned.

The \$3,000,000 structure will be the second of its kind in the United States, the other being the Marine Studios in Florida.

Completion Rushed
Workmen are rushing completion of the building, and collectors have been active in gathering fish for the Oceanarium. At the present time, the fish are kept in special holding tanks in San Pedro and on Catalina Island.

The building itself is constructed in four levels, with a wide promenade at the top, offering a view of the ocean and of the fish tanks below.

There will be observation windows surrounding the tanks

on each of the lower levels, where spectators will be able to look into the tanks.

A 1500 seat semi-circular stadium which surrounds the round tank will enable spectators to watch the three porpoises being fed, offering entertainment for onlookers.

Lectures Given
The main building will also house administrative offices, a small auditorium where lectures on marine life will be given, and a scientific laboratory.

This laboratory will be used to study the specimens in captivity and will be available for visiting ichthyologists for marine research. It will include large holding tanks for quarantining fish before they are placed in the main tanks.

In connection with the project, an inn, restaurant, bar, and gift shop will be opened.

The opening will be the culmination of a long-time plan. It was considered before World War II, but was delayed until 1952, when the present site was chosen. The idea came from a similar project in Florida, the Marine Studios.

Vice president and general manager of the project is Ray Smith, former manager of the San Francisco Exposition and director of the Hollywood Bowl.

Curator of the project is Kenneth Norris, graduate of UCLA and former research assistant at Scripps Institute of Technology. David Brown, formerly with the London Zoo Aquarium, is aquarist.

Boat Collects Fish
Specimens are collected by the Geronimo, boat owned by Oceanarium, Inc., which owns the enterprise. Skipper Frank Brocato heads the crews which make periodic ocean voyages in a search for specimens.

Other crews work along the beaches from San Diego and Santa Barbara, while an expedition here visited Lower California collecting sea turtles and other marine life.

When completed, the Marineland will have a 250-foot pier, where the Geronimo will be able to unload specimens collected. A 1600-car parking lot will be included on the 65-acre plot of ground, as well as a picnic area.



NEW HOME FOR FISH . . . This 600,000-gallon tank will house part of the fish in the Marineland of the Pacific. Visitors will be able to watch the fish from above, or from windows, placed in three different levels in the tank. The tank has been specially earthquake-proofed in construction.



BEFORE . . . The partially completed Oceanarium, which is scheduled for completion by Aug. 28, will house some five to ten thousand fish. It will cost about \$3,000,000.



THE DAY'S CATCH . . . Skipper Frank Brocato unloads a net full of Garibaldi and small sharks into special holding tanks in San Pedro Harbor, awaiting completion of Oceanarium tanks.



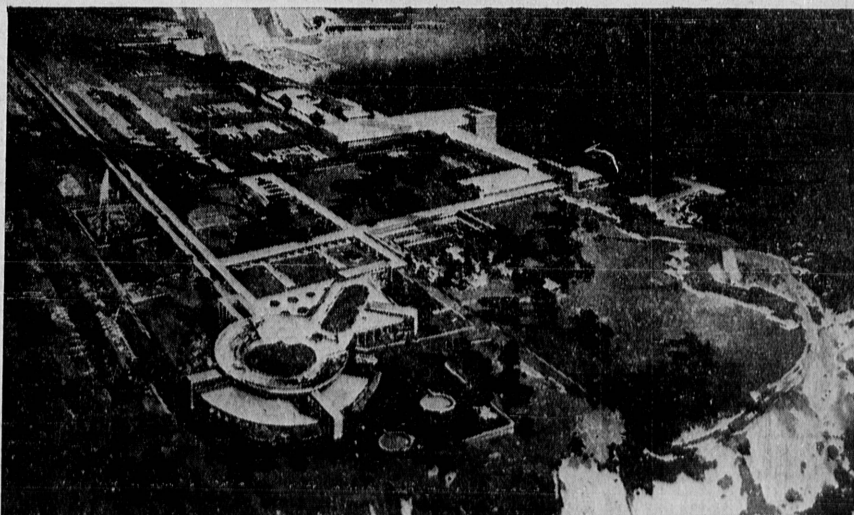
FISH AHOY . . . The Geronimo, collecting vessel for Marineland of the Pacific, prepares to go out looking for new specimens to add to the collections which will be housed in the \$3,000,000 Oceanarium on Palos Verdes peninsula. It has a special holding tank on the deck and auxiliary pumps to maintain a fresh supply of salt water for fish during transportation. Skipper Frank Brocato stands on the top deck.



SNUG AS A BUG IN A RUG . . . One of the latest additions to the Marineland of the Pacific is a Delphinus porpoise, common to local waters. Wrapped in a blanket and sleeping on an air foam mattress, the porpoise seems to be enjoying life. Officials hope to be able to train at least one of the three porpoises now in Marineland's possession.



HEY, LEMME GO . . . These seem to be the sentiments of this sea turtle as Marineland Aquarist David Brown holds him up for inspection. This 100-pound turtle is one of eight collected for the Oceanarium so far.



AS IT WILL BE . . . This artist's sketch of the Marineland of the Pacific shows the two Oceanarium tanks in the foreground with access ramps leading to the four levels. A gift

shop and snack bar will be located behind the Oceanarium with a restaurant and bar and inn situated on points along the crest of the mesa overlooking the rugged coastline.