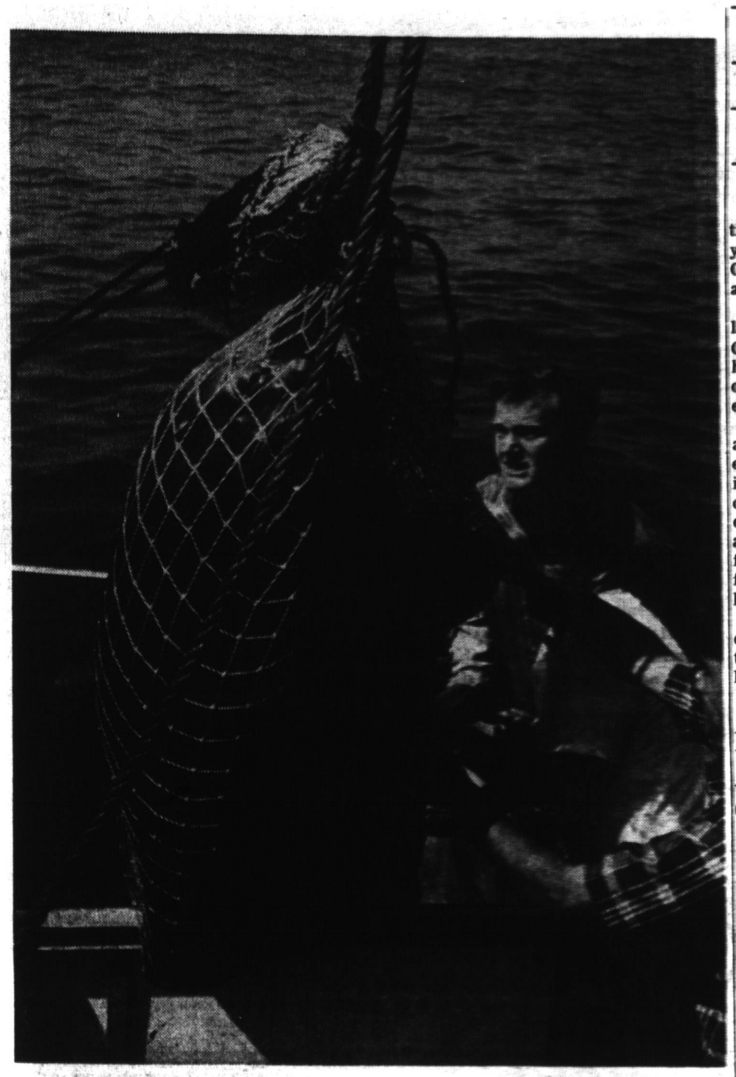
Big Bull Sea Lion Now at Marineland



HOIST AWAY . . . A young bull sea lion weighing some 450 pounds is hoisted from the deck of Marineland's collecting vessel, the Geronimo, to be placed in the tank at the oceanarium. The sea lion, largest in captivity, is now on display at Marineland with his harem and a collection of sea lion babies.

The largest sea lion in captivity—a 7-year-old, 450-pound young adult bull named The Growler—is now on display at Marineland of the Pacific.

Captured by the Marineland collecting crew at San Clemente Island, The Growler has quickly asserted his rule over the other sea lions in the exhibit.

"Everything is fine, so long as the younger animals do exactly as he wishes," according to John Prescott, the oceanarium's curator. "He is easily capable of tearing an arm off a human being. So far, we have been very careful in the way we approach him.

"When you see him up close, you finally realize why these animals are called sea lions, emphasis on the lion.

• • •

"HIS GREAT size at such an early adult age leads us to believe he'll probably grow into a monster," Prescott said. "Also, he's young enough to take some direction."

The display also features The Growler's harem of four orphan baby sea lions that were brought to Marineland shortly after birth. The big bull pays no attention to the babies. Underwater windows give unrestricted nose-to-nose view of these graceful swimmers in their native environment.

Collectors Frank Calandrino, Frank Brocato, and Benny Falcone caught the huge animal in a shoreline net in the pre-dawn hours. "He took the net 60 yards to sea after he was caught," Geronimo skipper Calandrino said, "and we had some kind of a time getting him on board. When he growled, you could feel it in the boat's planking."

• • •

AT DAWN, he almost broke loose, according to Calandrino, and the three men again had to wage a wary struggle to keep The Growler under control and to prevent him from tearing the boat up.

But now The Growler sits in the familiar sea lion pose—his head thrown back, his nose pointing to the sky—and basks in the sun, ruler of his own harem, following the traditional pattern of these truly magnificent sea creatures.

The sea lion is familiar the world over, in shows and circuses, but very few persons have been a full session—large, angry, and growling—with his own harem to protect, as The Growler is displayed at Marineland.

Library To Close

The main branch of the Torrance Library, 1345 Post Ave., will close Saturday at 6 p.m. and reopen Aug. 5 under the new city administration.

A fine-free period has been scheduled between June 24 and Aug. 12 for books due at the main branch.

Readers may return the books at any city library, including the Post Avenue branch, without paying a fine no matter how long overdue the books are, according to Russell West, city librarian.

Loan Approved

A construction loan of $175,000 has been approved by the Torrance office of Imperial Bank for a 13-unit apartment building at 413 W. 222nd St. The building is being built by Beck Lumber Co.

Music Honor

Gary Anderson, a senior at The Berklee School of Music, Boston, has been named to the dean's list for the spring semester of the 1967-68 school year. The composition major is the son of Mr. and Mrs. K. L. Anderson.