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JAMES LEWICKI



DR. MAURICE EWING



DR. COLUMBUS ISELIN



FRITZ GORO

HOW THE SCHOLARS DROPPED IN ON DAVY JONES

Each issue of LIFE contains a lot of pretty positive statements, and we have been asked, not always jokingly, "Do you guys ever admit you just don't know something?" There are plenty of things we don't know but, as journalists should, we know where to learn a lot of them. We had to go to a great many places and talk with a great many eminent scientists to bring together the facts for "The Miracle of the Sea," second in LIFE's series, "The World We Live In," which started in the Dec. 8 issue with an article called "The Earth Is Born."

The pursuit of sea knowledge led early to Dr. Maurice Ewing, director of the Lamont Geological Laboratory of Columbia University. Dr. Ewing, who made recent news with his discovery of the Great Mid-Atlantic channel (LIFE, Oct. 27), gave counsel on scale and colors for Artist James Lewicki, who has portrayed the look of the ocean floor in the "gatefold" on pages 62-67.

Just back from new studies of another ocean, the Pacific, Dr. Roger Revelle, director of the University of California Scripps Institution of Oceanography, contributed his latest knowledge on submarine flattop mounts, the great trenches and shelves in the Pacific. Dr. Columbus Iselin,

pioneer student of the Gulf Stream, as well as his staff at Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution in Massachusetts, spoke authoritatively on the habits, speed and meanderings of the Stream.

These and many other top scientists, some of whom are acknowledged on page 80, went out of their way to help build "The Miracle of the Sea." LIFE's photographers went well out of their way too to round out the story. Photographer N. R. Farbman journeyed to the lonely Orkney Islands north of Scotland to picture the sculpture wrought by the sea on page 76. Fritz Goro flew for hours with Navy blimps before he found a place where a well-defined edge of the Stream could be indicated with dye and smoke bombs (p. 68).

One representative of the magazine had to be content, however, with exploding a legend. Sigmund Seland of Norway flew to the arctic circle in search of the giant ship-swallowing whirlpool which formed the basis for Edgar Allen Poe's *A Descent into the Maelström*. He found plenty of circular currents but maelstroms apparently exist in full fury only in fiction. Our sea story is not fiction but the scholarly knowledge of those who know Davy Jones best.

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MIRACLE OF THE SEA



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