

Ungainly Bathyscaph To Probe Ocean's Floor In Search For Sunken Sub

By RAY CROMLEY
WASHINGTON (NEA) — The weird bathyscaph Trieste was designed to discover how to make a new series of deep-diving, nuclear submarine hulls that could survive such accidents as sent the Thresher to the bottom.

Now the Trieste will be used to search out a mile and a half beneath the sea what caused the nuclear attack sub to go down.

The ungainly bathyscaph, incidentally, may turn out to be the most important item in the Navy's attempt to checkmate the Soviet undersea missile fleet.

The Trieste has scarcely any undersea mobility, but it can go down seven miles with impunity. It can stay down four hours taking movies and still pictures, grasping samples from the ocean floor, taking electronic measurements and "listening." Powerful searchlights enable the two-man crew to see through the 5½-inch thick, 4-inch wide windows.

The crew also will be able to measure the radioactivity of the sea water and bottom sediments to make certain the wreck of the nuclear-powered Thresher will become no menace to life.

The Navy hopes to translate the discoveries learned in working with this tough Trieste shell into submarines which can operate indefinitely and safely at depths of unrevealed "thousands of feet."

But even more importantly, the Trieste is the first of a series of deep-sea bathyscaphs which hopefully will discover enough of the nature of the ocean bottom and its geography so advanced U.S. subs would be able to live, hide and hunt skillfully on the ocean bottom. They would have the "geographical" and environmental know-how to search out, "see" and kill enemy submarines. Yet they would be able to lurk so

deep in ocean valleys that it will be extremely difficult for enemy subs to find and kill them.

But you would never guess this potential from looking at the awkward Trieste.

The main "hull" is 57 feet long, 11 feet in diameter, made of steel ¾ inch thick. It is divided into 13 chambers, each separated into 13 chambers, each arched by corrugated steel bulkheads.

In 11 of the compartments the Trieste carries approximately 30,000 gallons of aviation gasoline. Because gasoline is lighter than sea water, this gives the Trieste

a net buoyancy of 75 to 100 tons. At seven miles under the sea the pressure on the hull is over eight tons a square inch. As the gasoline contracts, sea water flows in to create an even pressure.

The other two compartments are normally empty when the Trieste rides on the surface. They are filled with sea water to take her down.

In the hull also are 10 to 13 tons of small iron pellets the size of BB shots. These are released slowly to control the speed of the dive or in greater numbers to cause the Trieste to ascend.

Before the operation starts, the two passengers will crowd into the small steel gondola. They'll be well clothed because it's cold under the sea and the gondola has

no heating system. They'll enter the gondola below. After the by means of a tube slightly over two feet in diameter that leads is filled with water to maintain internal pressure.

Apparatus in the Trieste regenerates the oxygen and absorbs carbon dioxide to maintain a supply of "fresh" air.

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OSU Plans Mom Theme

OREGON STATE UNIVERSITY — Mothers of Oregon State University students will be honored on campus May 3 and 4 with "Time Out for Mom" as the theme.

More than 2,000 mothers are expected to come to the campus to spend the weekend with their sons and daughters.

The program will include campus tours, flower and photo shows, dance review, style show, fraternity - sorority sing competition, water show, athletic events, ROTC drill team competition, a play, and open house in the various living groups.

Mrs. Joseph K. Roe of Corvallis, president of the OSU Mothers Club this year, will conduct the annual business meeting that will be climaxed by announcement of Mothers Club scholarship winners for 1963-64. Sixteen full-tuition scholarships, worth \$4,000, were awarded by the Mothers Club a year ago.

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