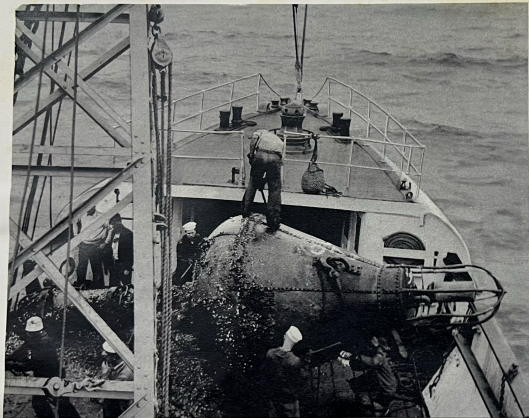


Buoy on a mountain top

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Every six months the buoy which marks the peak of the submarine mountain top on the Cortes Bank is

picked up by a lighthouse tender and replaced with a fresh one. It is taken back to port to be stripped of barnacles

WESTWAYS

SHOULD THE Southern California coastline suddenly rise 100 fathoms—which isn't likely—half a dozen new islands would be born. And the largest of them, some eight miles wide and 25 miles long, would have at its southern end a peak just a shade under 600 feet high.

That mountain-top is there today, but you don't hear a great deal about it because it lies under some 15 feet of cool Pacific Ocean water. The United States Coast Pilot advises you not to go there. However, in case you should disregard the hint to stay away—"Navigators should use great care when in this vicinity"—the Lighthouse Service, now a branch of the Coast Guard, has thoughtfully marked the place with a whistling-buoy. A shade south of Point Loma and 97 miles west it is the loneliest buoy in the service, for it is the farthest offshore. It is called the Cortes Bank buoy and is anchored at Bishop Rock. Frequently from Bishop Rock you can see nothing but horizon, although on an exceptionally clear day you should pick up the outline of San Clemente Island, 40 miles away.

There is, by the way, nothing ecclesiastical about the name "Bishop Rock." Nor,