



The Kerckhoff Marine Laboratory, near the entrance to the harbor in Corona del Mar, about 50 miles from Pasadena.

Caltech's Marine Laboratory

In 1928 Thomas Hunt Morgan, the founder of Caltech's Division of Biology, rented a pier and shack in Corona del Mar, for collecting purposes. After collecting at low tide Morgan and Albert Tyler planned to spend the night sleeping on the floor of the shack. Unfortunately they forgot that on days of very low tides there are also very high tides. They woke up soaked. This experience may have well marked the moment when a firm decision was made to acquire a marine station for the Institute.

The present Kerckhoff Marine Laboratory is located near the entrance to the harbor in Corona del Mar, on the east side of Newport Bay, about 50 miles from Pasadena. It was bought in 1929 for \$50,000 from the very respectable but impoverished Palisades Club, which had used the building as a boat and bath house. Alfred A. Noyes and Ernest H. Swift, who were members of the club, were instrumental in arranging the sale. As its name indicates, the laboratory was acquired with funds given the Institute by William G. Kerckhoff, who also gave the money for the laboratories on the campus that bear his name.

Several laboratories for teaching and research in marine zoology, embryology and physiology were set up in the new marine station. A salt water system was installed, and boats and tackle for collecting marine animals and sea-water aquaria for keeping them were acquired. The proximity of the marine station to Pasadena makes it possible to supply the biological laboratories with living material for research and teaching. The fauna at Corona del Mar and at Laguna Beach, which is nearby, is exceptionally rich and varied, and is easily accessible.

Morgan studied the problem of self-sterility in the hermaphroditic ascidian, *Ciona*, at the Marine Laboratory. In 1932 George E. MacGinitie came to the Institute from Pacific Grove to run the new marine station. Among others who have used the Laboratory's facilities for investigations are Harold Plough, now at Amherst College, for work on cell sterility; John Spikes, of Utah; N. H. Horowitz, as a graduate student of Dr. Tyler's; Bradley Scheer, now at the University of Oregon; and A. E. Mirsky, now at the Rockefeller Institute, who did early work on the development of methods for extraction of nucleic acids from sperm.

Among present-day Institute personnel making use of the Station are Heinz Lowenstam, in geology; Dr. Tyler, C. A. G. Wiersma, and Roger Sperry, in biology; and Dan Campbell, in chemistry. In recent years the use of the Marine Laboratory has been restricted to staff research workers, guest investigators, and qualified graduate students and undergraduate students.

Every summer a course in marine biology is given for students majoring in biology at the Institute. This is a popular course, as much for the course content as for the opportunities for water sports. A coeducational class for Pomona College students has also been given at the station in recent summers, and for the last several years the Caltech and Pomona classes have been held jointly.

On the page opposite—a student report on the Lab's 1959 summer session.