

# plane GRUMMAN news

## Ben Franklin gets a rousing 'welcome home'

New York Harbor was awash with plumes of water from the fireboat John D. McKean and noisy with the toots and whistles of harbor craft the morning of August 26. Two Coast Guard cutters escorted Grumman's Ben Franklin in from the Narrows to the shrill blasts from all the passing tugs and ferry boats. The Grumman submersible had completed her underwater drift in the Gulf Stream from Florida northeastward for 1444 nautical miles and was keeping a date with the public at the Seaport Museum's Pier 16.

After the crew had come on deck for press photographs near the Statue of Liberty, the white and yellow submarine was towed to the Museum to stay until after Labor Day. There Walt Muench, Ben Franklin Program manager, and Bill Rand, Operations director, with the members of the crew, answered questions for the press and for the visitors who flocked to see this unique undersea laboratory.

Today, September 12, the Ben Franklin is due in Washington, D.C., where she will be on static display. On the way from New York she made a detour to perform a Waste Product Diffusion Experiment for the Franklin Institute

Research Laboratory of Philadelphia. Three members of the Institute and two from the Bureau of Sports Fisheries were aboard to do some exploring of the ocean bottom at a depth of 1200 feet 80 miles southeast of Atlantic City. They took along samples of municipal and industrial wastes and one of dye marker which they released to observe their dispersion. The area studied was where the terminus of a projected pipeline for municipal wastes is being considered.

The researchers spent about 24 hours at this task, and then the Ben Franklin proceeded to Washington for its stopover on the way to West Palm Beach. Her escort ship, M/V Privateer, which accompanied her on the 30-day underwater drift, is towing her to Florida.

The Ben Franklin submerged off Palm Beach on July 14 and drifted within the Gulf Stream until August 14, when she surfaced 300 miles south of Halifax, Nova Scotia. Her crew: Don Kazimir, Grumman skipper; Jacques Piccard, designer of Ben Franklin and mission leader; Erwin Aebersold, Swiss pilot; Chet May, NASA researcher; Ken Haigh, British Royal Navy acoustician from Naval Oceanographic Office; Frank Busby, U.S. Naval Oceanographic scientist.

