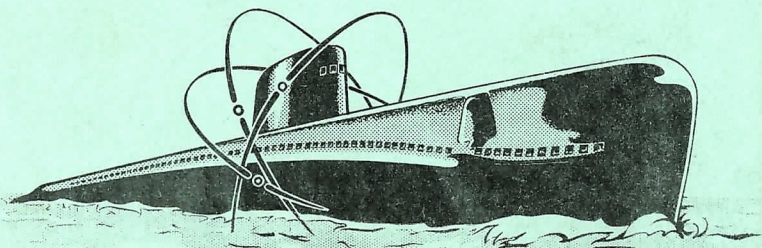
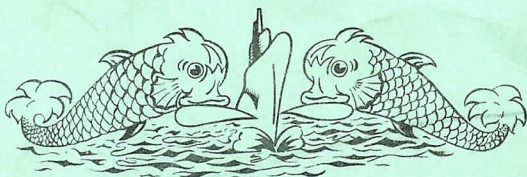


705

KEEL LAYING
ATOMIC POWERED SUBMARINE
"SWORDFISH"



SSN 579
25 JANUARY 1956



PORTSMOUTH NAVAL SHIPYARD
PORTSMOUTH, N. H.

FOREWORD

The Portsmouth Naval Shipyard is proud to have been selected as the first naval shipyard to construct a ship employing nuclear power for propulsion. This is an event of considerable significance. We are entering an era where the use of nuclear power for propulsion of naval ships of all types will become commonplace. The transition to nuclear power is of even greater significance in our naval history than the transition from sail to steam. The Portsmouth Naval Shipyard will stand as a pioneer in this transition which will ultimately result in a transformation of our naval ships which is undreamed of, even today.

The people who make up the Portsmouth Naval Shipyard have a tradition of excellence in shipbuilding of which they are justly proud. They have earned a reputation as acknowledged experts in the field of diesel power. Their skills and knowledge are now being turned to the application of atomic power to ship propulsion. Their past excellence is a bright promise of success in this new field.

* * * *

Biography of Vice Admiral Russell

Vice Admiral Russell is a native New Englander. He was appointed to the U. S. Naval Academy from his home state of Vermont. After receiving his commission as an Ensign in 1921, he served in various ships of the fleet, including submarines, until ordered to George Washington Law School, where he was awarded the degree of Bachelor of Law. His submarine experience included service in the U. S. S. R-15, and U. S. S. BASS (V-2). He rode the U. S. S. PLUNGER down the ways and assumed command of the ship on being commissioned at Portsmouth in 1937. During World War II he served as Flag Secretary and Aide to Fleet Admiral E. J. King, USN, the Chief of Naval Operations, and later commanded Submarine Squadron Ten in the Pacific war area. He has subsequently served as Judge Advocate General of the Navy, Commander Cruiser Division II and Commander Submarine Force, U. S. Pacific Fleet. He is presently assigned as Deputy Chief of Naval Operations.

PROGRAM

* * *

NATIONAL ANTHEM
by the Naval Band

* * *

INVOCATION
Lieutenant L. R. Rogers (Ch.C.) USN

* * *

WELCOME
Captain C. S. Seabring, USN
Commander, Portsmouth Naval Shipyard

* * *

ADDRESS
Rear Admiral J. A. Snackenber, USN
Commandant, First Naval District

* * *

INTRODUCTION OF THE GUEST OF HONOR
By Captain C. S. Seabring, USN

* * *

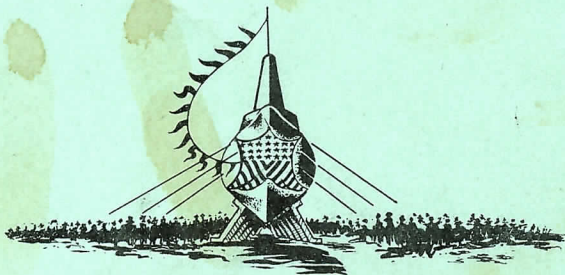
ADDRESS
Vice Admiral George L. Russell, USN
Deputy Chief of Naval Operations

* * *

KEEL LAYING OF SSN 579 (SWORDFISH)
by Vice Admiral G. L. Russell, USN

* * *

Music by the Band



THE SUBMARINE

The Submarine **SWORDFISH** for which the keel is being laid today, will be the Navy's first nuclear powered submarine to be built in a Naval Shipyard. When completed, she will join the Fleet as an attack type submarine with a full arsenal of the Navy's latest under-water ordnance.

* * *

PRINCIPAL DIMENSIONS

Length	257 feet
Breadth	25 feet
Submerged Displacement	2700 tons
Submerged Endurance	Unlimited
Complement	8 Officers
	75 men