

145

OCEANOGRAPHY

Oceanography is a relative newcomer to OSU. Yet in the 23 years since the creation of a Department of Oceanography, and the 10 years since it was elevated to a School, the program has become one of the best in the country, and in the world. In those 23 years, the faculty has grown from 3 to 62, and the annual budget has increased from about \$30 thousand to more than \$11 million.

THE PEOPLE

The history of oceanography at OSU reflects largely the vision and actions of two men: Wayne V. Burt, who created the program, and John V. Byrne, who guided its development from a Department to a School.

Wayne Burt arrived at OSU in 1954 to start the program in oceanography with little more than the blessing of President A. L. Strand, and a small research budget from the Office of Naval Research. By 1961, the Navy's support, which was the crucial ingredient in the development of the program, had grown to more than \$180,000, including funds for the construction of OSU's first major research vessel, and Dr. Burt had assembled a faculty of 14. By the time Dr. Burt was appointed Associate Dean of Research in 1967, he directed a faculty of 33, with a budget of almost \$2 million. Dr. Burt formally retired from OSU at the end of 1981. His ongoing part-time research activities as Professor Emeritus ensure his continued close association with the School, however.

John V. Byrne, who joined the program in 1960, returned to the then Department of Oceanography in 1967, after spending 15 months at the National Science Foundation. He oversaw major additions to the faculty and to the

facilities of the program, as well as its elevation to a School during his 13 years as Chairman, Dean, and Vice President at OSU. In 1981, he left Corvallis to become Administrator of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, in essence the "nation's oceanographer".

Today, the faculty of the School numbers 63. Many of these are the outstanding experts in their fields, which span all aspects of oceanography from ocean currents, to its physical and chemical structure and interaction with the atmosphere, to the sediments of the sea floor, to the properties and motions of the deeper layers of the earth. The faculty is supported by a technical staff of 120, and by 90 graduate students.

THE TOOLS

Oceanography at OSU has been fortunate to work with first class facilities. Our first vessel, the R/V ACONA, was built in Portland and commissioned in 1961. She was the first U.S. academic vessel designed specifically for oceanographic research. In 1964 she was transferred to the University of Alaska, which has just passed her on to Evergreen College in ^{Washington.} The R/V YAQUINA, originally built as a U.S. Army Air Corps overhaul and maintenance vessel, was commissioned in late 1964 after major conversion in Portland. She propelled OSU into the league of major "blue water" oceanographic institutions, and served the program well until her sale in 1975. Subsequently, she has continued to carry out marine research under charter to the U.S. Geological Survey. The R/V CAYUSE, built in Portland, was commissioned in 1968. She provided a nearshore complement to the larger vessels for the next decade. She is now operated by Moss Landing Marine Laboratory in California, but is still used by OSU scientists. The School's major vessel today, the R/V WECOMA, joined

OSU in 1975, again after a major conversion in Portland. She is one of the newest class of "blue water" oceanographic vessels in the U.S., and should serve the School for many years.

The development of a seagoing capability has been paralleled by the growth of shore facilities, primarily in Corvallis, but with a marine operations center at Newport. The first major oceanographic building, on 27th and Orchard, was completed in 1964, and the second building, immediately adjacent, in 1970. Together with 7 technical support buildings at 30th and Western, and 5 University-owned houses near the main buildings, these structures house the staff of the School and the modern equipment involved in about 115 major research projects.

THE STUDENTS

Oceanography is a graduate program. Nevertheless, thousands of OSU undergraduates have enrolled in introductory courses, which have given about one OSU graduate in six a first look at our ocean. The first Oceanography degree, a Ph.D., was awarded in 1962. By 1981, the number of graduates had grown to almost 500. A recent National Academy of Sciences publication reports that only the Scripps Institution of Oceanography in California has produced more professional oceanographers than OSU.

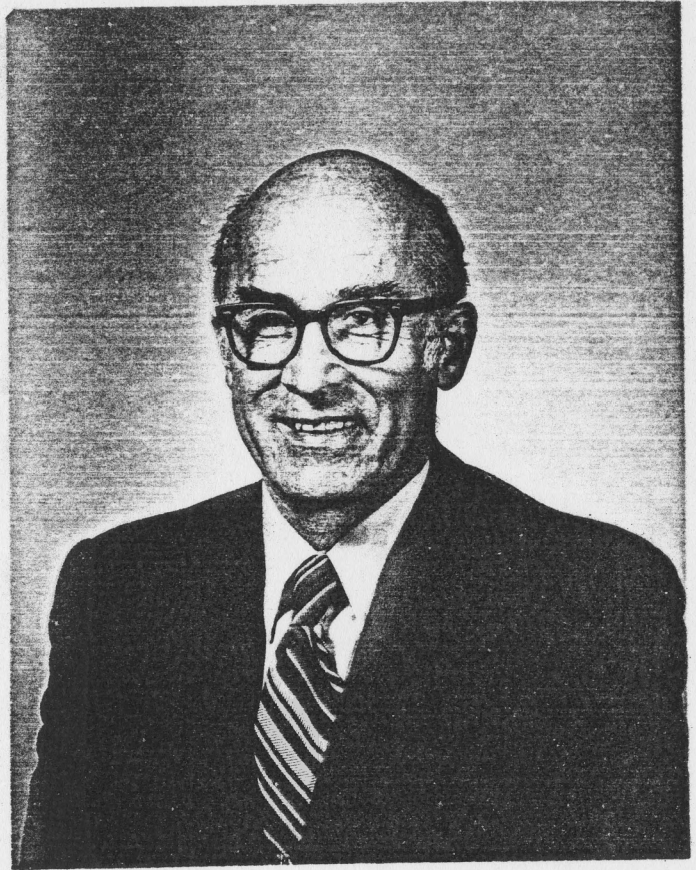
OCEANOGRAPHY AND CORVALLIS

The School of Oceanography fulfills a unique educational role in the Oregon State System of Higher Education. It also provides a pool of technical expertise that the State has dipped into often, yet could not possibly sustain alone. Perhaps of prime interest to Corvallis, however, the School is a

non-polluting research "industry" that brings more than \$10 million a year into the State, most of which is spent locally. In this time of fiscal crisis, it seems clear that the State receives a rich dividend on the 3% of the School's budget that derives from Oregon tax funds. There is every reason to believe that the outstanding faculty and superior facilities of the School will ensure its continued success as a research "industry" as far as we can see into Corvallis' second century.

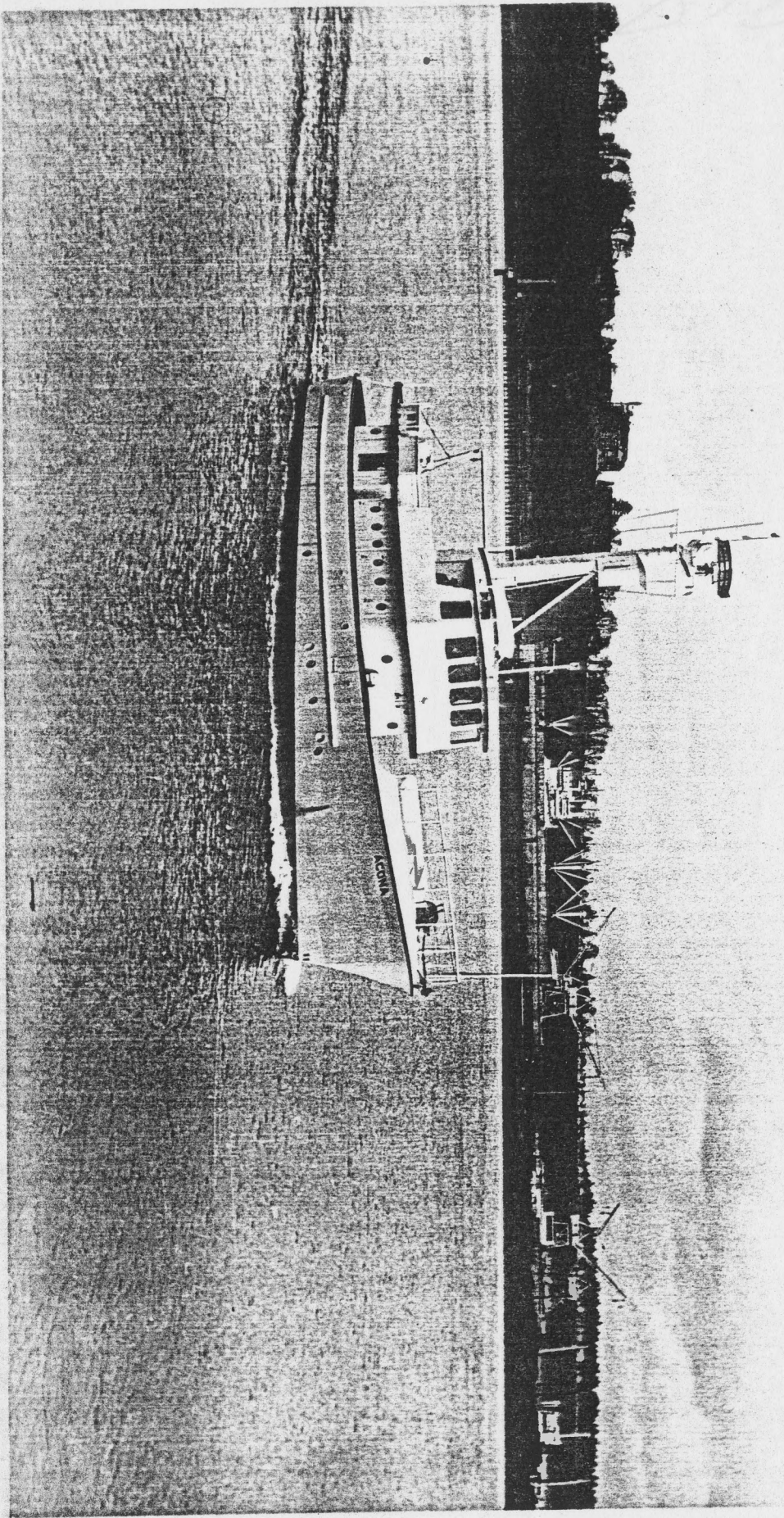


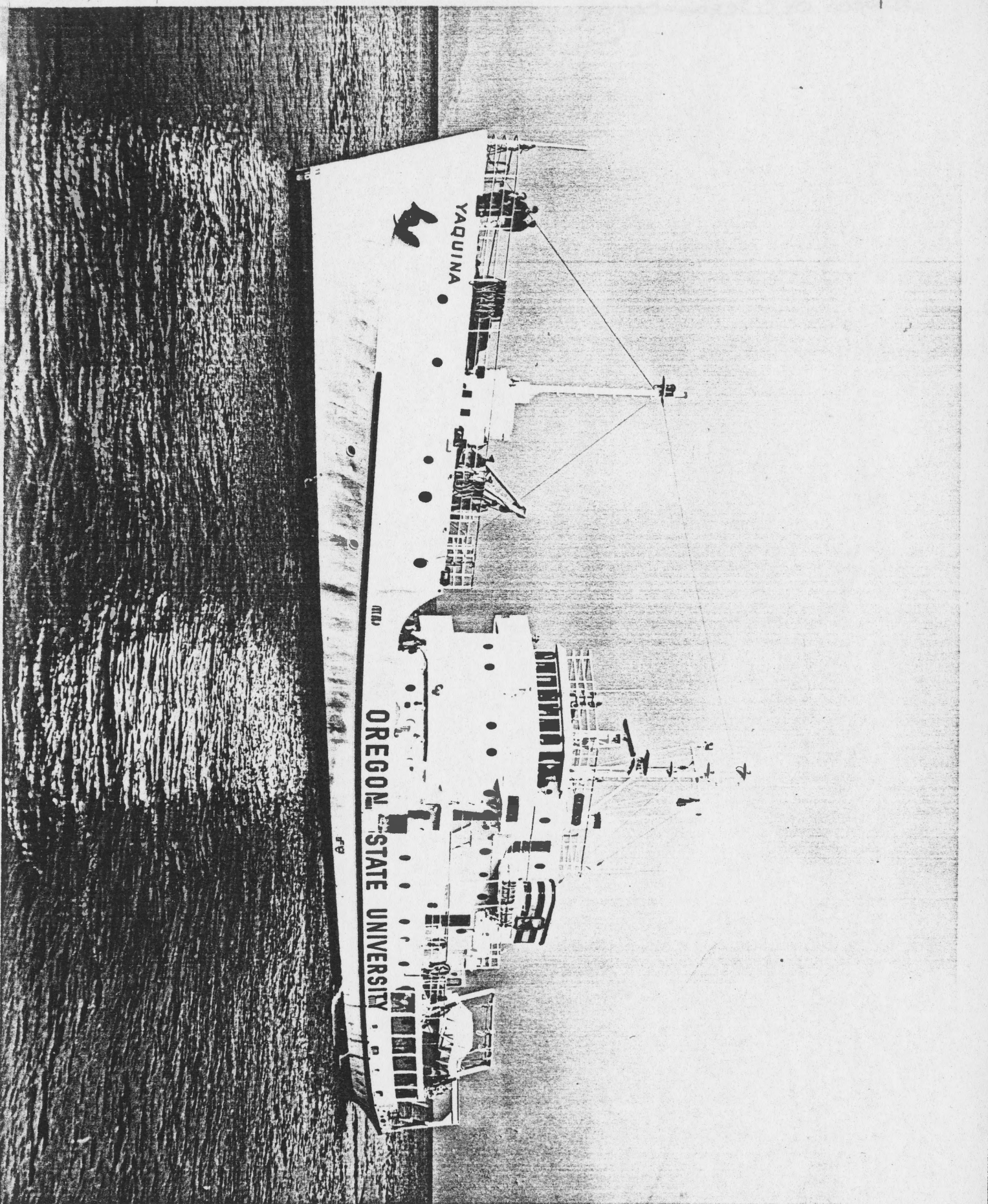
JOHN V. BYRNE



WAYNE V. BURT







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