

Explorers Sponsoring Diving Film

Their Goal: A Hyperbaric Chamber

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"Sights and Sounds of Diving," a 90-minute underwater adventure film in color, will be shown Nov. 6 at North Intermediate School. The showing here is sponsored by Saginaw Underwater Explorers.

"Sights and Sounds" was filmed in all the major skin diving meccas of the Western Hemisphere. The movie shows big game fish off the coast of Mexico, takes the viewer into the coral jungles of Grand Cayman Island, depicts underwater wrecks in the Caribbean and follows divers parachuting into Wisconsin lakes.

Part of the proceeds from the film will be contributed by the Explorers toward the purchase of a hyperbaric chamber for a Michigan hospital.

A hyperbaric chamber is a sealed chamber under pressure up to seven times the earth's atmosphere. Surgical teams operating in these chambers have met with encouraging results. Researchers believe that high pressure oxygen can kill microbes, help reverse the effects of severe heart attacks and enhance the effectiveness of certain drugs in the treatment of some skin cancers. The chamber also can be used to treat divers suffering from the "bends."

Purchase of such a chamber is a project of the Michigan Skin Divers Council. Underwater Explorers are associated with the council.

The Saginaw Underwater Explorers, organized in 1959, has a membership of 77 persons. Approximately 20 per cent of these are women. The group meets monthly at Valley National Bank and also schedules regular pool swims monthly to practice techniques and try out new equipment.

Open water dives also are scheduled monthly from April through October.

The club's objective is to promote the sport of skin diving and make it possible for divers to enjoy the sport with others.

Club members work with the Conservation Department in state park beach cleanups and

this year helped the department place a fish shelter in Otter Lake, east of Flint.

Bruce Beckert is president of the Explorers. Other officers include Bob Nicodemus, vice president; Joanne Eurich, treasurer, and Ruth Dolloff secretary.

Under direction of its officers, the Explorers are planning a dive this year into Little Traverse Bay at Petoskey. They plan to place a piece of marble at the base of a large crucifix planted several years ago on the bay's bottom by Treasure Unlimited, skin diving club of Detroit.

Inscribed on the Explorers' piece of marble is this prayer:

"O Lord, guide all divers through thy wondrous underwater world. Give them wisdom, patience and courage, and preserve them from all dangers of the sea, through Christ Our Lord, Amen."

Saginaw Underwater Explorers 1964.