Perry W. Gilbert Retires as Director of Mote Marine Laboratory on June 30

To Become MML's Director Emeritus

This June, Dr. Gilbert will resign his directorship in order to pursue his own research and to assist in the conception, germination and birth (euphemisms for fund raising and building) of a sister structure dedicated to the Lab's faithful and selfless supporters, the citizens of Sarasota without whom the Mote Marine Laboratory would never have burgeoned into its present eminence. This building will assure the entertainment, education and edification of Sarasota in matters marine. Marine scientists in Japan, South Africa, Australia, New Zealand, the Philippines and sun-dry of the fifty states recognize the name MOTE MARINE LABORATORY. Through the COLLECTED PAPERS of the Laboratory, they are familiar with its research: the biology and behavior of sharks, the effects of pollution on fin and shellfish, the significance of sound production in fish, the economic effects of the red tide, the formation of antibodies and innumerable other investigations of problems of the sea. Director Perry W. Gilbert has been the spur behind the increasing scope, excellence and expansion of this research. Similarly, as the Lab's research growth outpaced the Lab's capacity, Dr. Gilbert has been the spur behind its physical expansion into an exquisite new laboratory on City Island.

Dr. William H. Taft Named as the New Director at Mote Marine Lab

Presently Director of Research and Graduate Studies at the University of South Florida, Tampa.

Dr. William H. Taft will succeed Dr. Perry Gilbert as Director of Mote Marine Laboratory. Dr. Taft, professor of geology, is Director of Research and Graduate Studies at the University of South Florida in Tampa. Active in environmental concerns of the area, he was named Outstanding Conservationist in 1971 by the Florida Audubon Society. A native of San Mateo, California, Dr. Taft received his B.S. and Ph.D. degrees at Stanford University, and his M.S. at the University of South Dakota. During his 15 year tenure at USF Dr. Taft has been responsible for the establishment of the Division of Sponsored Research and a Research and Development Center for the development of multi-disciplinary academic and research programs, including the degree program in Marine Science.

Dr. Taft and his family moved to Sarasota in June, and he will assume the directorship on July 1 when Dr. Gilbert's resignation becomes effective.
Perry Gilbert has served as Chairman of the Shark Research Panel of the American Institute of Biological Sciences since 1958, Research Associate of the Lerner Marine Laboratory since 1964, and during 1959-1963 was a member of the Panel on Biological and Medical Sciences, National Academy of Sciences. He has also served as Scientific Consultant to the Office of Naval Research for many years.

The editor of two books (Sharks and Survival, D.C. Heath & Co., 1963; Sharks, Skates and Rays, Johns Hopkins University Press, 1967), Dr. Gilbert is also the author of more than 100 technical papers.

After June 30, Dr. Gilbert and his wife, Claire Gilbert, also a biologist, will divide their studies between the Cornell campus, where he is Professor Emeritus, and MML. In early 1979 he plans to work at the Heron Island Laboratory on the Great Barrier Reef in Australia. In May 1979 the Gilberts will go to the Hebrides off Scotland to study the basking sharks (up to 30 feet in length) that congregate near the surface of the sea for their annual mating ritual.

After 11 Years On The Job, Perry Gilbert Returns To His "First Love" — Shark Research And Writing

With administrative responsibility passed on to the new Director, Perry Gilbert will return to the field that has remained closest to his heart — research on the biology and behavior of sharks. Educated at Dartmouth College (A.B. degree) and Cornell University (Ph.D.), Dr. Gilbert joined the Cornell faculty in 1940, was named Professor there in 1952, and in 1967 became Director of MML. Numerous honors for his research and teaching mark his career: Carnegie Fellow in Embryology at the Carnegie Institute of Washington, Baltimore (1949-1950), Guggenheim Fellow at the Lerner Marine Laboratory, Bimini (1957) and again at Scripps Institution of Oceanography, La Jolla (1963). A Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, the Academy of Zoology (India) and the American Institute of Fisheries Research Biologists, he is also a member of several scientific organizations; and is listed in American Men and Women of Science, Who’s Who in America and in the Dictionary of International Biography.

In May 1978 Dr. Gilbert received an honorary doctorate (Doctor of Humane Letters) from York College of Pennsylvania.

Dr. Gilbert’s research on sharks during the past 40 years has taken him to study sites in many parts of the world including Hawaii, French Polynesia, Eniwetok, Japan, Australia, Sri Lanka (Ceylon), India, South Africa, Cuba, Puerto Rico and the Bahamas. In 1954 he led an expedition from Tahiti to the tiny coral atoll of Tikchau in the Tuamotu Archipelago, where his research team studied shark behavior. In 1959 he served as Chief Scientist on the British Honduras Expedition, sponsored by MML and the Smithsonian Institution.

MML Director also retires from Cornell faculty

When Perry W. Gilbert joined MML as Director in 1967, his reputation as researcher and teacher for 30 years at Cornell University was well established. While Director at MML, he retained his chair as Professor of Neurobiology and Behavior and regularly returned to Cornell to present his lectures on the structure and evolution of the nervous system.

On May 13, 1978 Dr. Gilbert retired from the Cornell faculty. In his honor colleagues and former students gathered to present a day-long symposium on anatomical and behavioral subjects. At a banquet held in his honor that evening, a Perry W. Gilbert Endowed Lectureship in Comparative Anatomy and Behavior was announced.

The loss of two good friends has saddened the Laboratory.

Eligio del Guercio, sportsman and MML Founder member died February 24, 1978.


To their families, who shared with them their love of the sea, our deepest sympathies.

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THIS IS IT, MML'S NEW HOME. The two-story, concrete main building as it looked just before moving day. Two mobile laboratories for the microbiology and biomedical programs have since been moved into place adjacent to the large natural pen. The Marine Science Center will be constructed in the cleared area to the left of the main building near the top of the photograph.

Oh! The "joys" of moving from Siesta Key to City Island!

MOVING REPORT
As the rented truck made its daily shuttle between the old and new labs over the past few weeks, the Siesta Key lab took on a more and more desolate air. First the library disappeared, then major non-essentials which quickly became essential as soon as they were moved. Finally, the last week of May, the office staff, with the most precious files carefully carried in cars, moved into their new quarters. The following week the lab staff moved until, at week's end, our much-loved secretary, Lynn Erdosy — who will not make the move with us — was left alone at the old laboratory to hold the fort until our lease expires at the end of June.

The first sensation at City Island was one of space; the new building is three times larger than the old. But as glassware, instruments, gear and files were unpacked, the amazement was not the amount of space in the new building, but "How did it ever fit into the old lab?" Much remains to be done: counter tops are still at the factory; the 15-foot experimental pools have to be installed, and the saltwater system is still in construction. But we're here and we're delighted.

LARGER QUARTERS. Dr. David Johns, Dr. Vincent Oliverio and Mr. Michael Goldrich came from the National Institutes of Health, Bethesda, Md. to set up their new, larger mobile lab at City Island. Two outfitted mobile labs were moved from Siesta Key to the new location to be used until they are gradually phased out.

A REAL MOVER. Six months ago, Bob Smith, MML volunteer for four years, made the mistake of saying, "Not to worry; we can handle this move ourselves." Before he could back out, he was put in charge of the operation. Helped by his 6-page "Moving Guide" ever at hand, he has awed all concerned by the smoothness of the operation. With his "Moving Guide" ever at hand, he has awed all concerned by the smoothness of the operation.
LIBRARIANS NEED MUSCLES. The Riverview High School Marine Science Class taught by Mr. Ed Taylor descended 12-strong on the Siesta Key library one afternoon and two hours later the shelves were bare, with all books and journals packed and ready for removal to City Island. Our thanks to Tom Bourque, Lauri Drexel, Linda Licciano, Erin Simms, Janet Knoblock, Steve Giordano, Lisa Johnson, Terry Howell, Jor Ann Lil, Don Schmeling, Bill Heiden, Joel Jebb, and especially to Mr. Taylor for offering their help and so quickly rendering it.

Sarah Hartwell, librarian (right), has been busy restoring order at City Island as she unpacks, sorts and catalogues the holdings in the new Davis Library.

... as research studies still go on at the Mote Lab.

VISITING INVESTIGATOR Richard Rodewald, biologist at the University of Virginia, worked with sharks and rays in March to prepare histological samples of kidney tissue for his comparative study of kidney structure and function. Sandy Burchill, student intern from St. Paul's School, Concord, N.H. (left) and Pat Bird, staff biologist, assisted Dr. Rodewald.

MANGROVE STUDY SPONSORED BY SARASOTA'S WOMAN'S EXCHANGE

Dr. William J. Tiffany, head of MML Environmental Health and Estuarine Ecology Program (above), will conduct a comparison study of benthic (bottom-dwelling) mangrove communities in and around Sarasota Bay this summer. As an essential element in the normal functioning of South Florida estuaries, mangroves provide fish and wildlife habitats and storm protection, and serve as the major source of detritus (decayed material) which insures the productivity of shallow estuaries. The study, to begin 1 July will involve student interns from the local Sarasota community. Dr. Tiffany's work is supported by a $5,000 grant from the Woman's Exchange of Sarasota.

To our Sarasota readers: The Woman's Exchange of Sarasota is a major source of support for area cultural programs. This year they awarded more than $40,000 to such diverse community activities as ballet, band, theater, and library organizations as well as MML. Funds are derived from The Woman's Exchange at 539 South Orange Street, a thrift shop operated by volunteers. They need new volunteers. If you're looking for a worthwhile group to which to contribute your time and talents, they'd be happy to hear from you.
“Thank you, Dr. Gilbert, for all you have done for MML...”
William R. Mote, President.

Mote Marine Laboratory

Sarasota Journal photo by Ken Torrington

MML President Bill Mote and retiring Director Perry Gilbert in a rare moment of quiet satisfaction as they stand before the entrance to the new research building.

DEDICATION PLANS. November 11, 1978 has been selected for dedication of the research building. Look for more details in the Fall newsletter.

THE NEXT STEP. With a fine new building for research activities completed, the next goal is construction of the Marine Science Center, a community facility. The Center will feature displays of the Laboratory’s research programs and its auditorium will be the site of seminars and programs in local and general environmental topics.
MAJOR GIFTS REPORT
The fine efforts and hard work of our Major Gifts Committee are bringing us ever closer to the goal of $500,000 for the construction and installation of the Marine Science Center. With $300,000 received and pledged to date, we are well over the half-way mark. To the Committee members and the following recent May contributors, our continued gratitude:

- Theodore R. and Grayce W. Bartels Foundation
- Callaway Foundation, Inc.
- Fuller E. Callaway Foundation
- Coast Federal Savings and Loan Assn.
- Ellis Sarasota Bank and Trust Company
- Mr. and Mrs. Franklin H. Graf
- Ruth F. Hays Foundation
- Mr. and Mrs. Norman L. Jeffer
- David Lindsay, Sarasota Herald-Tribune
- National Bank of Gulf Gate
- National Bank of Sarasota
- Sarasota Shell Club
- United First Federal Savings and Loan Assn.
- Robert E. Windom, M.D.

The pineapple palm and gold tree in front of the main building are gifts of Mr. and Mrs. Mel Chadwick and Mr. Victor Calderon.

MEMBERS
Welcome to our new and renewed members:

ASSOCIATE
- Mr. and Mrs. Junius Allen ........ Longboat Key, Florida
- Mr. and Mrs. Eugene B. Bibbins ....... Nokomis, Florida
- Rotary Club of Sarasota Key ........ Sarasota, Florida

ACTIVE
- Mr. Robert C. Eden, Jr. .......... Holmes Beach, Florida
- Mrs. Frank Freeman ............... Sarasota, Florida
- Mrs. Evelyn Hull ................. Sarasota, Florida
- Ms. Jennifer Hurst ............. Miami, Florida
- Mr. and Mrs. Jr. Dayall .......... Longboat Key, Florida
- Mr. and Mrs. T. C. McDonnell ...... Sarasota, Florida
- Ms. Barbara J. Mitchell ........ Sarasota, Florida
- Mr. Alan W. Morrison ............ Princeton, New Jersey
- Mr. and Mrs. Ben Robinson ...... Sarasota, Florida
- Mr. John W. Staff ................. Longboat Key, Florida

AFFILIATE
- Mr. Jeffrey A. Kopel ............... Sarasota, Florida

STUDENT
- Mr. George Dinsmore ........ Ocean City, New Jersey
- Mr. Jack Odell ............... Wilmington, North Carolina
- Mr. Kevin C. Sorenson .......... Grosse Pointe, Michigan

ENTRYWAY AND SEMINAR ROOM. Laboratory members and visitors will no longer have to thread their way thru a maze of desks and file cabinets as they enter the lab. There’s lots of space in the entrance area and in the seminar room to the left.

MEMORIAL CONTRIBUTIONS
We are grateful to the families of Mrs. Mary Vezzoli and Roland J. Stanton who have established memorial funds in their names at the Laboratory. The funds will be used for the acquisition of books of special merit for the new Davis Library. Contributions in their memory have been received from Mr. and Mrs. Dick Ardinger, Mr. and Mrs. R. Buschino, The Coco Family, Mr. and Mrs. T. Cook, Commissioner and Mrs. J. Fuller, Mr. and Mrs. A. Fraince, Mrs. Margaret McNamara, Mrs. Florence Menninger, The F. D. Shepard and R. H. Lynch Families, Mr. and Mrs. Maxine Spross, Mrs. Roland J. Stanton, Mr. and Mrs. Walter Stanton, Mr. and Mrs. Wesley Taylor, Col. and Mrs. Dante Vezzoli, and Mr. Ted Williams.