

## **Loran Personnel Capture Rare Seal for Zoo**

Coast Guard personnel at the Loran station on East Island at French Frigate Shoals, lying 500 miles northwest of Honolulu, played the part of animal tamers recently when they captured and held captive for several days a 500 pound rare Hawaiian seal they named "Harvey."

These interesting animals, which once existed in abundance in this area, had been sought by the Honolulu director of the Zoo, Paul L. Breese, for sometime. Knowing that the mammals frequented the French Frigate Shoals region, Mr. Breese had asked the personnel of the Loran station commanded by LTJG E. J. Hauff to capture one if they ever had the chance.

On 7 May, an animal was taken captive and Director Breese notified. Lacking suitable transportation to get to the Shoals station, RADM Louis W. Perkins, Commander of the Fourteenth Coast Guard District, agreed that the Zoo Director and his party might go out with the Cutter *Walnut* scheduled to sail the next day for delivery of supplies to the Loran station. Lt. D. D. Vosler commanded the cutter.

The difficulty experienced in securing "Harvey" for transfer to the *Walnut* is a story in itself; one that a Coast Guardsman compared to "trying to tie strings around a greasy football."

While at the station and having a little time before the *Walnut* was ready to return to Honolulu, Director Breese and his party together with PHC E. F. Washburn, and EN2 Kelley, USCG, set out to try to find a mate for their proud captive. Great luck was with them as on two small islands, Gin and Little Gin, they roped a young cow seal. She was named "Ginney." This remarkable seal-capturing expedition operated on a 2-hour deadline for a 10-mile round-trip voyage.

No trouble was experienced on the return trip to Honolulu with the result that the island zoo now has the only pair of Hawaiian seals in captivity.