

## HEADING SOUTH FOR THE WINTER

It seemed as if only a week had passed between the end of the north trip and the beginning of our venture to the other end of the world. Could it happen that seven weeks had shrunk into seven days? "Cast off all lines. All engines ahead fifty turns." Yes, it had happened! Time seemed to be so precious then.

Our nation was electing a new President as EDISTO headed south. It would be a long journey with plenty of time for imaginations to run their course. EDISTO's deployment on OPERATION DEEP FREEZE 1969 was to be a new experience for all hands. Our mission was to support the men of the United States Antarctic Research Program in their scientific efforts. There were many ways in which we were to accomplish our task.

Scientific equipment and supplies were brought aboard in Davisville, Rhode Island. Detachment 86 of Helicopter Support Squadron Four, Lakehurst, New Jersey reported aboard in Earle. Scooters #57 and #61 touched down on the flight deck off the Jersey coast as EDISTO headed south to Norfolk, Virginia for refueling and a two-day visit.

King Neptune and his court convened on board as EDISTO crossed into the the southern hemisphere. Polliwogs became Shellbacks. Our spirits were high and we looked forward with anticipation to the job ahead.

Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, was our first foreign port of call. There are few sea-ports in the world whose beauty compares with that of the "marvelous city." Our stay was short; yet long enough to touch the excitement that is Rio's alone.

The calm, peaceful sophistication of Montevideo, Uruguay, was a surprise to EDISTO. It's vintage cars and tree-lined avenues set it apart from the busy world to which we are accustomed. Our visit was brief. There was work to be done.

An oceanographic survey off the Argentine coast soon followed after our departure from Montevideo. Two Americans working with two Argentines were probing the area for the possibility of oil. EDISTO is proud to have taken part in this survey in the interest of science and international relations.

Through the Strait of Magellan EDISTO reached Punta Arenas, Chile. It would be one of five stops we would make. This little community served as a base of operations and was our link between the Antarctic Peninsula and the outside world. It was in Punta Arenas where we picked up scientists, Navymen, equipment, supplies, and mail to deliver to Palmer Station, the United States' research facility located on Anvers Island along the west coast of the Antarctic Peninsula.