

USCGC GLACIER

USCGC GLACIER began to take shape in August of 1953 when her keel was laid at Ingall's Shipbuilding Company in Pascagoula, Mississippi. She was completed and commissioned in May of 1955 and homeported in Boston. Named for Glacier Bay in Alaska, she was originally constructed to penetrate polar regions never before accessible to ships. GLACIER's polar tasks included channel cutting with close escort of supply ships, logistic support for remote stations, and ocean science deployments.

GLACIER participated in the first DEEP FREEZE in connection with the International Geophysical Year in 1955-1956 and started her career by discovering a huge iceberg which hold the record as the largest known to man.

The ship continued her yearly DEEP FREEZE participation with the Navy through the 1966 season.

In June of 1966 GLACIER lost her coat of Navy gray and

received a new coat of Coast Guard white. Upon transfer to the Coast Guard GLACIER moved to a new homeport, Long Beach, California. By joining the Coast Guard fleet, the ship acquired the additional mission of scientific research, and accordingly, a variety of oceanographic equipment was installed and her heavy armament removed. GLACIER continued to participate in OPERATION DEEP FREEZE through 1970 when she broke her chain of 15 consecutive Antarctic deployments with an assignment to the Arctic Ocean operations.

In the future, while the new Polar-Glass breakers are under construction, GLACIER will assume a larger role in ice-breaking responsibility. Now into her twentieth year of service to the nation, she has tested her might in the Eastern Arctic, Western Arctic, and Antarctic. Unique in her capabilities and history GLACIER'S motto speaks for itself: "Follow Me".