

Cap.

10/20/60

Raft Makes Good Time Down Coast

The raft, "Triton," is making good time and reacting well on its first leg of a proposed 7400-mile drift to the Society Islands of the South Pacific.

The home-made raft, which was pulled into the ocean from the Capitola harbor Monday morning, was some 100 miles off Point Sur this morning and heading due south. The six-man crew still is pulling further into the Japanese current which is to carry them south to their first stop, the Sorocco Islands off Central Mexico.

The Japanese current, which moves from three-quarters to 1½ knots, will be used to reach the Galapagos islands and from there the raft will ride the Humboldt current to the Society Islands. The men may decide to continue their drift to Australia. The entire trip may take a year.

The crew is maintaining contact by citizen's band radio. Tom Shanahan of the Capitola wharf said their radio now is out of range. However this morning Del Crawford of Aptos was able to get radio contact and learn of the raft's progress. It is expected that daily reports will be relayed by other citizen's band radios as the raft moves down the coast.

"They're doing just great and making good time," Shanahan said.

Last night the raft was in 25-knot winds and made three knots of speed. The speed this morning slowed to one knot as the wind died down. The crew has been using the raft sails to get into the current. The sails from then on are intended only for emergencies.

The crew consists of Larry White, Mel Higley, Doug Otis, Fred Hametner, Dan McGee and Al Parvin.