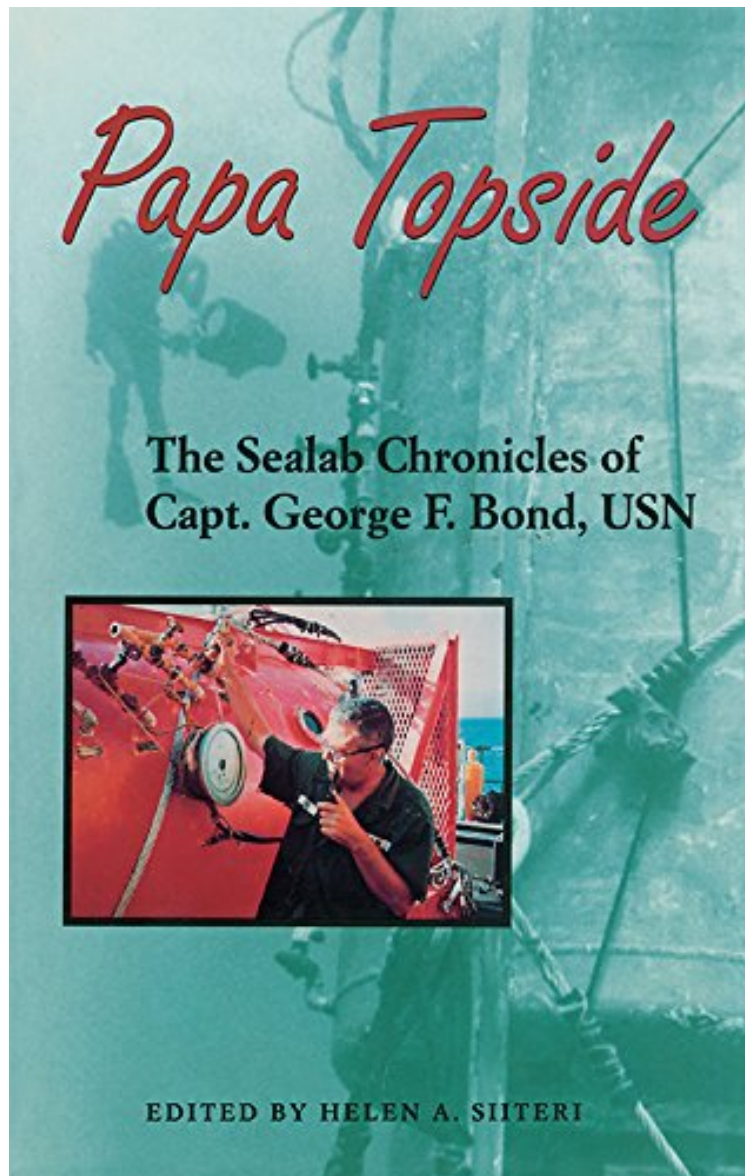


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# Papa Topside: The Sealab Chronicles of Capt. George F. Bond, USN

*Helen A. Siiteri*

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**Helen A. Siiteri** : **Papa Topside: The Sealab Chronicles of Capt. George F. Bond, USN** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Papa Topside: The Sealab Chronicles of Capt. George F. Bond, USN:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Underwater DreamsBy ScubaCatI really enjoyed this book. I remember Sealab as s kid and it always held my fascination of living underwater. This book gives a thorough view of

the logistics of making an underwater habitat a reality. If you have a curiosity of what it took to get humans to live underwater, this would be a good read for you. Competing against America's space exploration, Capt. Bond didn't give up and showed how important it will be to live work under the the great ocean depths. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Amazing find that I treasure By Mary N Dotson An amazing account of historic adventure, extreme dedication and remarkable human character. Dr. Bond's detailed account of his days in Hickory Nut Gorge and the US Navy as an aquanaut are both historic and personal. Published by the Naval Institute Press, the hisoric value and interest is made exciting and personal by the author's unique ability to tell his story with human interest. I would recommend this book to anyone who enjoys reading adventure, human drama, history with a personal touch, Naval research, deep sea diving, and is a "must read" for anyone who lives or has interest in the Hickory Nut Gorge area of North Carolina, which includes the Chimney Rock State Park. This copy, complete with jacket is in absolutely new condition with one enhancement. There is a message written to Murray Block from Scott Carpenter, who were both deep sea divers when Dr. Bond was working with Sealab. I was growing up in Lake Lure, NC, within Hickory Nut Gorge, where Dr. Bond was a selfless pioneer in bringing medical services and established the Bat Cave Clinic. I remember going to the home of a relative who had a TV to see Dr. Bond when featured on "This Is Your Life". There are ties between my family and Dr. Bond's children and grandchildren which make the "Chronicles" even more interesting and personal. I treasure this copy so much that I bought another copy to loan to family and friends, so this one remains safely at home in Lake Lure. The seller, in California, took extreme care in packing as if the book were fragile! Thank you! 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. A Real American Hero By mooter This book is a treasure. Dr. Bond understood the significance of his position and participation in the development of saturation diving and undertook to journal the process. In so doing he reveals a story of what can be accomplished by someone with a great idea and the relentless perseverance to promote and achieve it. Under his direction, these historical experiments lead to what is possible in deep sea exploration to this day. It could have been one of those I, I Me, Me memoirs, but instead he undertakes to include those who worked with him and express his genuine love and gratitude. Someone should take note of this collection and turn it into a screenplay, because we need some more real heroes in the movies. The book is out of print now, so I wouldn't hesitate to get a copy when you see one available.

A pioneer in the field of deep-sea diving, George F. Bond helped develop the theory of saturation diving and the techniques and dive tables used by divers around the world. In this edited journal Bond offers a lively account of his work with the U.S. Navy's first manned undersea habitats, the Sealab experiments of the 1960s. Dubbed "Papa Topside" by the media that followed his work with Navy aquanauts, Bond gives a colorful eyewitness account of what today are considered benchmarks in the history of diving. This is a candid, personal record of Sealabs I, II, and III, and the FISSH experiment, the finale of Bond's career. The picture that emerges is one of a brilliant, larger-than-life figure who, though often difficult to get along with, earned the respect and affection of his peers. The book draws on the editor's interviews with Bond's fellow researchers and divers, editor Helen Siiteri as well as Bond's daily logs and correspondence. Always frank and to the point, he describes his frustrations with the Navy brass, his friendly competition with Jacques Cousteau, and his spirited relationship with aquanaut/astronaut Scott Carpenter. As the only full-length book written about U.S. aquanauts and their undersea exploits, it is an important historical document. It is also an entertaining read.

About the Author From the hardcover edition: After receiving a bachelor of education degree from Rhode Island College, Helen Siiteri alternated teaching in an elementary grade school and acting in New England summer stock companies. She also served as a storyteller in the New York Public Library, and following marriage to a research biochemist, she adapted her favorite children's story to read to their five children. The Adventures of Nicholas was published by Scholastic Press and for many years was featured in their paperback book club. When the family moved to Northern California, Siiteri was hired by an ocean engineering firm to research and prepare ship salvage reports and a history of ship salvage in the U.S. Navy. Papa Topside grew out of that research.