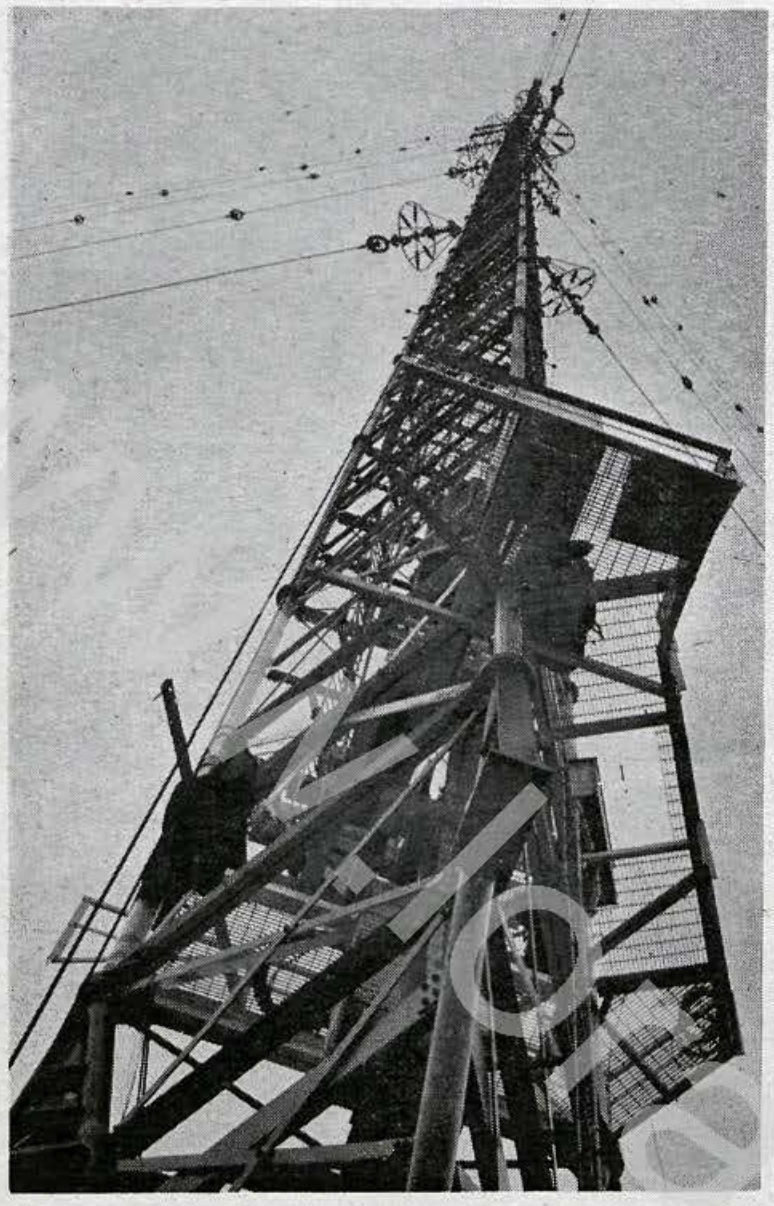
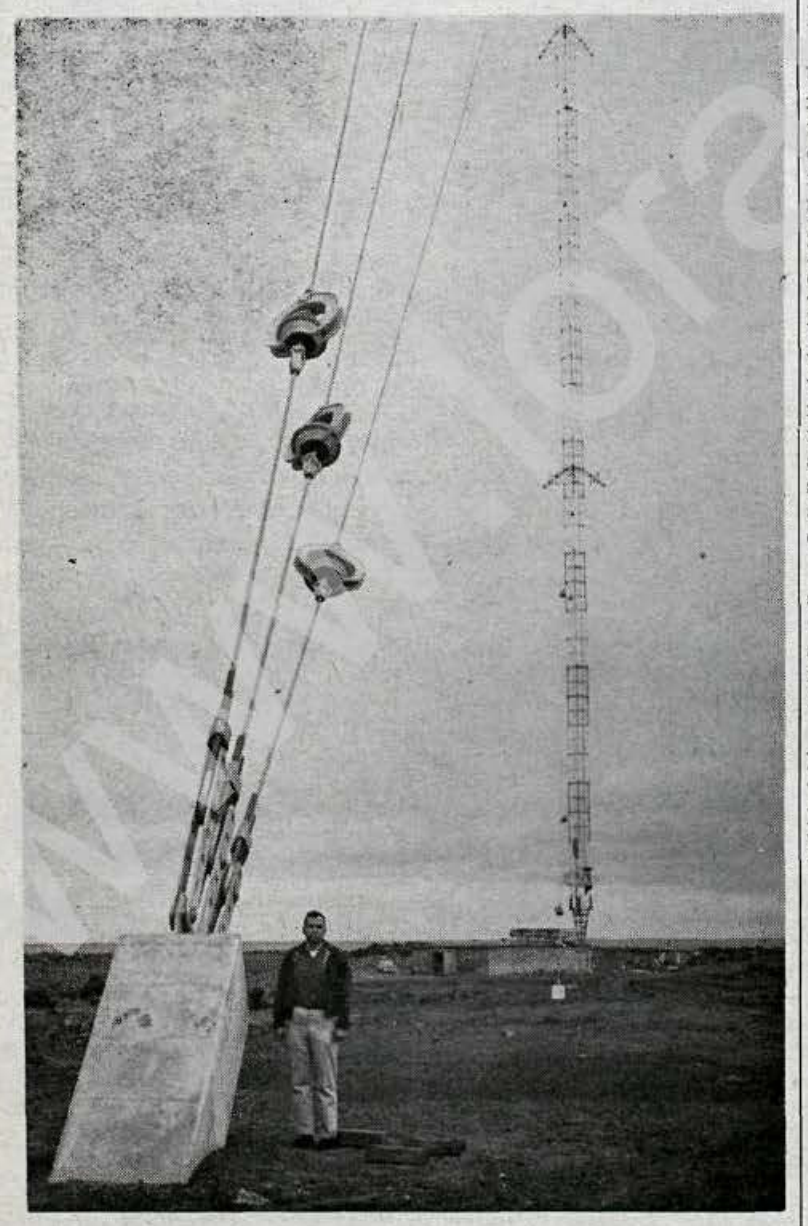
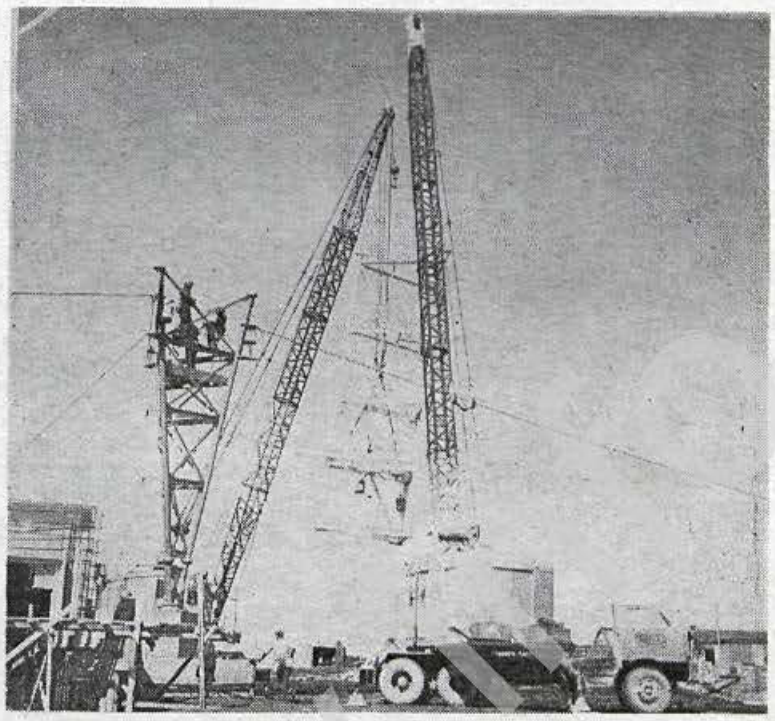


Midway in the photo is the 2-man elevator that will facilitate any future repairs. The cone-shaped corona rings prevent buildup of any charges of static electricity.

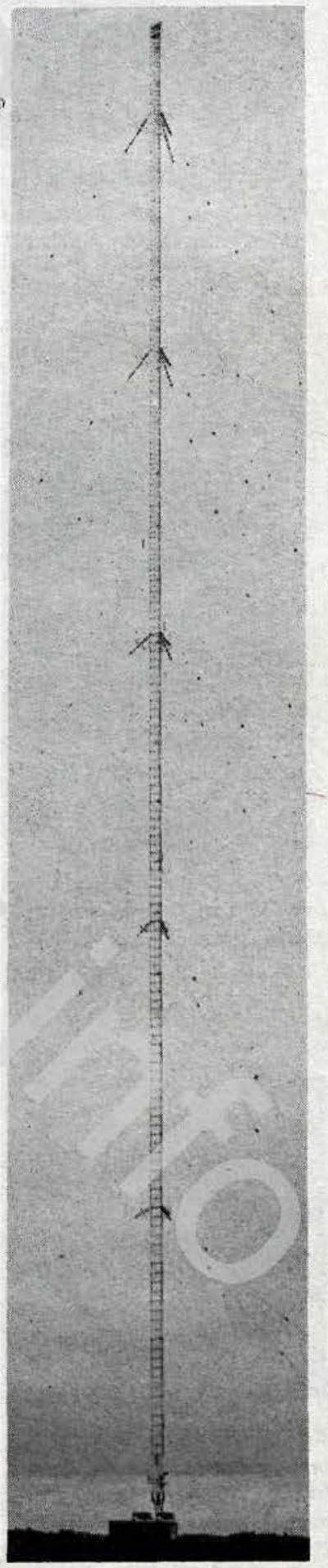


Lt. (jg) Thomas J. Vento, U.S. Coast Guard Liasion Officer in residence, is dwarfed by one of the massive stays that support the tower.

Two 100-foot cranes (right) hoist the 13,600-lb. second section of the tower into place. It took forty-five of the 30-foot sections to complete the tower.



Stretching to its full 1,350 feet, the tower (lower right) will be ready for operations as soon as equipment is installed. The minute dots on the guy wires are insulators measuring 3 ft. in diameter and weighing 740 lbs. apiece



Replaces Eiffel Tower

1,350 ft. LORAN Tower Is Europe's Tallest Structure

Iceland, one of Europe's smallest republics, now boasts Europe's tallest structure. The new U.S. Coast Guard Loran (Long-range Radio Aid to Navigation) "C" tower at Sandur on the island's west coast rises 1,350 ft., out-towering France's famed Eiffel Tower by some 366 ft.

The project is a cooperative U.S.-Iceland effort. Arrangements for project design, materials and funds were made possible by close coordination on the part of officials of both countries. Rear Admiral W.C.G. Church, CEC, USN, Director Atlantic Division of Bu-Docks, through the local Resident Officer in Charge of Construction, Lt. Cdr. Robert A. Litke, CEC, USN, administered the contract with the Icelandic Prime Contractor. The IPC employed 130 technicians and construction workers in the laying of the base insulator and the construction of the station house, utility buildings and living quarters for the tower officials and operators.

The tower itself was assembled and erected by employees of the Gunnar A. Olsen Corporation, a stateside construction firm, working on a sub contract from the IPC.

Although Iceland is noted for her high-velocity winds and adverse weather conditions, comparatively fair weather favored the 12-man Olsen Corp. construction crew.

The base insulator, capable of supporting 850 tons, was laid May 15.

The first of 45 30-foot sections was hoisted into place on May 17. As many as three sections, each weighing from 13,600 lbs. at the base to 5,410 lbs. at the peak, were added each working day during good weather. By July 16 the 400-ton tower was "topped off".

The new tower will replace a 625-foot "B" tower built at Sandur in 1959. Operating at the same 100 kilocycle frequency, the "C" tower's primary advantage will come from increased height that permits wider range at greater output.

The North Atlantic extension of the Coast Guard-owned and operated world-wide Loran system is unique. With the exception of the Loran station at Sylt, Germany, the North Atlantic extension is operated by civilian personnel of the various countries. (Other towers at Angissoq, Greenland; the Faeroes Islands; Jan Mayen Island and Bö, Norway; make up the North Atlantic extension.)

Twenty-one Icelandic radio technicians will man the Sandur station. An 8-apartment house was built by the Icelandic Prime Contractor to supplement the quarters built there for the technicians and their families in 1959. A separate duplex was constructed to house the Station Master, Mr. Olafur Thorarinsson and the Coast Guard Liasion Officer in Residence, Lt. (jg) Thomas J. Vento, and their families.

When installation of equipment is completed in October, he tower will join the system of cooperating Loran stations in the North Atlantic. Working together, the stations will ensure blanket coverage of the area enabling as hip or aircraft equipped with a Lohan receiver to fix its position by rounter-plotting Loran-transmitted radio waves.