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ESSA NEWS

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EARTHQUAKE RESEARCH INTENSIFIED ON COAST

ESSA has leased a tract of land on the San Andreas Fault in California, to expand its investigations of activity in one of the Nation's busiest earthquake zones.

The five-acre tract is approximately 25 miles south of Hollister, California. An exhaustive investigation of earthquakes will be carried out on the site by the Earthquake Mechanisms Laboratory of ESSA's Institute for Earth Sciences.

Immediate objective of the program on the San Andreas Fault is to acquire more knowledge of the generating mechanism and energy release of earthquakes. In the process, scientists will monitor and analyze such occurrences as excessive strain buildup, tilting of the earth's surface, changes in gravity and geomagnetic properties, acoustical phenomena, swarms of microtremors and other manifestations of unease beneath the earth. The knowledge gained by this project is expected to bring closer the day when earthquakes can be predicted.

Much of the data developed on the site will be automatically transmitted for analysis to the Earthquake Mechanisms Laboratory in San Francisco. The area also will be periodically covered by precision aerial photography--color, infrared, and panchromatic. The Laboratory, directed by Dr. Don Tocher, was formerly the Advanced Seismic Experiments Group of the Coast and Geodetic Survey.

EIGHT WIN BRONZE MEDALS

Bronze Medals, highest honor a Commerce bureau may confer upon an employee, have been awarded to eight ESSAites. Recipients were: George A. Lapiene of Largo, Fla., recently retired after nearly 35 years' service on C&GS ships; John C. Phillips of Sharptown, Md., of the Survey's new ships staff; William C. Stone, of Rogersville, Ala., of the new ships staff; Robert C. Savage, Sr., of St. Petersburg, Fla., Chief Boatswain on the C&GSS Hydrographer; Thomas A. Modgling of Bronte, Tex., for his work as Chief of the World Data Center for Seismology; Oliver M. Davis of Russellville, Ala., of the National Weather Records Center; Herman C. Steffan of Denver, Colo., chief of the Data Verification Section of the National Weather Records Center; and Marvin W. Burley of Iron Mountain, Minn., chief of the Center's Climatology Section. All were honored for outstanding service to the Department and the Nation.

NEW 'NUMBER, PLEASE' IN CHESAPEAKE BAY

Chesapeake Bay-area boaters with radiotelephone equipment will have another Weather Bureau service beginning August 5. By asking the Wilmington, Dela., marine operator for "Boat-To-Forecaster Service", they will reach a special phone at the Washington National Airport Weather Bureau station, and there will receive the latest weather forecasts and advisories for the area. "Boat-To-Forecaster" Service is a pilot project which will be expanded if it proves useful in the Bay area.

ANNIVERSARY VISITS HIGH IN THOUSANDS

Reports of highly successful ESSA Anniversary Open Houses in such widely diverse locations as Point Barrow, Alaska, and Pago Pago--as well as across the Nation itself--continue to pour into headquarters. Visitors braved snowdrifts and 100-degree heat to view ESSA installations, and they did it by the thousands. Other thousands, who did not attend in person, learned of the ESSA birthday party through the press, radio, and television. Purpose of the observance--commemorating ESSA's first year of existence--was to acquaint the public with the variety of services the agency and its elements offer. Facilities everywhere made an all-out effort to welcome and inform their visitors.

STATIC GOES TO WORK— FOR SCIENCE

Static has become a valuable research tool for the Institutes for Environmental Research, whose radio receivers in Boulder, Colo., and Miami, Fla., are continually tuned to the noise generated by thunderstorms over the Amazon Basin of South America. Scientists at the Ionospheric Telecommunications Laboratory calculate signal strength lost as the static signals follow a great circle path from South America to Miami and Boulder. Radiation usually associated with solar flares and changes in the earth's magnetic field disrupts the ionosphere and interferes with signal transmission. By observing these effects, researchers may be able to predict more accurately the effect upon VLF transmissions in the event of natural or man-made disturbances in the ionosphere. The project is headed by William L. Taylor, a physicist with I.T.S.A., and includes Harold Burdick, Lloyd Eichacker, and James Leise.

DERRICKSON NAMED TOP OBSERVER

Pacific Region "Observer of the Quarter" was Jehu F. Derrickson of the Weather Bureau Airport Station, Kahului, Maui, Hawaii. Nominated for the first quarter of 1966, he also received a cash award of \$200 for superior accomplishment. The Pacific Region Headquarters established the "Observer of the Quarter" award for the meteorological technician with the best observational performance during each quarterly period throughout the year. Nominations are made by station officials on the basis of tabulations of each observer's performance record. Selection is made by the Regional Incentive Awards Committee. Mr. Derrickson was transferred from Burlington, Vermont July 25, 1964. He is a former Air Force observer from Philadelphia, Pennsylvania and has been with the Bureau since October 22, 1962.

WORLD METEOROLOGICAL CENTERS STUDIED

Frank W. Burnett, Deputy Director of the National Meteorological Center, Suitland, Md., recently participated in meetings in Geneva, Switzerland, where functions of the World Meteorological Centers were studied.

FIELD COUNCIL CHAIRMAN NAMED

Captain Emmett H. Sheridan, West Coast Field Director at San Francisco, has been appointed chairman of the Department of Commerce Field Council of San Francisco for the fiscal year 1966-67.

FLYING CLIMATOLOGIST CLICKS IN INDIANA

Lawrence Schaal, ESSA's Flying State Climatologist in Indiana, is documenting station layouts of Weather Bureau-Purdue University cooperative weather stations in the state by taking aerial photographs of instrument exposure sites. Buildings, trees, and terrain roughness near each of these climatological stations are readily apparent in these pictures. Future issues of substation climatological summaries may feature an air picture of the station.

LUCAS TO LEAD LAB GROUP

Donald L. Lucas, physicist for the Institutes of Environmental Research, has been named Acting Chief of the Frequency Utilization Group in the Ionospheric Telecommunications Laboratory at Boulder, Colo. He replaces George W. Haydon, now a Senior Liaison Officer for the Institute for Telecommunications and Aeronomy. The Frequency Utilization Group prepares predictions for high frequency radio systems, for organizations within and outside government, to help improve HF radio communications.

EX-WEATHER BUREAU OFFICIAL ORDAINED

John Jefferson Davis of Arlington, Va., former Director of Personnel for the Weather Bureau, has been ordained to the Presbyterian ministry in a ceremony held at the High Bridge Presbyterian Church, Natural Bridge, Va. The Rev. Mr. Davis left the Weather Bureau to enter Princeton Theological Seminary in 1963.

FOREIGN VISITORS AT BOULDER

Visitors at the Institutes for Environmental Research at Boulder recently have included Indian and Yugoslavian communications officials. Kattuputhur Narayanasami Hagarajan of India has begun four weeks of briefings on radio propagation research, and Sreten Nedeljkovic of Yugoslavia has visited the Tropospheric Telecommunications Laboratory. Both are recipients of fellowships awarded by the International Telecommunications Union.

PINNACLE ROCK GAINS FAME

A pinnacle rock, rising 650 feet from the ocean bottom about 12 miles southeast of Ketchikan, Alaska, will be identified on Nautical Chart 8075 of the Coast and Geodetic Survey as "Washington Monument Rock." A recent hydrographic survey by the USC&GS Ship Patton revealed that the rock rose to within 13 feet of the surface. When first discovered in 1914 by a Survey wire drag party, the distance below the surface was recorded as 17 feet. Modern surveying methods, using the latest electronic equipment, enabled the Patton to establish a more accurate sounding. The pinnacle rock rises 95 feet higher than the Washington Monument in the District of Columbia. It is an important unmarked hazard to navigation. The name "Washington Monument Rock" is being added to nautical charts to emphasize its dangerous character.

ARTISTS: COMMERCE SHOW COMING UP

The 1966 Commerce Art Show will be held in the Main Commerce Lobby from Sept. 21 to Oct. 1, with registration on Sept. 17, 19, and 20. ESSA artists are invited to submit entries. Further information may be obtained from B. Rochlin (179-2354) or Robert Kelly (14-68009).

ESSA 1 CAMERA FAILS

After providing 36,364 photographs of the earth's cloud cover, one of two television cameras on the ESSA 1 weather satellite has failed. ESSA 1 was launched on Feb. 3 for ESSA as part of the world's first operational weather satellite system. Global weather coverage for central analysis still is being obtained with ESSA 1's remaining camera, supplemented by pictures from the National Aeronautics and Space Administration research satellites, TIROS IX and Nimbus II. The ESSA 2 satellite continues to provide cloud pictures to weather stations over the globe. ESSA has requested NASA to launch a new satellite to replace ESSA 1 as soon as possible.

JOHNSON GIVES LECTURE SERIES

Dr. H. McClure Johnson, of the National Environmental Satellite Center, has given a series of lectures at the University of Miami to three ESSA groups. He discussed "Weather Satellite Information on Tropical Systems and Conditions in its Use in 1966" in five parts: Cirrus conditions, low level flow conditions, conditions and phenomena of the intertropical convergence zone, tropical African information and analysis problems, and pulsations of intense convection of tropical western Africa, for members of the Tropical Analysis Center, the National Hurricane Center, the National Hurricane Research Laboratory, and visiting scientists.

ESSA-FAA PACT GIVES RADAR COVER IN ROCKIES

In a cooperative program with the Federal Aviation Agency, ESSA has established a radar weather program at the Salt Lake City Air Traffic Control Center. Radar summaries are transmitted daily at two-hour intervals, containing composited radar data from seven FAA installations located near Boise, Idaho, Ashton, Mont., Lovell, Wyo., Battle Mountain, Nev., Salt Lake City, Utah, Rock Springs, Wyo., and Cedar City, Utah. The historic contract, first of its kind in the nation, makes possible radar surveillance of the entire Inter-Mountain Region. It will make possible the tracking of major storms over a 300,000-square-mile area.

RARE PHOTOS IN ANALYSIS AT NESC

The National Environmental Satellite Center has a mission to delight the heart of any shutterbug--or explorer. The Center has received more than 200 color photos taken during the Gemini 10 flight, and is proceeding with identification and analysis of these pictures.

Items to be considered for ESSA NEWS must be received by Friday for publication the following Friday. Send material to: Office of Public Information, ESSA, Room 804, Bldg. 5, WSC, Rockville, Md. 20852. Phone (301) 496-8431.

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

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