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USC&GSS MT. MITCHELL CHRISTENED

The new \$4.3 million hydrographic survey vessel, USC&GSS MT. MITCHELL was christened Nov. 29 in Jacksonville, Fla. Secretary of Commerce John T. Connor was the principal speaker at the ceremonies and Mrs. Connor participated in the christening as the vessel's sponsor. Her matron of honor was Mrs. J. Herbert Hol-lomon, wife of the Assistant Secretary for Science and Technology. Also attending the launching were: Paul Southwick, Special As-sistant to the Secretary for Congressional Relations; Dr. Hollo-mon; Administrator Dr. Robert M. White and Mrs. White; Rear Ad-miral James C. Tison, Jr., Director of the Coast and Geodetic Survey; and James G. Morton, Special Assistant to the Secretary.

C&GS's 22ND TRAINING CLASS TO GRADUATE

The Coast and Geodetic Survey's Atlantic Marine Center will pre-sent diplomas to 32 USESSA Corps officers at ceremonies in Norfolk, Va., on Dec. 6. The graduates of this 22nd class will have com-pleted three months of intensive training in ESSA's scientific dis-ciplines and will receive assignment orders after one week of or-ientation at ESSA's Rockville, Md., headquarters. The principal address at the ceremonies will be given by Dr. Karl R. Johannessen, Director of ESSA's Weather Bureau Eastern Region-al Office in New York.

WB DIRECTOR TO VISIT ALASKA

Weather Bureau Director George P. Cressman will visit the Alas-ka Region during the week of Dec. 4. Dr. Cressman is tentatively scheduled to tour ESSA and military facilities and educational institutions at Anchorage, King Salmon, Bethel, Nome, McGrath, Fairbanks, Gilmore Creek, and Juneau.

SKIPPER OF RUDE ASSIGNED

Lieutenant (junior grade) Karl W. Keininger, formerly assigned to the USC&GSS WHITING, is en route to Oyster Bay, Long Island, N.Y., where the wire-drag ship USC&GSS RUDE is being built. He will take command of the vessel upon completion of construction.

SHAKY AREA EYED

The Coast and Geodetic Survey has entered into a cooperative program with the University of California (Berkeley) for monitoring local magnetic field changes which could be associated with earthquakes or related events in an area of high seismicity. The C&GS has made one of its three-component magnetometers available to the university for the program since it relates directly to earthquake prediction.

HARDIMAN GETS A PEAK

The National Science Foundation announced that the United States Board on Geographic Names has named a geographical feature Hardiman Peak in honor of Terrence Hardiman, assistant observer at the Tucson (Ariz.) Observatory. Hardiman Peak is located west of the Liv Glacier in the Transantarctic Mountains, Antarctica. Hardiman operated the magnetic and seismological observatory at Pole Station during the 1964-65 season.

LESTER JONES GETS NEW CO

Lieutenant Commander Wayne L. Mobley has been appointed commanding officer of the USC&GSS LESTER JONES. Commander Mobley, formerly assigned to the USC&GSS SURVEYOR, in recent months was detailed to the Pacific Marine Center, Seattle, as acting chief of the Electronic Data Processing Branch.

CALIFORNIA GETS TWO MORE TIDE GAUGES

The West Coast Field Office of the C&GS is presently installing two cooperative tide gauges. One is to be set up at the Ferry Building, San Francisco, in connection with the \$180 million construction of Bay Area Rapid Transit tube under San Francisco Bay. The other, at Bodega, is being erected in cooperation with the University of California's Bodega Marine Laboratory.

NWRC EMPLOYEE DIES

George E. Phillips, meteorological technician in the Synoptic Climatology Section, National Weather Records Center, died Nov. 8. Phillips started work for the center in November 1952.

RAINBIRD ASSIGNED TO WB

A leading Australian hydrometeorologist, Allan F. Rainbird, is currently in the United States under a Fellowship of the Commonwealth Fund of New York. Rainbird has been with Melbourne's Bureau of Meteorology since 1951 and is an active participant in international hydrometeorology. He has reported to the Weather Bureau's Office of Hydrology on a nine-month assignment where he will concentrate on public and industrial service.

DROUGHT ANALYZED BY THE NUMBERS

H. C. S. Thom, Senior Research Fellow, Environmental Data Service, will hold a seminar at New York University on the "Statistical Analysis of Drought", on Dec. 2 at the invitation of Dr. Jerome Spar of New York University's Department of Meteorology and Oceanography. Dr. Spar is a former director of the Weather Bureau's Office of Meteorological Research.

ESSA 2 SUFFERS SUNSTROKE

Too much heat from the sun on the top of the ESSA 2 spacecraft made it necessary to tilt its spin axis some 15 degrees on Nov. 28. The weather - eye no longer looks straight down, causing difficulty in picture gridding. A replacement Automatic Picture Transmission weather satellite is scheduled for launch in January 1967.

MITCHELL DISCUSSES CLIMATIC CHANGE

Dr. Murray Mitchell of EDS' Laboratory for Environmental Data Research visited the Stony Brook Campus of the State University of New York on Nov. 29. Dr. Mitchell presented a talk on causes of climatic change for the university's Earth and Space Sciences Department.

STORMS BY LEHR

"Storms", a book written for the 8-12 age group by Paul E. Lehr of the Planning and Coordination Group, National Environmental Satellite Center, Suitland, Md., was recently published by the Golden Press.

LOST IN SPACE

Dr. Tatsuo Shimazaki, a physicist with ESSA's Institutes for Environmental Research, Boulder, Colo., has isolated two important causes of time changes in the density of free electrons present in the ionosphere. Variations in electron density are critical in radio communication. When the density is high enough, radio waves are reflected over the curve of the earth towards the intended receiving station. When electron density decreases, radio waves will pass through the ionosphere and are lost in space. Ultraviolet radiation streaming earthward from the sun is the greatest producer of electrons in the ionosphere. When it strikes atoms of the gases making up the atmosphere, the radiation dislodges electrons. The freed electrons thus produced are important to the reflection of radio waves. He has found that the two most important factors affecting electron density during the night are temperature variations and the wind-like drifts of electrons. Dr. Shimazaki's research represents an addition to man's basic knowledge of the atmosphere and it also may have direct applications in radio communication.

BUSH TO RETIRE

C&GS's chief of the Distribution Division, Charles R. Bush Jr., will retire at the end of December after more than 38 years of Government service. A luncheon will be held in his honor on Dec. 19 at the Washington Hilton Hotel (D.C.) and reservation deadline is Dec. 9. For more information call Mrs. Martha Ott at Ex. 68181 on Code 14, or 496-8181.

SERVICE AWARDS

Length of service awards were presented to the following Weather Bureau headquarters personnel: Miss Aimee Aitken, 25 years, and John Palmer Jr., 20 years. At the C&GS, John J. Rafferty, Ship Construction Group, received a 20 year award.

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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) 496-8243.

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

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