



VOLUME 3

NUMBER 12

MARCH 24, 1967

DUAL COMMISSIONING SET FOR WIRE DRAG SHIPS

The wire drag vessels USC&GSS RUDE and HECK, the only ones of their kind in the United States, will be commissioned Mar. 29 at Norfolk, Va. Rear Adm. James C. Tison, Jr., C&GS Director, will deliver the principal address at the dual ceremony to be held at the Atlantic Marine Center. Lieutenant Donald J. Florwick will command the sister ships, and Lieutenant Karl W. Kieninger will be the vessels' executive officer. The new ships replace the WAINWRIGHT and HILGARD, which have been decommissioned. While their task will be similar to that of the ships they are replacing, they are being assigned to a new mission, to drag the ship traffic lanes leading into major U.S. ports in the Gulf of Mexico and along the east coast, including New York Harbor.

ESKITE IS IER TECHNICAL INFORMATION OFFICER

Wilbur H. Eskite, Jr., has been appointed Technical Information Officer for the Institutes for Environmental Research. In this position, he will be responsible for IER publications activities and the Boulder technical library. A graduate of George Washington University, Mr. Eskite joined C&GS in 1963. He was a Commerce Science Fellow in 1965-66, assigned to the National Bureau of Standards.

STORM SURGE SEMINAR SCHEDULED

A storm surge seminar will be held at the Weather Bureau's Silver Spring headquarters Mar. 27-31. (The storm surge, frequently the most dangerous aspect of a coastal storm, is the abnormal rise of water as the result, primarily, of winds.) Regional representatives will join with headquarters personnel in discussions of the latest developments in research on the nature and predictability of the storm surge. Also attending the seminar will be members of ESSA's Institute for Oceanography and the Army's Corps of Engineers.

BEDKE DISCUSSES MAN AND ENVIRONMENT

WB Western Region Director H. H. Bedke participated in a panel discussion during a conference Mar. 22-23 at the University of California at Los Angeles. The theme of the conference was "Man and His Total Environment."

WMO CLIMATE PROGRAMS TO BE REVIEWED

Dr. Gerald L. Barger, Director of EDS' Laboratory for Environmental Data Research, is a member of the Advisory Working Group of the WMO's Commission for Climatology which will meet in Geneva Mar. 29-31. Principal subjects to be considered are current climatological activities -- particularly with respect to reference climatological stations and the preparation of regional atlases-- and future policies for WMO activities in international climatology.

MAPPERS MEET DOWN UNDER

Dr. Hellmut H. Schmid, Director of IES' Geodetic Research Laboratory, presented a paper on "A Concept for an Updated 3-Dimensional Worldwide Geodetic Reference System" at the Fifth United Nations Regional Cartographic Conference for Asia and the Far East, held in Canberra, Australia. Captain R. C. Darling, acting director of C&GS' Executive and Technical Services Staff, represented the Coast Survey at the conference.

A REMINDER...

Any building occupied by an ESSA activity should be identified so that visitors can find their way to the office. Standards for identification are prescribed in ESSA Circular 66-15, Identification of Facilities, Commissioned Corps, and Publications.

C&GS PARTY TO AID CANAL STUDY

The Special Projects Party from C&GS' West Coast Field Office will leave for Panama about April 1 to install seismic equipment and conduct field operations for seismicity studies in the Canal Zone area. The party, headed by Kenneth King, will include Dee H. Overturf, William T. Rice, and John C. West. The seismic study was requested by the Atomic Energy Commission for its investigation of the feasibility of using nuclear explosives to construct a new interoceanic canal.

CARIBBEAN HURRICANE OBSERVER DIES

D. Percival Sutherland, 50, the official weather observer for the Leeward Islands in the Caribbean for the past 28 years, died Mar. 10. Sutherland's observations, taken at St. Lucia Island, were a valuable contribution to the cooperative Caribbean hurricane warning network. He is survived by his wife, Doreen, also a Weather Bureau observer; his son, Roger, a relief observer; and several other children.

ESSA MEN ACTIVE IN SEISMOLOGY MEETING

The annual meeting of the Seismological Society of America, in conjunction with the Sixty-Third meeting of the Cordilleran Section of the Geological Society of America, was held at the University of California, Santa Barbara, on Mar. 23-24. Dr. Don Tocher, Director of the Earthquake Mechanism Laboratory, San Francisco, was in charge of arrangements as secretary of the SSA. Dr. John H. Pfluke of the Laboratory presented a paper co-authored by Michael E. Blackford, on "Observations of Microearthquakes in the San Francisco Bay Area." Robert D. Nason discussed "Recognition of Fault Cracks by the Use of Displacement Vectors." Dr. Dean S. Carder was co-chairman of the Mar. 24 sessions. Among those attending the meeting were William K. Cloud and Charles F. Knudson of the C&GS Seismological Field Survey Office, San Francisco, and Kenneth W. King, Stanley Brockman, and Richard Navarro of C&GS Special Projects Party at Las Vegas.

ITSA PHYSICIST HOME FROM ANTARCTICA

ITSA physicist John H. Taylor has returned to Boulder after a year at the Soviet research station at Vostok, Antarctica. He was responsible for the operation of all U. S. research programs at Vostok under provisions of an international Antarctic treaty which provides for the exchange of scientists between the bases of the various nations.

WB WIVES TO THE RESCUE

When a Coast Guard plane crashed at St. Paul Island, Alaska, on Feb. 8, the three nurses assisting the injured were ESSA wives. After the crash, WB personnel on the island helped to remove the men from the wreckage. Kathleen Roe, wife of Met. Tech. Robert Roe, gave emergency treatment. "Flight nurses" aboard the plane sent from Cold Bay to evacuate the wounded were Betsy Day and Jenny Usher, wives of TIC Frederick Day and Met. Tech. Ogen Usher of Cold Bay.

CO NAMED FOR HODGSON

Lieutenant Walter F. Forster II has been named as commanding officer of the hydrographic survey vessel USC&GSS HODGSON, based in Seattle. Lt. Forster joined the commissioned corps in 1963 after graduating from the State University of New York. He has served on the SURVEYOR and as executive officer of the HODGSON before his new appointment.

WHITTEN VISITS DELAWARE U.

Dr. C. A. Whitten, chief of C&GS' Geodesy and Photogrammetry Research Group, represented the American Geophysical Union as a visiting scientist at the University of Delaware Mar. 1-2. In addition to conferring with faculty and students of the geology department, he lectured on crustal movement and the use of satellites for geodesy.

KUDOS TO THE WASHINGTON RIVER OFFICE

The WB River District Office at Washington, D.C., was complimented by radio station WKYR at Cumberland, Md., for its cooperation during a recent flood threat. The program director expressed his gratitude for Leo Harrison's telephone advisories and the river stage reports provided around the clock by Keith Thomas.

AIRPORT SURVEY PARTIES ACTIVE

C&GS airport surveys are underway at Greenville (Miss.) AFB/ Municipal Airport, Fullerton (Calif.) Municipal Airport, Torrance (Calif.) Municipal Airport, Salisbury-Wicomico County (Md.) Airport, and Corbin-London (Ky.) War Memorial Airport. A survey of Rockwood (Tenn.) Municipal Airport is scheduled to begin next week.

SERVICE AWARDS

Length-of-service awards are due in April to the following employees in the WB Southern Region. 40 years - Harry Armstrong, Atlanta; Robert L. Redus, NHC Miami; and Edgar J. Saltsman, New Orleans. 30 years - Frank B. Mauk, NHC Miami, and Ernest Sherrill, Vicksburg. 25 years - Frank E. Houghton, Albuquerque; Delbert W. Robertson, Chattanooga; Sam A. Delay, Chattanooga; James F. Cornell, Corpus Christi; Barney J. Ozee, Fort Worth; John H. Thomas, Fort Worth; Wilton L. Rodgers, Huntsville; Lannes D. Anderson, Jr., Lake Charles; Harold G. Berner, Memphis; R. Larry Mayne, New Orleans; James R. Haddock, Jr., San Juan; Richard F. Mason, Tulsa; and John O. Thach, Knoxville. 20 years - Ethel B. Howard, NHC Miami; Robert C. Pritchard, Montgomery; Leon A. Brock, Picayune; and Richard E. Lettin, Tallahassee.

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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July 23, 2010