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ESSA AIDS GASBUGGY EXPERIMENTS



The Coast and Geodetic Survey and the ESSA Research Laboratories participated in the "Gasbuggy" experiment performed by the Atomic Energy Commission and a commercial firm on Dec. 10. To test the feasibility of releasing natural gas for production in a gas-bearing formation, an explosion of 26 kilotons was triggered at a depth of 4,240 feet in a rock formation 50 miles east of Farmington, N. Mex.

Coast and Geodetic Survey teams monitored 36 seismic instruments at 10 sites to gather new information on velocity distribution within the Colorado Plateau. Four groups from the Office of Seismology and Geomagnetism participated, including eight persons from the Special Projects Party, Las Vegas, Nev., headed by Kenneth W. King; Wendell

V. Mickey and two associates from the Vibration and Engineering Projects Branch, Rockville; Jesse Stepp of the Geophysics Research Group, Rockville; and staff members of the Albuquerque Seismological Center.

At Boulder, the shocks were recorded on seismometers in the Poor-man mine, northwest of the city. Preliminary study of the records indicates that this mine would be a good location for seismic recording because of the low level of background noise. In the photograph, Dr. John S. Rinehart (right) and Joseph J. Barth check the installation of seismic recording equipment in the mine.

PLANS AND PROGRAMS ORGANIZATION COMPLETED

Organizational structure, functions, and staff assignments within the Office of the Assistant Administrator for Plans and Programs have been completed. The Office was established on September 7, 1967, by Department Order 2-B, Amendment 4.

The new structure includes the Assistant Administrator's immediate office and three divisions -- Plans and Requirements, Programs, and Program Evaluation.

ESSA objectives, priorities in meeting external requirements, and long-range (3 to 10 years) plans and special studies regarding alternatives to achieve these plans are formulated by the Plans and Requirements Division. All this information is used in preparing the Program Memoranda for which the P&R Division are responsible. The Five-Year Program and Financial Plan is prepared by the Programs Division. "Technical audit" describes the work of the Program Evaluation Division, which reviews ongoing programs for consistency, balance, and compatibility with ESSA plans and policy. Information on the needs of each activity, on alternative courses of action, and on resource allocations is also prepared for the Administrator's use in making decisions on the ESSA program.

Staff assignments within the Office are:

Assistant Administrator for Plans and Programs(AS)	- Donald F. Moore
Deputy Assistant Administrator(ASx1) and Chief, User Affairs Group (AS4) Environmental Hazards Warning Information Center (AS4)	- Paul H. Kutschenreuter
Chief, Plans and Requirements Division(AS1)	- Robert W. Craig
Deputy Chief (AS1x1)	- Dr. William O. Davis
Chief, Programs Division(AS2)	- Morton J. Rubin
Deputy Chief (AS2x1)	- John W. Connolly
Chief, Program Evaluation Division(AS3)	- Tillman F. Gladney
Deputy Chief (AS3x1)	- Donald C. House
	- Lynn Means

LIEURANCE HEADS WMO COMMISSION

Newton A. Lieurance, Director of Aviation Affairs, was elected President of the Commission on Aeronautical Meteorology (CAeM) of the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) at the Final Plenary Session of the CAeM-IV held in Montreal on Dec. 9. The term of office is normally four years. The CAeM advises the WMO on technical matters related to the application of meteorology to aeronautics and the provision of meteorological services to international air navigation.

MRS. CARTWRIGHT WINS BRONZE MEDAL



Darathea H. Cartwright, administrative officer, EDS, received the Department of Commerce Bronze Medal, Dec. 13, at a retirement luncheon in her honor. Dr. Woodrow C. Jacobs, EDS Director, presented the medal to Mrs. Cartwright for more than 41 years of outstanding service as a secretary and administrative assistant in the Weather Bureau and the Environmental Data Service. She entered the Weather Bureau in

1929, and served for the past 20 years as administrative assistant to the Director of the WB's Office of Climatology and as administrative officer of EDS.

SIX ESSA OFFICIALS TO ADDRESS AAAS

Six ESSA officials will participate in the 134th annual meeting of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, to be held in New York City from Dec. 26-31. Dr. Robert M. White will speak Dec. 27 on "Ocean Exploration and Environmental Services." On Dec. 29, Walter Hahn will participate in a panel discussion, "Are Generalists Born or Educated?" and Dr. Robert H. Simpson and Dr. Joanne Simpson will present a paper titled "How Cumulus Cloud and Tropical Storms Influence the Large-Scale Air Currents and Structure of the Tropical Atmosphere." Dr. Werner A. Baum and Dr. Eugene L. Peck will speak at the Dec. 30 symposium on weather modification in arid lands. Dr. Baum's subject is "Congressional Action on Weather Modification"; Dr. Peck's paper is titled "Hydrometeorological Factors in the Evaluation of Precipitation Modification."

RADIO FREQUENCY GROUP LEAVES ESSA

ESSA's Office of Radio Frequency Management (ADRF) was abolished Dec. 3 under Department Order 14-A, and its functions and staff of six were assigned to the Commerce Office of Telecommunications created by the same order. Under the Assistant Secretary for Science and Technology, the new office will keep abreast of developments in the communications field, advise and perform studies for secretarial officers and bureau heads, represent the Department in interagency committees on telecommunications matters, and coordinate the use of radio frequencies assigned to the Department.

A HELPING HAND

Wendell V. Mickey, geophysicist and chief of C&GS' Vibration and Engineering Projects Branch, is credited with saving the lives of eight Navajo Indians, including three women, three small children, and a three-month-old infant, during the recent heavy snowfall in Arizona. The victims exhausted their fuel while running the motors to keep warm after their two-truck convoy skidded off the road. Mr. Mickey packed the eight people into his panel truck and drove them to safety during a hazardous 33-mile trip to Flagstaff, Ariz., which took four hours over snow-covered roads. Earlier, Mr. Mickey used his heavily loaded truck to pull ten vehicles, including a police cruiser, out of car-high snowdrifts.

EXPLORER TO BE DECOMMISSIONED

The USC&GSS EXPLORER is scheduled to be decommissioned early next year after 27 years of service. If sufficient interest exists, a farewell party and reunion will be held at Norfolk in late January 1968, for all persons who have served on the "Queen Dowager." All interested EXPLORER alumni should contact: Lt. K. William Kieninger, Room 918, 6010 Executive Blvd., Rockville, Md. 20852 (phone 301-496-8451); or Lt.(j.g.) Arthur D. Ross, 439 W. York Street, Norfolk, Va., 23510 (703-627-7566).

ESSA FILM GETS D.C. SHOWING

"Pathfinders from the Stars," an ESSA documentary film will be shown in full color on WETA, a Washington, D.C., area TV station, Dec. 29 at 7:30 p.m. and Dec. 30 at 4 p.m. The 45-minute film covers the history and development of the science of determining geographic positions on earth.

SERVICE AWARDS

Length-of-service awards were presented to the following ESSA Research Laboratories personnel during December: 25 years - Marvin S. Bell, Boulder, Colo. 20 years - Thomas H. Carpenter, Silver Spring, Md.; Marion W. Haurwitz and Elizabeth A. Renlund, Boulder, Colo.

NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTION—BUY U.S. SAVINGS BONDS AND FREEDOM SHARES REGULARLY

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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