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LINE ISLAND PROJECT EXAMINES EQUATORIAL WEATHER

ESSA is participating in the Line Islands tropical meteorology experiment now being conducted in the central Pacific by the National Center for Atmospheric Research. The investigation is the first of a planned series designed to gain knowledge of weather in the tropics, one of the earth's least-observed regions. Three islands -- Palmyra, Fanning, and Christmas -- were selected as ground stations for the project because they form a line intersecting the equatorial trough zone. The USC&GSS SURVEYOR is now in the area, taking part in the first phase of the experiment which began in mid-February and will continue through March. The ship's data-gathering program includes upper-air soundings (taken by three WB men on board), hourly surface observations, sky photographs, radarscope pictures, continuous sea-temperature measurements, and oceanographic measurements. The National Environmental Satellite Center is transmitting satellite pictures for comparison with those taken by the ATS cloud camera 22,300 miles above the Pacific. These observations, together with those made at the three island stations, will provide a detailed record of meteorological events during the experimental period.

SHIP ADOPTS ORPHAN

The officers and crew of the USC&GSS OCEANOGRAPHER are foster parents of a Korean orphan, Young Kil Lee, born in 1959. Arrangements were made through the International Social Service.

RFF MAN HAS FORMOSA ASSIGNMENT

Walter Gilbert, an electronic technician with the Research Flight Facility, began an assignment for the World Meteorological Organization on Feb. 18. Mr. Gilbert will serve as electronic instruments expert with a project to improve typhoon and flood warning services on Taiwan (Formosa). He will work with the Chinese meteorological staff to install equipment and train local personnel in the calibration, maintenance, and repair of radar, rainfall telemetering equipment, and other instruments.

NEW EQUATION ADDED TO FORECAST MODEL

The Weather Bureau's National Meteorological Center added the effect of latent heat to the primitive equation model on Feb. 20, to further advance its computerized weather forecasts. In tests last month, the modified model improved forecasts of vertical motion, trough movement, and the intensity of the low centers during two heavy snowstorms.

OFFICERS REASSIGNED

Cdr. John B. Watkins, Jr., is the new acting chief of the Processing Division at the Pacific Marine Center, Seattle. His previous position as commanding officer of the USC&GSS HODGSON has been filled by Lt. Walter F. Forster, formerly the ship's executive officer. Lt. (jg) William S. Richardson has been transferred from the USC&GSS PEIRCE to the WB Techniques Development Laboratory in Silver Spring.

FIVE NATIONS HAVE ESSA R&D PROJECTS

ESSA is currently sponsoring research and development projects totaling \$868,500 in India, Israel, Pakistan, Poland, and Yugoslavia. Conducted under authority of Public Law 480, these programs are paid for in local currencies held by the United States but excess to normal U. S. requirements in those countries. In addition, foreign scientific publications are being translated for ESSA with \$25,000 allocated by the National Science Foundation.

ELECTRONICS CHIEF FOR STERLING LAB

Robert C. Strickler has been named chief of the Electronics Section, Engineering Test Branch, at the WB Test and Evaluation Laboratory's Sterling (Va.) Research and Development Center. For the past six years, Mr. Strickler has been with the Federal Aviation Agency, working on air traffic control system research and development projects.

TREES MAY YIELD DATA ON PAST SOLAR ACTIVITY

Dr. J. Murray Mitchell, EDS, and Glenn W. Brier, IAS, will attend a seminar at the University of Arizona's Laboratory of Tree-Ring Research in Tucson, Mar. 15 - Apr. 14. They are among a small group of consultants invited by NASA to help design a statistical experiment to learn what information concerning historical changes of solar activity can be inferred from dendroclimatic series and from carbon-14 variations in tree wood.

EMPLOYEES ACTIVE IN ASP-ACSM CONVENTION

The annual Joint Convention of the American Society of Photogrammetry and the American Congress on Surveying and Mapping will meet in Washington Mar. 5 - 10. More than 3,000 scientists, engineers, educators, photogrammetrists, and cartographers, including some from other countries, are expected to attend.

ESSA employees active in planning and managing this year's convention include: Capt. Lawrence W. Swanson (C&GS), ACSM president; Charles Theurer (C&GS), convention advisor; Roy O. Williamson (EDS), assistant chairman, ACSM program committee; Joseph F. Dracup (C&GS), program chairman, ACSM control surveys division; Willard A. Kuncis (C&GS), assistant chairman, administration committee; and Jeter Battley (C&GS), assistant chairman for entertainment. Mrs. Swanson is an honorary hostess for the ladies' activities; Mrs. Battley is chairman for ladies hospitality.

Mr. Dracup, Mr. Theurer, and John T. Smith (C&GS) will preside at technical sessions. Steacy D. Hicks (C&GS) will serve on a panel. Papers will be presented by Carl F. Kelley, Buford K. Meade, George B. Lesley, Jr., Mary R. Oleson, Arthur A. Poling, Lt. Cdr. Melvin J. Umbach, Morton Keller, George M. Ball, David P. Beatty, and John M. McAlinden, all with C&GS. A paper prepared by Dr. Hellmut H. Schmid (IES) will be presented by Robert H. Hanson (IES).

A-PLUS FOR CANTON ISLAND

The WB staff at Canton Island in the Pacific Region made a perfect score on its rawinsonde observations in December. There were no errors at all.

SATELLITE MOSAICS RELEASED DAILY

The National Environmental Satellite Center recently began preparing daily mosaics of ESSA 4 pictures, covering the United States and Canada. The mosaics are furnished to wire services and news media in the Washington, D. C. area.

LINK TO SPEED U.S.-CANADIAN DATA EXCHANGE

United States and Canadian representatives have concluded arrangements for a high-speed weather teleprinter circuit between the two countries. Under the new system, weather information will be exchanged between the two countries at a rate 10 times faster than is possible with present equipment. Operation of the link is expected to begin in late summer.

WB DESIGNS COURSE IN HYDROLOGIC SERVICE

Sixty volunteers at WB stations are now testing a new hydrologic public service course prepared by the Office of Hydrology. The course is a program of guided self-help by correspondence and seminars, covering the fundamentals of hydrology, water resources programs and problems, and the Bureau's water-oriented service operations. Eventually, it will be available through the Regional Offices to personnel of any station which issues river forecasts or provides briefings on river conditions.

RETIREMENT LEAFLET DISTRIBUTED

"The Civil Service Retirement System," Federal Employee Facts Leaflet #3, is now being distributed to all employees subject to the Retirement Act. The leaflet contains general information. More specific information can be obtained from your personnel officer.

WEATHERMEN VOLUNTEER FOR ANTARCTIC CRUISE

Harold J. Emery, WBAS, Columbia, Mo., and Richard L. Campbell, WBAS, Alpena, Mich., have volunteered for six months' duty aboard the Antarctic research ship ELTANIN. They will collect, analyze, and disseminate meteorological data, in a research program sponsored by the National Science Foundation.

SERVICE AWARDS

Length-of-service awards are due this month to the following employees of the WB Southern Region. 35 years - Donnell H. Gould, NHC Miami, and Harold F. Murray, Orlando. 30 years - Edward F. Cook, RH Fort Worth. 25 years - Earl Banks, Albuquerque; William H. Cook, Jr., NHC Miami; Raymond C. Crooks, Oklahoma City; Percy J. Deffez, Jr., Fort Smith, Ark.; Herbert H. Hill, Miami; W. Clyde Conner, New Orleans; Earnest E. Hutcherson, West Palm Beach; George M. Kush, San Antonio; Vincent J. Valli, Tifton, Ga.; and Edmund B. Medinger, NHC Miami. 20 years - Donald M. Banks, Midland, Tex.; Miles E. McSweeney, Tallahassee; and Robert L. Smith, RH Fort Worth.

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National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

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