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DR. SIMPSON HEADS FLORIDA CUMULUS SEEDING PROJECT

ESSA and the Naval Research Laboratory are now engaged in a three-week study of cumulus clouds over southern Florida. The Florida Cumulus Seeding Project - 1968, which began May 15, is designed to gather information on cumulus clouds in both their natural and seeded states. It is a continuation of previous Project Stormfury research carried out near Puerto Rico, where it was found that seeded clouds grew several thousand feet higher than their untreated neighbors.

Dr. Joanne Simpson, chief of ERL's Experimental Meteorology Branch, explains that seeding clouds is not the total mission. "Since our project is aimed at studying cumulus clouds, a very important part of our work this month is observational. Detailed measurements of natural, unseeded clouds are very valuable."

Five aircraft are participating in the current experiments. The Research Flight Facility's B-57 is used to seed selected clouds, and detailed observations are made by an ESSA DC-6, an S2D and a Constellation from the Naval Research Laboratory, and an Air Force C-130.

The University of Miami is studying and recording the radar echoes from the clouds, and is also measuring the rainfall rate from the experimental clouds using a radar method developed at the university.



Dr. Joanne Simpson, director of the Florida Cumulus Seeding Project - 1968, observes cumulus clouds on radar aboard a Research Flight Facility aircraft.

ROLLAND NAMED OUTSTANDING JUNIOR OFFICER



Lt.(j.g.) John O. Rolland was selected as the recipient of the first ESSA Commissioned Officer Annual Career Motivation Award as part of the ESSA Commissioned Corps' 51st anniversary observance on May 23. The award will be given annually to an ESSA junior officer in recognition of outstanding contributions to career motivation.

LT.(j.g.) Rolland received the award for outstanding service and personal development while serving aboard the USC&GS Ship DAVIDSON. Other candidates nominated for the award this year were: Lt. John O. Boon, III, Lt.(j.g.) Peter L. Cook, LT.(j.g.) Phillip F. Dean, Ensign David B. Durdall, Ensign

David C. Harrison, Lt. Christopher C. Mathewson, Lt. Charles H. McClure, Lt. Cdr. Francis D. Moran, Lt.(j.g.) William S. Richardson, Ensign John D. Uetz, Lt. John P. Vandermeulen, and Lt.(j.g.) Jack L. Wallace.

NORFOLK VHF SYSTEM INAUGURATED

The WB Eastern Region's fifth VHF radio station was inaugurated May 3 at Norfolk, Va. Attending the ceremony were Silvio Simplicio, Eastern Region Director; Jack W. Mace of the Hampton Roads Maritime Association; Paul Schweitzer of the Norfolk Mayor's office, and representatives of the U.S. Navy, Coast Guard, C&GS, and the news media.

NSSL HOT ON THE PATH OF SPRING STORMS

The National Severe Storms Laboratory, Norman, Okla., is conducting its annual spring study of midwest severe thunderstorms and tornadoes, April 22 - May 30, in cooperation with FAA, NASA, Air Force, and Army groups. A Canadian T-33 jet aircraft, an Air Force C-141 and RB57-F, and a Weather Science, Inc., aircraft on contract to NSSL, are participating in the weather experiment. The Laboratory's radars, including a new Doppler unit, gather data on storms within their range. A surface network of 56 stations, covering central and southern Oklahoma, provide standard meteorological data on surface conditions beneath the storms, and some 300 volunteers throughout the state keep a weather watch for NSSL during this period. Instrumentation on a 1500-foot-high tower provides wind shear and temperature data, while rawinsonde balloons from a network of release sites observe the atmosphere around the storm. Constant-level balloons are being tested to determine how much air is going into storms at various altitudes.

DEATH CLAIM BENEFITS CLARIFIED

Upon notification of the death of one of his employees, a supervisor should, at an appropriate time, advise the next of kin to contact the proper personnel office for information about filing claims. Claims may be filed for life insurance, retirement, and unpaid salary benefits, including annual leave. The personnel office will provide the maximum assistance possible to assist the survivor in filing the claims.

Life Insurance

By law, life insurance is paid to the widow, or widower, unless another beneficiary has been designated in writing and such designation is filed in the official personnel folder. Standard Form 54 is used for this purpose. Employees who are single, widowed, or divorced should consider naming a beneficiary. The amount of insurance payable depends on whether the employee had regular insurance, or both the regular and new optional insurance, effective on or after Feb. 25, 1968. If covered, the minimum amount cannot be less than \$10,000. Furthermore, if death occurs by accidental means, both the regular insurance and optional insurance pay double indemnity. Suicide is not covered by the double indemnity provisions.

Retirement

The law specifies that the widow of a deceased employee will receive monthly payments, if the employee had at least five years' civilian service. If the employee did not have five years' service, his widow is entitled only to a lump sum refund of the amount paid into the retirement fund. There is no alternate choice in either case.

A widower can receive monthly payments only if he has been dependent upon his wife's salary because he is incapable of self-support due to a disability. As this is a rare case, most widowers receive the lump sum payment.

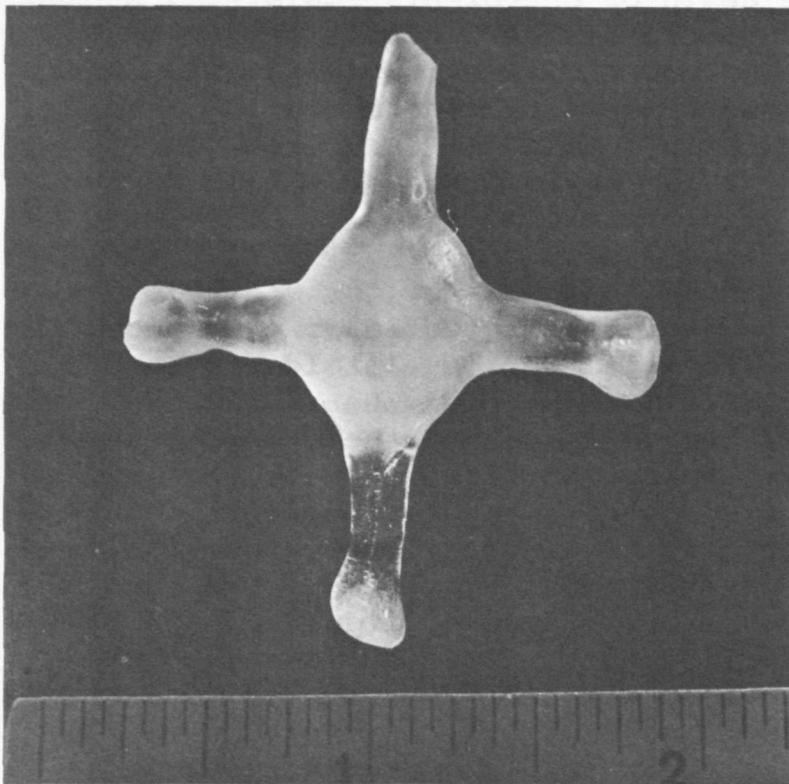
Unmarried children under 18 qualify for a monthly payment. They also qualify if under 22 and pursuing a full-time course at a recognized educational institution.

An explanation of benefits is contained in Standard Form 105, Certificate of Membership in the U.S. Civil Service Retirement System.

Salary and Leave

Salary will be paid including the last day of duty in an active pay status. For example, if death occurred one minute after midnight on a day when the employee had a regularly scheduled tour of duty, the beneficiary would receive that day's pay. Furthermore, all annual leave to an employee's credit at the time of death would be paid, even though it exceeded the ceiling established at the beginning of the leave year.

HAILSTONE PELLETS CAUSE SCIENTIFIC FUROR



A recent hailstorm at Oak Ridge, Tenn., produced spiked hailstones, "a genuine scientific curiosity," according to Dr. Frank A. Gifford, Jr., director of ESSA's Atmospheric Turbulence and Diffusion Laboratory at Oak Ridge. The hailstones' spikes numbered from two to six and were arranged more or less symmetrically on a plane. Scientists at the Oak Ridge laboratory have collected about 40 of the stones for analysis by the Ice Physics Laboratory of the National Center for At-

mospheric Research.

SERVICE AWARDS

The following WB Central Region employees are eligible to receive length-of-service awards during May: 30 years - Alfred A. Skrede, CRH; Wesley W. Griffith, NSSFC, Kansas City; and Edward O. Zeien, Rapid City, S. Dak. 25 years - Warren O. Eckert, Goodland, Kans.; Charles D. Williams, Grand Junction, Colo.; Lewis W. Porter, Jr., Joliet, Ill.; Kenneth E. Astell, Minneapolis, Minn.; and Charles J. Stephens, Rockford, Ill. 20 years - Mrs. Julia E. Merrill, NSSFC, Kansas City.

C&GS Mid-Continent Field Area awards, 30 years - Gilbert L. Burdine, Kansas City, Mo. 25 years - James L. Cook, Kansas City, Mo.

WB Eastern Region awards - 25 years - Quentin C. Snyder, Asheville, N.C. 20 years - Lawrence L. Hendrickson, Charleston, S.C.

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National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

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