



# ESSA NEWS

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## ENGINEERING LABORATORY DEDICATION SET

C&GS' new Engineering Development Laboratory in Miami, Fla., will be dedicated Aug. 29. Officials scheduled to participate in the ceremonies include: Mayor Stephen P. Clark of Miami; Mayor Charles F. Hall of Metropolitan Dade County; Edward M. MacCutcheon, the Coast Survey's Director of Systems Development; Thomas J. Hickley, Director of the Engineering Development Laboratory in Rockville, Md.; and Dr. Harris B. Stewart, Jr., Director of the Atlantic Oceanographic Laboratories in Miami. The laboratory, established in January as a branch of the Office of Systems Development at Rockville, Md., is headed by Richard R. Ross, a 25-year veteran of the Coast Survey. Projects currently under development in the laboratory are related to high-speed charting methods and buoy tracking of ocean currents using satellite navigation methods.

## ESSA 7 IN EXCELLENT ORBIT

ESSA 7 was launched by NASA from the Western Test Range at 7:25 a.m. EDT, August 16. Dr. Clifford A. Spohn, director of NESCS's Office of Operations, states that "all indications seem to point to the best orbit we've had so far." The orbit is nearly circular, with an apogee of 792 nautical miles and a perigee of 772 nautical miles. Early calculations indicate that the spacecraft's drift rate is 3.6 minutes per year. Previous satellites drifted the same amount in one month. ESSA 7's cameras were turned on three days after launch and are working well.



## HISTORIC FLIGHT MARKED

The 25th anniversary of the first aircraft flight into the eye of a hurricane was observed during the 4th Annual Hurricane Seminar held in Miami, July 26. Dr. Robert H. Simpson, Director of the National Hurricane Center, presented plaques commemorating the anniversary to Col. Robert Hairston (left), Navy and Air Force hurricane reconnaissance unit coordinator; and Howard J. Mason (center), director of ERL's Research Flight Facility.



### BROWN APPOINTED NMC DIVISION CHIEF

Dr. John A. Brown, Jr., a research meteorologist at the National Center for Atmospheric Research since 1962, will become chief of the Development Division of the Weather Bureau's National Meteorological Center on September 3. A native of Louisiana, Dr. Brown holds a bachelor's degree in chemical engineering from the University of Southwestern Louisiana, a master's in meteorology from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, and recently received his doctorate in astrogeophysics from the University of Colorado. While serving as an Air Force weather officer from 1951 to 1961, he was stationed for a time at the National Meteorological Center, and was employed there by the Weather Bureau as a research meteorologist in 1961-62.

### WB AIDS C&GS ALASKA PROJECT

Official-in-charge Ashby Craft and the staff of the Weather Bureau airport station at Nome, Alaska, gave valuable assistance to the Coast Survey's recent Norton Sound oceanographic survey. When Harold Kaufmann of the Fredericksburg Geomagnetic Center arrived at Nome in early June, the Weather Bureau staff assisted him in moving two 400-pound magnetometers to a WB building for checking. As the program continued, the Nome weathermen obtained a site for setting up the equipment, lent the station's truck, tools, and other equipment to the effort, relayed messages between the ships and the various shore sites, and provided ice cream, magazines, and other personal conveniences for the survey party. According to Rear Admiral Norman E. Taylor, Director of the Pacific Marine Center, "The assistance, cooperation, and spirit obviously displayed by Mr. Ashby Craft and the U.S. Weather Bureau station at Nome, Alaska, are greatly appreciated by this command, and are in the highest tradition of ESSA."

### IOWA RADIO STATION RECEIVES WB AWARD

Dr. George P. Cressman, Weather Bureau Director, has conferred a Public Service Award upon radio station KICD of Spencer, Iowa, for its outstanding public service during severe weather which occurred in northwest Iowa on June 13, 1968. Alerted to the potential of the severe storms in their listening area, KICD personnel broadcast Weather Bureau watches and warnings and supplemented Weather Bureau radar reports with reports from their own radar facility. From the time warnings were issued and the first tornado was reported to them, until the system of storms hit Arnolds Park thirty minutes later, KICD carried continuous coverage of warnings to people who were in the storm path.

## LAU NAMED PACIFIC "OBSERVER OF THE QUARTER"

Milton K. K. Lau, WB meteorological technician at the Kwajalein Missile Range, has been named Pacific Region "Observer of the Quarter" for the first quarter of 1968. He received a cash award of \$200 in recognition of the high quality of his technical performance. A 1957 graduate of the University of Hawaii, Mr. Lau came to the Weather Bureau in 1960.

## NEW ESSA ASSIGNMENTS ANNOUNCED

DR. WYMAN HARRISON, director of ERL's Land and Sea Interaction Laboratory, has been selected by the National Science Foundation's Office of International Science Activities to be an exchange scientist in the U.S.-India exchange program. Dr. Harrison will visit the Indian oceanographic research laboratories in the fall to observe, lecture, and organize seminars on recent advances in research on beaches and nearshore current systems. One of the aims of his one-month stay will be to develop a cooperative research program with Indian oceanographers.

LIEUTENANT COMMANDER CHARLES K. TOWNSEND has been named chief of Coast Survey's Technical Planning and Operations Branch of the Geodesy Division, succeeding Lieutenant Commander James Collins, who has been appointed scientific officer to Dr. Hellmut H. Schmid, Director of C&GS's Geodetic Research and Development Laboratory.

LEONARD E. KERRY has been assigned as chief of the Coast Survey's seismological observatory at Adak, Alaska. Mr. Kerry has served as chief of the McMinnville observatory since March 1967. Prior to that, he was assigned to the Albuquerque, New Mex., Seismological Center soon after joining the Coast Survey in 1960, and the Baker, Oreg., observatory.

ROLAND L. RAETZ has been appointed regional hydrologist at the WB's Western Region headquarters, replacing J. Van de Erve who retired in May. Mr. Raetz has had 17 years' experience in hydrology. He has served as assistant regional hydrologist at Salt Lake City and principal assistant at the Tulsa River Forecast Center.



Harrison



Townsend



Kerry



Raetz

### WHITING TO THE RESCUE

A "thank you" letter from a Seattle, Wash., attorney has brought to light the rescue of a family of four in Alaskan waters by the USC&GS Ship WHITING. Richard A. Satterberg wrote the Coast Survey's Pacific Marine Center in Seattle that the WHITING rescued his wife, two children, and himself on July 26 when their 31-foot pleasure boat struck a reef in Kekiu Strait. The boat was taking on water faster than its pumps could control when a launch and outboard boat arrived from the WHITING, anchored a few miles from the accident. The Coast Survey men took the boat in tow and, while it was being repaired, fed and entertained the family aboard ship. The WHITING is commanded by Lt. Cdr. K. William Jeffers and is conducting hydrographic survey operations in Alaskan waters.

### WALLOPS STATION HOSTS BOY SCOUTS

NESC's Command and Data Acquisition Station at Wallops Island, Va., played host to the Chincoteague Cub Scout Pack #309 on Aug. 16. Staff members conducted a tour of the station and explained its mission to the boys and their leaders.

### WASHINGTON AIRPORT SURVEYED

A C&GS field survey is now in progress at Pangborn Field, Wenatchee, Washington.

### INSURANCE CERTIFICATES ON THE WAY

An ESSA NEWS item published in Volume 4, Number 32, dated August 9, 1968, stated that a regular or optional insurance certificate should have been received by every enrollee. Since some ESSA activities did not receive the certificates, ESSA headquarters will order a sufficient quantity to assure that all enrollees will receive a certificate.

### RETIRED WEATHERMAN DIES

William E. Ingram, former meteorological technician at the Greensboro, N. C., Weather Bureau airport station, died Aug. 5. Mr. Ingram retired last April.

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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, Rockville, Md. 20852. Phone (301) 496-8243.

# **National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration**

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