



# essa news

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## DISCOVERER ON SOUTH ATLANTIC EXPEDITION



The USC&GS Ship DISCOVERER left Miami, Jan. 4, on a three-month, 20,000-mile expedition to gather information from the depths of the South Atlantic. From Miami, the expedition's course is to Tristan da Cunha in the South Atlantic to deliver personnel and equipment of a Coast Survey satellite triangulation team; to the west coast of Africa, including

Dakar (Senegal), Abidjan (Ivory Coast), and Cape Blanc (Mauretania); then back across the Atlantic to Cape Hatteras and return to Miami. Under the direction of Dr. Robert S. Dietz, chief scientist during the west African portion of the trip, the DISCOVERER will search for evidence that Africa might once have been connected to North America as part of an ancient supercontinent. The DISCOVERER, which is commanded by Captain Lorne Taylor, will also conduct extensive geophysical surveys during her trip along the South American coast and in the South Atlantic.

## BIRD OWNER PRAISES WICHITA FORECASTERS

When Samantha, a pigeon, was selected for the American Racing Pigeon Union's Hall of Fame, owner William A. Bonwell, Jr., gave some of the credit to the Wichita Weather Bureau Airport Station. In a letter of appreciation, Bonwell cited the Bureau's forecasting work for Samantha's success in a race, where she flew a record 685 miles in one day, averaging 49 miles an hour.

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### **RADAR REMOTING SYSTEM PROGRESSES**

The Radar-Telephone Transmission System, which carries signals from a primary radar set to receivers as far as 500 miles away, has proved practical after extensive testing by the Weather Bureau. Field installations were started in 1967, and as many as 30 WB stations are scheduled to have remoted displays from nearby radar sets by 1970.

Television station KVVV-TV in Houston, Tex., will be the first media outlet for the Weather Bureau's Radar-Telephone Transmission System. The station plans to purchase a receiver linked to the Bureau's WSR-57 weather radar in Galveston. If a hurricane approached the Texas coast, the television station would be able to show its viewers the storm's movement and extent by pictures received directly from the Bureau's Galveston radar. The Weather Bureau airport stations in Houston and Port Arthur and the Weather Bureau office in Houston are also connected to the Galveston radar by the remoting system.

### **STRAUB TO ATTEND LASER CONFERENCE**

Dr. Harald W. Straub of C&GS' Engineering Division has been invited to serve as a panel member at the University of Cincinnati Medical Center's conference on laser safety to be held Jan. 29-31. Sponsors of the Nation's first non-military conference on laser safety are UC's Department of Environmental Health, Laser Laboratory at Children's Hospital Research Foundation, and U.S. Public Health Service's National Center for Urban and Industrial Health.

### **PALMER-HAVENS DIAGRAM ADAPTATION PLANNED**

Wayne Palmer of EDS' Laboratory for Environmental Data Research and Prof. A. V. Havens of Rutgers University have been asked by the Soil Conservation Service of the U.S. Department of Agriculture to assist in the modification and enlargement of the Palmer-Havens Diagram for Computing Evapotranspiration, in order to allow its experimental use in geographical areas ranging from the Arctic to the hot desert regions of both hemispheres. Since 1960, the Soil Conservation Service has been using calculations based on this diagram for soil classification and interpretation in the western U.S. and hopes to adapt the system for use in the East, and in other countries as well.

### **TRAVIS WINS COMMUNITY AWARD**

Allen Travis, acting chief, Newport Geophysical Observatory, recently received a Distinguished Service Award for Community Service from the Newport, Wash., Jaycee Organization.

### OLSEN TO HEAD KOROR STATION



Gordon E. Olsen, meteorological technician, has been appointed Official-in-Charge of the Weather Bureau office at Koror, Pacific Trust Territory. Mr. Olsen joined the Weather Bureau in 1960 at Amarillo, Tex. He reported to Marcus Island in 1966, and was assigned to the Pacific Region headquarters a year later, where he served in temporary assignments at Johnston Island, Majuro, and Yap until his present appointment as OIC. The weather station at Koror was established in July 1951, making it the second oldest Weather Bureau office in Micronesia.

### TAPS TO SOUND FOR EXPLORER

The USC&GSS EXPLORER officially goes into retirement today after more than 28 years of service in peace and war. For the first time in the history of the Coast Survey, taps will sound at the decommissioning of one of its vessels. Among those planning to attend today's ceremony at the Atlantic Marine Center in Norfolk are: her former commanding officers, Vice Adm. H. Arnold Karo (ret.), former Coast Survey director and former deputy administrator of ESSA; Rear Adm. John C. Bull, director of the Atlantic Marine Center; Capt. Edmund L. Jones (ret.); Cdr. Jack E. Guth; and Cdr. Pentti Stark; and Cdr. Clinton D. Upham, her present commanding officer. Others planning to attend are: Rear Adm. Don A. Jones, ESSA Associate Administrator; Rear Adm. James C. Tison, Coast Survey Director; and about 60 officers and men who have served aboard the EXPLORER in the past.

### LIEURANCE IS AIAA PANEL MEMBER

Newton A. Lieurance, Director, Aviation Affairs, attended the three-day 6th Aerospace Sciences Meeting of the American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics in New York, Jan. 22-24. Mr. Lieurance was invited as a panel member to consider the question: How Serious Are the Atmospheric Problems of the Supersonic Transport?

### POLE LEADER QUALIFIES FOR MED. SCHOOL

Richard B. Weininger of ESSA Research Laboratories, and the 1966-67 scientific station leader at the South Pole, has been accepted as a medical student by the College of Physicians and Surgeons, Columbia University, for the spring semester. When not conducting research for ESSA and coordinating the activities of the other scientific staff, Weininger studied for his medical college aptitude tests and sat for the exams at the Pole in November.

## YOUR FEDERAL LIFE INSURANCE

Changes in the Federal Employees' Group Life Insurance program, authorized by the Postal Revenue and Federal Salary Act of 1967, are of immediate concern to all permanent full-time ESSA civilian employees. These changes include:

- (1) A revised regular insurance schedule
- (2) A new optional insurance program, and
- (3) Automatic cancellation of previously filed Waivers of Life Insurance Coverage (SF-53).

### REVISED REGULAR INSURANCE

The new law provides life insurance (and, of course, an equal amount of accidental death and dismemberment insurance) equal to the employee's annual salary--rounded to the next higher \$1,000--plus \$2,000 with a minimum of \$10,000 and a maximum of \$32,000. In other words, if your annual salary is \$8,000 or less, you would have \$10,000 regular insurance. If your annual salary is more than \$8,000, you would have regular insurance equal to your annual salary rounded to the next higher \$1,000, plus \$2,000.

You have had this higher amount of insurance since Dec. 16, 1967, and it will continue through Feb. 24, 1968, at no cost to you. On Feb. 25, you will start paying at a bi-weekly rate of \$.27½ (instead of \$.25) for each \$1,000 of regular insurance you have.

### NEW OPTIONAL INSURANCE

Each employee who has the regular insurance is eligible for the new \$10,000 worth of optional insurance. Insofar as the type of insurance is concerned, this optional insurance is identical to the regular insurance. It is available only in the one amount (\$10,000)--you cannot buy more or less.

The entire cost of this optional insurance must be paid by you. Biweekly payments through payroll deductions will be: \$3.00 while you are under 35 years of age; \$6.00 while you are 35-54; \$20.00 when you reach 55 (and until you are both 65 and retired). If you elect to take this insurance, you will start paying the appropriate rate on Feb. 25, 1968, or during the following 60-day period when you make your decision. Like the increased regular insurance, this optional insurance has been in effect since Dec. 16, 1967, for all employees who had the regular insurance on that date, and will continue through Feb. 24, 1968, at no cost to you. All employees must make a decision no later than Apr. 14, 1968, whether they want to buy the \$10,000 optional insurance.

### AUTOMATIC CANCELLATION OF WAIVERS

All "Waivers of Life Insurance Coverage" (Forms SF-53) on file are automatically cancelled as of Feb. 25, 1968. Payroll deductions

will begin for regular insurance on that date for all employees who have not filed a new waiver by checking box C of the new form SF-176-T. Therefore, an urgent order of business for employees who do not desire coverage under the FEGLI Program should be to complete SF-176-T and submit it to their personnel office at the earliest possible time. These new forms are being distributed; however, if you should not receive one in time, you should by memorandum advise your personnel office before Feb. 25, 1968, of your desire not to have insurance coverage.

The new form (SF-176-T) is a multiple use form--i.e. to indicate election, declination, or waiver of life insurance coverage. Every employee should submit two copies of this form to his personnel office as soon as possible, but no later than Apr. 14, 1968. Please note that if you intend to waive all insurance coverage, your notification to this effect should reach your personnel office before Feb. 25, 1968.

#### S. AFRICA TO AID TRIANGULATION PROGRAM

Lawrence W. Swanson, C&GS Project Manager of the Worldwide Geometric Satellite Program, and a NASA representative recently visited Johannesburg, South Africa, to make arrangements for the installation and operation of a camera system. Under an agreement by the South African Council for Scientific and Industrial Research and NASA, C&GS will provide all equipment and technical direction for the camera system. The South African Council will perform all the work necessary to install and operate the camera for a period of two years under reimbursable agreement by the U.S. Government.

#### FOWLER DOES IT AGAIN!



Frederick A. Fowler, chief of the Presswork Branch of the C&GS Office of Aeronautical Charting and Cartography's Reproduction Division, has won the Horace Hart Award of the Education Council of the Graphic Arts Industry. The award is presented annually to a government employee "for distinguished service in the field of printing and publishing." Mr.

Fowler recently received the 1967 "Man of the Year" award from the Graphic Arts Association of Metropolitan Washington. (Shown left to right are Horace Hart, Mrs. Fowler, Mr. Fowler, and James L. Harrison, The Public Printer, head of the Government Printing Office.

## SURVEYOR HOLDS AWARDS CEREMONY



On Jan. 3, all hands aboard the USC&GSS SURVEYOR attended an awards ceremony honoring several of their crewmates. Commander Harley D. Nygren, commanding officer, presented chief engineer Moroni G. Metcalf and chief steward Jose T. Lizama with 25 and 15 year service awards. Chief quartermaster Richard C. Reynolds and temporary ordinary seaman Robert A. Churchill, who was unable to attend the ceremony, also received awards for sustained superior service while filling higher posts.

(Shown left to right are Chief Reynolds, Chief Lizama, and Chief Metcalf.)

## ERH MEN HOLD N.Y. ACADEMY POSTS

Two WB Eastern Region officials have been named to New York Academy of Science posts. Norman L. Canfield, Regional Climatologist, was selected as Chairman and Gerald L. Shak, User Services Representative as Vice-Chairman of the Academy's Section of Planetary Sciences. Mr. Canfield has also recently been selected Chairman of the NE-35 Climatology Technical Committee, an agricultural climatic project of the Northeast Association of Agricultural Experimental Stations.

## AIRPORT SURVEYS UNDERWAY

C&GS airport surveys are now in progress at Bates Field, Mobile, Ala., and Savannah Municipal, Travis Field, Savannah, Ga.

## SOUTH JOINS NORTH ON SKI SLOPES

It's not only the Yankees who like snow! Ski reports from the Blue Ridge Mountains of North Carolina and Tennessee which are collected at Asheville are now being relayed via ESSA Weather Wire to South Carolina and then to Georgia, Alabama, Tennessee, and Kentucky.

## SALARY ACT RESTRICTS EMPLOYMENT OF RELATIVES

The Federal Salary Act of 1967, approved Dec. 16, 1967, contains sweeping restrictions on the employment of relatives by agency officials. These restrictions took effect on the date of enactment of the law. In general, and with only rare exceptions, the Act provides that:

(a) A public official may not appoint, employ, promote, advance or advocate for appointment, employment, promotion, or advancement, in or to a civilian position in the agency in which he is

serving or over which he exercises jurisdiction or control, any individual who is a relative of the public official.

(b) An individual may not be appointed, employed, promoted, or advanced in or to a civilian position in an agency if such appointment, employment, promotion or advancement has been advocated by a public official, serving in or exercising jurisdiction on or control over the agency, who is a relative of the individual.

(c) An individual appointed, employed, promoted, or advanced in violation of the foregoing prohibitions is not entitled to pay, and money may not be paid from the Treasury as pay to an individual so appointed, promoted, or advanced.

A "public official" as defined in the law means an officer (including the President and a Member of Congress), a member of the uniformed service, an employee and any other individuals, in whom is vested the authority by law, rule, or regulation, or to whom the authority has been delegated to appoint, employ, promote, or advance individuals, or to recommend individuals for appointment, employment, promotion, advancement, in connection with employment in an agency.

A "relative" as defined in the law is an individual who is related to the public official as father, mother, son, daughter, brother, sister, uncle, aunt, first cousin, nephew, niece, husband, wife, father-in-law, mother-in-law, son-in-law, daughter-in-law, brother-in-law, sister-in-law, stepfather, stepmother, stepson, stepdaughter, stepsister, half brother, or half sister.

In view of the seriousness of the sanction required by law - denial of pay to the employee and a requirement to refund any pay unlawfully received - it is important that determination in connection with each appointment, employment, promotion, or advancement action be made. The following statement, properly initialed and dated, must appear on all Form 52's, Request for Personnel Action: "Action is not prohibited by 5 U.S.C. 3110."

The new requirements are separate from, and in addition to, the Department's policy on nepotism set forth in Section 4.10 of Administrative Order 203-300. Briefly, this provides that in employment, preference will be given to applicants who are not relatives of Department employees and that if relatives are hired, they should not be placed in positions where they could influence or be influenced by a relative.

### 19TH CENTURY SURVEY MAP FOUND

Alfred V. C. Meyer of the C&GS Seismology Division, has discovered a Coast Survey map dated 1864. Titled "Map of Eastern Virginia Compiled in the Office of the U.S. Coast Survey," it includes West Virginia in Virginia, indicating that the map was prepared prior to 1863 when West Virginia became a state. Within the hard cover is written, "Alfred A. Van Cleve, Capt., Co. C., 20th Michigan Inf." Van Cleve, Meyer's grandfather, was a Union Army Officer.

### SERVICE AWARDS

The following WB Eastern Region employees are eligible for length-of-service awards during January. 30 years - Lyman H. Pope, Cape Hatteras, N.C. 25 years - Rosslyn Ebenholtz, ERH; John A. Meyer, ERH; Newton C. Greenwood, Binghamton, N.Y.; James W. McNeal, Charlotte, N.C.; John Godovchik, Jr., Pittsburgh, Pa.; and Donald R. Hawks, Rochester, N.Y. 20 years - Arthur C. Carlsson, Jr., Cincinnati.

WB Western Region employees eligible for awards this month are: 40 years - Harry N. Weirauch, WRH; and Harry Bahr, Fresno, Calif. 25 years - A. L. Zimmerman, and Harry Elser, WRH; and Mary Bates, Portland, Oreg. 20 years - Garland Byrum, Pomona, Calif.; and Louise S. Welch, WRH.

Length-of-service awards were recently presented to Henry J. Derryberry, WBO Yap; and Roy R. Sodetani, WBAS Hilo for 20 years of government service.

### TWO COAST SURVEY EMPLOYEES DIE

Mrs. C. Lenore Wells, C&GS Distribution, died Jan. 22. Mrs. Wells was the wife of Fred E. Wells of the Weather Bureau Emergency Warnings Branch.

Rubin V. Poss, Jr., of C&GS' Enroute Section, Aeronautical Chart Division, died Jan. 3. Mr. Poss had been an employee of C&GS since 1963.



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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