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WB TEAM KILLED IN ALASKAN PLANE CRASH

Sam W. Skeels and his wife, Rosella--a team of Weather Bureau meteorological technicians--were among the 39 persons who died when a twin-engine propjet airliner crashed into a frozen lake in southwest Alaska near Iliamna on Monday, Dec. 2. Mr. and Mrs. Skeels were enroute to Iliamna to manage the surface observation station, operated jointly by the Weather Bureau and the Federal Aviation Administration. Mr. Skeels entered the Bureau in 1958 at Fairbanks, Alaska, where he served until 1965. He returned to the Fairbanks weather office in 1967. Mrs. Skeels, a former employee of the Arctic Health Program of the U.S. Public Health Service at College, Alaska, transferred to the Weather Bureau on Dec. 1--the day before the tragedy.

POWELL TO DIRECT ATLANTIC MARINE CENTER



Captain Allen L. Powell, chief of the Coast Survey's headquarters Ship Construction Group, has been appointed Director of the Coast Survey's Atlantic Marine Center in Norfolk, Va., succeeding the late Rear Admiral John C. Bull. He also will serve as East Coast Field Director with jurisdiction over the eastern seaboard, including a ship's base in Miami and field offices in Norfolk, New York, and Boston. He will be promoted to the rank of Rear Admiral when he assumes his new posts on January 2, 1969. Capt. Powell is a 1938 graduate of the University of Texas with a degree in engineering. He joined the Coast Survey in 1942 and served during World War II as a regimental survey officer in the 4th Marine Division. Capt. Powell received the Department of Commerce Gold Medal last month--the highest honor conferred by the Department--for exceptional performance in his work.

HEALTH PLAN PREMIUMS INCREASE IN JANUARY

Health plans participating in the Federal Employees Health Benefits Program will increase premium rates effective January 1969, as follows:

Plan	Option	Type of Enrollment	Biweekly Cost to Employees Present	January 1969
Governmentwide Service Benefit Plan	High	Self Only	\$ 3.89	\$ 4.98
	High	Self & Family	9.50	12.16
	Low	Self Only	1.68	1.76
	Low	Self & Family	4.10	4.24
Governmentwide Indemnity Benefit Plan	High	Self Only	3.72	5.34
	High	Self & Family	9.30	13.31
	Low	Self Only	1.46	2.11
	Low	Self & Family	3.50	4.99

Other plans with premium increases:

American Federation of Government Employees; National Alliance of Postal and Federal Employees, Canal Zone; Government Employees Benefit Association; National Postal Union; United Federation of Postal Clerks; Community Health Foundation, Cleveland, Ohio; Group Health Association, Washington, D. C.; Group Health, St. Paul, Minnesota; Group Health Cooperative Plan of Puget Sound, Seattle, Washington; Health Insurance Plan of Greater New York; Kaiser Foundation Health Plan (Hawaii Region, Northern California Region, Southern California Region, and Oregon Region); Medical Service Bureau Plan, North Idaho District; Seguros de Salud de Puerto Rico; Western Clinic Plan, Tacoma, Washington.

The next "open" season will be Nov. 10-28, 1969.

All enrolled employees will receive a pamphlet, BRI 41-117, entitled "Information About Plan Changes Effective January 1969," which will explain the changes in plans. These will be distributed before January 12.

TEST TIME EXTENDED FOR FSEE APPLICANTS

The Civil Service Commission has announced that the Federal Service Entrance Examination (FSEE) is now open on a continuous basis. The written test will be given every month of the year, except during August, September, and December. FSEE eligibles enter specializations at grades GS-5 through GS-9 in the fields of administration, management, and personnel. Successful FSEE eligibles can also apply for Management Internships. Since 1955, this examination has served as the major channel through which college graduates could enter management and administrative fields in the Federal service. Announcements describing the FSEE and forms necessary for applying are available from your personnel office or from any Civil Service information office.

CAPTAIN SOBIERALSKI RETIRES



Captain V. Ralph Sobieralski, Acting Associate Director of the Coast Survey for Geodesy and Photogrammetry since Sept. 1, retired Nov. 30 after 34 years of service with the Federal government. During his career with the Coast Survey, which began in 1941, he served with geodetic field parties and on 10 Coast Survey vessels. His other assignments have included commanding officer of the USC&GS Ships SURVEYOR and HYDROGRAPHER; chief of the Portland, Oreg., Photogrammetric Office, the Tampa, Fla., District Office, and the headquarters Photogram-

metric Division. Capt. Sobieralski received a civil engineering degree from Syracuse University in 1931 and was a civil service employee for seven years before being appointed in the commissioned corps. He is a member of a number of professional and fraternal societies, including the American Society of Civil Engineers and the Society of American Military Engineers.

EIGHTH ESSA SPACECRAFT LAUNCHING SET

The eighth of the TIROS Operational Satellite (TOS) System spacecraft will be launched from the Western Test Range on or about Dec. 12. The spacecraft is equipped with Automatic Picture Transmission (APT) cameras and will, if the launch is successful, become the primary APT spacecraft for the system.

NAMIAS ADDRESSES WATER RESOURCES GROUP

Jerome Namias, chief of NMC's Extended Forecast Division, presented an invited paper before the American Water Resources Association during its Nov. 18-22 meeting in New York. His subject was on the meteorological nature and causes of the 1962-66 Northeast drought and its termination.

COLE NAMED BOMEX DEPUTY MANAGER



Captain Howard S. Cole, Acting Director of the Coast Survey's Atlantic Marine Center in Norfolk, Va., is being named Deputy Project Manager for BOMEX (Barbados Oceanographic and Meteorological Experiment). Capt. Cole will be recalled to active duty from his scheduled January 1 retirement to handle the assignment. The BOMEX project is planned for May, June, and July 1969 in the Atlantic Ocean east of Barbados island in the West Indies.

AFGE REPRESENTS RAPID CITY EMPLOYEES



Roy L. Fox, Director, WB Central Region, signed a Labor-Management Agreement with Lodge 2342, American Federal of Government Employees, on Nov. 13. Lodge 2342 has exclusive recognition rights for a unit comprised of employees assigned to the Rapid City, N. Dak., Weather Bureau of-

office. Pictured left to right: F. H. McNally, MIC, WBO Rapid City; R. M. Lumpkin, Chief, Personnel, Central Region; Roy L. Fox, Director, Central Region; Wesley Printz, President, AFGE Lodge 2342; and Arnold Deutscher, Vice-President, AFGE Lodge 2342.

MAISH ASSIGNED TO SOVIET ANTARCTIC STATION

F. Michael Maish, ERL physicist, has been named U.S. exchange scientist serving at the Soviet Antarctic Base, Vostok, during 1969. Mr. Maish, a 1965 electrical engineering graduate of Purdue University, was an ESSA scientist at Byrd Station, Antarctica, during 1966-67. While assigned in the Antarctic, he will work with Soviet scientists and conduct ESSA's riometer program, measuring pulsations of high-frequency radio waves caused by electromagnetic disturbances in the ionosphere. Mr. Maish will also conduct an earth currents program for the University of Alaska, and a radio "forward scatter" program for Bartol Research Foundation.

SERVICE AWARDS

Employees in EDS' National Weather Records Center, Asheville, N. C., eligible for length-of-service awards during the fourth quarter of 1968 are: 30 years - Harold L. Crutcher, Don K. Halligan, and David H. Stancil. 25 years - Keith D. Butson, Clarence V. DeWeese, John J. Linnane, Marjorie M. Freeman, and Fred E. Sluder. 20 years - Rachel W. Babb and Georgia S. Johnson.

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National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

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