

## NMC WEATHER SENSOR IS A-OK ON NIMBUS III



James Lienesch (left) and Stanley Soules examine early data received from SIRS.

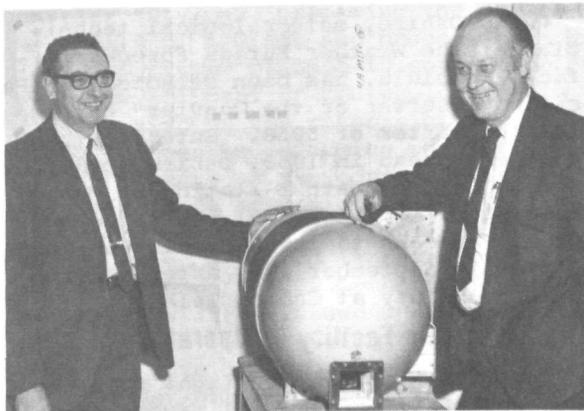
Among the experiments aboard Nimbus III--the NASA research and development weather spacecraft launched April 14--is the Satellite Infrared Spectrometer (SIRS) developed by the National Environmental Satellite Center. An identical instrument was on the Nimbus spacecraft which was destroyed during launch in May 1968. SIRS has been under development for a decade, and Chief Experimenter David Q. Wark and Co-Experimenter Don T. Hilleary have been with the project throughout that time.

The 91-pound weather sensor provides a temperature profile of the atmosphere from the earth's surface, or cloud tops, to an altitude of about 15 miles. It measures infrared energies in seven wave-

lengths in the 15 micron carbon dioxide absorption band, and from these measurements the vertical distribution of temperature in the atmosphere can be computed. An eighth measurement yields the cloud top temperature or the surface temperature in the absence of clouds.

Dr. Wark reports that the instrument is working perfectly. Upper-air stations between the Rockies and the Appalachians have been asked to make special observations timed to coincide with the passage of Nimbus III overhead, for comparison and verification of the SIRS readings.

Nimbus III also carries the High Resolution Infrared Radiometer system which takes photographs of the earth in darkness. These pictures can be read out by Automatic Picture Transmission ground stations. A single Image Dissector Camera provides both global and local read-out of cloud cover pictures. Previous weather satellites used separate cameras for stored and APT photographic capability.



Don Hilleary (left) and David Wark were all smiles as data began coming in from SIRS. Between them is a duplicate of the instrument now flying on Nimbus III.

## AGU Scientists Convene in Washington

The American Geophysical Union's Golden Anniversary Meeting will be held Apr. 21-25 in Washington, D. C. Among the many papers to be presented by ESSA scientists are a number of topics of current interest, such as floods, earthquakes, long-range weather prediction, weather and the supersonic transport, the Barbados Oceanographic and Meteorological Experiment, continental drift, and urban precipitation patterns. On Wednesday morning, April 23, Dr. Robert M. White, ESSA Administrator, will chair and moderate a Panel on Atmospheric Predictability. Panel participants will be Dr. Edward N. Lorenz, Dept. of Meteorology, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Cambridge, Mass.; Dr. G. D. Robinson, Travelers Research Corp., Hartford, Conn.; Dr. Edwin Kessler, NSSL, Norman, Okla.; Dr. Frederick G. Shuman, NMC, Suitland, Md.; Dr. Joseph Smagorinsky, GFDL, Princeton, N. J.; and Jerome Namias, NMC, who is presently on leave as visiting scientist at Scripps Institution of Oceanography, La Jolla, Calif.

## Crop Moisture Index Maps Updated

Beginning with the April 14 issue, the temperature and precipitation data used to construct the Crop Moisture Index Maps published in the Weekly Weather and Crop Bulletin was collected by teletype and processed by computers. This procedure eliminated the week's lag and produced a more current and useful map.

## Oshiro Named 'Observer of the Quarter'

Fujio Oshiro, meteorological technician at the Weather Bureau Forecast Office, Honolulu, has been selected the Pacific "Observer of the Quarter" for the fourth quarter of 1968. Entering the Weather Bureau in 1958, Oshiro spent six months at the weather station at Majuro helping with the special observing program. He came to the Honolulu Forecast Office in September 1959 after serving a tour of duty at Canton Island.

## Ga. Upper-Air Facility Is Operational

The first radiosonde flight from the new upper-air facility at Waycross, Ga., was made on April 15, marking the beginning of operations from a site which will soon be a combined upper-air and WSR-57 radar installation. Upper-air observations from Waycross replace those formerly made at Jacksonville, Fla.

## Earthquake Anniversary Commemorated

Dr. Don Tocher, Director of the Earthquake Mechanism Laboratory, San Francisco, Calif., was invited by San Francisco Mayor Joseph L. Alioto to share the speaker's platform during the Earthquake Anniversary Commemoration held today. The "Earthquake Party" got underway at 5 a.m. this morning to memorialize the 63rd anniversary of the 1906 earthquake.

## Coast Survey Vault Relocated



The Coast Survey's Repository, sometimes referred to as The Vault, has terminated its operations at the main Commerce Building after 37 years at that location and moved to Room 4415, Bldg. 11, 4200 Connecticut Ave., N.W., Washington, D. C. Established in 1932, The Vault outgrew its facilities in the Commerce Building, primarily because of increased data acquisition. More than 23,000 original hydrographic and topographic surveys and related documents dating back to 1934 are stored there. Thousands of requests are processed daily. The Vault is a unit of the Marine Information Branch of the Office of Hydrography and Oceanography. Above, Vault Supervisor Benjamin Johnson closes The Vault for the last time as Strother S. Brown removes the oldest survey dated 1934. Earl W. Rayfield, chief, Marine Information Branch looks on.

## Airport Surveys

C&GS airport field parties are currently conducting field surveys at Elko (Nev.) Municipal Airport, and at Love Field, Dallas, Tex.

## Marine Center Selects Junior Fellows

The Coast Survey's Atlantic Marine Center, Norfolk, Va., has selected two outstanding high school students--William F. Bland from I. C. Norcom High School, Portsmouth, Va., and Jerry W. Hinton from Norview High School, Norfolk, Va.--for appointments as Department of Commerce Junior Fellows. Nominations for the program were made in March by various high school officials in the Norfolk-Portsmouth area. All nominees were interviewed by a panel and their guidance counselors were consulted before final selection was made.

Mr. Hinton is a member of the National Honor Society and has been accepted for enrollment by the University of Virginia to study engineering.

Mr. Bland is also a member of the National Honor Society and a National Achievement Scholarship winner. He intends to study engineering and has been accepted for admittance to Northwestern University where he has been offered a scholarship, the University of Pennsylvania, and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

Both of these young men recently underwent a three-day orientation at the Center and, following graduation in June, will report for work to gain experience and training in cartography.



Standing are, left to right: T. F. Farrelly, Personnel Officer, AMC; William F. Bland, Jerry W. Hinton, and Rear Admiral Powell, Director, AMC.

## Nixon To Head USESSA Training Section



Lt. Cdr. Charles H. Nixon has been appointed Officer in Charge of the Officer Training Section at the Atlantic Marine Center, Norfolk, Va., with responsibility for conducting and supervising the two-month training classes for officers selected for the

ESSA Commissioned Corps. Lt. Cdr. Nixon joined the Coast Survey in 1959, following graduation from the University of Massachusetts. His assignments since then have included service aboard ESSA vessels and with photogrammetric and geodetic field parties. Lt. Cdr. Nixon succeeds Lt. Joseph W. Dropp, who has been named operations officer for the USC&GS Ship PATHFINDER.

## BOB Rules on Household Goods Shipments

The Bureau of the Budget has ruled that household goods and personal effects for civilian employees under the jurisdiction of ESSA will generally be shipped under the commuted rate method except in those individual cases where an actual expense will be more economical to the Government. Under the actual expense method, the ESSA Headquarters Traffic Management Office, regional offices and field offices will be responsible for selecting the carrier, arranging for carrier services, preparing the Government Bill of Lading, and processing any loss and damage claimed in connection with the shipment of household effects. It will also be the responsibility of these offices to determine whether the actual expense or the commuted rate system is more economical for each permanent change of station. If the actual expense method is determined to be more economical, a Government Bill of Lading will be issued upon receipt of a copy of the travel order. If the commuted rate is to be used, the employee will personally arrange for shipment of the effects.

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## Miller Operates Texas Warning System



Tom Henry Miller (above) operates the community weather warning system at Claude, Texas, although he has been crippled with arthritis since childhood and bedridden since he was 14 years old. In the event of severe weather, the Weather Bureau at Amarillo calls Mr. Miller, who, at the touch of a button near his bedside, can set the town's civil defense siren wailing. Mr. Miller also acts as a sort of dispatcher for the fire and police agencies, and may serve as an emergency answering service for the county medical center or the sheriff's office.

### Service Awards

WB Western Region employees eligible to receive length-of-service awards during April are: 40 years - Leo A. Sergius, Los Angeles. 35 years - Everett Bingham, WRH. 30 years - James K. Ohlischlager, Las Vegas, Nev.; and Chester L. Glenn, WRH. 25 years - Gemo Yakubovsky, Los Angeles; John P. Burns, Eureka, Calif.; and Marvin G. Kuykendall, Portland, Oreg. 20 years - Cameron G. Mielke, Great Falls, Mont.; and Herbert G. Kraencke, San Francisco.

### NESC Director Visits Geneva

David S. Johnson, NESC Director, visited the World Meteorological Organization in Geneva, Switzerland, during the week of March 31 - April 4, for consultations on the Global Atmospheric Research Program (GARP).

## Commerce Amends Leave Notice

An explanation of the application of pay and leave regulations to the early dismissal March 28 and the closing of offices March 31 in honor of President Eisenhower was issued to all ESSA elements by notice dated April 4. Subject to new instructions just received from the Department of Commerce, item 1 of that notice should be amended to add "any employee who was on duty at 12:25 p.m. (EST) on March 28, but who between that time and the time at which his office received official notice that afternoon of the early dismissal, requested and was granted annual or sick leave, should have his status for the remainder of his tour of duty that day changed to administrative leave."

### McLean Holds Oceanographic Society Post

Max McLean, Special Assistant for Oceanography in the Coast Survey's Office of Hydrography and Oceanography, was recently elected a trustee and vice president of the Oceanographic Society. The Oceanographic Society is an incorporated non-profit organization devoted to advancing the marine sciences for human betterment.

### Farm Bureau Receives Public Service Award

The color film "Whatever the Weather" --one in a series of farm television films accenting some phase of agriculture--has earned the Michigan Farm Bureau a U. S. Dept. of Commerce Public Service Award. Ceel Van Den Brink, Advisory Agricultural Meteorologist for western lower Michigan, recently presented the award to Dan E. Reed, secretary-manager of the Michigan Farm Bureau, and Melvin L. Woell, Division Manager. The award cited the Michigan Farm Bureau for its significant contribution toward public understanding of the weather effects on agriculture by producing the color film featuring weather and farming.

### Coast Survey Employee Dies

William T. Austin, employed in the Coast Survey's Technical and General Services Division, died Apr. 13. Mr. Austin had worked for C&GS for more than 25 years.

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Items to be considered for ESSA NEWS must be received by Monday 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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