

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
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Volume 5

Number 18

## Officials Tour Midwest Flood Disaster Area



Left to right: Mr. Hiatt, Mr. Joern, Dr. Tribus, and Dr. White. (Rock Island Argus, Rock Island, Ill.)

Dr. Myron Tribus, Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Science and Technology; Dr. Robert M. White, ESSA Administrator; William E. Hiatt, WB Associate Director, Hydrology; Verne Alexander, Central Region Climatologist; Ray Johnson, Hydrologist in Charge, RFC, Kansas City; William A. Joern, MIC, Moline, Ill.; and Joseph H. Strub, Jr., MIC, Minneapolis, Minn., flew over the flooded Minnesota River, the Red River of the North, and the Mississippi River on Apr. 20, for a first-hand aerial view of the flood situation,

and also to assess the response to the Weather Bureau's early flood forecasts for the area. In press conferences held during the tour, the officials said that record snowfalls in December and January, rather than in February and March, had helped to make the early forecasts possible this year, and had aided the Corps of Engineers and communities to prepare better defenses than in previous years. They added that better computers and data from a larger area also had aided in making accurate, early flood forecasts.

### 3000 Respond to Questionnaire

Response to the Merit Promotion Questionnaire published in the April 11 ESSA NEWS has been exceptional. Approximately 3,000 questionnaires have been received to date, and they are still coming in. The Personnel Division will review and tabulate the data.

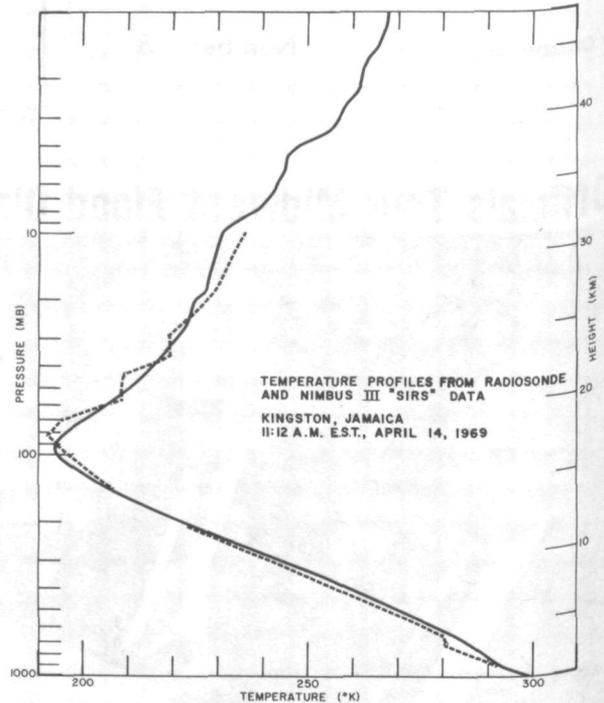
### Powell Is BOMEX Liaison Officer

Valti W. Powell, program analysis officer in ESSA's Management Systems Division, has been designated to serve as "Headquarters Liaison Officer" for the BOMEX Project while the Project Office personnel are in the field. Mr. Powell will be located in the BOMEX Project Office.

## SIRS Is Major Meteorological Breakthrough

SIRS -- the Satellite Infra-Red Spectrometer on Nimbus III-- was hailed by NASA and ESSA officials last week as a major breakthrough. David S. Johnson, Director of ESSA's NESC which developed the instrument, declared that "the successful launching of experiments to measure temperatures in the atmosphere is as significant to the advancement of meteorology as the launching of the first satellite." He pointed out that SIRS provides 5000 vertical temperature soundings daily in the Southern Hemisphere, whereas the National Meteorological Center currently receives only 70 upper-air soundings per day from that half of the earth.

NESC analyses of the height contours of the 300 mb. pressure surface derived from SIRS data show excellent agreement with similar charts prepared from conventional radiosonde data, especially over areas where large numbers of conventional upper-air observations are made. Discrepancies appear over the oceans, where weather observations are sparse. The graph of atmospheric temperature over the Caribbean near Kingston, Jamaica, shows the close correlation between temperature obtained by conventional radiosondes



(dashed lines) and from the SIRS data (solid lines).

### Personnel Management Survey Begins

A team from the Department of Commerce will conduct a personnel management survey of ESSA beginning May 5. The team members will conduct personal interviews with selected employees, employee organization officials, and program managers. Approximately 600 questionnaires have been completed by employees and supervisors to collect information about the personnel management program. Employees who wish to communicate with the survey team may write directly to: Chief, Personnel Division (AD4), Attn: DOC Survey Team, ESSA, Rockville, Maryland.

### Labor-Management Advisor Named

Elmer G. Neumann, former staff counsel for the American Federation of Government Employees, has joined ESSA's Personnel Division as labor-management advisor. Mr. Neumann has had extensive experience in the labor-management field. For the past seven years, Mr. Neumann has served AFGE in such positions as director of the Employee Management Relations Department, and staff counsel.

### Ocker Chosen Key West MIC



Donald L. Ocker, Memphis, Tenn., Weather Bureau Forecast Office, has been selected meteorologist in charge at WBO, Key West, Fla. Mr. Ocker began his WB career as a student trainee at Austin, Tex., in 1961. He also worked at New Orleans, La., and Brownsville, Tex., prior to his transfer to Memphis, Tenn., as an agricultural weather service specialist in 1967. A 1962 graduate of Texas A & M, Mr. Ocker will report to Key West about May 26.

### Thousands View ESSA Exhibit

An ESSA display illustrating Weather Bureau and Coast Survey services for trade and commerce was viewed by more than 10,000 persons during the recent New Orleans Trade Exposition.

## Barbados Experiment Begins

The USC&GS Ships OCEANOGRAPHER, DISCOVERER, MT MITCHELL, and RAINIER, together with the Coast Guard Cutter ROCKAWAY and a dozen buoys, are now in position in the 90,000-square-mile BOMEX array in the Atlantic east of Barbados, awaiting the opening of the project on May 3. FLIP--the Floating Laboratory Instrument Platform made available to the project by the U. S. Navy and the Scripps Institution of Oceanography--arrived Apr. 30. Aircraft on hand at Barbados' Seawell Airport for data-gathering flights during the first phase are the Research Flight Facility's two DC-6's and DC-4, a Queen Air from the National Center for Atmospheric Research, and the University of California's DC-3. U. S. Navy Reconnaissance Squadron 4, also staging from Seawell Airport, Barbados, is set to fly BOMEX research missions in its WC-121 aircraft. The Air Force Air Weather Service's WC-130B, WB-47, and RB-57F aircraft are in readiness at Ramey Air Force Base, Puerto Rico. Extensive BOMEX facilities established on the island of Barbados include an Army weather radar, placed at an elevation of 1000 feet to increase its range.

## Burns On Deep Sea Drilling Project

Dr. Robert Burns, Director of the Joint Oceanographic Research Group, an ESSA-University of Washington cooperative organization, is serving as co-chief scientist on the fifth leg of the Deep Sea Drilling Project--an activity sponsored by the National Science Foundation for the drilling and coring of the deep sea floors of the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans. During this leg of the project, ten holes will be drilled in the ocean floor of the Pacific, and temperature gradients in the drill holes will be studied.

## Met Tech Standards Study Completed

The fact-finding phase of the Meteorological Technician Classification and Qualification Standards Study has been completed. Information was obtained from more than 400 individuals through questionnaires, and approximately 215 employees were interviewed. The personal contact phase of the program included 34 stations or offices in four regions and at headquarters.

## BOMEX Cachets Available

Stamp and special cover collectors can obtain envelopes postmarked aboard ships in the BOMEX array, by mailing a stamped, self-addressed envelope to any of the vessels in care of BOMEX headquarters, U. S. Navy Facility, FPO New York, N. Y. 09553. Participating ships are: USC&GS OCEANOGRAPHER, DISCOVERER, RAINIER, and MT MITCHELL; U. S. Coast Guard Cutters ROCKAWAY, LAUREL, and COURAGEOUS; U. S. Navy Ship GILLISS; Bureau of Commercial Fisheries RV UNDAUNTED; Cape Fear Technical Institute SS ADVANCE II; and U. S. Navy and Scripps Institution of Oceanography FLIP (Floating Laboratory Instrument Platform).

## Bond Drive Launched

ESSA's 1969 "Share in America Savings Bonds Campaign" was launched May 1 and will continue through June 20.

This year, Series E and H Savings Bonds and Freedom Shares are a better buy than ever before. The interest rate on E and H Bonds has increased from 4.15 to 4.25 percent--the full legal limit permitted under present law. The interest rate on Freedom Shares has increased from 4.74 to a full 5 percent. In addition, there are some definite tax advantages to purchasing U. S. Savings Bonds for retirement and educational purposes.

Admiral Harley Nygren has been named Vice Chairman of ESSA's Bond Drive this year. Guy P. Meredith will assist him as Campaign Manager. When your area keyman contacts you, he will have the information and forms you will need to become a payroll saver or to increase your present deduction.

Secretary of Commerce Maurice Stans has reminded us that: "The voluntary purchase of Bonds through the Payroll Savings Plan enhances our financial security and helps our Nation to maintain a stable economy. We in the Federal Service should willingly set an example for the public to follow by supporting the Savings Bonds Program -- it's good business."

## Lyle Earns Pilot Rating

Richard W. Lyle, WB Southern Region Quality Control Officer, recently earned his instrument pilot rating. Mr. Lyle also has a commercial pilot license and multi-engine rating.

## Regional Engineers' Conference Held



Participants in the WB Regional Engineers Conference held at Bureau headquarters, Apr. 21-24, were, from left: J. A. Cunningham, WBH; H. D. Anderson, Central Region; R. V. Baughman, Southern Region; D. M. Bergstrom, Alaska Region; H. D. Hobart, WBH; C. B. Carnahan and R. L. Baldwin, Alaska Region; J. M. St. Clair, J. L. Ford, and R. L. French, WBH; L. K. Eide, National Meteorological Maintenance Training Center, Kansas City, Mo.; G. M. Miller, National Reconditioning Center, Joliet, Ill.; E. J. Mallumian and J. F. McCloy, Eastern Region; F. M. Keyes and D. D. Conte, Pacific Region; H. L. Lewis, Western Region; and R. G. Wiggers, WBH.

### Lieurance Attends Montreal Meeting

Newton A. Lieurance, Director, Aviation Affairs, is principal U.S. delegate to a joint meeting of the WMO Commission for Aeronautical Meteorology and the Sixth Air Navigation Conference of the International Civil Aviation Organization, held in Montreal, Canada, Apr. 9 - May 3. Ralph P. James, chief, Aviation Branch, Weather Bureau, and Paul H. Peridier, ESSA Office of International Affairs, are serving as delegates.

### Kenworthy Retired

Philip W. Kenworthy, meteorologist in charge of the Weather Bureau Forecast Office at the Minneapolis-St. Paul International Airport since 1952, retired last December after more than 38 years of service with the Bureau. Mr. Kenworthy began his career in 1930 at Boston, Mass. His other assignments were at Washington, D. C., and Mt. Washington, New Hampshire.

### Yakima Weatherman Dies

Charles A. Finch, meteorological technician at the Yakima, Wash., Weather Bureau Office, died Apr. 27.

### Three Elected to Engineering Posts

Three ESSA employees have been elected to one-year terms, beginning July 1, in the Washington Post of the Society of American Military Engineers. Captain Miller J. Tonkel, Associate Director of the Coast Survey's Office of Hydrography and Oceanography, will be president; Cdr. Edwin K. McCaffrey, senior program analyst in the ESSA Office of Plans and Programs, will hold the position of secretary-treasurer; and Captain John O. Boyer, Chief of the Coast Survey's Marine Chart Division, will join the nine-member Board of Directors.

### Service Awards

The following employees of the Coast Survey's Pacific Marine Center, Seattle, Wash., received length-of-service awards on Apr. 17: 30 years - Floyd Martin and Cornelius Pauw. 25 years - Eugene Danielson, Fred Ertel, George Fernandes, and Grace Wynne. 20 years - Clarence Lehman.

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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