

Volume 5

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President Lauds Flood Forecasts

In a letter to the Secretary of Commerce, G. A. Lincoln, Director of the Office of Emergency Preparedness in the Executive Office of the President, conveyed President Nixon's appreciation for the Weather Bureau's river forecasts in advance of the recent floods in the Midwest. The letter said, in part: "The President has asked me to express his appreciation to those in the Department of Commerce who have contributed so much to the success of the flood preparedness program (Operation Foresight) which he initiated in late February.... These flood preparedness measures, carried out jointly by local, State, and Federal agencies, have been tested in many States and have already proven their value. The Weather Bureau was at the focal point, providing forecasts, advice, and technical assistance which permitted timely construction of the necessary protective works by the Corps of Engineers and local authorities."

Oklahoma State Climatologist Named

Billy R. Curry has been selected ESSA State Climatologist for Oklahoma. Mr. Curry was formerly a forecaster at the National Severe Storms Forecast Center, Kansas City, Mo.

Bardoulas Becomes La Crosse OIC



Nick Bardoulas, weather service specialist at the Rockford, Ill., Weather Bureau Office, has been selected to replace Kelly F. Anderson as official in charge of the La Crosse, Wisc., weather station. Mr. Bardoulas has been with the Bureau for 22 years. He entered

the Bureau at Rochester, Minn., and also served in Chicago and Springfield, Ill.

Benjamin To Head Alaska Weather Office



Clayton L. Benjamin, weather service specialist at WBO, Bethel, Alaska, has been named official in charge at WBO, Yakutat, Alaska. Mr. Benjamin retired from the U.S. Air Force as a senior master sergeant in 1964. From 1965 to 1968, he was assigned to the Joint Arctic Weather Serv-

ice as the senior Weather Bureau representative in the Joint Canadian-U.S. Weather Bureau Polar Operations in the Arctic. He transferred into the Alaska Region in 1968 from WB headquarters.

Third Air Pollution Station Dedicated

The Weather Bureau, in cooperation with the Department of Health, Education and Welfare's Air Pollution Control Administration, opened a special station in support of air pollution control in the Washington, D.C., area on May 16. Washington is one of five cities in which the Bureau will operate these facilities. Similar units opened in St. Louis on April 11 and in Chicago on April 14. Stations at Philadelphia and New York will be opened shortly. The new station, located at Washington National Airport, will be supplemented later this year by a camper-type vehicle which will serve as a mobile observatory. Among the officials scheduled to participate in the inauguration ceremonies were: Dr. John Ludwig, Deputy Commissioner, National Air Pollution Control Administration; Karl R. Johannessen, Associate Director of the Weather Bureau for Meteorological Operations; Charles G. Knudsen, Chief, Operations Division, WB Eastern Region, New York; Reinhart C. Schmidt, MIC, WB Forecast Center, Suitland, Md.; and Dr. Lester Machta, Director, Air Resources Laboratory, Las Vegas.

Weather Team Forecasts for Apollo 10

The Weather Bureau's Spaceflight Meteorology Group, which provides the primary weather service to the National Aeronautics and Space Administration's Apollo program, will play an important role in the success and safety of the Apollo 10 mission scheduled for launch on May 18. Using worldwide and regional weather observations and forecast guidance material collected from United States and foreign weather sources, the Group will provide specific forecasts needed for planning and operational support for the launch and during the flight and re-entry.

Bond Drive Progresses

The first report on ESSA's 1969 "Share in America Savings Bonds Campaign" shows 94 new subscribers and 107 employees who increased their allotments. The reference to Series "H" Bonds in ESSA NEWS, No. 18, "Bond Drive Launched" was in error. ESSA has no provisions for the purchase of Series "H" Bonds through the Payroll Savings Plan.

ESSA Spouse Excels in Commerce Art Show



Mrs. Rocco C. Siciliano (left), wife of the Under Secretary of Commerce, presents Mrs. Jo Anne Dvorak with an award for her entries in the 1969 Commerce Art Show. Mrs. Dvorak, wife of Vernon F. Dvorak, NES's Analysis Branch, won first prize in the sculpture category for 'Girl and Lamb,' and first and second prizes in the ceramics category for 'Bowl' and 'Bottle'.

MIC Chosen for Louisville, Ky.



John R. Burke, principal assistant of the Cincinnati, Ohio, Weather Bureau Office since 1964, has been chosen as the new meteorologist in charge of the Louisville, Ky., weather office. Mr. Burke entered the Bureau in 1941 at Louisville. He also served in Washington, D. C., before transferring to Cincinnati in 1952.

Six U.S. Scientists Tour Russia

A team of six atmospheric scientists from the United States is on a four-week tour of weather modification laboratories and field sites in the Soviet Union. A delegation from the Soviet Union is scheduled to make a similar tour in the United States later this year. ESSA has been designated by the Department of State as sponsor of this scientific exchange, which is part of the 1968-69 U.S.-U.S.S.R. Exchanges Agreement. Members of the U.S. delegation now in Russia are: Dr. George S. Benton, ERL Director and delegation head; Dr. Archie M. Kahan, Bureau of Reclamation, Department of Interior; Dr. Fred D. White, National Science Foundation; Dr. Louis J. Battan, University of Arizona; Dr. Helmut K. Weickmann, ERL; and Morton J. Rubin, Office of Plans and Programs.

Two Win Summer Fellowships

Loretta Parks, a graduate of South French Board High School, and David A. Roberson, a graduate of Enka High School, Asheville, N.C., have been selected by EDS' National Weather Records Center to receive Commerce Junior Science Fellowships. The fellowships provide summer work in Commerce agencies for college students.

Radiosonde Proves Indigestible

In an attempt to aid the Weather Bureau in its radiosonde retrieval campaign, two cows from Stockdale, Tex. -- one an expectant mother -- recovered and ate both the balloon and battery resulting in their untimely deaths. The claim by the farmer involved has been settled by the Weather Bureau for \$450.

First BOMEX Data Retrieved from Five Ships by Air Force Plane



Loadmaster Reels in OCEANOGRAPHER Data

The first information from the Barbados Oceanographic and Meteorological Experiment was retrieved May 7 from five ships off the Caribbean Island in a 1396-mile airlift. Nearly three billion bits of data were flown from Barbados to the National Aeronautics and Space Administration's Mississippi Test Facility at Gulfport for a "quick-look" analysis which will guide project scientists over the rest of the project.

BOMEX Field Headquarters at Christ Church, Barbados, said that without the sea-to-air operation, the first data could not have been inspected before the third period of the three-month experiment, most massive of its kind ever undertaken.

The data retrieval was executed by a C-130 of the 54th Squadron, Aerospace Rescue and Recovery Command, stationed at Pease Air Force Base, Portsmouth, N.H. The C-130 was commanded by Major Thomas L. Withers, with Captain Bill Delony as co-pilot. Among those aboard were: Lt. Colonels Ernest Trexler, project officer from ARRC headquarters at Scott Field, Ill., and John A. Taylor, squadron operations officer. Civilian project leader for the mission was Warren Keenan of Alexandria, Va., a systems engineer on duty with BOMEX from the MITRE Corporation.

The first pickup was made from the OCEANOGRAPHER, at the farthest point from

land; a leveling motor for a windfinding system had failed on the RAINIER, and OCEANOGRAPHER had a spare. The motor, and the millions of bits of data accumulated on magnetic tape, were waiting aboard the ship in a red-and-white striped, 120-pound capsule.

The data snatch is an ingenious process. The package to be recovered is attached to a 500-foot line and tethered to a balloon. Three bits of red paper are spaced on the line and the recovery plane, going 140 miles an hour, aims for the center piece, a few feet beneath the balloon. A yoke, 16 feet wide when extended, is on the nose of the plane. When the plane hits the line, the yoke captures it. Should the pilot miss, knife-equipped lines from the nose to the wingtips cut away the package before it can foul in the four-engined ship's propellers.

When the line is caught, the few feet at the top whip back over the plane; at this point, depending on its direction, the pilot, co-pilot, or flight engineer open a window or hatch, attach a stout string to it, and feed it to the rear of the plane.

There, the cavernous doors of the C-130 are open. Loadmasters (in this case, S/Sgt. Bruce Tressler or T/Sgt. Robert C. Kennedy), attached to the ship by umbilical lines, move about as easily as if they were walking on a Portsmouth street. At times, they perch in the opening as if they were sitting on a curbstone. When the line feeds back over the ship, they retrieve and secure it, and then winch in the package which is flying below. The operation is quick and precise.

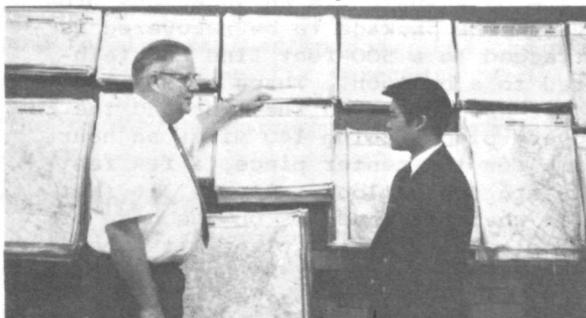
The motor from the OCEANOGRAPHER package was rewrapped in a watertight package with a flotation collar, then attached to a small orange parachute. A short time later, it was dropped to within 100 feet of the RAINIER. In succession, data capsules were snatched from RAINIER, ROCKAWAY, DISCOVERER, and MT MITCHELL. The operation consumed seven hours.

At BOMEX Field Headquarters, the information was quickly scanned by Drs. Joshua Holland, Chief Scientist for Sea-Air Interaction, and Arnold Glaser, coordinator of scientific projects. Dr. Glaser accompanied the data to MTF headquarters at Gulfport the next day. He will work with it for several weeks.

Agriculture Prints Crop Bulletin

The Weekly Weather and Crop Bulletin, produced cooperatively by EDS and the Department of Agriculture, is now being printed by USDA. This change allows the editors to expand the bulletin and mail it to subscribers a day earlier.

Student Is MIC for a Day



Howard Soken, 10th grade student at Los Angeles Senior High School, acted as meteorologist in charge of the WBFO, Los Angeles, on Apr. 29 as part of the Boy's Day in Government Program that places young people in Federal, state, and local government positions to learn more about government operations. Mr. Soken is shown with guidance forecaster John L. Frazee, Jr., as they examine prognostic charts used in preparing weather forecasts.

Service Awards

Length-of-service awards are due to the following WB Western Region employees during May: 30 years - Carmine J. Pisano, Pocatello, Idaho; and Ray E. Hall, Kalispell, Mont. 25 years - Vance P. Barich, Sexton Summit, Oreg.; Raymond Granger, Missoula, Mont.; Robert H. Timeus, San Francisco; and Frances B. Macklin, San Francisco. 20 years - Maurice H. Faubion, Boise, Idaho; Robert L. Murray, Missoula, Mont.; and Albert E. Noble, San Francisco.

Pales, ERL Scientist, Dies



Jack C. Pales, Deputy Chief of the Air Resources Laboratory, ERL, died in Las Vegas on May 3. Mr. Pales had been with the laboratory since 1964 and was appointed to his position in 1966. Prior to coming to Las Vegas, he was physicist in charge of the Mauna Loa Observatory in Hawaii for seven years. He had held positions in the Weather Bureau as a meteorologist and physicist since 1947. Mr. Pales received the Commerce Silver Medal last October in recognition of his many contributions toward understanding the atmosphere.

Jones, C&GS Party Member, Retires

Robert C. Jones, a member of the Coast Survey's Party G-16 for several years, retired on Feb. 22 after 32 years of Federal service.

Kenyan Trains at Portland RFC



Alexander L. Alusa of Nairobi, Kenya, has been given a six-month training assignment at the Portland, Oreg., River Forecast Center. Mr. Alusa will work closely with Tony Polos, Portland Hydrologist in Charge. A mathematics and meteorology student from Oregon State University, Mr. Alusa was assigned to the RFC through the efforts of the African-American Institute of New York City.

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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