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ESSA Employees To Aid Boothville Station Victims



Dr. Robert M. White (left), ESSA Administrator, gives first donation to Dr. Karl R. Johannessen, WB Associate Director, Meteorological Operations.

During Hurricane Camille, the Weather Bureau employees at the Boothville, La., Meteorological Observatory suffered total loss of their personal belongings. Some owned homes which disappeared in the flood havoc. Many people from ESSA have asked how they can aid the Weather Bureau victims of Hurricane Camille. Donations by ESSA employees in the form of money can be made and sent directly to Wilmer L. Thompson, Regional Director, Weather Bureau Southern Region, Room 10E09, 819 Taylor Street, Fort Worth, Texas 76102. (See ESSA NEWS, August 22, 1969, page 1.)

William Fitch Tops Hurricane Flight Record at RFF

During the Project Stormfury runs, William Fitch, a navigator on the Research Flight Facility's DC-6 four-engine aircraft, made aviation history when he completed his 254th flight through the eye of a fully developed hurricane. Mr. Fitch made several penetrations into Hurricane Debbie as she boiled some 450 miles northeast of Puerto Rico in the Atlantic Ocean. A round of congratulations from the crew crackled over the interphone as the plane broke through the wall of turbulence into the relative calm of the eye. The celebration was forced to be postponed as the opposite eyewall rose ominously only a few miles away. Mr. Fitch is one of a small, but dedicated group of highly experienced aviators and scientists based in Miami, who make up the Research



William Fitch (left) aboard RFF's DC-6

Continued on page 2

Hurricane Debbie Seeding Applauded by ESSA & Navy Officials



Navy Hurricane Hunter Planes

In a joint statement issued by Dr. R. Cecil Gentry, Director of the National Hurricane Research Laboratory and Project Stormfury Director, and Cdr. L. J. Underwood, Commanding Officer of the Fleet Weather Facility and Navy Project Coordinator, the multiple seeding of Hurricane Debbie was called "a huge operational success."

This statement attests to the courage and dedication of the men from ESSA's National Hurricane Research Laboratory and Research Flight Facility, the U.S. Navy, and Air Force, who make up Project Stormfury.

On August 18 and again on August 20, 13

planes -- 5 A-6 Intruder aircraft from Navy Attack Squadron VA-176, 4 WC-121N (Super Constellation) aircraft from the Navy's Hurricane Hunter Squadron VW-4, 2 DC-6A's from the Research Flight Facility, and 2 aircraft (WC-130 and WB-47) from the Air Force's 53rd Weather Reconnaissance Squadron, took part in the massive seeding and measurement experiment to explore the structure and dynamics of hurricanes and to determine whether it may be possible for man to modify some effects of these violent storms. Clouds surrounding Hurricane Debbie's center, where the strongest winds were located, were bombarded with silver iodide five times at two-hour intervals. During the two days of operation, the planes dropped as many as 2,000 canisters -- 95 percent of them fired and hit the target.

Referring to the Project, Dr. Gentry and Cdr. Underwood said, "We gathered considerable valuable data -- data that could not have been obtained in any other way." They added that the analysis of the data in the coming months will lead to a better understanding of hurricanes, and that determination of the effect the seeding of Hurricane Debbie had on the storm's intensity can only be made after careful and detailed analysis of the data.

ESSA Satellites Keep Tab on Storms

ESSA satellites photographed three storms in the Atlantic--Tropical Storm BLANCHE on August 11; Hurricane CAMILLE from August 10-18; and Hurricane DEBBIE from August 14-20. They also photographed Tropical Storm CORA in the western Pacific August 16-19. ATS-III photographed the formative and mature stages of Hurricanes BLANCHE, CAMILLE and DEBBIE. Pictures were taken every ten minutes during the PROJECT STORMFURY cloud seeding operations.

Fitch Tops Record (Continued from page 1)
Flight Facility. Five other crew members have also chalked up fabulous flight records. Isaac W. Richardson follows close on the heels of Mr. Fitch with 242 flights. Scores for the other crew members are: William Freedman, 236; Bradley Patten, 230; Harlan Davis, 213; and Jack Lubin, 205.

Wattenbarger Selected To Head Barter Island Weather Office

Oliver L. Wattenbarger became the official in charge at Barter Island, Alaska, August 24. Mr. Wattenbarger joined the Alaska Region at Nome earlier this year and later transferred to Barter. Prior to his Alaskan service, he held positions in the Weather Bureau's Western, Southern, and Pacific Regions, including an Arctic assignment.

Mission Statement Published by Commerce

Secretary of Commerce Stans has developed a mission statement for the Department of Commerce as a graphic means of relating all of its activities to each other and to the national economic goal. The statement in pamphlet form entitled "Achieving the National Economic Goals" illustrates that Commerce is perhaps the most diverse department in the executive branch of the government.

Steady Hicks, C&GS Executive, Attending Naval War College



Steady D. Hicks, Chief of the Coast Survey's Oceanography Division, is attending the Naval War College, Newport, Rhode Island, the first ESSA employee to do so. Lt. Cdr. R. Lawrence Swanson, Acting Chief of the Research Group of Hydrography and Oceanography, will serve

in his absence.

Ten Years of Weather Service Celebrated at Vandenberg AFB

Seven Weather Bureau employees stationed at Vandenberg Air Force Base recently celebrated ten years of weather service at the California missile launch center. The handful of men represent more than 175 man years of meteorological experience spread over 30 weather stations in 13 states. The weather experts are part of the original crew that opened the upper atmospheric observation station of the Pacific Missile Range's U.S. Naval Missile Facility at Point Arguello in 1959. Under the direction of meteorologist Norman J. Asbridge, the weather organization has provided upper atmospheric soundings for every ballistic missile, space and probe launch down the Western Test Range. Celebrating a decade of meteorological service at Vandenberg are: Edwin O. Bowman, Paul S. Moore, Wilbur J. Lewis, Norman J. Asbridge, William D. Grafton, James W. Bennich, and Clayton K. Call.

Bathymetric Map Issued for Bering Sea

A relatively flat basin about the size of Maryland and Vermont combined is shown on a bathymetric map of the bottom of the upper Bering Sea. The area is bound by Seward Peninsula and Norton Sound to the east, Little Diomed Island to the north, St. Lawrence Island to the south, and on the west by the U.S.-Russian Convention line. The new map, compiled by the Coast Survey, provides the most detailed bottom topography ever published for the area.

Capt. Stark Named To Command Coast Survey's Miami Ship Base



Capt. Stark

Captain Pentti A. Stark, ESSA commissioned officer, has been appointed commander of the Coast Survey's Miami Ship Base. Capt. Stark is slated to take over his new post on Sept. 9. The new base commander has been stationed since Dec. 1966 at the Atlantic Marine Center in Norfolk, Va., where he is presently Chief of the Operations Division. A veteran of 20 years with the Coast Survey, he has spent much of his career aboard 13 ships, including service as commanding officer of the HILGARD, WAINWRIGHT, SCOTT, COWIE, and EXPLORER, and with geodetic survey parties in the western states and Alaska. He also served as head of the Survey's photogrammetric office in Portland, Oreg., and as officer-in-charge of hydrographic field parties at Lake Head, Nev., and Galveston Bay, Tex.

Airport Surveys

C&GS airport field parties are currently conducting surveys at Bloomington-Normal Airport, Ill., and Miles City (Mont.) Airport.

Working Hours Change at Gramax Bldg.

Weather Bureau headquarters at the Gramax Building in Silver Spring, Md., and the Weather Bureau's Test and Evaluation Laboratory in Sterling, Va., will be open from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., beginning Sept. 2. The new hours will also be observed by Gramax-based personnel of the ESSA Laboratories' Air Resources Laboratory. The Atmospheric Science Library and offices of the Environmental Data Service located at Gramax are already on the 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. schedule. The Coast and Geodetic Survey's Aeronautical Chart Division at Gramax will continue to work from 8:15 a.m. to 4:45 p.m.

Russians Join in July 4th Festivities

F. Michael Maish, ERL physicist who is spending 14 months under National Science Foundation sponsorship in the Antarctic, was joined in a July 4 U. S. Independence Day celebration by Soviet scientists. The celebration took place outdoors in 95-degree-below-zero weather. Mr. Maish is the only American with the Russian scientific contingent at the remote station. Under an exchange program, a Soviet scientist is working at the U.S. McMurdo station.

Three ESSA Employees Retire

Cecil N. Kellum, meteorologist, and John A. Reilly, electronic technician at the Portland, Oreg., Weather Bureau Forecast Office, retired on Aug. 9. Mr. Kellum began his Weather Bureau career in 1940 at Wichita, Kans. He later transferred to Denver, Colo., in 1946 and to Portland in 1963. Mr. Reilly transferred to the Bureau in 1953 from the Civil Aeronautics Board. He served at Hoquiam, Washington and Great Falls, Mont. prior to his transfer to Portland in 1956.

Katherine B. Suggs, staff assistant in the Commissioned Personnel Branch, ESSA headquarters, since 1961, retired on August 23 after 27 years of Federal service. During her career with ESSA and the Coast Survey, Mrs. Suggs has been instrumental in systematizing the procedures involved in the administration of officer affairs.

Tsunami Symposium Set for October

A symposium on tsunamis and tsunami research, sponsored by the International Union of Geodesy and Geophysics' Committee on Tsunamis and the East-West Center at the University of Hawaii, will be held in Honolulu, Oct. 7-10. A tour of the ESSA observatory at Ewa Beach will be made by U.S. and foreign delegates.

Anderson Commended by C&GS Director

Herman C. Anderson of the Marine Chart Division has been commended by RADM Don A. Jones, C&GS Director, for his "out-standing contribution" to the Cooperative Charting Program. Mr. Anderson has maintained a close liaison between the Coast Survey and U.S. Power Squadrons in which the squadrons cooperate with the Coast Survey in the location of navigational hazards.

EDS Library Acquires Mason Records

The technical library of EDS' National Weather Records Center has recently acquired the reference collection of Dr. A. P. Mason, a Weather Bureau cooperative observer in Massachusetts from 1883 to 1924 and an organizer of the New England Meteorological Society. The material was a gift of Miss Alice C. Mason, Dr. Mason's daughter.

Length-of-Service Awards

The following employees became eligible to receive length-of-service awards during August:

WB Southern Region - 30 years - Harry L. Rhorer, Albuquerque, New Mexico. 25 years - Winston L. Hurst, Atlanta, Ga.; Marion L. Stadele, Miami; Francis L. Roshinski, Miami. 20 years - William H. Counts.

WB Western Region - 30 years - Omar I. Sinclair, Las Vegas; and Eugene H. Larcom, Seattle. 25 years - Anthony E. Rippon, Long Beach, Calif.; Ruth R. Zastrow, WRH; and George B. Kornbrust, Bishop, Calif. 20 years - Roger L. Hegstrum, Fresno, Calif.; Richard L. Desmond, Salt Lake City; William A. Evans, Oakland, Calif.; and Homer D. Shawley, San Francisco.

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

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