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## ESSA Aid to Boothville Station Hurricane Victims Soars; Certificates Awarded to Staff in Sept. 17 Ceremony

Five employees of the Weather Bureau Observatory at Boothville, La., who remained on duty to report vital weather information during Hurricane Camille, were cited by Weather Bureau Regional Director Wilmer L. Thompson in ceremonies held at the Weather Bureau Forecast Center in New Orleans, Sept. 17.

Recognized were Gerald P. O'Donnell, official in charge at Boothville, and staff members Virgil L. Coludrovich, Douglas R. and Mrs. Marion H. Grantham, and Thomas S. Craig. Each was presented the Department of Commerce, ESSA Certificate for their superior performance of duty during the unprecedented violence caused by Hurricane Camille. Each also received a cash award. These individuals, some from experience with Hurricane Betsy in 1965, elected to remain on duty at much personal risk to furnish vital information on the progress and movement of the storm. The team continued to provide observations to the New Orleans Forecast Center until rising water caused the emergency power system to fail and all communications were lost.

Response to the ESSA-wide appeal for funds to aid the Boothville staff, who lost all their possessions in the Camille disaster, has been great.

To date, \$7,190.48 has been received. \$4,750 was distributed to the staff during the Sept. 17 ceremony. Donations are still being accepted and those who have not yet contributed and still wish to do so may send their contributions directly to Wilmer L. Thompson, Regional Director, Weather Bureau Southern Region, Room 10E09, 819 Taylor Street, Fort Worth, Texas 76102.



Shown during presentation ceremony are, left to right: Patrick Morrissey, Wilmer L. Thompson, Director, Southern Region; Mrs. Patrick Morrissey; Richard A. Kamm; and award recipients Gerald P. O'Donnell, Virgil L. Coludrovich, Douglas R. Grantham, and Mrs. Marion H. Grantham. Award winner Thomas S. Craig is not shown.

## Commerce Office Wrecked By New York Explosion

An explosion, possibly caused by an accumulation of gases, ripped out a section of wall and caused extensive structural damage to Department of Commerce offices located on the 40th floor of the New Federal Building in New York City, Sept. 19. Since the blast occurred during off-duty hours, there were no casualties. No ESSA offices were involved in the catastrophe.

## President Nixon Praises Tilson, Mobile, Ala., MIC



W. L. Tilson

William L. Tilson, meteorologist in charge of the Mobile, Ala., Weather Bureau Office, has received the personal thanks of President Nixon for his life-saving role during the recent Hurricane Camille. In a letter released on Sept. 18, the President said:

"It is no easy task to tell people they must leave to seek refuge, yet I understand you brought the urgent message to people along the Gulf Coast with a compassionate concern that hastened their departure and resulted in saving the lives of thousands.

As you have said, there are many heroes born of this tragedy. I just want to express my gratitude to one of them."

## Dr. Tenenbaum Receives Winter Sports Award

Dr. Oscar Tenenbaum, meteorologist in charge of the Weather Bureau Forecast office at Boston, Mass., has been named the recipient of The New England Council's Silver Bowl Award for 1969. The Silver Bowl is awarded annually to a person who has contributed greatly to winter sports in New England. In making the presentation at the Council's 1969 Winter Sports Conference, Sept. 9-10, at Waterville Valley, N. H., NEC Director of Travel Development stated that Dr. Tenenbaum was being honored for his work in the field of snow reporting. Dr. Tenenbaum has been responsible for the establishment of a wire service network which sends New England ski information to radio and television stations, newspapers, and other Weather Bureau offices. He also established a Weather Bureau band radio station which disseminates ski information to listeners.

## Fifteen-Year U.S. Survey Reaches Halfway Mark

The most accurate survey ever made in the United States, being carried out by the Coast Survey in cooperation with the U.S. Army Topographic Command, Corps of Engineers, has reached the halfway mark. The 15-year project covering the entire country is so precise that distances are measured with an error of less than one inch every 12 miles.

Almost 7,000 miles have been completed of a 13,760-mile network of the country.

The project was begun in 1961 to meet increased accuracy requirements for tracking satellites and missiles, for detecting and evaluating long-term crustal movements and continental drifts, and for strengthening the agency's national geodetic network used in conducting extensive alignment surveys and in planning urban development.

Work is being conducted now on the part of the network extending between Columbus, Nebr., and Aberdeen, Md., by a C&GS party proceeding eastward along the route in Illinois and by a U. S. Army Party in Ohio carrying the survey westward. Routes already completed extend from Homestead, Fla., to Aberdeen, Md.; from Jacksonville, Fla., to Albuquerque, N. Mex.; from Austin, Tex., to Fargo, N. Dak., and then westerly to Moses Lake, Wash.

Lt. Cdr. John W. Carpenter, head of the C&GS party, said the extensive project requires the use of tall portable steel towers, many nine stories high.

## Cloud, C&GS Earthquake Expert, Examines U.S.S.R. Construction

William K. Cloud, Chief of the Coast Survey's Seismological Field Survey, San Francisco, is one of seven earthquake experts from the United States now in the Soviet Union, studying construction practices in earthquake zones and visiting seismological research laboratories. ESSA has been designated by the Department of State as sponsor of the scientific visit, which is part of the 1968-1969 U.S.-U.S.S.R. exchanges agreement.

During the three-week tour, which began Sept. 15, the delegation will visit Moscow, Samarkand, Tbilisi, Sochi, and Tashkent, where a major earthquake destroyed 28,000 buildings in 1966.

## Weather Services Symposium Held in Honolulu



A three-day symposium on "Improving Weather Services in Hawaii" was held in the Pacific Region, Sept. 16-18. All of the officials in charge of Hawaii's five weather offices, staff members, and other weather service specialists attended the sessions held in Honolulu. Subjects discussed were public weather service, flash flood warnings, services to aviation and agriculture, and person-

nel and management topics. Shown in photo above are, left to right: E. M. Vernon, WBH; OIC Raymond G. Busniewski, WBO Hilo; OIC Bruce O. Barnes, WBO Kahului; P. H. Kutschenreuter, Pacific Regional Director; OIC LeRoy W. Borg, WBO Lihue; MIC Joseph Vederman, WBFO Honolulu; MIC Jack Murphy, Barking Sands; and R. L. Belknap, Chief, Operations Division, Pacific Region.

## Four ESSA Employees Attend Paris Upper Air Instruments Conference

Christos Harmantas, WB Equipment Development Laboratory; Frederick G. Finger, WB Development Division; Vaughn D. Rockney, WB Overseas Operations Division; and Dr. Peter M. Kuhn of the ESSA Research Laboratories, participated in a Technical Conference on Upper Air Instruments and Observations in Paris, Sept. 8-12. The conference was sponsored by the World Meteorological Organization.

## BOMEX Television Program Rescheduled Oct. 4

The taped hour-long television program on the Barbados Oceanographic and Meteorological Experiment (BOMEX), originally scheduled to be carried in Washington, D.C., on September 20, will be shown on Station WETA, Channel 26, on Saturday, October 4, at 7 p.m.

The program, featuring Dr. Joshua Holland, Chief Scientist for the Sea-Air Interaction Program, and William S. Barney, Project Manager for BOMEX, is part of a series called "R & D Review."

## Moore, Former Boston Field Office Chief, Joins Coast Survey Program Planning Staff



G. E. Moore

George E. Moore, former chief of the Coast Survey's Boston Field Office that closed in June, is serving with the Program Planning and Coordination Staff of the Office of Hydrography and Oceanography, C&GS headquarters, Rockville, Md.

## EDS Assembling Hurricane Camille Data

EDS' National Weather Records Center is assembling material for a computer-generated data index relating to Hurricane Camille.

## Jennings, NWRC Meteorologist, Receives 40-Year Service Award



Arthur H. Jennings, meteorologist in the Project Coordination Section of EDS' National Weather Records Center, received a 40-year service award on Aug. 31. Mr. Jennings entered the Weather Bureau in 1929 as an observer in meteorology at the WB Airport Station in Syracuse, N.Y.

## Meyers Selected Member of Magnetic Field Commission Data Exchange Working Group

Herbert Meyers of EDS, a U. S. representative at the Scientific Assemblies of the International Association for Geomagnetism and Aeronomy and the International Association of Seismology and Physics of the Earth's Interior, held Sept. 1-12 in Madrid, Spain, was selected a member of the Data Exchange Working Group on the Commission for the Representation of Main Magnetic Fields. Results of the assembly included recommendation of formats for cards and tapes used in submitting data to the World Digital Data Centers for Geomagnetism and a proposal for a World Magnetic Archive for the earliest records to the present.

## Officials Attend Geneva Climat Conference

The Commission for Climatology of the World Meteorological Organization will hold its 5th quadrennial session in Geneva, Switzerland, Oct. 20-31. U. S. delegates and members of the Commission attending will be: H.C.S. Thom of EDS, U. S. delegation chairman; Harold B. Harshbarger, EDS; Col. Robert Sanderson, U. S. Air Force; and Dr. Helmut Landsberg, University of Maryland, and newly elected vice president of the Commission. Dr. James McQuigg, ESSA State Climatologist for Missouri, and Julius Bosen of EDS, have been invited to attend as lecturers by the Secretary General of the WMO.

## Jacobson Advances U.S./Mexico Relations



H. L. Jacobson (left), meteorologist in charge of the Albuquerque, New Mexico, Weather Bureau office, has been presented a plaque for "significant contributions to improve intergovernment relations in New Mexico." The special recognition award was given by the Intergovernmental Seminar Committee representing the University of New Mexico, the American Society for Public Administration, and the Albuquerque-Santa Fe Federal Executive Association.

## Assistance Warrants Engineers' Award

Joseph H. Strub, Jr., meteorologist in charge of the Minneapolis, Minn., Weather Bureau Forecast office, was awarded the Department of the Army Outstanding Civilian Service Medal by Colonel Charles I. McGinnis, District Engineer, Corps of Engineers, Sept. 17. Mr. Strub was cited "for dedicated assistance to the U. S. Army Engineer District, St. Paul, Minn., during the 1969 spring flood preparedness mission, 'Operation Foresight'." As MIC, Mr. Strub's forecasts kept District officials properly informed of impending water flows and materially aided in the development of the necessary protective measures.

## Coast Survey Airport Surveys Underway

C&GS airport surveys are presently underway at Westmoreland-Latrobe (Pa.) Airport; Snohomish County Airport, Everett, Wash.; Ross Field, Benton Harbor, Mich.; Raleigh County Memorial Airport, Beckley, W. Va.; Los Animas County Airport, Trinidad, Colo.; and Standiford Field, Louisville, Ky.

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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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