

October 3, 1969

A UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF  
COMMERCE  
PUBLICATION

# ESSA NEWS

Volume 5      Number 40

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
ESSA  
NATIONAL WEATHER RECORDS CENTER  
LIBRARY

## A MESSAGE FROM THE ADMINISTRATOR

Traditionally, the first week in October is observed throughout the United States as "National Employ the Handicapped Week." This year, it is being observed October 5 through October 11.

The Nation's handicapped are a virtually untapped source of manpower and talent. Properly placed, physically handicapped employees have generally proved themselves to be steady, dependable, dedicated and productive, in some cases to a greater extent than those without handicaps. Mentally retarded employees can perform routine jobs efficiently and

skillfully without loss of interest. The mentally restored often possess skills, intelligence and knowledge which go unused.

I ask each of you to observe "National Employ the Handicapped Week" at your office, station or facility, individually or in cooperation with other employers. It is quite appropriate at this time to recognize the efforts and contributions of our handicapped employees. I was particularly pleased last year when ESSA's nominee for Handicapped Employee of the Year was selected as a Department of Commerce nominee.

*Robert M. White*

## Sixteen Telephone Lines To Serve Public in Weather Forecasts

The Weather Bureau office at Williamsport, Pa., inaugurated a 16-line, automatic telephone weather service on Sept. 17, through the cooperative efforts of the Fidelity National Bank of Pennsylvania, Bell Telephone Company, WRAC radio, and the Harrisburg, Pa., Weather Bureau office. Among those present at the dedication were: Gerald L. Shak, Eastern Region User Services Representative, and John R. Clark, meteorologist in charge of the Harrisburg, Pa., Weather Bureau office.

Until now, there has been only one line into the recording at the Williamsport weather office. The forecasts used in the new service will be prepared by the Weather Bureau office at the Williamsport-Lycoming County Airport at Montoursville, headed by Jack L. Hummell, MIC, for morning, noon, evening, and night forecasts. A midnight weather outlook will be provided by the Harrisburg office.



Alfred B. Kline, Williamsport forecaster seated at the keyboard, is observed by (left to right): Gerald L. Shak, REGUS REP, Eastern Region; Mrs. Lillian Miller, Assistant Vice-President, Fidelity National Bank; and Edward Wylonis, Pennsylvania Bell Telephone Company, as he transmits first forecast to Radio Station WRAC.

## Birmingham Weather Station Becomes State Forecast Center

The Weather Bureau station at Birmingham, Ala., will be advanced to the level of State Forecast Center on Oct. 6, as part of a nationwide plan to increase the number of forecast centers, usually one for each state.

"The objective," stated by Wilmer L. Thompson, Weather Bureau Southern Region Director, "is to reduce the size of the Bureau's forecast districts to a more workable level." Mr. Thompson emphasized that with the upgrading of the Birmingham office to Forecast Center status, the responsibilities of the other Weather Bureau offices in Alabama -- Huntsville, Montgomery, and Mobile -- will not be diminished, but all Alabama weather stations will work together as a team. The basic Alabama forecasts, previously made in Atlanta to guide the individual Alabama weather stations, will be terminated.

A new storm detection radar system and atmospheric sounding facility is being built at Centreville, Ala., and is expected to be in operation next summer to maintain storm surveillance over most of Alabama and to further enhance the capabilities of the new forecast system for the state.

Robert M. Ferry will head the new statewide forecast system. Charles F. Bradley has been named Chief Forecaster.

## ESSA Places Second in Suggestion Campaign

Secretary of Commerce Stans' Special Suggestion Campaign ended on Aug. 31 with ESSA in second place with 515 employee suggestions submitted. Ninety-four suggestions were adopted as of Sept. 17, resulting in an annual savings to the Department of \$33,580. Awards presented to ESSA employees totaled \$3,210. Suggestions are still being processed and evaluated.

## Capt. Darling To Represent C&GS On Federal Advisory Committee

Capt. Robert C. Darling, C&GS Associate Director for Hydrography and Oceanography, is the new representative on the Federal Advisory Committee on Water Data.

## New Special Assistant Named For Associate Administrator



Cdr. Ronald M. Buffington is serving as Special Assistant to Rear Admiral Harley D. Nygren, ESSA Associate Administrator, succeeding Capt. Roger F. Lanier, now commanding officer of the USC&GS Ship RAINIER. Capt. Buffington's previous assignments during his 12 years with the Coast Survey and ESSA have included those of officer in charge of the Officer Training Section, Norfolk, Va.; Commanding Officer of the USC&GS Ship PEIRCE; service with an airport field party; and instructor and liaison officer at the Naval School, Little Creek, Va.

## Miller To Represent the United States At International Tsunami Symposium

Dr. Gaylord Miller of ESSA's joint tsunami research effort in Honolulu, and Dr. Martin Vitousek of the University of Hawaii, will represent the United States at the International Symposium on Tsunami and Tsunami Research to be held in Honolulu, Oct. 7-10. Other participating scientists will include Dr. S. L. Soloviev, president, Soviet Tsunami Commission, and Dr. Kinjiro Kajiuri, University of Tokyo.

## Non-Pay Status Deadline Set for Oct. 31 To Qualify for 4% Retiree Annuity Increase

Employees, about to retire, who want to get the 4 percent annuity increase that goes into effect Nov. 1 to be reflected in the December retirement checks, cannot be in a "pay status" after Oct. 31 to qualify for the increase.

The Civil Service Commission advises that in pending disability retirement cases, applicants may request the agency to put them on leave without pay from and including Nov. 1, so they can qualify as retirees.

If the disability claim isn't approved, the Commission says, sick or annual leave with pay can be substituted retroactively for the leave without pay. If the disability retirement claim is allowed, the accumulated annual leave will be payable in a lump sum, and the sick leave will be forfeited.

## Roche Is Official in Charge Of Huntington Weather Office

August W. Roche became the new official in charge of the Weather Bureau office at Huntington, W. Va., on Sept. 15. Henry Rockwood, chief of the Eastern Region's Data Acquisition Branch, as well as members of the local news media, were on hand to welcome Mr. Roche to his new assignment.

## Astronomical League Award Given to NHC Employee



Leonard Pardue

A high award for outstanding service to the field of amateur astronomy was recently presented to Leonard Pardue of the National Hurricane Center, Miami, Fla., at the National Convention of the Astronomical League at Denver, Colo. This annual award is given to only one person in the Nation.

## Earthquake Data-Handling Program To Be Expanded

EDS' Earth Science Division has developed a long-range plan to enable its Seismological Data Center to handle additional types of seismic data to be generated under the National Earthquake Hazards Program. The plan was drawn up in response to the December 1968 report of the Ad Hoc Interagency Working Group for Earthquake Research, and also the recommendations outlined by the National Academy of Science's 1969 report.

## Newsom and McCall Assigned New Coast Survey Positions



Cdr. Newsom



Lt. Cdr. McCall

Cdr. Ronald L. Newsom has been named Special Assistant to Capt. John O. Boyer, chief of the Coast Survey's Marine Chart Division. Cdr. Newsom was recently commanding officer of the USC&GS Ship McARTHUR, based in Honolulu. A commissioned officer since 1958, he has also served aboard the USC&GSS PEIRCE, COWIE, EXPLORER, and HODGSON, and as chief of geodetic field parties.

Lt. Cdr. Harold E. McCall is now Director of the National Tsunami Warning Center in Honolulu. The Center alerts U.S. areas, including Hawaii, California, Oregon, Washington, Alaska, Guam and American Samoa, to the danger of tsunamis. Lt. Cdr. McCall, who joined the Coast Survey in 1958, previously served at the Honolulu Observatory.

## Hurricane Gerda Greets New Massachusetts Station Head

Clyde H. Blackwood has assumed the position of temporary official in charge of the Nantucket, Mass., Weather Bureau office, pending the station's move to Chatham, Mass., next summer. Mr. Blackwood's entrance on duty occurred almost simultaneously with the approach of Hurricane Gerda, giving him a full-scale indoctrination into emergency operations.

## Dr. Crutcher Instructing at University of Texas

Dr. Harold Crutcher of EDS' National Weather Records Center will be a visiting professor at the University of Texas at Austin for the fall semester, where he will instruct an undergraduate course in climatology and a graduate course in geophysical statistics.

## **C&GS Leveling Party G-36 Awarded Certificates for Undercover Work**

Seven members of Coast Survey Leveling Party G-36, engaged in leveling from San Francisco to Oakland, have been awarded certificates for their work. The Bay Area Rapid Transit tunnel was recently completed to the extent that pedestrians were able to walk through from San Francisco to Oakland. The Party walked the 3.6 mile route through the tunnel and set bench marks every half mile along the way. Receiving certificates were: Raymond W. Millikan, Jr., Jerry F. Poliel, Bob W. Martine, Robert W. Nitcy, Francis R. O'Grady, John Evanecki, and Merrill C. Shell.

## **SS MANHATTAN, Aided by Weatherman, Finds Way Through Northwest Passage**

The pioneering oil tanker SS MANHATTAN, Coast Guard Icebreaker STATEN ISLAND and Canadian Icebreaker SIR JOHN A. MACDONALD dropped anchor one mile off shore from Pt. Barrow, Alaska, where the Coast Survey's Barrow Magnetic Observatory is located.

The MANHATTAN, a 115,000-deadweight-ton tanker, carrying a symbolic barrel of Alaska oil, represented a \$39 million gamble by the Humble Oil and Refining Company that the Northwest Passage can be used by commercial shipping for transporting oil from the North Slope to east coast refineries.

The Icebreaker NORTHWIND was replaced by the STATEN ISLAND after suffering engine damage and the MACDONALD encountered propeller damage near Sachs Harbor on Banks Island.

The MANHATTAN was aided in its adventurous voyage by Kenneth Cove, a shipboard rawinsonde specialist with the Weather Bureau's Atlantic Weather Patrol, who provided weather observations.

## **Airport Surveys**

C&GS airport surveys are presently underway at Asheville (N.C.) Municipal Airport, and Outagamie County Airport, Appleton, Wisc. A survey of Chess-Lumberton Airport, Franklin, Pa., was completed during September.

## **Price Elected to Hawaii Conservation Council and Oceanography Task Force**

Saul Price, ESSA Pacific Region Climatologist, has been elected to the Board of Directors of the Conservation Council for Hawaii and also to the Governor's Task Force on Oceanography.

## **Murry, SURVEYOR Deckhand, Conquers Mt. Ballyhoo**

Roger Murry won the 1969 Annual Ballyhoo Run held at Dutch Harbor in the Aleutians. Mt. Ballyhoo is a 1600-foot tundra covered peak rising sharply out of the sea. Each year, when the SURVEYOR refuels at Dutch Harbor, a race to the top of the peak is held for officers and crew. This year, Murry, a deckhand, was the winner with a new record time of 42 minutes over the approximately three-mile course. Mr. Murry began college this fall at U.C.L.A. and plans to turn out for the track team.

## **Service Awards**

Weather Bureau Western Region employees eligible for length-of-service awards during September were: 40 years - Bill Krumm, Boise, Idaho. 30 years - Emil S. Kurtz, Los Angeles; and Dell Stangland, Missoula, Mont. 25 years - Frank C. Gift, Boise, Idaho. 20 years - Hal D. Bobbitt, Missoula, Mont.; and Joseph F. Lawrence, Medford, Oreg.

WB Central Region employees eligible for September awards were: 40 years - Robert J. Ahrens, Milwaukee, Wisc. 30 years - Murray B. Briggs, CRH. 25 years - Percival S. Kriegh, Jr., Grand Junction, Colo.; Isadore Lieberman, Sioux City, Iowa; and Perry A. Wood, CRH. 20 years - Claude E. Grisham, NSSFC, Kansas City, Mo.

John R. Shea, C&GS Triangulation Party G-21, Kansas City, Mo., Mid-Continent Field Area, was eligible to receive a 20-year service award.

## **Alfred L. Lorenz, Former Weatherman, Dies**

Alfred L. Lorenz, who served with the Weather Bureau from 1930 until 1957, died, Sept. 29. Mr. Lorenz served with the Bureau at Madison, Wisc.; Lakeland, Fla.; Atlanta, Ga.; and Kansas City, Mo.

---

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**

## **ERRATA NOTICE**

One or more conditions of the original document may affect the quality of the image, such as:

Discolored pages

Faded or light ink

Binding intrudes into the text

This has been a co-operative project between the NOAA Central Library and the Climate Database Modernization Program, National Climate Data Center (NCDC). To view the original document, please contact the NOAA Central Library in Silver Spring, MD at (301) 713-2607 x124 or [Library.Reference@noaa.gov](mailto:Library.Reference@noaa.gov)

HOV Services  
Imaging Contractor  
12200 Kiln Court  
Beltsville, MD 20704-1387  
July 23, 2010