

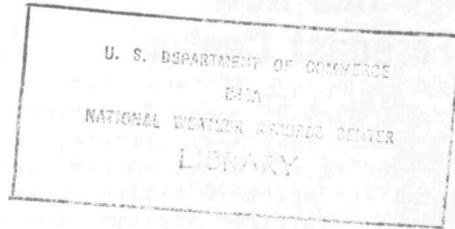
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# ESSA NEWS

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## Three-High Federal Retirement Bill Clears Congress

Many ESSA employees have been following the progress of several bills before Congress that would provide improved benefits for retirees. On Oct. 7, a Senate-approved retirement plan that could mean an extra \$20 to \$50 a month for future federal retirees cleared the House and was sent to the White House for approval on Oct. 8. If signed into law by President Nixon, the legislation allows future retirees to base their annuities on the highest three years of average salary, rather than the present high five-year average.

The legislation also adds a 1 percent cost-of-living increase for employees who retire before Oct. 31.

In addition, the bill further boosts annuities for most employees, by giving service credit at retirement for unused sick leave, which, under the present system, reverts to the Government. For example: An employee retiring with a year's unused sick leave would be credited with having worked an extra year.

In the Washington metropolitan area, a program of pre-retirement planning sessions will be offered during October. A flyer will be issued separately giving further details. In addition, individual counseling in the Washington area is available by calling Walter Kurtz, Personnel Division, 146-8105.

To the extent that it is feasible, pre-retirement seminars will be conducted at field locations and field personnel officers will provide counseling and information to interested employees upon request. Field personnel desiring additional information should feel free to contact their personnel office for assistance.

The ESSA personnel office is distrib-

uting a six-page memorandum to all elements explaining the new retirement plan in detail. Employees eligible for retirement may consult their supervisors concerning its contents. Employees will be notified promptly if the retirement benefits bill is signed.

## Donald Hanson To Be SDO Division Chief



Donald M. Hanson has been named Chief of the Systems, Plans, and Design Division in the Weather Bureau's Systems Development Office. Mr. Hanson, formerly the Division's Program Coordinator (World Weather System), joined the Bureau in 1943 at New York and served in St. Louis, Mo., and Kansas City before coming to Weather Bureau headquarters in 1960. He is a graduate of the University of Chicago.

## Anchorage Has New Marine Forecast Center

The new Marine Forecast Center at WBFO Anchorage, Alaska, began operations on Oct. 1. Twenty-four hour service will be provided to all civil marine users in the coastal and offshore waters surrounding Alaska. Thirteen separate forecasts, combined in six bulletins, will be issued twice daily, except that forecasts for southern and southeast Alaska will be issued three times daily. The broadcasts include general weather, combined sea and swell waves for six feet and higher, visibility when three miles or less, air temperature when 40 degrees Fahrenheit or less, and sea ice conditions.

In connection with this program, the Coast Guard is expanding its weather transmission program to a total of nine radio stations (except their stations on St. Paul Island). These dissemination points include several Coast Guard LORAN Stations, which will be broadcasting weather information for the first time as the result of discussions initiated by Lawrence R. Mahar, Director, Weather Bureau Alaska Region and the Coast Guard.

## C&GS Surveys Hurricane Camille Ravaged Coast

C&GS hydrographic and aerial photomapping parties are conducting an extensive survey of navigational hazards resulting from Hurricane Camille in a 500-mile ocean area fronting on the hard-hit gulf coast. The nine-man hydrographic party, headed by Lt. Mark E. Herbert of the ESSA Commissioned Corps, will first scrutinize the various ship channels and passages which lead into Mississippi Sound to gulf coast ports, including Pass Christian, Gulfport, Biloxi and Pascagoula, to determine where the churned-up waters of Camille caused shoaling which would pose a hazard to shipping. Lt. Herbert's survey is being conducted in conjunction with a Coast Survey photo mission which will remap portions of the coastline affected by the hurricane. Preliminary chartlets, based on the photographs, will be issued to supplement existing nautical charts until the latter are revised.

## Dates Set for Summer Employment Examinations

Preparations are already being made for summer employment during 1970, with the Civil Service Commission Announcement scheduled to be released on Oct. 14, 1969. Students who do not wish to retake the written exam may use their 1969 rating; however, the exam may be retaken in an effort to raise the rating. Also, it is now possible for students to be appointed on the basis of their scholastic achievement. Applicants who will have completed two years of college at the time of appointment and have maintained a 3.5 academic average, and engineering and physical science majors who have a 3.0 academic average, may bypass the written test. ESSA, as a scientific agency, is particularly interested in those students who have college majors in meteorology, engineering, oceanography, physics, and mathematics.

The written test is an hour and a half long and is comprised of vocabulary, reading comprehension, abstract reasoning, and table and chart interpretation.

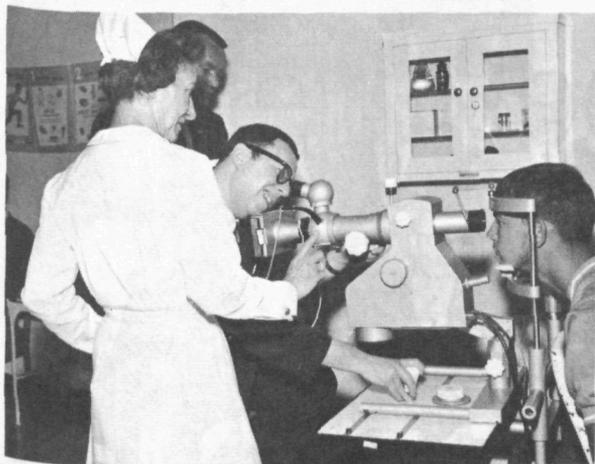
Applications for the test given Jan. 10, 1970, must be received at the Civil Service Commission by Dec. 5, 1969; for the test Feb. 14, 1970, applications must be received by Feb. 4, 1970. All applications from outstanding students--those qualifying on the basis of a high scholastic average--must be postmarked no later than Mar. 14, 1970.

Students are reminded to apply early in the year in order to receive maximum consideration.

## Radio Amateurs Report on Oklahoma Weather

A new weather product has been made available to news media in Oklahoma via the ESSA Weather Wire Service (EWWS) through the efforts of Gerald Carter, supervising meteorologist at WBFO, Oklahoma. Weather reports from 15 to 20 communities in the State are being sent by radio amateurs to a network supervisor in the State. The reports are then relayed in a single telephone call to the Oklahoma WBFO, and transmitted on EWWS about 7 p.m. six days a week. The reports are a valuable supplement to the regular reporting stations used by forecasters.

## Coast Survey Laser Geodimeter Users Slated for Eye Checkups



Larry J. Jones of Geodetic Party G-18 (right) has eyes examined by Dr. Paul Selfon, Commerce Medical Director. Looking on are Mrs. Claire Luckey, Commerce Nursing Supervisor, and Raymond W. Tomlinson, Acting Chief, Planning and Methodology Branch of Geodesy Div.

A Safety Program directed toward eye protection for Coast and Geodetic Survey employees involved in laser field survey operations has been initiated. This program is a joint effort between the ESSA Safety Engineer, Milton Aronstam, and the Geodesy Division of the Coast and Geodetic Survey.

Dr. Paul Selfon, Medical Director,

Department of Commerce, has been made available by the Department to supervise the medical phase of the program.

The program involves photographing the fundus of the eye with a specially designed camera for instant color photograph of the retina, nerves, and other details of the back of the eye. As the use of lasers on field operations continues, follow up photographs will be made of the field employees to determine changes, if any, in the eye due to the use of lasers.

On Oct. 7, an initial group of 25 employees of Geodetic Party G-18, were photographed in the ESSA Health Unit. An additional 25 were photographed, Oct. 8.

Raymond W. Tomlinson, Acting Chief, Planning and Methodology Branch of the Geodesy Division, will leave Washington on Oct. 13 to visit the various field units to photograph the eyes of the field employees. This photographing will be performed under the supervision of local ophthalmologists.

The camera was purchased by the Coast Survey as part of its program to provide maximum safety for its employees.

The camera will not be in continuous use, therefore, other ESSA elements who wish to utilize this equipment for the eye safety of their employees should contact the ESSA Safety Engineer.

## Two Coast Survey Parties Merge

Coast Survey Level Party G-38 has been disbanded and absorbed into Level Party G-37, after nearly 25 years. During its quarter-century existence, the party has performed many types of level surveys, including the National Level Net, gulf coast tideland boundaries, missile sites, crustal subsidence in the vicinity of oil and gas fields, and several dam sites. Although recent economy moves have reduced the personnel strength, a total of 158 years of service has been accumulated by the remaining ten men. Hamilton H. Taylor, Jr., with 28 years' service, is the only charter member of the original party. Three others have over 25 years' service--Lloyd W. Wilcox, 28 years, who missed being a charter member by only a few months; James C. Corbett, 27 years; and Verl L. Sullivan, 25 years. Robert Gerrish is Chief of Party G-37.

## Ernest Amman Receives NASA Award

Ernest A. Amman of the Weather Bureau's Office of Meteorological Operations received the National Aeronautics and Space Administration's Exceptional Service Medal from NASA Administrator Thomas O. Paine, at an Apollo Awards Ceremony held at the Kennedy Space Center, Sept. 30. Mr. Amman is Chief of the Cape Kennedy Section of the Spaceflight Meteorology Group and serves as the Staff Meteorologist to the Kennedy Space Center. Wilmer L. Thompson, Director, Weather Bureau Southern Region, represented Dr. White, ESSA Administrator, at the ceremony.

## Anna Blyth, Retired WB Employee, Dies

Anna Blyth, who retired from the Charleston, S. C., Weather Bureau office in 1965, died on Oct. 2. Miss Blyth had served with the Bureau for 18 years.



Attending the Weather Bureau Regional Hydrologists and Hydrologists-in-Charge Conference at Weather Bureau headquarters, Oct. 6-10, were (seated, left to right) Ed Fox, HIC, RFC, Atlanta, Ga.; Richard D. Tarble, HIC, RFC, Sacramento, Calif.; William E. Hiatt, WB Associate Director, Hydrology; Dr. Robert M. White, Administrator, ESSA; Dr. George P. Cressman, Director, Weather Bureau; Verne Alexander, Central Regional Hydrologist, Kansas City, Mo.; John McCallister, Southern Region Hydrologist, Fort Worth, Tex. (Standing, left to right) Victor Hoffman, HIC, RFC, Fort Worth, Tex.; Larry Zimmerman, HIC, RFC, Salt Lake City, Utah; Tony Polas, HIC, RFC, Portland, Oreg.; Jack Yates, HIC, RFC, Tulsa, Okla.; Albert Kachic, Acting Eastern Regional Hydrologist, New York; Carl Relyea, HIC, RFC, Cincinnati, Ohio; Walter T. Sittner, Supervisor, Washington River Forecast Facility; Charles Hopkins, HIC, RFC, Hartford, Conn.; O. D. White, HIC, RFC, Harrisburg, Pa.; Glen Andsley, Alaska Regional Hydrologist; Ray Johnson, HIC, RFC, Kansas City, Mo.; Roland Raetz, Western Regional Hydrologist, Salt Lake City, Utah.

### NMC Division Reorganized

The Weather Bureau's National Meteorological Center at Suitland, Md., recently completed the reorganization of its Analysis and Forecast Division. The Division now comprises five Branches instead of three. Branch and Branch Chiefs are: Surface Analysis Branch - Jerrold LaRue, chief, and William Rammer, deputy chief; Automatic Analysis Branch - Harold Jordan, chief, and William Drewes, deputy chief; Aviation Weather Forecast Branch - Julius Badner, chief, and John Scanlon, deputy chief; Basic Weather Forecast Branch - Harry Brown, chief, and Robert Cole, deputy chief; Quantitative Precipitation Branch - Russell Younkin, chief, and Vernon Bohl, deputy chief.

### Length-of-Service Awards

The following Weather Bureau Southern Region employees were eligible to receive length-of-service awards during September: 40 years - Charlie J. Raven, Fort Worth, Tex., and Paul M. Hannum, Miami, Fla. 30 years - Grover T. Collins, Brownsville, Tex., and Don D. Stallcup, Fort Myers, Fla. 25 years - Victor W. Hoffman, Fort Worth, Tex.; Eleanore I. Parent, and Jesse V. Carmichael, Miami, Fla.; John V. Vaiksnoras, Nashville, Tenn.; Omer Clarkson, Jr., San Antonio, Tex.; and Henry A. Glidden, Swan Island, West Indies. 20 years - Thomas E. Ziegler, Midland, Tex.; and Miles O. Keiger, Montgomery, Ala.

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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