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Weather Bureau Regional Directors Convene in Alaska



Seated (left to right): William E. Hiatt, Associate Director, Hydrology (WB); R. Adm. Harley D. Nygren, Associate Administrator (ESSA); Dr. Robert M. White, ESSA Administrator; Dr. George P. Cressman, Weather Bureau Director; Karl R. Johannessen, Associate Director, Meteorological Operations (WB). Standing (left to right): Wilmer L. Thompson, Director, Southern Region (WB); Hazen H. Bedke, Director, Western Region (WB); Roy L. Fox, Director, Central Region (WB); Silvio G. Simplicio, Director, Eastern Region (WB); Paul H. Kutschenreuter, Director, Pacific Region (WB); and L. R. Mahar, Director, Alaska Region (WB).

Weather Bureau Regional Directors ended a five-day conference in the Alaska Region on Oct. 31. The meeting opened with addresses by Dr. Robert M. White, ESSA Administrator, and Dr. George P. Cressman, Weather Bureau Director. Dr. White's comments covered highlights of the Department of Commerce budget, together with the outlook for ESSA's 1971 programs. Dr. Cressman presented a general survey of significant achievements of the past year and the tasks that lie ahead.

The remainder of the three-day Anchorage sessions was devoted to field staffing, weather and river services, programs and status of the forecast reorganization program, communications and data acquisition systems.

During the last two days, conferees visited a number of remote field stations in central and western Alaska and the Arctic.

While in Alaska, Dr. White, along with other ESSA officials, visited all of the other ESSA component facilities.

Hurricane Laurie Advisories Processed in Record Time

ESSA satellites photographed Hurricane Laurie in the Atlantic from Oct. 20-24, and Typhoon Ida in the western North Pacific, Oct. 20-22. A "Hurricane Watch" was maintained on Hurricane Laurie by use of NASA's ATS III satellite with the assistance of Vincent J. Oliver and Gilbert Jager of NESC's Applications Group, and Andrew Timchalk, Linwood F. Whitney, and Carl G. Erickson of the Meteorological Satellite Laboratory. The ATS III pictures were received at Goddard Space Flight Center, gridded and analyzed at Goddard by NESC personnel upon receipt from the satellite, and the information relayed to the National Hurricane Center in record time. The pictures were then delivered to NESC, and motion picture loops were made.

Health Benefit Brochures Distributed

ESSA received the Indemnity (Aetna) and Service (Blue Cross) brochures on Oct. 31. Distribution to all employees was completed on Nov. 4. Under normal mailing procedures each employee should have received them on or before Nov. 10, the first day of the "Open" season. Please contact your personnel office if you have not received them by Nov. 10; further, if you want to change your enrollment, please request an SF-2809 from your personnel office.

In areas where there are comprehensive plans, the brochures for those plans will be mailed as soon as they are received by ESSA.

USC&GSS OCEANOGRAPHER Ends Successful Season

The USC&GS Ship OCEANOGRAPHER has completed an eight-month season of oceanographic exploration in two oceans. The "floating laboratory" logged 24,000 nautical miles of depth soundings, magnetic observations and sea gravity information. The ship crossed the Panama Canal twice and engaged in five different scientific projects--participation in the Barbados Oceanographic and Meteorological Experiment (BOMEX), gathering scientific data in the Gulf of Mexico, the Caribbean Sea, and the Pacific Ocean off Panama, and a study of subsurface ocean waves off Canada.

World Weather Data Collected This Month

The Global Data Sets Project--a program designed to collect information on global weather conditions is underway throughout November. The project was planned by the International Council of Scientific Unions'/World Meteorological Organization's Joint Organizing Committee for the Global Atmospheric Research Program.

The United States, through ESSA, is playing a major role in this international endeavor, in which scientists will attempt to assemble as many observations as possible for the month of November--collecting information not normally exchanged internationally and requesting special observations, particularly in the tropics and the Southern Hemisphere. Harold B. Harshbarger, of EDS, is project manager for the United States' participation in the global data-collection program.

The data gathered during the month will be used in computer experiments that simulate the behavior of the atmosphere.

ESSA's World Weather Center at Suitland, Md., will be responsible for assembling the master data files, and will collect as much routine data as possible for the entire world. Melbourne, Australia's World Weather Center will assemble as complete as possible a record of November weather in the Southern Hemisphere, and a special center is being established at the University of Costa Rica to analyze the observations gathered in a tropical region.

The data-collection effort is scheduled to be repeated in June 1970.

Kerley Named PEIRCE Executive Officer



Lt. Roger H. Kerley has been appointed Executive Officer of the USC&GS Ship PEIRCE. Lt. Kerley joined the Coast Survey in 1964 and has served on the USC&GS Ships PATHFINDER and MARMER, with the National Environmental Satellite Center, as editor of the Mariners Weather Log, and with the C&GS Office of Hydrography and Oceanography.

Project COED Gets Boost from Coast Survey Women Scientists



Lillian Mercil, cartographic technician in the C&GS Marine Chart Division (seated), plots a position on a marine chart as students (standing, left to right) Lori Barret, Donna Wangner, Karen Dean, and Alice Metz observe.

The lack of women scientists available for employment in ESSA has prompted the Employment Branch of ESSA's Personnel Division to establish Project COED (Career Opportunities in Environmental Disci-

plines). The goal of the project is to motivate high school girls into scientific careers by introducing them to women who have met with career success in science.

The program was inaugurated on Oct. 29, when four senior girls from Walter Johnson High School, Bethesda, Md., were hosted by four ESSA women scientists--Martha Winn, C&GS Supervisory Oceanographer and Chief of the Tides Section, Oceanography Division; Helen Stettner, geodesist in C&GS' Triangulation Branch, Geodesy Division; Rosemary F. Riordan, mathematician and Chief of the C&GS Programming Branch; and Anna-Mary Bush, mathematician in the C&GS Geometric Geodesy Branch.

The "hostesses" spoke to the students about their function within ESSA, the education and training needed to perform their work, and the reasons for their choice of profession.

The students, all outstanding science students, were introduced to ESSA's mission as a scientific agency by the coordinator of Project COED Linda L. Trunzo, ESSA Management Intern, who arranged a tour of several Coast Survey offices.

Spaceflight Meteorology Group Prepares for Apollo 12 Launch

The Weather Bureau's Spaceflight Meteorology Group will make the first actual weather forecast for the scheduled Nov. 14 launch of NASA's Apollo 12 space vehicle on Nov. 9. The scope of ESSA's services to the Apollo flights extends far beyond the earth's atmosphere, to forecasts of solar flares--eruptions from the burning mass of the sun that send x-rays, radio waves, light waves, electron clouds, and destructive high-energy protons toward the earth and into deep space. Since solar activity is at a peak this year, accurate forecasts and immediate warnings of solar weather are extremely important during manned space flights.

While the Apollo mission is underway, scientists at ESSA's Space Disturbance Forecast Center in Boulder, Colo., keep watch on the sun.

Dr. Wark Receives NASA Scientific Award



Dr. David Q. Wark, research meteorologist in the National Environmental Satellite Center, who received the Commerce Gold Medal on Oct. 14 for his outstanding work, has received an additional honor. Dr. Wark was awarded the National Aeronautics and Space Administration's Medal for exceptional scientific achievement by NASA Administrator Thomas O. Paine, Oct. 21. He was cited for "outstanding scientific contribution as a principal investigator of the SIRS (Satellite Infrared Spectrometer) experiment on Nimbus III." Dr. Wark is the only ESSA person to receive this particular award.

Annuity Benefits Provided in Daniels-McGee Retirement Bill

Listed below are some additional provisions of the Daniels-McGee Retirement Bill of interest to Federal employees.

Survivor annuity benefits for a spouse:

1. Q. What change is there in the rights of widows?
 - A. The widow (or dependent widower) of an employee who dies on or after Oct. 20, 1969, after as little as 18 months of civilian service is now entitled to survivor annuity. Formerly the minimum service requirement was five years.
2. Q. How much survivor annuity is payable to a widow?
 - A. The 1969 Amendments guarantee a minimum annuity to the widow (or dependent widower) of an employee who dies on or after October 20, 1969. This amounts to 55 percent of the smaller of:
 1. 40 percent of the deceased employee's high average salary, or
 2. the regular annuity obtained after increasing the deceased employee's service by the period of time between his date of death and the date he would have reached age 60.
3. Q. Is this guaranteed minimum used in all cases?
 - A. It does not apply if the widow's annuity based on employee's actual service is more than the guaranteed minimum. In this instance, the widow's annuity is 55 percent of the annuity earned by the employee at the time of his death.
4. Q. In what situations will 55 percent of the earned annuity be more than the guaranteed minimum?
 - A. Whenever the deceased employee had sufficient service to produce a higher benefit. Also, since service cannot be projected beyond age 60 in any case, the guaranteed minimum is not operative where the employee dies after reaching that age.

'ESSA NEWS' Retirement Issue Planned

Many inquiries have been received regarding our plans for publicizing the large number of ESSA retirements that were effective Oct. 31. The ESSA Office of Public Information plans to publish a special retirement issue of "ESSA NEWS" at a later date. A questionnaire will be circulated to appropriate offices to obtain pertinent information about the retirees.

Weaver and Solheim, Retired Employees, Die

Leo W. Weaver, who retired from the Weather Bureau in 1955, died Oct. 16. Mr. Weaver began his career as a junior observer at Del Rio, Tex., in 1930 and served at Houston, Tyler, San Angelo and Lubbock, Tex., prior to retirement.

Louis Solheim, who retired as principal assistant of the Sioux City, Iowa, Weather Bureau office in 1966, died Oct. 21.

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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