



BOYLE WINS COMMERCE MEDAL

Ira D. Boyle (right), retired chief of the Warnings and Special Transmissions Branch in the Weather Bureau's Communications Division, received the Department of Commerce Bronze Medal from Dr. Robert M. White, in a ceremony held Feb. 20. Mr. Boyle was cited "for planning, budgeting, and implementing the ESSA Weather Wire Service for continuously demonstrating exemplary acumen and management ability."

RFF ON TARGET

The USC&GS Ship DISCOVERER sailed from Miami in January to rendezvous with two West German and one British ship off the African coast for the Atlantic Tradewind Experiment. When, an essential weather radar on board failed, Research Flight Facility scientists, who specialize in hurricane and severe storm research, answered the urgent appeal for special delivery of a new radar component. On January 30, RFF aircraft 39C located the DISCOVERER about 700 miles out in the Atlantic being buffeted by 25 knot winds and heavy, 12-foot waves. The spare radar part had been packed into a dropsonde package normally used for meteorological soundings. The RFF plane made five practice drops with dummy dropsondes from an altitude of about 2000 feet. It then made the actual drop which fell some several hundred feet behind the ship. The DISCOVERER circled and picked up the package with no difficulty. This was the first attempt at a precision drop by the Research Flight Facility.

FOUR SOUTHERN STATES SURVEYED

Two Coast Survey leveling parties are conducting a six-month survey in the states of Florida, Alabama, Mississippi, and Louisiana. A 16-man leveling party, headed by Lt. Jeffrey G. Carlen, is conducting a 600-mile survey of elevations from Newton Miss., to Shreveport, La., and eastward toward Lafayette and New Iberia, La. The second party, directed by Robert R. Gerrish, is carrying a survey of elevations from Florida to Louisiana. The party will first survey between Milton, Fla., via New Orleans to New Iberia, La. Upon completion of this route, it will work from New Orleans to Jackson, Miss.



Groper



Boykin

GROPER NAMED TRENTON MIC

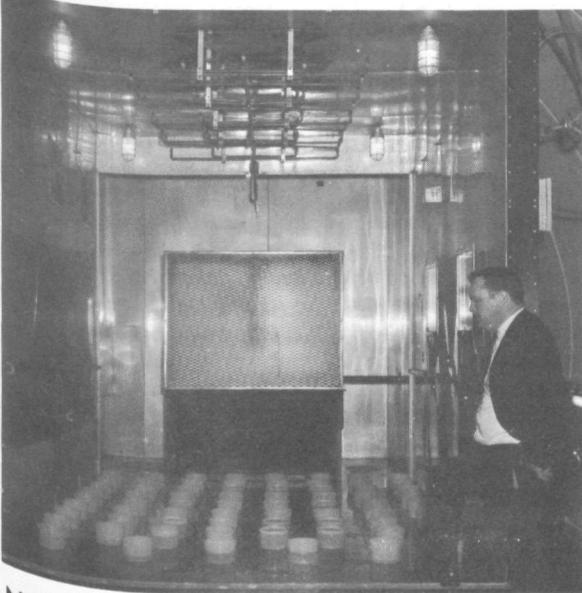
Herbert S. Groper, former principal assistant at the WB's Baltimore office, has been named meteorologist in charge of the Trenton, N. J., office. Mr. Groper began his career with the Bureau in 1942. After a three-year tour of duty with the U. S. Navy, he rejoined the Bureau in 1946, and was assigned to the Atlantic Weather Patrol, where he spent the next five years. He transferred to the Baltimore office in 1966. Mr. Groper received a bachelor's degree in meteorology from Pennsylvania State in 1965, after receiving a Weather Bureau scholarship to complete his studies.

NEW GEORGIA OIC APPOINTED

Dow E. Boykin has been selected official in charge of the new Waycross, Ga., Weather Bureau station. He entered the Bureau at Suitland, Md., in 1956 and served tours of duty in the Antarctic and Arctic before moving to Jacksonville, Fla., in 1958. Mr. Boykin is expected to report for duty on March 10.

CHAMBER SIMULATES WEATHER

A room-sized environmental test chamber at the Weather Bureau's Research and Development Center, Sterling, Va., is being used to check weather equipment slated for use in practically any climate in the world. The 8x10x8-foot chamber can produce temperatures ranging from minus 80 degrees to plus 130 degrees; humidity ranging from 10 percent to 90 percent; air flow up to 20 miles an hour; and simulated rainfall up to four inches an hour. Before the weather-producing chamber became operational, the effects of freezing rain collecting on a wind vane or prolonged high humidity on an electrical circuit could go undetected until the equipment had been field tested. The simulator can be programmed to automatically vary weather conditions and record its own actions, so that it does not require a full-time operator.



NINTH ESSA SATELLITE LAUNCHED

ESSA 9 was launched by NASA from the Eastern Test Range, Cape Kennedy, Fla., at 2:47 a.m. EST, Feb. 26. Preliminary information received indicates that the spacecraft has an apogee of 936 statute miles and a perigee of 884 statute miles. The orbital period is 115.2 minutes. Early calculations are that the spacecraft's orbital drift rate is less than 1 minute per year. First pictures from ESSA 9 will not be available until next week.



JOHNSON AWARDED BRONZE MEDAL

William T. Johnson (left), cartographer in the Operations Division of the Coast Survey's Atlantic Marine Center, was awarded the Department of Commerce Bronze Medal in a ceremony held Feb. 10 by Rear Admiral Allen L. Powell, Director, Atlantic Marine Center. Mr. Johnson was cited "for dedicated superior service during more than 20 years in the Coast and Geodetic Survey in the fields of surveying and cartography." For approximately 16 of his 20 years' service with the Coast Survey, he was chief of a photogrammetric field party. Mr. Johnson, a member of the American Society of Photogrammetry, is considered an expert on precise leveling and with various types of electronic distance measuring equipment.

EDS ASSISTS FLUORIDE STUDY

H. C. S. Thom of EDS is currently working with the Public Health Service in a nationwide study of fluoride intake by children from drinking water. The average amount of drinking water used by children in a given locale per year can be determined from the mean annual daily maximum temperature. With this information, the ideal fluoride content of drinking water for that locale can be determined and, where necessary, fluoride can be added to the water supply. Mr. Thom will provide tables of the optimum fluoride concentration for thousands of American cities to the Public Health Service.



Quiroz



Black

QUIROZ CHAIRS AMS COMMITTEE

Roderick S. Quiroz, senior research meteorologist in NMC's Upper Air Branch, has been appointed chairman of the American Meteorological Society's Committee on Atmospheric Problems of Aerospace Vehicles for a two-year term beginning January 1969. The Committee includes several representatives from civilian and military agencies in the U. S. One of its major functions is to plan for the provision of meteorological information applicable to the design, development, and operation of various aerospace systems. The committee is currently planning a Fourth National Conference on Aerospace Meteorology in the spring of 1970.

BLACK JOINS WESTERN STAFF

Robert M. Black has succeeded A. L. Zimmerman as agriculture and marine meteorologist at Western Region headquarters, Salt Lake City. Mr. Black was formerly advisory agricultural meteorologist at Corvallis, Oreg. While at Corvallis, he was associate professor on the staff of the Oregon State University Agricultural Experiment Station. Mr. Black joined the Weather Bureau at St. Louis, Mo., in 1947, and subsequently served at Des Moines, Iowa, and Portland, Oreg.



YOUNG METEOROLOGISTS CONVENE

The Weather Bureau Western Region Council of Young Meteorologists met at Regional Headquarters, Salt Lake City, Feb. 4-6 to review WB training programs, career ladders, operations, and weather and river service products, and to recommend constructive ideas for improvement to the Director. Left to right: Richard Meyer, Las Vegas; Jack Hales, Seattle-Tacoma; William Hackel, San Francisco WBFO; David Williams, Los Angeles WBFO; David Olsen, Helena WBO; Richard Augulis, WRH; Barry Nielson, Salt Lake City WBFO; William Alder, Salt Lake City WBFO; Hazen H. Bedke, Director, WRH (not shown, David Westledge, Salt Lake City RFC).

SERVICE AWARDS

National Weather Records Center employees eligible for length-of-service awards during the first quarter of 1969 are: 25 years - Floyd M. Garland, Eva Lou Gray, William T. Hodge, Mildred I. McCarson, Grace Y. Osborne, and Earl M. Ritchie. 20 years - Jackie S. Barger, Helen F. Bartlett, William D. Bartlett, Troy O. Buckner, Henry G. Hall, and Wanda L. Swann.

WB Western Region employees receiving awards during February are: 30 years - Robert M. Stuart, Long Beach, Calif. 25 years - Mildred V. Bergstrom, Portland, Oreg.; Albert Malach, Fresno, Calif.; and Ida M. Johnson, WRH, Salt Lake City, Utah.

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National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

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