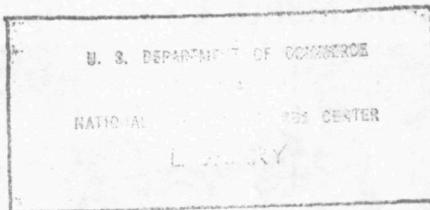


March 13, 1970

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# ESSA NEWS



Volume 6

Number 11

## USC&GSS DAVIDSON Rescues 13 Men in California Waters



**USC&GSS DAVIDSON**

**Cdr. Ray Moses**

The USC&GS Ship DAVIDSON, commanded by Commander Ray E. Moses, rescued 13 men whose 130-foot tuna boat--the HIGH SEAS--sank in 100 feet of water 2½ miles south of Point Loma, Calif., March 10. The DAVIDSON was conducting hydrographic surveys off the coast of southern California, and her crew witnessed the sinking. The rescued men were taken to San Diego.

The USC&GS Ships DAVIDSON and McARTHUR, equipped with the latest electronic hydrographic instruments, are mapping the

coasts and sea bottoms off southern California. The survey is part of a program to rechart the entire west coast and to map the sea bottom along the continental shelf off California, Oregon, and Washington. The survey, now in its fourth year, will be continued by similar Coast Survey vessels until all of the 19,000 square miles of coastal and deep water have been surveyed. Data obtained by the DAVIDSON, McARTHUR, and other survey ships will be incorporated in new or revised nautical charts.

### Dr. Hess Named to University Group

Dr. Wilmot N. Hess, Director of the ESSA Research Laboratories, has been named to the University of Colorado's Commission on Environmental Studies. The commission, composed of distinguished scientists, will make recommendations on the university's future course in attacking environmental problems in the 1970's.

### World Meteorological Day Set for March 23

The 132 member nations of the World Meteorological Organization--an agency of the United Nations--will observe World Meteorological Day on March 23. The theme of this year's observance is Meteorological Education and Training. ESSA conducts an extensive program of training foreign nationals in meteorology and related fields.

## Secretary Stans Meets ESSA Employee Representatives



Secretary of Commerce Maurice H. Stans met March 2 with representatives of Commerce employee welfare and recreation organizations in the Washington area. The Secretary expressed his interest and support for the programs conducted by the employee groups. Pictured above with the Secretary of Commerce are the ESSA Employees Association representatives at the meeting. Left to right: Eugene Dancico; Jerry Firtag; Dr. Robert M. White, ESSA Administrator; Danny Jones; Linda Trunzo; Jeannette O'Connor; Secretary Stans; Charles Fronczek; Ann Cook; Daniel Bella; Helen Hagemeyer; and Samuel McCoy.

### Telephone Companies To Receive WB Awards

Weather Bureau Public Service Awards will soon be presented to the Bell Telephone Companies that provide recorded weather announcements as a service to the public in 18 locations in the United States. The telephone companies will be cited for their cooperation with the Bureau in providing "on demand" forecast disseminating services. Companies receiving the awards and their areas are: C&P Telephone Co. of Maryland (Baltimore); C&P Telephone Co. of Virginia (Norfolk-Metropolitan and Richmond-Metropolitan, Va.); C&P Telephone Co. (Washington, D. C.); Illinois Bell Telephone Co. (Chicago); Michigan Bell Telephone Co. (Detroit); New England Telephone Co. (Boston); New Jersey Bell Telephone Co.; New York Telephone Co. (Buffalo and New York City); Ohio Bell Telephone Co. (Cleveland); Pacific Telephone and Telegraph Co. (Los Angeles, San Diego, and San Francisco); Pacific Northwest Bell Telephone Co. (Seattle); Bell Telephone Company of Pennsylvania (Philadelphia and Pittsburgh); and Wisconsin Telephone Co. (Milwaukee).

### Skyscraper Is Official Geodetic Site



Rear Admiral Don A. Jones, Coast Survey Director (left), congratulates Robert L. Tinker, general manager of the Empire State Building, after dedicating plaque designating the Empire State Building as a triangulation station in the Coast Survey's horizontal network.

## Ocean Station Now Operative



Coast Guard Cutter GRESHAM

Ocean Weather Station HOTEL--180 miles off Nantucket at 38°N, 71°W-- was added to the United States' ocean station vessel program this year to improve warning of storms approaching the east coast from the Atlantic. With the addition of HOTEL, the United States now occupies seven ocean stations, where Weather Bureau personnel take meteorological observations aboard Coast Guard ships.

From Feb. 20 to March 31, the new weather station is being manned by the U. S. Coast Guard Cutter GRESHAM, and plans are to man it continuously from August 1 - March 31 thereafter. Activation of the station was made possible by Congressional action authorizing special funds to the Coast Guard and to the Weather Bureau for the specific purpose of filling a need for additional data.

## Sternes Wins Portland Federal Award

Gilbert Sternes, recently retired ESSA State Climatologist for Oregon, was given the Federal Man of the Year Award for 1969 by the Portland Federal Council. The Council represents all federal agencies in the Portland area.

## Dr. Townsend Participates in Symposium

Dr. John W. Townsend, ESSA Deputy Administrator, will participate in a session on Aerospace Systems Development at the Eighth Goddard Memorial Symposium of the American Astronautical Society, held in Washington, D. C., March 17-18.

## Lightning Within Clouds Located by New Technique

William L. Taylor, scientist at ERL's Institute of Telecommunication Sciences, Boulder, Colo., has developed a new technique for observing lightning within clouds that may aid in predicting or preventing aircraft or rocket-triggered lightning. The electrical energy from a lightning discharge moves upward and encounters the earth's ionosphere, where some of the energy from the lightning is reflected back towards the earth. This reflected energy can be picked up by various antennas. Mr. Taylor's investigation showed that cloud-to-ground lightning strokes produced a single waveform return from the ionosphere, while intracloud flashes caused a double return in the sky wave component. Energy moving upward from the lightning stroke and reflecting off the ionosphere does not arrive at the antenna receiver simultaneously with the energy moving downward from the same stroke. Measuring the time lag between the two sky waves and knowing how far away the lightning stroke occurred can enable scientists to calculate how high the intracloud stroke was in the atmosphere. Increased understanding of intracloud lightning could help to predict which clouds are unsafe for aircraft and rockets.

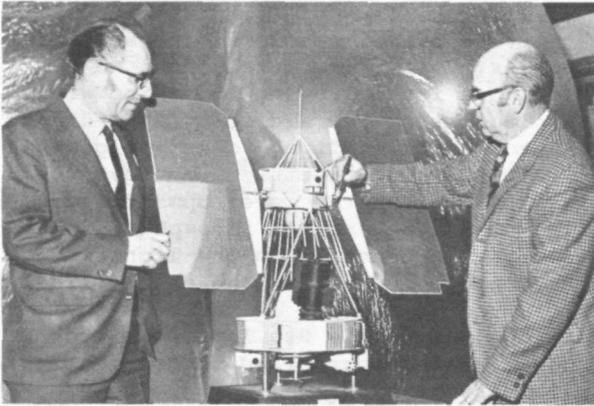
## McCormick Presents Invited Paper to Royal Society

Robert A. McCormick, Director of the National Air Pollution Control Administration's Division of Meteorology, presented an invited paper on "Air Pollution in the Locality of Buildings," at The Royal Society's Discussion Meeting on Architectural Aerodynamics held in London, Feb. 26-27. Mr. McCormick is on assignment to NAPCA in Raleigh, N.C.

## Ferrara Represents ESSA in Tokyo

Angelo Ferrara, electronic engineer of the Coast Survey's System Plans and Analysis Group, will represent ESSA at a U.S.-Japan meeting on marine resources in Tokyo during March. On Mar. 18, he will address a seminar on shipboard computers and data acquisition systems.

## New York Weather Exhibit Attracts Thousands



Left to right: Ray Falconer of the State University of New York and Ray Wrightson, principal assistant at WBO, Albany, N. Y., with Nimbus satellite.

Ray Wrightson, principal assistant, Weather Bureau Office, Albany, N. Y., assisted by Raymond Falconer, Atmospheric Science Research Center, State University of New York, organized a WESCENT exhibit at the Colonie Shopping Center Mall, Colonie, N.Y., that drew exceptional public response, Feb. 2-7. During the week, the exhibits were manned almost continuously from morning until night by all personnel available, including the wives, who conducted tours and served as hostesses. In addition to the Weather Bureau exhibit that included drops on the local teletypewriter loop



Scene at New York Weather Exhibit

and facsimile circuit, historical weather records and meteorological instruments, there were exhibits by the U. S. Geological Survey on river gaging; N. Y. State Thruway exhibit showing weather related problems and a pickup phone with recorded road conditions; a replica of a NIMBUS satellite; and a structure housing exhibits on research in the atmospheric sciences by the State University of New York. Civil Defense; Niagara Mohawk; General Electric; New York State Department of Health; American Meteorological Society; and WROW radio were also exhibitors.

### Pa. Hydrologist Saves Stranded Couple

Prompt action by Lars Feese, hydrologist at the Harrisburg, Pa., River Forecast Center, saved the lives of Mr. and Mrs. Victor Acheson, who became stranded in a snowstorm at a hunting lodge near Cameron County, Pa., Feb. 13. When Mr. Acheson discovered that food and fuel oil were getting low and the snow continued to drift, he made a distress call over the State Radio System used to collect river and rainfall reports. Mr. Feese answered the call and alerted the nearest State Police headquarters, who rescued the Achesons after two attempts with a snowmobile.

### MT MITCHELL Surveys Puerto Rican Coast

The USC&GS Ship MT MITCHELL has begun a three-month hydrographic survey of Puerto Rico's Caribbean coast as part of a long-range program to update nautical charts off the southern coast, which are based on surveys made more than 40 years ago. The survey, to end in mid-June, will be carried out by the ship and her three 26-foot launches, equipped with precision echo sounders and electronic positioning instruments. The depth information gathered by the ship will be corrected for the rise and fall of the tides and sound velocity differences in seawater, and will subsequently be used for nautical charts.

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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