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ESSA NEWS

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE SERVICES ADMINISTRATION

25 Scientists Seek International Standards For Measuring Ocean/Atmosphere Phenomena

Twenty-five scientists from nine nations will sail aboard the USC&GS Ship DISCOVERER to the Gulf of Mexico, Caribbean Sea, and Pacific Ocean in an effort to establish international standards for measuring ocean and atmospheric phenomena. The scientists are oceanographers, physicists, and meteorologists from the United States, the Soviet Union, Australia, Denmark, France, Japan, Norway, Great Britain, and West Germany. The one-month expedition was scheduled to get underway April 30.

During the voyage, scientists will engage in a research program involving measurements of the ocean's primary productivity. This is essentially a measure of the rate at which the drifting microscopic plants of the sea are able to utilize radiant energy from the sun and nutrients from the sea to produce carbohydrates, oxygen, and other products through photosynthesis, much as plants do on land. The amount of incoming radiation at the sea surface and at several levels below the surface will be measured together with the optical properties of the waters themselves. By bringing together scientists and techniques from different countries, it is hoped that a standard international technique can be agreed upon that can be recommended to scientists throughout the world who are concerned with measuring the sea's productivity.

Preparations for the project have been under way for several years. The work is being carried out under the aegis of the Scientific Committee on Oceanic Research (SCOR), a part of the International Council of Scientific Unions. The SCOR group is headed by John Tyler of the Scripps Institution of Oceanography,

La Jolla, Calif.

In addition to the SCOR group, meteorologists and technicians from the United States, the Soviet Union, Japan, and West Germany will attempt a comparable intercalibration of radiometer-sondes used by their nations to measure radiation in the atmosphere. The instruments, which are carried aloft by helium-filled balloons, radio back to the ship data on the variations in radiant energy versus height above the sea. By flying the instruments of the four different countries from the same balloon, the scientists will be measuring the same thing and will be able to carry out the required intercalibration of their equipment.

Previous intercomparisons involving the same scientists were held in Munich, Germany, in 1963, and in Green Bay, Wisc., and Miami, Florida, in 1965. It was determined as a result of these projects that intercomparison of the instruments would be more accurate if conducted over more uniform sea surface rather than over the varying terrain of land. This scientific effort, known as the Third International Radiometer-sonde Intercomparison, is an activity of the Radiation Commission of the International Association of Meteorology and Atmospheric Physics. The project is headed by Dr. Peter M. Kuhn of ESSA's Atmospheric Physics and Chemistry Laboratory, Boulder, Colo.

Dr. Harris B. Stewart, Jr., Director of ESSA's Atlantic Oceanographic and Meteorological Laboratories in Miami, will serve aboard the DISCOVERER as expedition coordinator between the two scientific groups and the ship. The USC&GS DISCOVERER is commanded by Capt. Hubert W. Keith, Jr.

A Message From The Administrator

Today, the Interdepartmental Savings Bond Campaign has been launched. The Department of Commerce campaign will be conducted through June 19.

President Nixon has stressed the vital role that the savings bond program plays in the nation's fiscal and debt management policies. "The U.S. Savings Bond Program is of utmost importance to our country," the President said. He and Secretary Stans have given this campaign top priority.

I am confident that ESSA employees will respond to this urgent need. Moreover, Savings Bonds are a good buy. The interest rate is now 5 percent and the maturity is now five years and ten months. The Payroll Savings Plan is a convenient way to benefit yourself and your family as well as the nation.

Your key man will contact you soon. I urge your participation to the fullest possible extent.

Robert M. White

Sassman Wins Medal

Joe M. Sassman, aviation service operations meteorologist at the Weather Bureau's Southern Region headquarters, Fort Worth, Tex., received the Department of Commerce Bronze Medal in a ceremony held during a meeting of the North Texas



Chapter of the American Meteorological Society recently. Mr. Sassman was cited "for expertise in both meteorology and aviation services and an unusually high degree of devotion to duty." A U.S. Naval Aviator from 1942 to 1956, Mr. Sassman joined the Bureau's Washington headquarters staff as a research meteorologist in 1956. His other assignments have been as an aviation forecaster at New York International Airport, and as an aviation quality control officer at Jacksonville, Fla. J. A. Riley, chief of the Weather Analysis and Prediction Branch, and acting chief of the Operations Division, Southern Region headquarters, presented the award to Mr. Sassman.

ESSA Personnel Officers Meet at Headquarters



The Personnel Officers' Conference was held at ESSA headquarters, Apr. 20-24. Participants were, seated left to right around the table, Dr. Robert M. White, ESSA Administrator; Guy H. Dorsey, Chief, Personnel Division; Harold Sylvester, Southern Region; Gilbert Ehrsam, NWRC; Nick Rizzo, Eastern Region; Freel Hubbard, Pacific Marine Center; Raymond Lumpkin, Central Region; Dale Gough, Research Laboratories; Edmund Dickey, Alaska Region; John Norris, Pacific Region; Tom Farrelly, Atlantic Marine Center; and Walt Gully, Western Region.

Seven Employees Launched in New Careers



Front row, left to right: Esther J. Brown, Wilbur R. Boone, Jr., and Carol L. James. Back row, left to right: Aaron H. Hacker (instructor), William O' Bryant Hall, David L. White, Jr., and Robert D. Bowen.

Seven ESSA employees have completed a special course that qualifies them to advance to positions as computer operators.

In a ceremony April 22, ESSA Assistant Administrator Theodore P. Gleiter presented certificates to Robert D. Bowen, Wilbur R. Boone, Jr., Esther J. Brown, William O' Bryant Hall, Carol L. James, John E. Regan, and David L. White, Jr.

The employees, who formerly held positions ranging from motor vehicle operator to clerk-typist, completed nine months of training, including 1000 hours of on-the-job training in ESSA's computer facilities and 500 hours of formal classroom instruction.

The Computer Operator Training Course was designed to provide qualified computer operators for ESSA's computer fa-

cilities, in which critical shortages exist, and, at the same time, to offer opportunities to employees who possess the necessary interests and aptitudes to advance to higher-graded positions. The program developed from a suggestion offered at an ESSA staff meeting early in 1968.

The training was conducted by ESSA's Computer Division, headed by Mirco P. Snidero. Other Division staff members who assisted in the training program were Wallace H. Blackwell, Jr., Chief, Operations Branch; Donald S. Foster, Chief, Analysis and Programming Branch; and Aaron H. Hacker, who served as instructor.

A similar course is planned for the summer of 1970.

Florida Recreational Area Surveyed

A four-month hydrographic survey will get underway next month at Estero Bay, a recreational center near Fort Myers, Fla. The survey will be carried out by the Coast Survey in the 20-square-mile bay by a six-man field party headed by Lt. Brent H. Traugher of the ESSA Commissioned Corps. Increased marine activity and waterfront development in the area have established a need for the latest navigational information.

Bouray and Blanchard Tie for Pacific Honor

Neil M. Bouray of WBO Kahului and Lawrence G. Blanchard have won the Pacific "Observer of the Quarter" award for the fourth quarter of 1969. This is the first time in the history of the awards program that two contenders have tied for first place. Other candidates nominated by their stations were: Leloyd Acosta, Pago Pago; Haser Epineisar, Truk; Delmacio Ibanez, Guam; Galen Joel, Yap; and Hirao Kloulchad, Koror.

A First for the Weather Bureau



Front row, left to right: L. Mahar, Alaska Region Director, D. Sala, G. Audsley, V. Fleury, C. Doran, P. Tannelli.
Back row, left to right: W. Mossman, B. Lord, E. Edmondson, R. Willis, W. Henderson, B. Thielen.
Not shown: J. Walsh and R. Palmer.

The Fairbanks, Alaska, Weather Bureau Office has won the distinction of being the only Weather Bureau Office in the United States where every member of a station has completed the in-house Hydrologic Services course. Lawrence R. Mahar, Alaska Region Director, presented

certificates for completion of the course to every member of the office, including two Electronic Technicians, Mar. 30. Due to the disastrous Chena River flood of 1967 and the near flood last summer, the staff developed a keen interest in hydrology.

Coast Survey Ship Operations Report Available

A new publication entitled "Coast and Geodetic Survey Ship Operations Report 1969" summarizes the programs carried on during the 1969 field season. It is the first in a series of special reports to be issued annually on C&GS ship operations. Copies can be obtained from C51.

Deaths

Robert P. Lindsey, who retired from the Coast Survey last year after 33 years of service, died April 20. Mr. Lindsey's last assignment was on the USC&GS Ship WHITING.

William O. Garrison, meteorologist in charge of the Weather Bureau Office, Tulsa, Okla., since 1947, died April 23. Mr. Garrison had been a Bureau employee since 1942.

Robert Goodrich, C&GS Division Chief, Retires



Robert D. Goodrich, chief of the Coast Survey's Distribution Division since 1962, retired on Apr. 17 after 35 years with C&GS. Since his employment in 1934, Mr. Goodrich has held varied assignments in hydrography and cartography as a carto-

graphic engineer on hydrographic and wire drag surveys, chart production, and chart compilation. Prior to his appointment in the Distribution Division, he was assistant chief of the Reproduction Division. In 1967, Mr. Goodrich was awarded the Department of Commerce Silver Medal for his "leadership in formulating and implementing progressive distribution policies."

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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