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ESSA NEWS

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE SERVICES ADMINISTRATION

Weather Radio Stations Get Tone Alert Feature

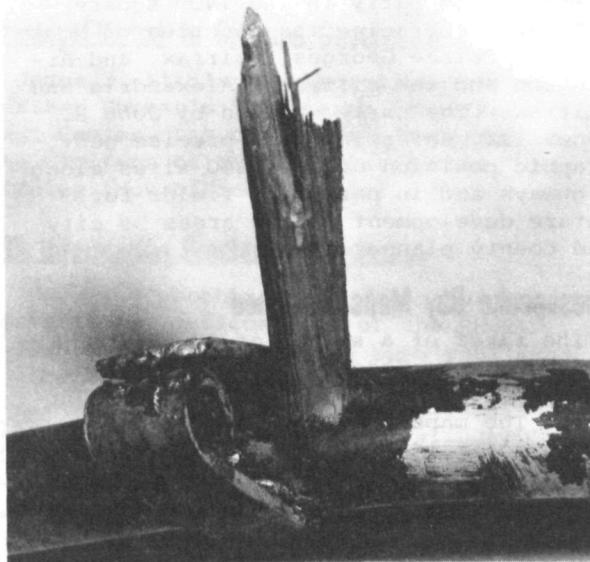
The Weather Bureau is equipping its nationwide network of VHF-FM weather radio stations with a device which will alert listeners to special warnings of hazardous weather. The device, called "tone-alert," transmits a signal which will automatically demute -- turn up the volume on -- special receivers within a 40- to 50-mile radius of the station. Receivers without demuting capability will produce a distinctive three- to five-second tone when adjusted for normal listening. The Weather Bureau operator will then proceed with the emergency message.

The tone-alert device assures positive notice of warnings of such severe weather as hurricanes, tornadoes, severe thunderstorms, winter storms, and high winds to schools, hospitals, civil disaster agencies, newspapers, radio and television stations, and individuals who have radio receivers with a "weather band" at 162.550 or 163.275 megahertz.

Weather Bureau radio stations equipped with the tone-alert are located at Boston, Mass.; New London, Conn.; Atlantic City, N.J.; Washington, D.C.; Norfolk, Va.; Charleston, S.C.; Jacksonville, Miami, and Tampa, Fla.; New Orleans and Lake Charles, La.; Galveston and Corpus Christi, Tex.; Cleveland, Canton, and Akron, Ohio; Los Angeles and San Francisco, Calif.; and Honolulu, Hawaii. The radio station at New York City will install the tone-alert in the near future, and new stations at Brownsville, Tex., Seattle, Wash., and Portland, Oreg., will be transmitting soon and are also equipped with the tone alert.

Tornado Driven Wood Pierces Steel Frame

At 2:15 a.m. on the morning of April 18, 1970, a tornado hit Clarendon, Texas, totally destroying four homes. One was the home of Mr. and Mrs. Pete Land, who survived by taking shelter in their storm cellar. A piece of wood driven through the 1½-inch steel frame of the Land's gate gave striking evidence of the force of the tornado's winds. The Lands have donated the damaged section of the gate, still containing the wood fragment, to ESSA. The Environmental Data Service is studying the pipe and the piece of wood to determine the probable wind speed required to propel the missile through the steel. The photograph below shows the section of pipe and the fragment of wood driven into it by the tornado.



NASA Honors Spaceflight Meteorology Group

Twenty-nine members of the Weather Bureau's Spaceflight Meteorology Group have received pins and certificates of appreciation for weather support provided to the National Aeronautics and Space Administration's Apollo program. The Apollo Achievement Awards were given to the Group "in appreciation of dedicated service to the nation as a member of the team which has advanced the nation's capabilities in aeronautics and space and demonstrated them in many outstanding accomplishments culminating in Apollo 11's successful achievements of man's first landing on the moon, July 20, 1969." Honored were K. Nagler, P. Gottwals, D. Verant, A. Sanderson, R. Siler, R. Carter, E. Mitros, S. Richards, J. Gulick, C. Neumann, N. Nixon, M. Samet, E. Amman, J. Nicholson, R. Urbanak, H. Higgins, J. Harper, J. O'Brien, S. Greenfield, R. Brintzenhofe, J. Cox, J. Williams, O. Gorden, G. Harger, C. Pulley, P. Morrissey, D. Martin, J. Hope, and K. Seal.

C&GS Completes D.C. Area Geodetic Survey

A cooperative geodetic survey of six metropolitan areas adjacent to the District of Columbia was completed recently. The two-year survey was carried out by a 15-man field party in the 1400-square-mile area embracing the counties of Montgomery, Prince Georges, Fairfax, and Arlington and the cities of Alexandria and Fairfax. The party, headed by John B. Jones III, determined the precise geographic position of over 200 sites along highways and in parks and fields for future development of the areas by city and county planners.

Chesapeake Bay Maps Published

The first of a series of 15 maps of the bottom of the Chesapeake Bay has been published by the Coast and Geodetic Survey. The maps are the outgrowth of a study initiated in 1967 by the Atlantic Oceanographic and Meteorological Laboratories to investigate the topography and geological characteristics of the Bay.

The initial map, covering an area from north of Annapolis, Md., to south of James Island, is available for \$1.00 from the Coast Survey's Distribution Division, Washington, D.C. 20235. Two more maps in the series are scheduled to be published later this year.

ESSA Exhibit Displayed At New Jersey Mall



An ESSA exhibit commemorating the 100th anniversary of the U.S. Weather Services was displayed in the Bergen Mall Shopping Center's auditorium, Paramus, N. J., Aug. 26 - Sept. 3. Throughout the week, personnel from Eastern Region headquarters, Weather Bureau Forecast Offices, and Weather Bureau Offices at New York and Newark, N. J., manned the exhibits and gave guided tours. The exhibit was a combined effort of John Mayer, meteorologist, WBO, New York, and Gerald Shak, Eastern Region User Services Representative, in cooperation with staff members of Eastern Region headquarters and the Wallops Island, Va., meteorologist in charge L. W. Chamberlain.

Pacific Northwest Fire Danger Reduced

Substantial rainfall last week greatly reduced fire danger in the Pacific Northwest. Wilbert Krumm, the Weather Bureau's Fire Weather Coordinator at Boise, Idaho, reported that all fires in the Montana, Idaho, Oregon, Washington area are now classified "safe" and all Bureau mobile units and fire-weather personnel have been released and returned to their home stations. Mr. Krumm estimated that at the height of the fire season this year as many as 700 fires of all types may have been burning at once in the Northwest.

Sick Leave Usage Analysis Underway

The Civil Service Commission is conducting a study of sick-leave usage on a sample basis, using Commerce Department employees whose Social Security number ends in either "3" or "8." Since ESSA is also interested in sick-leave usage, a comprehensive examination will be made of sick leave used by all ESSA employees, which can be used for comparison purposes. ESSA's study is being conducted by the Personnel Division and will cover a 12-month period, beginning July 1, 1970.

Hummel Heads Syracuse WBO

Jack L. Hummel, former meteorologist in charge of the Williamsport, Pa., Weather Bureau Office, has been named to head the Syracuse, N. Y., WBO. Mr. Hummel joined the Bureau in 1955 at Burlington, Vt., after graduating from Penn State University in 1951 and 1952. A former weather officer with the U.S. Air Force, he also served at Washington, D.C., and at Atlantic City, N. J.

Maggie Misses Hawaiian Islands

Tropical Storm Maggie posed the most serious tropical storm threat in years to the Hawaiian Islands, Aug. 24-25, when she passed within 100 miles south of South Point (southernmost point in the U.S.) on Aug. 25. The storm weakened early that day so that winds did not become strong enough to cause damage, although there were heavy rains and high surf in some sections of the Big Island.

WB Summer Employee Wins Award



Left to right: Wendell Porth, Shreveport MIC and Miss Warren.

Paulette Warren, a summer employee at the Shreveport, La., Weather Bureau Office, has received a \$25 savings bond for performing outstanding teletype duties. A senior at Southern University in Baton Rouge, La., Miss Warren was also honored this year by the Baton Rouge Chapter of Zeta Phi Beta when she received the 1970 Finer Womanhood Award and the 1970 award for versatility and academic excellence. Originally hired through the Summer Jobs Youth Campaign, she has been employed by the Weather Bureau for the past two summers.

Jacobson and Kernan Receive Bronze Medals



A.L. Jacobson



R.F. Kernan

Arthur L. Jacobson and Raphael F. Kernan, meteorologists at the Great Falls, Mont., Weather Bureau Forecast Office, have received Department of Commerce Bronze Medals. Mr. Jacobson received the award "for 15 years of outstanding work as FAWS Supervisor developing an outstanding forecast unit in Great Falls, Mont." Mr. Kernan was honored "for 20 years of outstanding work as a Weather Bureau forecaster in issuing warnings for severe weather in Montana." Presenting the awards was O. R. Warner, Deputy Director, Weather Bureau Western Region.

Stanley Elected to Civitans Governance

James J. Stanley, a hydrologist at the Weather Bureau's Sacramento River Forecast Center, has been chosen Governor of the Civitans of Northern California. Mr. Stanley took office in July.

EDS Information Brochure Published

A 20-page brochure that describes the services and publications of the Environmental Data Service has been published by the ESSA Office of Public Information. The two-color, illustrated booklet explains the functions of EDS' National Climatic Center, Seismological Data Center, Geodetic Data Center, Geomagnetic Data Center, Aeronomy and Space Data Center, including a list of selected data publications, charges for climatological data services, and the addresses of ESSA's State Climatologists. Copies are available from the Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C. 20402 at 30 cents each.

Apply Early for Federal Summer Jobs

The Civil Service Commission is encouraging current summer employees to apply early for consideration for such positions next year. Eligibility in the Summer Employment Examination will be required for summer jobs in grades GS-1 through GS-4.

Applicants who took the written test this year, or who updated their previous year's eligibility and received an eligible Notice of Rating for 1970 Summer Employment, are not required to take the written test to be considered for summer jobs in 1971. A special form to update qualifications will be sent to them by November 1. Applicants who wish to improve their scores may retake the written test.

Applicants who qualified for 1970 summer employment on the basis of grade-point average, and who wish to be considered for summer jobs in 1971 on this basis, must again meet the same grade-point average requirements.

Applications for summer employment are expected to be available in October. Completed applications should be received by the Civil Service Commission by December 4 for the test scheduled on January 9; by January 8 for the test on February 13; and by February 3 for the test on March 13.

Since opportunities for summer jobs are limited, students should apply early to receive maximum consideration.

Dr. Stewart Authors Chapter For New Scientific Book

Dr. Harris B. Stewart, Jr., Director of the Atlantic Oceanographic and Meteorological Laboratories, is the author of a chapter titled "The Ocean--A Scientific and Technical Challenge" in the newly published book, "Science and Technology in the World of the Future." This chapter served as the basis for Dr. Stewart's article "A Great Place To Visit" in the April 1969 issue of ESSA WORLD. The new book was edited by Arthur B. Bronwell and published by Wiley-Interscience Division of John Wiley & Sons, Inc., New York.

Length-of-Service Awards

Service awards were due in August to the following employees:

Weather Bureau Western Region

40 years - Harold C. Harvey, Boise. 25 years - Thomas D. Carter, Salt Lake City; Walter D. Hattman, Pomona; and Warren W. Winden, Los Angeles. 20 years - Damon B. Capps, Salem, Oreg.; C.H. Stanton Massey, San Francisco (PWP); Maynard H. McPhee, Missoula, Mont.; and Lynn B. Willoughby, Portland (RFC).

C&GS Mid-Continent Field Area.

30 years - Carl A. Annis, Triangulation Party G-16. 25 years - Charles C. Johnson, Triangulation Party G-23.

Weather Bureau Central Region.

30 years - Donald Erpelding, Denver; Richard H. Volz, Denver; and Robert W. Nicholson, Minneapolis. 25 years - Helen J. Renwick, Bismarck.

Weather Bureau Southern Region.

35 years - Thomas L. Cassell, Albuquerque. 30 years - Carl W. Landers, Little Rock; Ned H. Williams, Mobile; and Edgar C. Camick, Tampa. 25 years - Robert J. Theisen, Fort Worth (RFC); and John R. Hope, Miami.

At Asheville, service awards have been presented recently to the following:

National Climatic Center.

35 years - Jacob T.B. Beard. 30 years - Horace W. Chapman. 25 years - Lillian A. Conway, Sesto G.B. Martin, Charles F. Simon, Dick M. Whiting, Frances P. Sluder, Edna M. Jarrett, Olice O. Owens, and Audrey M. Warren. 20 years - Sylvia H. Harris, Way M. Mease, Carl L. Crandall, Hobard Rector, and Henry W. Stauffer.

Seismological Data Center.

25 years - Lewis M. Cundiff.

Wolff and Reed, Retired Employees, Die

Jerome Wolff, former Meteorologist in charge of the Casper, Wyoming, Weather Bureau office, died Aug. 31. Mr. Wolff retired in 1965.

Benjamin Reed, who retired in 1958 as chief of the Teletype Section, Weather Bureau headquarters, died in Oakland, Calif., Aug. 5.

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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