

# ESSA NEWS

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U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE SERVICES ADMINISTRATION

## A Message From the Administrator

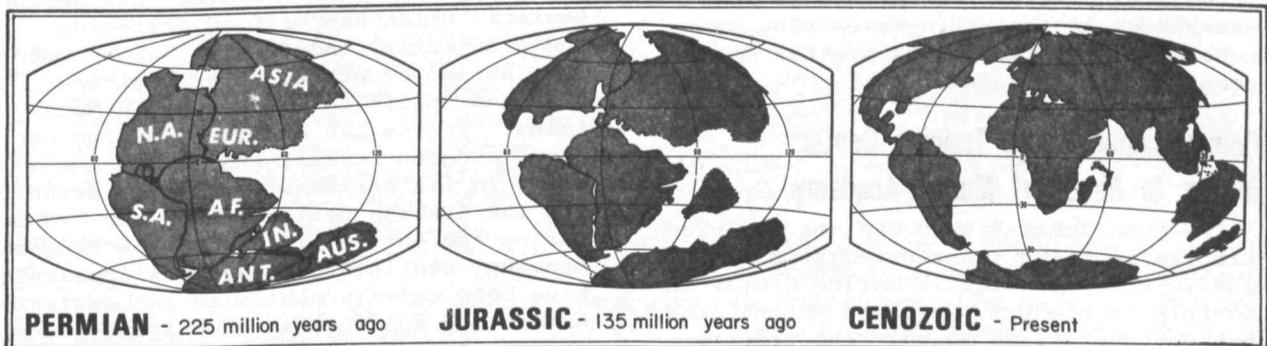
The 1970-71 Combined Federal Campaign began on September 16. This one-gift campaign helps support the vital services of more than 150 local, national, and international agencies.

President Nixon has said, "Generosity and concern for others has always been a proud tradition of all who serve in the United States Government."

ESSA's record in past campaigns has been excellent and I feel confident that this year we will do even better. I urge you to help alleviate the pain and suffering and bring hope to the less fortunate by your generous gift using the payroll deduction plan.

*Robert M. White*

## ESSA Scientists Trace Birth and Drift of World's Continents



Shown above are three of a series of maps showing the geographical position of the universal continent (Pangaea), its breakup into the present continents, and the drifting migration of the landmasses as envisioned by Dr. R.S. Dietz and John C. Holden, ERL geologists.

Dr. Robert S. Dietz and John C. Holden, marine geologists at the Atlantic Oceanographic and Meteorological Laboratories, Miami, have worked out a sequence of five maps that, for the first time, identify the tracks of a 200-million-year journey the continents have made across the face of the earth. The scientists have also picked their way backwards in time to piece together the first geographically-precise reconstruction of what is thought to be the universal mother of continents.

Basing the reconstruction on the relatively new concept of sea-floor spreading and global plate tectonics, the ESSA scientists used continental margins, oceanic ridges, and ancient geomagnetic-pole positions to control the placement of landmasses in orderly geological progression.

In the beginning there was Pangaea, a supercontinent that existed unbroken 225 million years ago. Twenty-five million years later, the continent split

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## O'Daniel and Asp Awarded Commerce Bronze Medals



M.O. Asp



G.E. O'Daniel

George E. O'Daniel, retired chief, Facilities Section, and M. Oliver Asp, chief, Substation Management Section, both of the Weather Bureau's Central Region headquarters, Kansas City, Mo., have been awarded Department of Commerce Bronze Medals. Mr. O'Daniel received the award "for outstanding service and leadership in the installation and maintenance of meteorological support facilities for 17 years." Mr. Asp was cited "for outstanding service in the management of the Hydro-Meteorological Substation program in the Weather Bureau's Central Region."

### Commissioned Corps Training Center Moves to Merchant Marine Academy

The ESSA Commissioned Officer Training Program is being transferred from the Coast Survey's Atlantic Marine Center in Norfolk to the U.S. Merchant Marine Academy on Long Island Sound. The transfer will take place following graduation of the members of the 34th training class at Norfolk this month. Training will continue to be conducted by ESSA personnel, under the direction of Lt. Cdr. Joseph W. Dropp, training officer, and Lt(jg) William R. Daniels, assistant training officer. The Merchant Marine Academy, operated by the Maritime Administration, offers more extensive training facilities.

### C&GS Field Party Surveys Kentucky Airport

The Coast Survey has begun a field survey of Capital City Airport, Frankfort, Kentucky, as part of a joint program with the FAA to advance air safety.

### World's Continents *continued from page 1*

into two large masses--Laurasia, which was ultimately to become North America, Europe, and Asia, and Gondwana, that was to break into Africa, South America, Australia, Antarctica, and India. This separation created the proto-Atlantic Ocean as a kind of offshoot of the Pacific lying at east-west points along the equator. Africa and South America split away from eastern Gondwana, while another rift lifted India off Antarctica. By the end of the next period 135 million years ago, known as Jurassic, sea-floor spreading had further opened the North Atlantic and Indian Oceans. A new rift began splitting South America away from Africa. The North Atlantic rift continued to grow northward in the Cretaceous period, which ended 65 million years ago, extending the North American, European split. Australia tore away from Antarctica. Africa drifted northward and India moved all the way to the equator.

During the present geologic period known as Cenozoic, the two Americas have continued to drift westward and the Atlantic has continued opening, splitting Laurasia up through the Arctic Ocean. Australia and India have moved northward, the scientists say, at a rate of about 4 inches per year, or 10 times faster than North America, which has drifted westward. India's journey ended early in the Cenozoic period crunching under southern Asia and uplifting the Himalayan Mountains. Africa has continued moving northward, nudging Eurasia and undergoing a split in its northeastern bulge, establishing the Arabian peninsula and the Red Sea. During the entire history of the Pangaea breakup, continental movements appear to have been chiefly northward and westward. Antarctica and Eurasia have remained relatively fixed, except for some rotation.

### Kansas Receives WB Public Service Award

The Weather Bureau's Public Service Award was recently presented to Governor Robert Docking for the State of Kansas.

### HOLD THAT DATE!

A "farewell ESSA--hello NOAA! informal reception and buffet will be held on Friday, October 2, at 7:30 p.m. in the Washingtonian Motel, Gaithersburg, at \$8.00 per person. Wives are cordially invited. Reservation deadline is September 28. Checks may be made payable to Mrs. Mary Moore, Room 810, Building 5, Washington Science Center.

## Thirty Cooperative Observers Win Weather Bureau Awards

Thirty volunteer weather observers have been selected to receive 1970 Thomas Jefferson and John Campanius Holm Awards for excellence and cooperation in recording weather conditions of the United States. Five observers are to receive this year's Thomas Jefferson Awards for unusual and outstanding accomplishment in the field of meteorological observations. Honored will be Howard R. Allard, Willows, Calif.; Gilman W. Ford, West Burke, Vt.; Douglas F. Manning, Alexandria Bay, N. Y.; Charlie McCormack, Jr., Cloud Chief, Okla.; and Walter Ormsby, Sabino Canyon, Ariz.

The John Campanius Holm Awards for continued excellence will be presented to: Jerome Akin, Farmington, Minn.; William H. Alison, Catheys Valley, Calif.; Leslie J. Anderson, Manti, Utah; W. P. Cater, Cerro, New Mex.; Parker N. Chick, Walpole, Mass.; Stanley W. Coon, Duncan, Ariz.; Harold Del Ponte, Klamath, Calif.; Merton T. Goodrich, Keene, N. H.; Mrs. Mary F. Harker, Heron, Mont.; Dr. Walter S. Hough, Winchester, Va.; John Koepl, Nez Perce, Idaho; Gust Lofgren, Homer, Alaska; Oscar C. Lofgren, Wallin, Iowa; William Marsteller, Uniontown, Pa.; Frank Mascari, Sr., Ironton, Ohio; Ross R. McKenna, Kaycee, Mo.; Nello Moroni, Advance, Mo.; Mrs. Gertrude Peters, Jiggs, Nev.; Charles A. Roberts, Kent City, Mich.; Mrs. Vieve E. Saltmarsh, Buncom, Oreg.; Daniel Smiley, Mohonk Lake, N. Y.; Paul C. Sorenson, Rockport, Tex.; Gust Steinmann, Ashton, Idaho; John Swaine, Jr., Royal Oak, Md.; and Oscar T. Yoder, Phillips, Wyo.

## Field Professionals Urged To Apply For WB Headquarters Vacancies

Weather Bureau Director Dr. George P. Cressman has asked top field officials to urge promising GS-11 meteorologists and hydrologists to apply for vacancies at central headquarters. Dr. Cressman says there have been several jobs at grades GS-12 and above that were filled from outside because no well-qualified Weather Bureau employees applied. He notes that the long-term health of the Bureau is best served when young professionals within the organization are encouraged to seek opportunities for advancement and to obtain experience through a variety of assignments.

## ESSA Appointments Announced



H.M. Gibson      J.T. Murray      Cdr. G.M. Poor

John T. Murray, former official in charge of the weather office at Harrisburg, Pa., has replaced Jack L. Hummel as head of the Williamsport, Pa., Weather Bureau Office. Mr. Murray entered the Weather Bureau in 1941, where he served until 1943, when he joined the Air Force Weather Service. Following his tour in the military service, he returned to the Bureau at Philipsburg, Pa., in 1946. The station moved to Williamsport, Pa., two years later, and Mr. Murray was assigned there until his transfer to Harrisburg in 1969.

Cdr. George M. Poor is the new Projects Officer at the Coast Survey's Atlantic Marine Center, Norfolk, Va. From 1966 until 1969, he held a similar post at the Pacific Marine Center in Seattle. Cdr. Poor, who joined the Coast Survey in 1958, was formerly in charge of the Commissioned Officer Training Program at Norfolk.

Harold M. Gibson will succeed Clarence E. Lamoureux as meteorologist in charge of the Des Moines, Iowa, Weather Bureau Office in October. Mr. Gibson, who is presently a forecaster at Anchorage, Alaska, has served with the Bureau at Kansas City and Salt Lake City. He holds a master of science degree in meteorology from Pennsylvania State University.

## Denver Weathermen Iron Out Their Problems

The Weather Bureau Forecast Office at Denver, Colo., has devised a speedy system for handling wet weather charts received over the facsimile machine. Using an ordinary iron, they press them dry. This system is particularly useful when a chart comes in over the machine close to forecast time and must be analyzed before it has had time to dry naturally.

## Oahu Surfing Data Available By Automatic Telephone

Surfing data for 15 beaches around Oahu Island in the Pacific are now available by automatic telephone to interested persons from almost anywhere in the world. The number 847-1952 reaches a Code-a-Phone that was installed at the Honolulu Weather Bureau Forecast Office, Aug. 25. After a week of testing, the forecast office began recording reports of surf heights every morning for the beaches around Oahu, in addition to a forecast of the "surf trend" for the rest of the day for the north and west coasts of Oahu. The trend will be stated in terms of increasing and decreasing surf, or little change, along the coasts but not for specific beaches. Number 847-1952 is a toll call except from the island of Oahu.

## Fla. Geodetic Survey Launched This Month

A five-month federal survey of Broward County, Fla., including Fort Lauderdale and Hollywood, is being launched this month by a 20-man Coast Survey team. The \$256,000 project is being conducted in cooperation with the county to establish over 80 precise geographic positions for future development in the county.

## Retired ESSA Employees Die

Cdr. Edgar H. Bernstein, an ESSA commissioned officer who retired in 1950, died September 10. His 33 years of service with the Coast Survey included command of the USC&GS Ships MIKAWA, WESTDAHL, and HODGSON. He was also in charge of the San Juan Magnetic Observatory and the Oakland Seattle Processing Offices.

Ernest Carson, former meteorologist in charge at the Galveston, Tex., Weather Bureau Office, died Sept. 13. Mr. Carson served as MIC at Galveston from 1949 until his retirement in 1962.

Dwight F. Gibson, who retired in 1964 as a meteorologist with the Weather Bureau's Norfolk, Va., office, died Sept. 10. Mr. Gibson served at Oklahoma City and Tulsa, Okla., prior to his Norfolk assignment.

## Hurricane-Proof Sugar Mill Is Site of New Weather Radar



Tested and found storm-proof for the past 240 years, this sugar mill at Husbands, St. James, Barbados, makes an appropriate housing for a new weather radar maintained by the Caribbean Meteorological Institute. The mill's coral stone walls, erected in 1729, have withstood the devastation brought on by nine hurricanes which have struck the island since 1731. The Japanese-manufactured radar system was installed under the direction of David Smedley, formerly of the Weather Bureau, and Eugene E. Beall, currently with the Bureau's Engineering Division, while they were on assignment to the United Nations Development Program/World Meteorological Organization project for the improvement of Caribbean meteorological services.

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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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