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## ESSA Scientists Explore Sea-Floor Spreading Theory

Paul Grim and Walter Sproll, scientists at the Atlantic Oceanographic and Meteorological Laboratories in Miami, found new evidence supporting the theory that the earth's crust is composed of gigantic rigid moving segments or plates during an oceanographic survey made last August aboard the USC&GS Ship OCEANOGRAPHER. The vessel covered almost 6000 miles over an area of some 60,000 square miles south of Panama and Costa Rica with her electronic equipment probing the bottom and subbottom of the ocean. Under the theory of plate tectonics, an active ocean ridge forms a plate boundary, where hot basaltic material rises from the earth's mantle (next to the earth's outer crust) to add new crust to the separating plates. The survey tended to confirm the theory that the Cocos Plate on the west of the fracture zone is moving north and is being thrust under the North American continent at the Middle America Trench that extends along the coast of Mexico and Central America. The data gathered during the cruise will take months to process and evaluate.



The above sketch depicts the movement of two crustal plates on either side of a giant fracture in the ocean bottom. ESSA scientists found what appeared to be an active ocean ridge linking the Panama Fracture Zone and the Galapagos Rift Zone to the south.

### Earthquake Bulletin Publication Resumed

The first issue of the "Earthquake Information Bulletin" in a revised format has been published by the Coast Survey's National Earthquake Information Center. The objective of the Bulletin is to provide current information on earthquakes and seismological activities of interest to both general and specialized readers. Included in the first issue, under the heading "Seismology for the Classroom," is an informative article on determining the depth of an earthquake. The Bulletin will be issued bimonthly and may be ordered on a subscription basis from the Superintendent of Documents, U. S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D. C.

### Employee Pay Days Change

Biweekly paychecks will be dated on the second Wednesday after the end of the pay period beginning February 4. The Department has established this rule throughout Commerce. Due dates for Time and Attendance Reports (ESSA Form 34-8), processing dates for the Electronic Computing Division, and processing dates for the Treasury Disbursing Office will remain the same. Subagents may give the checks to employees on Wednesday. In a few instances, the checks may not arrive at the station until Thursday, but since nearly all employees will be benefited by the change, it has been decided to go ahead with the earlier check dating.

## Carte To Head Quillayute Weather Bureau Station



Donald L. Carte has been selected as official in charge of the Weather Bureau Office, Quillayute, Washington. He will be leaving the position of supervising observational specialist at Weather Bureau Forecast Office, Great Falls, Montana, to begin his new assignment in February. Former assignments have been at Stampede Pass, Wash., and Las Vegas, Nev.

## ESSA Procurement Branch Merged

The Procurement Management Branch of ESSA's Administrative Operations Division was consolidated with the Procurement Division of the Department of Commerce, Jan. 19. Procurement advice and assistance to ESSA program and operation offices in the Washington area will be provided by the Commerce Division through Edwin C. Lucas, Liaison Officer, AD11, Room 520, Bldg. 5, Rockville, Md. Washington area offices will continue to submit their procurement requests to the Bureau Control Unit that will be headed by Frank Leimbach, AD11, Room 516, Bldg. 5, Rockville, Md. Burton F. Loveless, Special Assistant to the Assistant Administrator for Administration and Technical Services for Procurement Liaison, AD11, Room 520, Bldg. 5, Rockville, Md., will provide advice and assistance to field procurement activities.

## ERL Director Wins AIAA Award

Dr. Wilmot N. Hess, Director of the ESSA Research Laboratories, Boulder, Colo., received the G. Edward Pendray Award of the American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics in New York City, Jan. 20. Dr. Hess was cited "For an outstanding contribution to the literature in the field of space physics by synthesizing and reflecting in a single text the results of a decade of research on 'The Radiation Belt and Magnetosphere'."

## Tax Surcharge Reduced

The Tax Reform Act of 1969 reduces the income tax surcharge from 10 percent to 5 percent for wages paid on and after January 1, 1970. These changes will be included in pay checks during the latter part of February 1970. Since state taxes are based on a percentage of Federal tax withholdings, there will be a slight change in the state tax deductions.

## SDO Officials Meet in Kansas City

Members of the Weather Bureau Systems Development Office met with Central Region program managers in Kansas City recently to discuss SDO objectives and learn of operational programs and problems in the field. The meeting was part of a continuing program aimed at improving communications and understanding between SDO and the Weather Bureau Regions. Attending the day of briefing and discussion sessions from Weather Bureau headquarters were Merritt N. Techter, Director of Systems Development; John Lovkay, Deputy Director of SDO and Director, Equipment Development Laboratory; Donald M. Hanson, Chief, Systems, Plans and Design Division; William E. Eggert, Director, Test and Evaluation Laboratory; and William H. Klein, Director, Techniques Development Laboratory. Central Region presentations were made by Roy Fox, Central Region Director; Allen D. Pearson, Director of the National Severe Storms Forecast Center; Robert C. Baskin, Chief, Weather Analysis and Prediction Branch; Lawrence A. Hughes, Chief, Scientific Services Division; Wayne E. Sangster, Techniques Improvement Meteorologist; Norman E. Prosser, Radar Meteorologist; and Alfred A. Skrede, Chief, Data Acquisition Branch.

## Mitchell Named to Glaciology Panel

Dr. J. Murray Mitchell of the Environmental Data Service has accepted membership on the Glaciology Panel of the National Academy of Sciences-National Research Council Committee on Polar Research for 1970-72.

## "Climates of the World" Reprinted

Climates of the World, an EDS publication first distributed in August 1969, is being reprinted at the request of the Government Printing Office. The 32-page booklet contains maps showing world-wide precipitation and seasonal temperature and narrative summaries of climatic conditions for each continent. It is available for 35 cents per copy from the Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D. C. 20402.

## C&GS Field Party #745 Voted Outstanding



C&GS Hydrographic Field Party #745, headed by Lt. Arthur P. Sibold, has been voted the outstanding hydrographic field party of 1969. The eight-man crew surveyed 50 miles of the Connecticut River, the Mississippi Sound area struck by Hurricane Camille, and sections of the Florida Intracoastal waterway and the east coast of Florida. Left to right: Lt(j.g.) Brent Traugher, Terry Dye, Ens. Mike Adams, Lt. Arthur Sibold, Lloyd Gilden, Brian Young, Jim Dixon, and O.C. Swindell.

## Alaska Ends Feverish Fire Weather Season

With new fires being reported as late as November and old fires still smoldering from last summer, the Weather Bureau's Alaska Region has ended one of its longest and most disastrous fire-weather seasons. Fire-weather forecasters have been under pressure since the first part of April when it was discovered that two 1969 fires were reborn after smoldering the entire winter. The fire-weather season normally subsides by mid-August.

## Hull Appointed Eureka MIC



Melvin K. Hull (left) was recently named the new meteorologist in charge of the Eureka, Calif., Weather Bureau Office. He assumed his new position after serving as leading fire-weather forecaster at Eureka since joining the Bureau in 1966. Mr. Hull was previously employed by the U.S. Forest Service as a meteorologist.

## Survey Set for Gulf of Mexico

An extensive search for dangers to shipping in the Gulf of Mexico will be launched early in February by the USC&GS Ships RUDE and HECK. The project, extending over several years, will be carried out primarily in fairways leading into U.S. ports in Texas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama, and Florida. The fairways were first charted in 1966 by the Coast Survey to guide coastal and ocean-going vessels safely between the numerous oil well platforms which rise above the Gulf surface as far out as 60 miles. The ships' mission will be to search for partially removed oil platforms, sunken vessels, or other submerged obstructions.

## Finger and McInturff Paper Published

A technical paper entitled "Meteorology and the Supersonic Transport," co-authored by Frederick G. Finger and Raymond M. McInturff of NMC's Upper Air Branch, appears in the January 2 issue of SCIENCE magazine. The paper deals with problems of weather analysis and forecasting in support of future supersonic transport operations.

## C&GS Parties on the Move

Coast Survey field parties are currently conducting surveys of Lea County (Hobbs) Airport, New Mexico; Abilene (Tex.) Municipal Airport; and Modesto City-County (Calif.) Airport.

# Length-of-Service Awards

The following employees are eligible to receive length-of-service awards during January:

### Washington-area

40 years - Thomas L. Gibson and Harold B. Cole (WB). 35 years - Joel B. Campbell (C&GS). 30 years - Wilmer W. Miller (ADTECH); John S. Blain, Jr., Frank W. Burnett, Donald L. Jorgensen, Hans P. Jensen, and George L. Gades (WB); Filip F. Junek, Joe F. Wilson, Melvin N. Gienau, and Walter J. Hollohan (C&GS). 25 years - Edwin E. King (WB); Andrew Husser (ADTECH); Kendrick Cravens (C&GS). 20 years - James A. Greco (ADTECH); Donald L. Willson, Arthur L. Lajoie, Joseph L. Mullaney, and Gerald A. Peterson (WB); Robert B. Kelly and Annie R. Langley (C&GS); Emanuel Zisseron (NESC). Casper Salisbury of C&GS received a 30-year service award.

### Weather Bureau Central Region

40 years - Alois G. Topil, Denver, Colo. 30 years - John J. Holstein, CRH; Lars C. Christensen, Springfield, Ill.; George Blandino, Milwaukee, Wisc.; and Burton Handy, Jr., NSSFC Kansas City, Mo. 25 years - James W. Zoller, Detroit, Mich.; and Robert H. Dickson, RFC Kansas City, Mo. 20 years - William E. Williams, WBFO St. Louis, Mo.

### Mid-Continent Field Area, C&GS

Matthew C. Allison, Leveling Party G-36, Kansas City, Mo. - 25 years.

### Weather Bureau Western Region

30 years - Aubrey J. Bentley, Tucson, Ariz. 25 years - Howard Albrethson, San Francisco; Herbert I. Eger, Tucson, Ariz.; Maynard L. Rogers, Salem, Oreg.; and Robert E. Todd, Salt Lake City. 20 years - Gaylord A. Rainsbarger, Long Beach, Calif.

### Weather Bureau Southern Region

30 years - Frank W. Eldred, Albuquerque, New Mex. 25 years - Alois M. Huber, Nashville, Tenn. 20 years - Dorus D. Alderman, Memphis, Tenn.

NWRC employees eligible for service awards during the fourth quarter of 1969 were: 40 years - Thomas L. Long. 25 years - Margaret M. Birge, Samuel Goodman, John B. Ledford, Winton B. Riddle, Mary White, 20 years - Janie W. Chapman and Albert E. Reid.

Noboru Miyashiro, Barking Sand, Kauai, completed 20 years of federal service in December.

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.

## WESCENT Banquet Reservation

Mail to:  
WESCENT Dinner Committee  
700 Davis Building  
1629 K Street, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20006

Reserve \_\_\_\_\_ full table(s) of 10 seats each or \_\_\_\_\_ single seat(s) for the National Weather Services Centennial Banquet, February 13, 1970.

My check for \$ \_\_\_\_\_ at \$17.50 for each dinner seat is enclosed, payable to WESCENT. The pre-dinner reception is included in the price of the dinner. Seat-

ing arrangements will be made in order of receipt of checks. Tickets will be mailed prior to the dinner.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

# **National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration**

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