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NOAA NEWS 1/26

VOLUME 4 NUMBER 2 JANUARY 26, 1979

Meteorology Has Exciting Future, Frank Predicts

The coming decade will be among the most exciting in the history of meteorology, Richard A. Frank, NOAA Administrator, has predicted.

It will also be a decade in which NOAA, the Nation's civil air-sea agency, will forge stronger links with the academic research community, he said. Frank announced that new standards will be set for enhanced relations, involving close collaboration and cooperation, and funding for scientific effort.

Addressing the 59th Annual Meeting of the American Meteorological Society in Reno, Frank foresaw substantial public benefit from improved delivery

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Hallgren Named To Head NWS

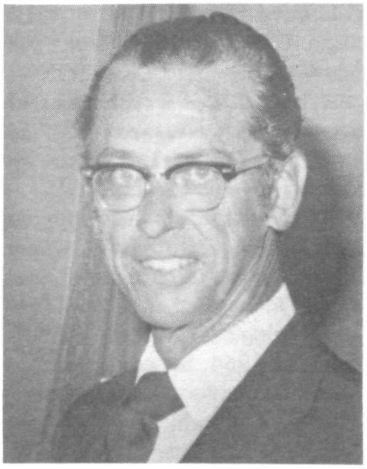
Dr. Richard E. Hallgren will be designated Director of the National Weather Service, Richard A. Frank, NOAA Administrator, has announced.

Hallgren, now Acting Assistant Administrator of NOAA for Oceanic and Atmospheric Services, will assume direction of NWS on Feb. 12. He succeeds Dr. George P. Cressman, who has resigned to devote full time to research within the National Weather Service.

"I am delighted to announce Dr. Hallgren's appointment," said Frank. "This is a position of vital importance to NOAA and to the Nation. The activities of the National Weather Service extend to every state of our country and to much of the rest of the world, and affect the lives of all of our people."

Dr. Richard E. Hallgren

The position of Acting Assistant Administrator for Oceanic and Atmospheric Services will be assumed by David S. Johnson.



David S. Johnson

Director of NOAA's National Environmental Satellite Service.

Hallgren, the recipient of numerous scientific honors, is internationally known as a major contributor to global weather programs, and in this Nation as an innovator of concepts and systems designed to speed the acquisition, processing and dis-

(Continued on p. 2)

Terms Outlined For Waiver On Alaska Marine Mammals

NOAA and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service have spelled out the conditions under which they will waive a moratorium on the taking of 10 types of marine mammals in Alaska.

The moratorium has been in effect on nine of the 10 mammals since passage of the 1972 Marine Mammal Protection Act. Under newly published regulations, the waiving of the moratorium will take effect when the State revises its own laws and regulations to conform satisfactorily with the Act and the Federal rules.

Changes in State laws and regulations will be subject to public review and comment before Interior and Commerce give final approval to lifting the present ban.

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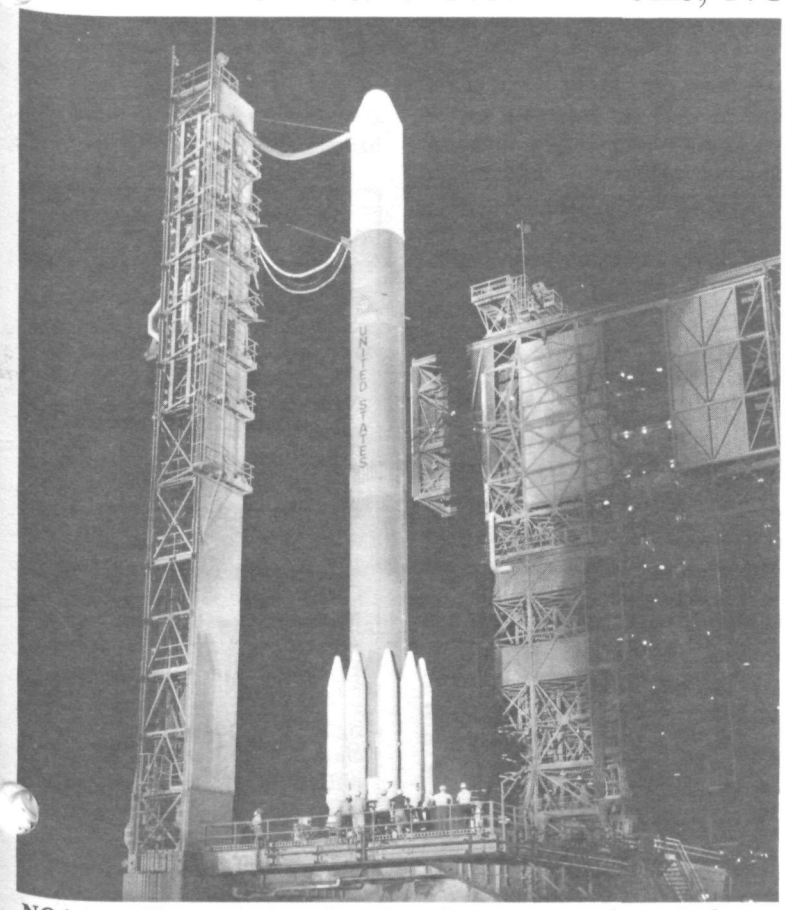
Satellites Can Save U.S. Millions, NOAA Study Reveals



NOAA satellite on the launch pad, ready to go out and earn its keep.

Satellite pictures from space can save U.S. industries and governmental agencies a minimum of $172 million a year, and probably many times that amount, a recent analysis has revealed.

The study, conducted by NOAA, which operates two environmental monitoring satellite systems, shows dollar savings from the use of satellite imagery accruing especially to the fishing, agricultural, and marine shipping industries.

Prepared by W. John Hussey and E. Larry Heacock of NOAA's National Environmental Satellite Service, the analysis confines itself to nine activities in which annual savings could be estimated with some degree of accuracy.

Research indicated that the agricultural industry, and especially citrus growers in Florida, may be the biggest beneficiaries of savings from satellites.

In Florida, imagery from a

(Continued on p. 4)

Sea Grant Begins International Cooperation In Marine Research

NOAA has announced a program of international cooperation in marine research with a number of developing nations to aid their efforts and to promote exchange of information on oceanic and coastal resources.

Under the program, funded by $913,400 in grants from NOAA, seven U.S. academic institutions associated with the agency's Sea Grant College Program will undertake cooperative marine programs with counterparts in Chile, Costa Rica, Malaysia, Mexico, Israel, and Colombia.

Primary emphasis will be on education and training, Dr. Ned A. Ostenso, Director of NOAA's National Sea Grant College Program, said. Research and advisory service functions will also be included. The program was authorized by legislation in 1976, and is coordinated with the U.S. Department of State.

The University of Delaware Sea Grant College Program received a two-year, $303,500 grant for a cooperative marine studies program with the University of Costa Rica; while a $199,900, two-year grant was awarded the University of Miami to support a marine resources and environmental sciences training program in cooperation with several educational institutions in Colombia, and coordinated with the Colombian Oceanographic Commission.

The Sea Grant Program at the Virginia Institute of Marine Science (VIMS) is using a $131,400 grant to train personnel in Israel in wave measurement and modeling techniques and to improve Israeli marine advisory services in wave information and coastal zone planning. The VIMS project is for a two-year period.

The University of Rhode Island Sea Grant College Program has received $95,000 for a one-year project in Malaysia with the University of Malaya and the University Pertinian Malaysia. This project will develop academic programs in fisheries management, coastal zone management, and related fields, plan future research projects, and outline a structure for a local marine extension service.

The Oregon State University Sea Grant College Program is assisting Latin American nations in the development of appropriate levels of competence in marine resource conservation with its $90,000, one-year grant. Chief participating institution in Latin America is Catholic University of Valparaiso in Chile.

An award of $72,000 to the New York Sea Grant Institute is strengthening marine science capabilities in Chile. The two-year project, carried out with the University of Concepcion, concentrates primarily on training faculty members of the Department of Marine Biology and Oceanography in coastal zone management techniques.

The Louisiana State University Sea Grant College Program has been granted $21,600 for a one-year project in Mexico. Among the tasks there are identification and quantification of the ecological associations between Terminos Lagoon at Campeche and the fisheries.

Only The Name Has Been Changed

As of Jan. 1, the Office of General Counsel for Administration (GCA) has become the General Counsel for Research and Services (GCRS).

The name change in no way changes the function of the office which is located at WSC 5, Rm. 221 with phone number 443-8066.

Hallgren To Head NWS *(From p. 1)*

semination of weather information.

Born in Kersey, Pa., he was graduated from Pennsylvania State University with a B.S. in meteorology in 1953. After two years as an Air Force weather officer, he returned to the University to earn a Ph.D. in meteorology in 1960.

That same year Hallgren joined IBM Corporation where he was a research analyst and then manager of the IBM Meteorological Systems Department. In 1964, he was appointed Scientific Advisor to the Department of Commerce Assistant Secretary for Science and Technology, and two years later became the first director of the Office of World Weather Systems within NOAA's predecessor, ESSA.

From 1969 to 1971, he was Assistant Administrator for Environmental Systems, becoming Associate Administrator in September 1971. He was also Federal Coordinator for Meteorological Services and Supporting Research during 1972-1973.

In March 1973 Hallgren was appointed Deputy Director of NOAA's National Weather Service. He became Acting Assistant Administrator of NOAA for Oceanic and Atmospheric Services in November 1977.

Hallgren was one of the 1968 winners of the Arthur S. Flemming Awards for outstanding young men in the Federal government, and in 1969, he won a Department of Commerce Gold Medal. He is a member of Sigma Xi, the American Meteorological Society, and the American Oceanic Organization.

Over the years, he has taken an active part in the development of the World Weather Watch of the World Meteorological Organization which led directly to his participation in the planning for the Global Atmospheric Research Program's (GARP) Atlantic Tropical Experiment (GATE) in the summer of 1975.

Terms Outlined To Alaska *(From p. 1)*

The new Federal regulations, based on scientific evidence, restrict the numbers of animals that may be taken every year. Such taking is consistent with the 1972 Act.

Under the Act, NOAA has responsibility for management of the following affected species: northern sea lions, harbor seals, largha seals, ringed seals, ribbon seals, Pacific bearded seals, and beluga whales. The FWS is responsible for the polar bear, sea otter, and Pacific walrus. A 1976 waiver on the walrus will be modified by this action.

In 1973, Alaska requested that the Federal moratorium on taking of these animals be waived and that management authority be returned to the State. Following lengthy public hearings on the matter, the presiding administrative law judge issued in 1977 a "recommended decision" finding the State's request to be in accordance with the provisions and policies of the Act. The judge recommended the moratorium be waived, with a limit on the numbers of animals taken annually, and that management be returned to the State.

The decision also grants Alaska the authority requested by the State to take sea lion and habor seal pups. However, the decision requires that the State establish strict controls in connection with any pup harvest. In a letter to the Governor of Alaska, Richard A. Frank NOAA Administrator, urged that the State proceed cautiously in determining whether, and if so how, to conduct a pup harvest.

NOAA NEWS

Published biweekly at Rockville, Md., by the Office of Public Affairs for the information of employees of the Commerce Department's National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

Articles to be considered for publication should be submitted at least 10 days in advance to *NOAA News*, Room 108, Rock-Wall Bldg., Office of Public Affairs, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Rockville, Md., 20852.

NOAA News reserves the right to make corrections, changes or deletions in submitted copy in conformity with the policies of the paper or the Administration.

Norma V. Reyes, Editor
Warren W. Buck, Jr., Art Director

The Processing Division, Atlantic Marine Center, was awarded a NOAA Unit Citation recently for the work in eliminating large backlogs of unprocessed hydrographic surveys and for achieving a goal of processing and verifying field data within one year. R.Adm. Robert C. Munson, Director, AMC, (extreme right) presented the award to: (l to 4) Cdr. Robert Trauschke, Rudolph Sanocki, Lt. Charles Mason, Robert Hill, Frank Lamison, Susan White, Wilbur Hill, Frederic Paterson, Sharon Kelley, Harry Smith, Maurice Hickson, Guy Trefethen, Frank Saunders, Lt.(jg) Maureen Kenny, Patricia Niland, Robert Roberson, Roy Cram, Edna Adams, James Wilson, Reginald Keene, Scott Bradford, Douglas Mason, and Jack Ehrhardt.

Frank Speaks On Future Of Meteorology

(From p. 1)

of short-range weather services.

The National Weather Service, one of the world's best, will become even better through evolutionary improvements in weather observation and dissemination, he said: "We are at a jumping off place for innovative efforts in weather prediction, weather modification, and climate analysis."

Frank cited new remote sensing techniques – ground-based, satellite-borne and acoustic – which will open dramatic new horizons in observation. Infrared radiometers for continuous measurement of atmospheric temperature and water; doppler radars to determine wider ranges of wind fields; laser probes to measure cloud heights, all will bring new capabilities to forecasters, he said.

Advanced communications will greatly improve dissemination of forecasts and warnings, using significantly increased amounts of information on conventional channels and animated color displays transferred directly from radar screens to color TV displays, Frank said. "We will have better public warnings of impending severe weather, such as tornadoes and flash floods. We will also have better forecasts of common weather events that affect all of us."

The NOAA Administrator called for "a clear national policy and a well-coordinated, long-term national program for research into the scientific basis for management of our weather resources." He cautioned that major philosophical and ethical questions surround the field of weather modification, and said they must be addressed forthrightly. Deliberate weather alteration, he said, must be preceded by consultation with those affected, and operations must be undertaken with complete consideration for the public safety and welfare.

Referring to a recent report from a high-level committee to the Secretary of Commerce, Frank agreed with its conclusion that all governmental research and development in weather modification should be centralized in one Federal agency. He expressed the conviction that the cost of a long-term national program in weather modification research would be small when measured against the potential benefits for public safety, industry, and agriculture.

He pledged the widest possible participation by Federal, State and other agencies and organizations in a new National Climate Program to be coordinated by NOAA. A preliminary version of the Program's first Five-Year National Climate Plan will be presented to the Congress in March.

"My discussions with a wide variety of scientists and other individuals have convinced me that NOAA's relations with our Nation's academic and research institutions must be enhanced," Frank said. "The academic and research communities can provide thought and research of high quality – in some cases the best thought and research available – thus permitting NOAA and the rest of the Government to fulfill our mandates in the best possible fashion. Greater support of these communities would strengthen them and permit them to continue to provide outstanding services."

Among actions to be taken will be increased collocation of NOAA facilities with academic institutions, more research in such institutions, and appointment of a Director of University Relations.

Refugees Leave NWS Station For Honduras

Twenty-three Haitian refugees, who shared facilities with National Weather Service radiosonde employees on Swan Island in the Carribbean since Dec. 15 when their sailboat broke up, were flown to Honduras Jan. 16.

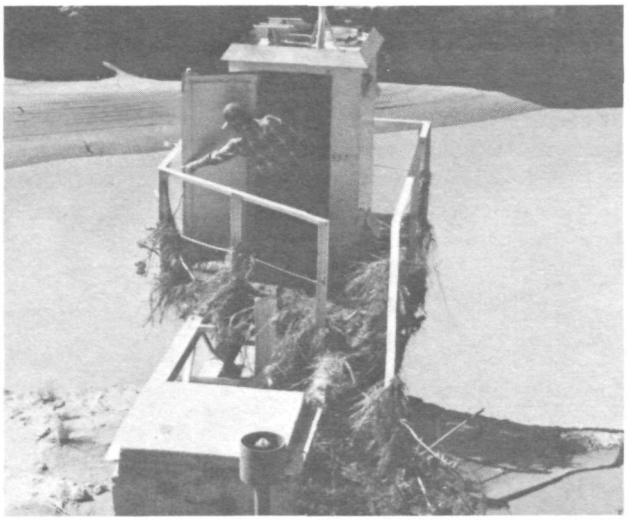
The refugees were en route to Miami when they became lost, and their 20-foot sailboat beached on the shore of the small island whose population numbers four U.S. meteorological technicians and ten Hondurans working at the NWS station.

While the U.S. State Department conferred with the governments of Honduras, who owns the island, and Haiti on arrangements for the Haitians, the refugees shared the food and shelter with the NWS team. One of the Haitians, a pregnant woman, needed hospitalization and was flown to Grand Cayman for a short time. Twice, NOAA chartered planes and flew in medical help when several of the group became ill. The second time, over the New Year's weekend, five Haitians contracted botulism when they ate fish they had caught earlier in an attempt to supplement the food supply.

All food and water must be brought to Swan Island by aircraft. After the arrival of the Haitians, NOAA had to supplement the island's regular supply of food and water, using a chartered plane.

The station, which takes surface and upper air observations, is composed of about 20 buildings, most of them small equipment storage buildings, but including a dormitory, messhall/recreation room, and power plant. The island has no dock, but does have a 3,800-foot grass landing strip.

Swan Island was disputed territory until September 1972 when a treaty was signed by the U.S. and Honduras, giving the island to Honduras.



Before the heavy rains of early November fell over west Texas, the Rio Grande measured a placid six feet at the Dryden Automatic Hydrologic Observing System river gage (left picture). But at 5 a.m., on Nov. 5, the river was near 60 feet, and had dumped debris on the landing of the instrument shelter (right picture). Hourly information from this site was instrumental in alerting interests of a flash flood all the way to the Amistad Reservoir more than 40 miles away. The International Boundary and Water Commission determined that the flood could be contained by the Reservoir. Without this information the Commission would have had to release water to protect the dam, flooding populated areas in the flood plain between the reservoir and Del Rio.

Satellites Contribute To Economy

(From p. 1)

NOAA geostationary satellite is computer-converted to provide a picture every 30 minutes showing the southerly progress of crop-killing frost during winter nights. By keeping track of the ground temperature pictures, citrus growers know when, or if, they should start the costly effort to heat their groves, which costs about $833,000 per hour for fuel, statewide.

Short term forecasts are of particular value in crops which yield perishable products and which require precise production techniques. Hussey and Heacock claim that those forecasts are now made possible by NOAA's two operational satellite systems – the geostationary (first launched in 1974) and the polar-orbiting (the latest generation, TIROS-N, began service late last year).

Before the use of satellite data, the Great Lakes were usually closed to shipping for about two months each winter because of ice. After aircraft-carried, side-looking radar and satellite data showing ice location became available two years ago, however, the 1976-77 season was extended a month. During the 1977-78 season, shipping on the lakes never came to a complete halt, due in part to the improved ice information available. Hussey and Heacock estimate the total cost benefit was about $35 million last winter.

Among Federal agencies, the Air Force and the Coast Guard have the highest annual savings attributable to satellite data, Hussey and Heacock report.

The U.S. Air Force Aerospace Rescue and Recovery Service was able to reduce search and rescue missions flown by C-130 aircraft – at $995 an hour – by 7,000 hours in both 1976 and 1977 because of satellite data, for annual savings of almost $7 million. Satellite pictures showing areas of bad weather at the time missing aircraft were last heard from are used by the California Civil Air Patrol to permit searchers to focus their efforts in those areas, thus reducing by as much as 60 percent the average number of hours flown per rescue mission. The California CAP estimates annual fuel savings of $344,000.

The Coast Guard's International Ice Patrol realizes cost reductions of about $5 million a year in savings of aircraft flight hours and related costs because of satellite ice analysis, which aid planning and locating areas where visual reconnaissance missions can be flown with greatest efficiency.

In addition to viewing ice, the NOAA satellites also can "see" the extent of snow cover. This capability has reduced by $100,000 a year the cost of mapping snow cover in the Sierra Nevada river basins, an activity of vital importance to water resource and flood control managers previously dependent upon aircraft overflights.

The cost of airplane reconnaissance of hurricanes in mid-ocean regions also has been slashed dramatically – by about $1.8 million a year – by using satellite images to detect and monitor the growth and movement of the storms.

When hurricane warnings are issued by NOAA's National Hurricane Center for a typical Gulf of Mexico hurricane, about 300 nautical miles of coastal area are affected, at a cost, including losses due to temporary curtailed production, of about $25.1 million. A reduction of only five percent in the coastal warning area, which could be accomplished through more precise location of the storm offshore, calculated on the average of two hurricanes a year moving inland, would offer annual savings to the economy of about $2.5 million.

The authors point out that other important activities using satellite-provided information, such as local and global weather forecasting, do not allow for easy computation of dollar savings or cost benefit. But the value, they believe, is in the "many millions of dollars."

They note also that the value of probable lives saved by improved disaster warnings of hurricanes, severe thunderstorms, and heavy rainfall or snowmelt is beyond dollar value, and altogether impossible to quantify.

"The advent of satellites is perhaps the greatest significant advance in routine environmental monitoring that has been developed in history . . . contributing towards the savings of lives and property from natural disasters and improving the efficiency of the national economy," they conclude.

December Snow Covered Large U.S. Land Area

Snow covered a greater portion of North America last month than during any previous December for the past 13 years, satellite measurements conducted by NOAA have indicated. The snow, chiefly in the west and mid-west, extended as far south as northern Mexico.

Donald R. Wiesnet, Senior Research Hydrologist at NOAA's National Environmental Satellite Service, said that during last December, on the average, 6.3 million square miles (164 square kilometers) of North America was covered by snow. The previous record for December was set in 1972 when 6.2 million square miles (16.2 square kilometers) of coverage was recorded.

The measurements are made from imagery received from NOAA's two satellite systems, one geostationary and the other polar-orbiting.

Studies by Wiesnet and his colleagues Michael Matson and Lt. Craig P. Berg of the NOAA Corps showed that 58 percent of the U.S. had snowcover at one time or another during last December.

Historic Marker Presented To Township

An earthenware crock that was used as a survey marker 139 years ago in a farmyard about 12 miles north of Philadelphia was presented recently by NOAA to the Upper Moreland Township, Pa.

Discovered by Ralph Poust, a survey technician for NOAA's National Geodetic Survey, and Walter Payne, a surveyor with the Philadelphia Electric Co., the marker represents the establishment by F. R. Hassler, first superintendent of the Survey of the Coast, of the second station in Pennsylvania which served as part of the mathematical skeleton for the Nation's maps. Until its discovery on October 17, 1978, this important and historical marker had been lost for more than 100 years.

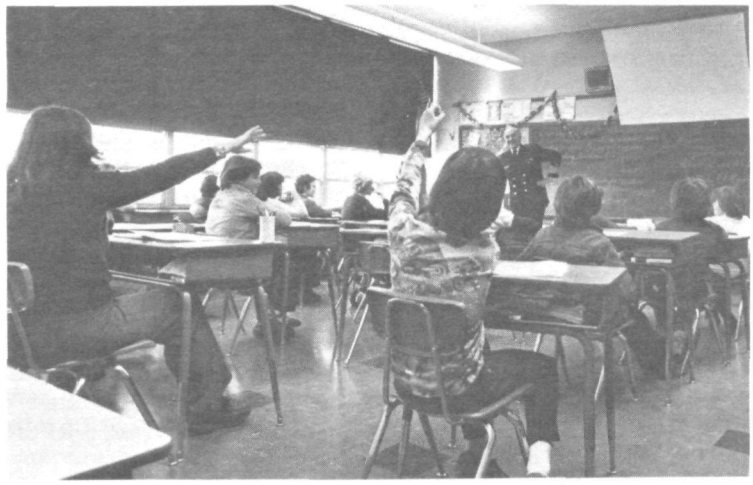
Attending the ceremony held at Woodlawn Elementary School, on whose grounds the marker was found, were Congressman Peter H. Kostmayer; Capt. John O. Phillips, Director of the National Geodetic Survey; Joselph F. Dracup, Chief of the NGS Control Networks Division; and Ralph Poust.

Hassler, a Swiss-born geodesist and scientist, was appointed by President Thomas Jefferson to survey the coast of the United States. When Hassler was conducting the survey in Pennsylvania, he used as a marker a heavy clay crock with no bottom, about the size of a 2-quart jug. The marker at Willow Grove, which shows almost no sign of deterioration, is one of two stations in Pennsylvania. The other, found near Newtown in Bucks County, was uncovered in the 1920's.

In 1946, another search for the station also proved negative, and it was then recommended that the station be considered lost. But in 1978, using electronic devices such as laser beams to measure from known points up to 3 miles away, the National Geodetic Survey was able to compute its approximate location to within 4 inches of where the original Willow Grove marker was buried by Hassler in 1839.

But the Willow Grove story doesn't end with the final discovery of the Hassler marker. It was on November 16, 1839, that Hassler, who was still camped at Willow Grove, took an important step toward the uniformity of measures used in commerce and industry when he completed the scientific document, "Upon the Construction of the Standards of Weights and Measures." The document established their uniformity and proved for their incorporation in the Survey where they remained until the National Bureau of Standards was created at the beginning of the present century.

It was a living history lesson for the Woodlawn students when they gathered in the school's auditorium to watch as an earthenware crock, used as a survey marker 139 years ago, was presented to the Upper Moreland Township.



Capt. Phillips received high marks for his discussion of the National Geodetic Survey following the ceremony in the school's auditorium.

Capt. John O. Phillips and Ralph Poust examine the 139-year old marker discovered by Poust last fall in Woodlawn's playground.

Walter C. Payne (left) and Ralph Poust recount the discovery of the marker to the students of Woodlawn Elementary School on whose grounds the marker was found.

Vietnam-Era Veterans' Benefits Increase

President Carter recently signed a law that increases benefits for Vietnam-era veterans by extending and liberalizing the Veterans' Readjustment Appointment (VRA) authority.

First established in 1970, VRA provides improved Federal job opportunities along with training or education for Vietnam-era veterans who may have difficulty getting a job because of inadequate education, skills, training, or experience. VRA also allows agencies to hire Vietnam-era veterans without competing in civil service examinations. If they satisfactorily complete two years of employment and training, they may be converted to career-conditional appointments. The new law, signed on October 26, 1978, makes the following changes:

- Maximum grade of VRA appointment is raised from GS-5 to GS-7 or equivalent.
- Authority to make VRA appointments is extended to September 30, 1981.
- The 1-year time limit on VRA appointments is removed. (This makes all qualified Vietnam-era veterans eligible for a VRA appointment.)
- The 14-year education restriction for disabled veterans is removed.
- The type of discharge required for a VRA appointment is changed from "under honorable conditions" to "other than a dishonorable discharge."

For more information on the VRA program, contact the nearest Federal Job Information Center, listed in the white pages of major city telephone directories under "U.S. Government," or dial 800-555-1212 for a State toll-free number.

Change In Rules Allows Retirees To Avoid Health Insurance Hike

Retirees can avoid an increase effective Jan. 1, in health insurance coverage under the Retired Federal Employees Health Benefits Program (RFEHB). To help avoid the increase, the Office of Personnel Management recently changed its regulations to allow retirees to enroll in the Federal Employees Health Benefits Program (FEHB).

The RFEHB Program was established for Federal employees who retired before the FEHB Programs began in 1960. Due to a combination of circumstances, including the start of Medicare in 1966, RFEHB found itself with excess reserves in the early 1970's, so reduced its premiums and increased its coverage.

Reserves are almost all used up now, however, and after Jan. 1, premiums for individual and family coverage rose from 50 cents and $1 per month to $8 and $16 per month. This increase means RFEHB premiums will be higher than many FEHB premiums, even though FEHB benefits are better.

Since many retirees can not afford such a large increase, and because RFEHB is such a relatively poor buy, OPM has

(Continued on p. 7)

Retirement Check Is Now Community Property By Law

Under a new law, civil service retirement benefits will now be treated as community property, and the Office of Personnel Management (formerly the Civil Service Commission) must now divide retirement checks as directed by a state court order, decree, or community property settlement.

In recent years, many state courts have ruled that retirement benefits earned during a marriage should be considered community property and subject to division in the event of a legal separation, divorce, or annulment of marriage. While Federal exemption laws were changed in 1975 to make retirement benefits (as well as salary payments) subject to garnishment (to pay alimony and child support), the amendments did not cover community property-type settlements.

The new law changes this. Now, community property and support obligations will be enforceable when a state court order, decree or community property settlement splits retirement benefits between a Federal employee (or retiree) and a former or separated spouse.

To establish the validity of the order and to enable the office of Personnel Management (OPM) to make the apportionment, OPM requires that the former or separated spouse provide: (1) a recently certified copy of the court decree or agreement; (2) a statement that the order has not been amended, superseded, or set aside; and (3) identifying information such as full name, birth date, and social security number if available.

The law applies to any refund or retirement contributions or employee annuity payable on or after Sept. 15, 1978.

For more information, write OPM, Bureau of Retirement, Insurance, and Occupational Health Office of Policy Development and Technical Services, Washington, D.C. 20415.

NOAA Personnel Division Lists Current Vacancies

Announcement Number	Position Title	Grade	Organization	Location	Issue Date	Closing Date
79-7(NS)	Computer Systems Analyst 2 vacancies	GS-12	NWS	Suitland, Md.	1/25	2/8
79-5(BJJ)	Meteorologist	GS-14	NWS	Silver Spring, Md.	1/25	2/15
79-2(NS)	Communications Control Technician, up to 3 positions will be filled	GS-7-8-9	NWS	Suitland, Md.	1/25	2/8
78-94(LS)	Meteorologist	GS-12	NWS	Silver Spring, Md.	1/25	2/8
78-93(BJJ)	Meteorologist	GS-13	NWS	Camp Springs, Md.	1/25	2/15
78-92(BJJ)	Meteorologist	GS-12	NWS	Camp Springs, Md.	1/25	2/8
78-85(NS)	Computer Systems Analyst	GS-12	NWS	Suitland, Md.	1/25	2/15
78-59(NS)	Electronics Engineer	GS-12	NWS	Sterling, Va.	1/25	2/8
78-82(BJJ)	Meteorologist	GS-11	NWS	Silver Spring, Md.	12/20	2/5
79-11(RW)	EEO Specialist	GS-12	HQS	Rockville, Md.	1/25	2/15
79-4MM	Secretary (Steno)	GS-5	NMFS	Washington, D.C.	1/25	2/15
79-3LT	Aquaculture Program Coordinator	GS-15	NMFS	Washington, D.C.	1/25	2/8
79-25(IH)	Engineering Technician	GS-11 may be filled at 10	NWS	Anchorage, Ak.	1/25	2/8
79-8(DD)	Electronics Technician	GS-10 Promotion to 11	NWS	Sacramento, Calif.	1/30	2/13
79-2(RH)	Electronics Technician	GS-10 Promotion to 11	NWS	Shreveport, La.	1/30	2/13
79-1(GC)	Meteorologist (Tropical Weather Analyst)	GS-12	NWS	Miami, Fla.	1/30	2/13

Dr. Chester Jelesnianski and Dr. Celso Barrientos, scientists at NOAA's NWS Techniques Development Laboratory and developers of a Storm Surge Model for Lake Okeechobee, Fla., and Lake Ponchartrain, La., were honored recently at the 33rd Annual Interdepartmental Hurricane Conference at Homestead Air Force Base, Fla.

Representatives from several Federal agencies and Colorado State University adopted a resolution to comend Maj. Gen. Ralph S. Saunders, Commander of the Air Rescue Reconnaissance Service, for his efforts in providing aircraft reconnaissance support to the National Hurricane Center. The NOAA/NHEML presented plaques to the 920th Weather Reconnaissance Group, the 53rd Weather Reconnaissance Squadron and Detachment 5, Air Weather Service, for their support of Project STORMFURY. During 1978, the Air Force flew a total of 1,900 hours in support of the National Hurricane Center.

Dr. Chester Jelesnianski

Dr. Celso Barrientos

George W. Havenner, has joined the NOAA Office of Personnel as Chief Classifier, Office of the Director. Havenner has worked in the Federal Communications Commission, Bureau of Public Roads (when it was part of the Department of Commerce), and the Federal Maritime Commission. He spent three years working at the Air Force Finance Center in Denver, Colo., returning to the Department of Commerce in 1965 to assist in establishing the position classification program for the Economic Development Administration. He then moved to the Classification Division of the Office of Personnel as staff classification officer for the Office of the Secretary, Industry and Trade Administration, and NOAA.

George W. Havenner

NMFS Publication Wins Another Award

A NMFS publication, *Anglers' Guide to the United States Pacific Coast,* has won a first place award in the Consumer Handbooks and Manuals category in the fifth annual Technical Publications Competition of the Society for Technical Communication, Puget Sound Chapter.

The publication, which earlier had won third prize in the 1978 Blue Pencil competition, was written by James L. Squire and Susan E. Smith, who also designed it, and edited by Mary S. Fukuyama.

A $300 Stamp

The Office of Personnel Management (OPM) recently notified Federal agencies that it had received requests from temporary employees – all on agency stationary and mailed in franked envelopes – asking that they be made permanent.

These requests are personal mail, and according to the Comptroller General, must not be made on official time or with agency materials. OPM points out that both situations can lead to a $300 fine.

Retirees Should Think Of Lump Sum Leave Pay, Insurance Benefits

Employees planning to retire may request a straight 20% Federal income tax deduction on lump sum leave payments. Use of the regular percentage withholding method may cause a larger than normal amount of tax withheld on final salary payments, especially if the annual leave balance is 240 hours or higher.

Employees desiring to use the 20% tax factor option must forward a memorandum requesting this option to the Office of Finance, Personal Services Accounting Branch, Operations Section: AD561, Rockville, Md., 20852. To assure timely processing, the memo should include the requester's name and employee number and be received by the Operations Section at least two weeks before the last day of employment.

An employee who requests the 20% tax factor option will receive a final salary check followed in two weeks by a lump sum leave check. An employee not electing to use the 20% factor will normally receive a lump sum leave payment in the same check as the final salary payment.

5 Years Of Coverage

A bill reducing from 12 to five years the service needed for Federal employees to carry their health and life insurance benefits into retirement, has been signed into law by President Carter. To continue coverage, however, Federal employees must retire on an immediate annuity, and must have had coverage under the programs for the last five years in which they are eligible.

Avoid Hike *(From p. 6)*

enabled all RFEHB - eligible annuitants to change to the FEHB Program. Enrollment changes were effective Jan. 1, or the first day of the month following receipt of the request to change, whichever is later. Changes can be made at any time.

For more information, write the Bureau of Retirement, Insurance, and Occupational Health, Office of Personnel Management, 1900 E Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20415.

OBITUARIES

Robert N. Farragut

Robert N. (Rocky) Farragut, program manager for Environmental Investigations, NMFS, Miami Laboratory, died Sept. 21. He began his Federal service in NOAA in 1963 as a research chemist in Pascagoula, Miss. In 1971 he transferred to the Miami Laboratory. He is survived by his wife, Judy, and children, Lisa, Scott, Andy, Angela, and Jennifer.

Henry Paul Adams

Henry Paul Adams, former Meteorologist in Charge in Philadelphia died in November in his home in Bradenton, Fla. He began his weather service career in 1922 in Broken Arrow, Okla., serving eventually in the Southwest, Florida, and Washington, D.C. In 1941 he became chief of the weather service in Philadelphia where he worked until his retirement in 1961. He is survived by his wife, Mary; a son, Dana; and a daughter, Ann Gibson.

Richard R. Byrd

Richard R. Byrd, Official in Charge, Kansas City, Mo., WSMO, died Jan. 6. After working for the Social Security Administration, he began his weather career in 1956 in Kansas City. He is survived by his wife, Phyllis; and sons, Michael and Randall, all of 1602 N.E. 77th Street, Gladstone, Mo., 64118.

FROM THE GALLEY

SALMON LOAF WITH MUSTARD PICKLE SAUCE

1 can (16 ounces) pink salmon (or, substitute 13 to 14 ounces canned tuna)
1-1/3 cups liquid (milk and salmon liquid)
3 tablespoons margarine or butter
3 tablespoons flour
1/2 teaspoon salt
3 eggs, slightly beaten
1 cup quick rolled oats
1 cup chopped celery
1/3 cup chopped onion
1/4 cup diced pimiento
2 tablespoons lemon juice
2 tablespoons minced parsley
1/4 teaspoon marjoram
Mustard Pickle Sauce

Drain salmon; save liquid. Remove skin; flake salmon. Add milk, as needed, to salmon liquid to make 1-1/3 cups liquid. Melt margarine or butter in saucepan. Stir in flour and salt. Add liquids and cook, stirring constantly, until thickened. Combine salmon, eggs, rolled oats, celery, onions, pimiento, lemon juice, parsley, and marjoram in a bowl; mix. Add hot sauce to salmon mixture and mix carefully. Grease an 8-1/2 by 4-1/2 by 2-1/2-inch pan; line with aluminum foil leaving a foil overhang on all sides, and grease again. Pour mixture into pan. Bake in moderate oven, 350°F., 50 to 60 minutes, or until done. Remove from oven. Let cool in pan 15 minutes before removing. Loosen foil and loaf from pan. Lift loaf and foil out of pan. Remove loaf from foil and transfer to heated serving platter. Serve with Mustard Pickle Sauce. Makes 6 to 8 servings.

Mustard Pickle Sauce

2 tablespoons margarine or butter
2 tablespoons flour
1 tablespoon sugar
1/4 teaspoon salt
1 chicken bouillon cube, crushed
1 cup milk
1/4 cup well drained sweet pickle relish
1 tablespoon prepared mustard
1 tablespoon lemon juice

Melt margarine or butter in a small saucepan. Blend in flour, sugar, salt, and bouillon cube; add milk. Cook, stirring constantly, until smooth and thickened. Fold in pickle relish, mustard, and lemon juice. Serve with salmon loaf. Makes 1-1/2 cups sauce.

Peking Sends Geomagnetic Data To EDIS

The first geomagnetic data of the People's Republic of China has been received at EDIS' National Geophysical and Solar-Terrestrial Data Center from the Institute of Geophysics in Peking, inaugurating an exchange of such information between the two institutions.

Eight "yearbooks" of geomagnetic observatory results, hourly values, and derived means were received for four stations—Peking, Shanghai, Canton, and Lanchow—covering varying intervals between 1950-1968. The Chinese institution will send later data as compilation is completed.

NGSDC has the national responsibility for maintaining the official U.S. file of main field magnetic data worldwide. The Chinese data will fill a gap in the data base that has concerned geomagnetic field analysts for many years.

The type of data received is particularly useful in determining secular or long-term changes in the Earth's magnetic field. Coefficients for secular change corrections are part of any mathematical model representing the Earth's magnetic field. The International Geomagnetic Reference Field model – probably the most useful of the various models developed – is used, for example, by oil and deep ocean mining companies in identifying areas of magnetic anomalies which are areas of potential interest for drilling.

BEST FISH BUYS

According to the NMFS National Fishery Education Center in Chicago, the best fish buys for the next week or so are likely to be frozen turbot fillets and cod fillets along the Northeast Seaboard; frozen cod fillets and fresh whole whiting in the Middle Atlantic States, including the D.C. area; fresh whole mackerel and Spanish mackerel in the Southeast and along the Gulf Coast; frozen ocean perch fillets and canned salmon in the Midwest; canned tuna and frozen pink salmon in the Northwest; and frozen turbot fillets and fresh shark fillets in the Southwest.

Caution In The Snow Is Still The Best Policy, NOAA Advises

With more than 50 persons dead as a result of recent winter storms and blizzards in the central U.S., NOAA warns that the next two months could bring additional dangerous storms to many parts of the country.

Noting that three out of every four deaths from the storms were attributed to heart attacks caused by overexertion and exposure, Michael Mogil, emergency warning meteorologist for NOAA's National Weather Service, urged the following precautions be taken during and after heavy snowstorms:

- Stay indoors during storms and cold snaps unless in peak physical condition. If you must go out, avoid overexertion.
- Don't kill yourself shoveling snow. It is extremely hard work and can bring on a heart attack.
- Dress to fit the weather. Wear several layers of loose-fitting, lightweight, warm clothing. The outer layer should be of tightly-woven material, water repellant, and hooded to protect your face and cover your mouth protecting your lungs from extremely cold air. Mittens, snug at the wrists, offer better protection than do fingered gloves.

"Most winter storm deaths are avoidable," Mogil said. "Overexertion from shoveling snow, pushing stuck cars, and performing other difficult chores during the strong winds, blinding snow, and bitter cold of a blizzard can cause heart attacks even in persons in apparently good physical condition."

☆ U.S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE: 1979-281-043/3

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

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July 23, 2010