Helena

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NOAA news

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

M & B Overhauls Administrative Operations Office

An extensive reorganization within NOAA's Office of Administrative Operations, that part of the Office of Management and Budget responsible for a host of services used by almost all NOAA employees, has been announced by Samuel A. Lawrence, Assistant Administrator for M&B.

The reorganization, he said, will improve efficiency with the unit charged with management of purchasing, supply distribution, printing, and other so-called "common services."

William G. Dodds, Acting Director of MB/AO, said the restructuring of lines of responsibility offers a variety of other advantages, including improved advancement opportunities for those within MB/AO.

The reorganization consolidates six existing divisions composed of 20 branches into four new divisions with 11 branches, four of which have sections within them. In so doing, it establishes clearer lines of authority and increases functional control, Dodds said.

The four divisions under the reorganization are:

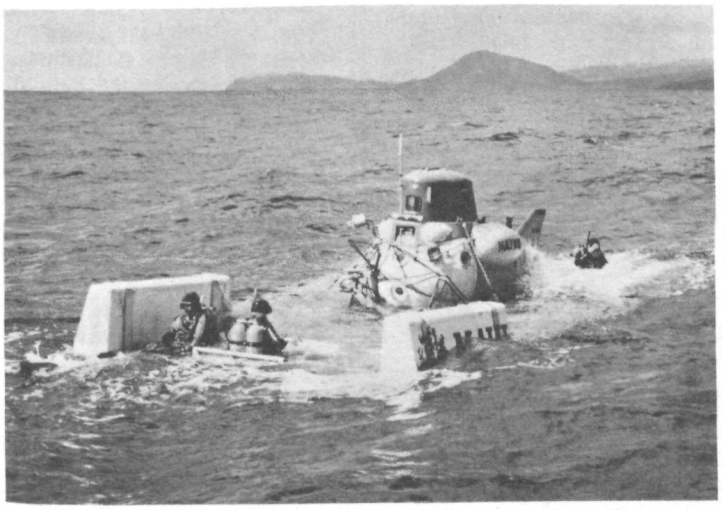
Acquisition and Grants Management (AO1), concerned with purchasing, policies and procedures, and administrative guidelines involving procurement and grants management; Barbara McLaughlin, Chief;

Facilities and Services (AO2), responsible for facilities, facilities maintenance and engineering, safety and security, records and forms, distribution, and on-site office services; Ronald Newsome, Chief;

Publications and Visual Services (AO3), managing graphic design, photography, printing, copying, exhibits, and drafting functions; John Oakley, Acting Chief;

Property and Logistics Support (AO4) managing the travel, transportation, personal property, warehousing, and supply functions; Frank Evangelista, Acting Chief.

The result of a year-long study to resolve problems of overlap in some service functions, the supervisor/employee ratio, and lines of functional authority, the reorganization became effective April 19.



Operation HURL—The research submersible *Makali'i* sinks into the Pacific off the coast of Oahu resting on its launch-recovery-and-support transport platform.

Hawaii Undersea Lab Opens

The Hawaii Undersea Research Laboratory (HURL) opened for business in Waimanalo, Hawaii.

Sponsored by NOAA, the laboratory is the second in a planned NOAA network of university-based undersea research facilities. HURL consists of the two-person submersible *Makali'i* and a launch-recovery-transport vehicle. Under the direction of Dr. John Craven, Dean of Marine programs at the University of Hawaii, HURL will concentrate its research on questions of fishersies, pollution, seafloor properties and processes, and ocean technology and services.

Scientists from Stanford University and the University of Hawaii will use the *Makali'i* to study and collect deep-water sponges and gorgonians (sea fans) for possible use as marine pharmaceuticals. A series of dives will be made on the Penguin Rocks off the island of Molokai.

The second research project, beginning in July, will involve lengthy scientific observations at

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U.S., Canada Compare Tests

The United States and Canada have launched a project to determine whether the methods they use to measure acid rain produce compatible results.

The U.S. separately collects precipitation from snow and rain a well as dry, windblown material. The samples are gathered and analyzed weekly. The Canadians use instruments that collect only water. They gather and test their samples monthly.

The instruments being used by the two countries have been placed at three sites in both the U.S. and Canada. Scientists from each country are testing the samples collected for such major contributors to acidity as sulfates and nitrates. The analysis is expected to reveal any differences between the two methods of collecting and analyzing data.

Colorado State University is conducting the U.S. instrument studies for NOAA. A Canadian government agency, Environment Canada, is performing its study. The Illinois State Water Survey will analyze rain samples collected here.

Collectors have been placed at a National Weather Service site in Caribou, Me.; an agricultural experiment station in Marcel, Minn.; and Glacier National Park, Mont. Environment Canada has provided sites at Lethbridge, Alberta; Mount Forest, Ontario; and Kejimkujik, Nova Scotia.

NOAA News Bids Adieu

This is the last issue of *NOAA News*.

In the future, news of NOAA activities will be carried in the Department's monthly, *World of Commerce*, which is being enlarged to provide more information for all Commerce employees.

The discontinuance of *NOAA News* is part of a Departmental effort to streamline and improve internal communications while complying with the President's order to reduce publication costs.

Articles and information for possible inclusion in the Department publication should be sent to Charles G. Thomas, Office of Public Affairs, PA, Room 108, Rock-Wall Building, NOAA, Rockville, MD., 20852.

LETTER FROM THE LABS

By Richard Newell

Benjamin Franklin, in 1750, was the first to design an experiment to show that clouds are electrically charged. Although experimental techniques have advanced tremendously since Franklin flew his famous kite, studies of atmospheric electricity, with a few exceptions, are still conducted on a string. This is the reason why, in spite of the important progress being made by NOAA's National Severe Storms Laboratory and a handful of other research groups, thunderstorm electrification remains one of the major mysteries of the atmosphere.

This is the final column of a series dealing with an aspect of cloud electrification that Franklin probably never dreamed of, and that even many of today's atmospheric scientists view as bizarre.

Some researchers believe that the mystery of thunderstorm electricity, as it affects the generation of lightning and rainfall, is only the beginning of the electrical enigma that meteorologists must come to grips with. There is the even greater mystery of the suspected electrical hookup between thunderstorms, the earth's global electrical circuit, and space.

Scientists know that global thunderstorm activity powers the electrical circuit, and that ionizing particles (galactic x-rays) also produce changes in the circuit. The question is, how do convective clouds respond to these externally-induced electrical changes? This question goes right to the heart of thunderstorm microphysics, in terms of the effects of electrical forces on the growth of ice crystals and raindrops. Cloud physics experts insist that such details must be understood before we can really explain storm dynamics.

Many independent research findings, taken together, suggest that these externally-induced electrical changes help to regulate global thunderstorm activity, which, in turn, helps to regulate the atmosphere's large-scale circulation. (See "The Solar Paradox"—*NOAA Magazine*, Spring 1981.)

Significant weather and climate changes are involved here, making this a matter of practical concern to NOAA. Electrical processes are not accounted for in the physics of today's numerous forecast models, and weather forecast errors occuring in step with sun-induced electrical changes have been documented. However, other sources of error are estimated to be more important at the present time.

It is over the long term that these suspected electrical effects are most obvious. Great swings in climate often coincide with strong changes in incoming high-energy particles or radiation. It is reasonable to expect that electrically forced climate variations also occur on time scales between the short-term weather changes and their more obvious long-term trends.

A great deal of research must be done to confirm these findings and clarify the physical links. However, the evidence now available, when taken as a whole, seems sufficient to elevate the stature of the electrical-forcing hypothesis from "conjectural" to "probable."

3-Year Decline In Lightning Deaths Reported

There has been a three-year decline in deaths due to lightning, NOAA reports.

NOAA said fatalities have been well below the 20-year average of 102 deaths yearly, totaling 74 in 1980, 63 in 1979 and 88 in 1978.

NWS Director Richard E. Hallgren said last year's decline partially was due to reduced thunderstorm activity because of the drought. He said Americans also are taking greater precautions against being struck by lightning and must continue to do so to prevent a reversal of the three-year trend when thunderstorm activity returns to normal.

Hallgren called lightning "an underrated killer which claims more lives during an average year than either tornadoes or hurricanes." The latter have caused an average of 94 and 40 fatalities, respectively, during the past 20 years.

More than 62 percent of last year's lightning deaths occurred in 11 states.

Radio Device Dislodges

NMFS' Errant Turtle Transmitter Goes Off Course Again

The trials and tribulations of keeping track of transmitters used for turtle tracking continue to plague the NMFS in Galveston, Tex.

Remember Dianne? She was the 200-pound loggerhead turtle that was tagged with a transmitter and released into the Gulf of Mexico for tracking by satellite. Two fishermen found her detached transmitter and carted it home to Kansas.

Now there's Chuck, a 200-pound male loggerhead who was set free with the transmitter near Cape Canaveral, Fla., November 7.

The signals received from Chuck's transmitter showed that he stayed in the Cape Canaveral area until early December, then moved southward.

After the signals stabilized in Fort Pierce inlet, off southeastern Florida, Jim Cagle of the NMFS traveled to Fort Pierce to investigate the apparently immobile turtle.

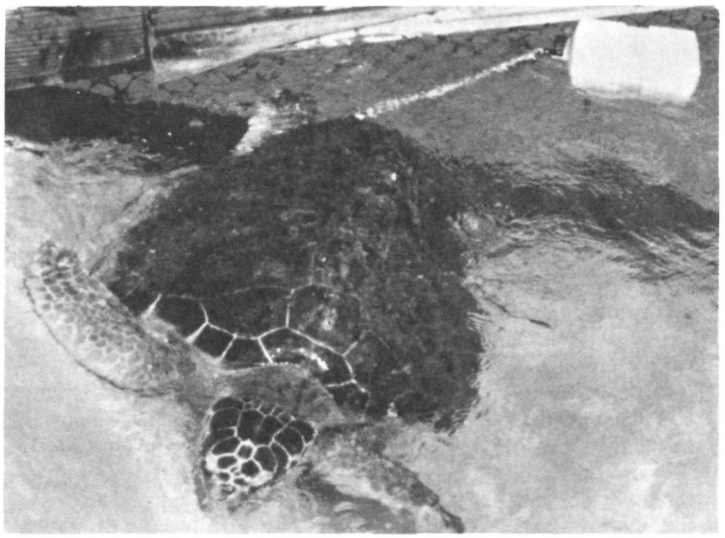
He knew the approximate location of the transmitter from the satellite fixes and carried a portable receiver to pick up radio signals from a back-up transmitter in the same pack attached to Chuck.

Cagle drove around Fort Pierce neighborhoods until he picked up the transmitter signal in Thumb Point Peninsula, a residential area.

He canvassed the Thumb Point subdivision, stopping periodically to check the transmitter's bearings and the strength of the signal.

When the signal reached its highest intensity, Cagle backed his car into the closest driveway and spied the transmitter sitting on a workbench in the garage of the home of a commercial fisherman. Later, Cagle called the fisherman who said he had found Chuck in Fort Pierce inlet and had removed the transmitter thinking it was a "child's prank." Chuck, the fisherman said, seemed to be in good health.

What next for NMFS? A spruced up transmitter and another turtle, of course.



Traveling transmitter—NMFS' Dianne back in the good old days before her transmitter became detached and ended up in Kansas.

Secretaries' Role In '80's Is Described

Automated office equipment answers the mail electronically, prints 100-page reports in three hours at the touch of a button, and sends out inter-office memos without wasting a scrap of paper. And the secretary is at the controls.

This is the scenario Sharon Stromberg, director of the Office Systems Center, Office of Personnel Management, described to about 280 secretaries, clerks, and stenographers at NOAA Secretaries' Day held April 23 in Bethesda, Md.

The NOAA Federal Women's Program sponsored the day-long training event featuring speakers, workshops, and a luncheon with entertainment.

"What you're doing today is going to measure what you'll be doing tomorrow," Stromberg said, adding that professionalism, productivity and self-motivation are paramount.

Many women, she said, have the "til then" syndrome—"I'll work until something better comes along." But, Labor Department statistics show the average worker will stay on the job 27.3 years. "This is a lifetime career you're dealing with today," Stromberg stressed.

Automation can help secretaries advance in their careers by increasing productivity and developing teamwork, she said.

Stromberg admitted that some jobs would be eliminated through automation. "Mediocre won't succeed; some lower level positions will be cut." But, "new positions, both male and female, will be created that provide a greater share in decision making," she said.

About 65 managers joined their secretaries for the luncheon. Stromberg addresed the group on the effects of automation on people. She said, "Automation is a personnel issue, not a technological issue." Stromberg doesn't anticipate a loss of morale when offices become fully automated because secretaries will have a say in the decision making.

In the afternoon, participants attended one of three workshops. The members of the networking and mentoring panel, moderated by Dr. Joan Hock, director of CEAS recounted their personal experiences with coworkers and superiors who gave encouragement, answered questions, and helped them advance in their careers. Barbara J. Garland, acting chief of the training and information branch, OPM, told the group that attended the verbal and non-verbal communication workshop that they could use body language and communication skills to their advantage. The team building workshop, conducted by Kris MacGaffin, a private consultant, explored the importance of management and secretaries working together to reach goals.

Arva Jackson, director, Office for Civil Rights, closed the day saying, "Brain power is perhaps one of the only renewable resources we have in NOAA—and we haven't capped it yet." Secretaries who realize their potential, teamed with ultra-efficient equipment, will run the office of the '80's.

—Heidi Daniel

Secretaries' Day—Sharon Stromberg speaks on "The Automated Office of the '80's."

Drive Nears End

Four days remain to participate in the 1981 U.S. Savings Bond Payroll Plan at NOAA, Acting Administrator James P. Walsh announced. An amount you specify can be automatically set aside from your payceck to buy U.S. Savings Bonds.

NESS Satellite Data Helping Fishermen on the Gulf Coast

For Gulf Coast fishermen, a key to good fishing and staying out of Cuban waters is knowing the exact location of the Gulf of Mexico Loop Current and the Gulf Stream.

Now that information is as handy to them as the nearest telephone and most Florida stations of the NOAA Weather Radio network.

NOAA provides updates three times weekly on the current and stream through annotated charts available by telecopier and via broadcasts over the selected Florida outlets.

The data, culled from NOAA satellite imagery and other sources, help fishermen pinpoint schools of temperature-sensitive fish found near the Gulf Stream and determine the danger of the current carrying the into Cuban waters.

Donald C. Gaby, manager of the Miami NESS station, said the new service also helps fishermen and mariners conserve fuel.

He said it allows fishermen to determine when the Gulf Stream is too far out in the Atlantic north of Cuba to make fishing economical.

The charts and radio broadcasts are based on analyses of the Loop Current and the Gulf Stream prepared every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday by the NESS Miami station.

The analyses show the edge of warmer water marking the shoreward side of the Stream and Current, its offshore limit when detectable, and a streamline indicating the estimated location of the maximum current. Current speeds also are indicated when available.

Coastal Hazards Office Formed To Lower Life, Property Losses

A Coastal Hazards Office has been formed to help prevent the loss of life and property due to coastal storms.

Capt. J. Austin Yeager of NOAA's National Ocean Survey heads the group that will assist federal, state, and local emergency managers prepare storm evacuation plans of coastal areas.

Yeager said the biggest problem is the lack of concern among coastal residents about the severity of the situation. "Many coastal communities," he said, "do not have realistic storm evacuation plans that are regularly exercised by dry runs."

Yeager said that if a catastrophic storm, such as the one that killed 6,000 persons in Galveston, Tex., in 1900, occurred today, it could cause 10,000 to 20,000 fatalities.

Yeager, an officer in the NOAA Corps will coordinate the NOAA mapping, warning, environmental data, and hydrology projects with the efforts of other federal, state, and local emergency preparedness managers.

"Coastal experts from Florida to Maryland," Yeager said, "are scheduled to meet June 10-12, in Charleston, S.C., to discuss emergency preparedness needs for the mid-south Atlantic coastal areas."

Undersea Research Lab Opens In Hawaii

(Continued from p. 1)

Eniwetok Atoll some 2,400 miles west of Hawaii, formerly a nuclear weapons test site. While the shallow waters of the atoll have been more extensively studied than any other atoll in the world, little is known about the waters of the lagoon—about 90 percent—that are below scuba depth. Nor is much known about the deep ocean waters surrounding the 360-square-mile atoll and lagoon.

Scientists wish to understand more fully the deeper ocean environment and ecology of the area, to better advise the original islanders who have resettled there. Scientists from the Mid-Pacific Research Laboratory on Eniwetok, and other institutions, will use the HURL facilities to study the geology, biology, and radiochemistry of the tropical reef.

NOTES ABOUT PEOPLE

After a year of study in math and science at American University provided by the Graduate Scientist Program, **Joanna Flanders** was commissioned an Ensign in the NOAA Corps on April 17. Ensign Flanders, a 1978 graduate of the University of Utah and a daughter of a NWS employee, then reported to the NOAA Officer Training Class at the U.S. Merchant Marine Academy for training prior to being assigned to sea duty.

The Graduate Scientist Program is managed by the Upward Mobility Branch of NOAA Personnel and is designed to provide additional education to individuals who have degrees but who do not meet certain requirements for positions in NOAA.

* * *

Cmdr. Freddie Jeffries accepted the Karo award on behalf of the officers and crew of the NOAA ship *McArthur*. The award is presented annually by the Society of American Military Engineers.

The *McArthur* was recognized for its performance in conducting a circulatory survey of San Francisco Bay and its working relationship and cooperation with the U.S. Geological Survey.

Lt.Cmdr. Richard S. Moody, Jr., has been appointed commanding officer of the NOAA Ships *Rude* and *Heck*.

Moody attended the University of Chicago and the University of Washington in Seattle, where he received his Bachelor of Science degree in oceanography in 1968. He joined the NOAA Corps after graduation and subsequently served on NOAA ships *Mt. Mitchell, Surveyor,* and *Oceanographer*. He has been executive officer of the *Rude* and the *Heck* since August 1979.

* * *

Cmdr. Jeffrey B. Carlen, NOAA Liaison Officer at Fort Sill, Okla. was recently awarded the Ancient Order of St. Barbara during the annual St. Barbara's Day Dining-In at Fort Sill.

The award is made for outstanding contributions to Field Artillery and is named after the artillery patron saint. It honors the recipient into "the brotherhood of Stonehurlers, Archers, Catapulters, Rocketeers, and Gunners." Cdr. Carlen was presented the award by the commanding general of Fort Sill.

Lt. Karen L. Cox is the first female navigator to be certified by the Federal Aviation Administration.

Lt. Karen L. Cox

Lt. Cox currently is assigned to the Research Facilities Center in Miami, Fla., where she is navigating NOAA's research aircraft—a C-130 and two WP-3s—used for conducting hurricane and other weather studies. She took her 4-hour check ride for the FAA in the C-130 on a flight over the Gulf of Mexico from Miami, Fla. to San Antonio, Tex.

* * *

Cmdr. Otto F. Steffin has been appointed commanding officer of the NOAA ship *McArthur*.

Steffin joined the NOAA Corps in 1965 after graduating from Arizona State University with a Bachelor of Science degree in civil engineering. He received his Master of Science degree in oceanography from the University of California in 1971. His first ship assignment was aboard the *Explorer*. He subsequently served aboard the *Discoverer* and the *McArthur* and with NOAA's geophysical Fluid Dynamics Laboratory at Princeton, N.J.

* * *

Lt.Cmdr. Don M. Spillman has been presented the Colbert medal, one of the Society of American Military Engineers' highest awards.

Spillman is chief of the Tidal Requirements and Acquisition branch of the Office of Oceanography, NOS. Rear Adm. H.R. Lippold, director of the NOS presented the award during SAME's annual meeting in San Diego, Calif. in recognition of Spillman's engineering excellence.

* * *

Antonio A. Dreumont was appointed meterologist in charge of the NWS Idaho Weather Forecast Office located in Boise. The Boise facility is responsible for weather forecasts and warnings for the state. Dreumont also serves as area manager for NWS facilities at Lewiston, Twin Falls and Pocatello.

* * *

NOAA's new *Oceanographic Monthly Summary* began publication January 1981, replacing *Gulfstream* and *Fishing Information*. The *Summary* contains 15 sea surface temperature (SST) analyses, 3 oceanographic thermal feature analyses, and a Bering Sea/North Slope ice analysis. The National Weather Service and National Earth Satellite Service jointly support the publication.

OBITUARY

Jane M. Kenny, a secretary in the Office of Policy & Planning, National Marine Fishery Service, passed away April 22. Kenny had been with the Government for 29 years and NMFS since 1972. She was previously employed by the National Park Service.

Correction

Senator Slade Gordon's (R-Wash.) party affiliation was incorrectly identified in the May 4 issue of *NOAA News*.

NOAA news

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