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NOAA WEEK

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

SEASON'S GREETINGS EXTENDED TO ALL IN NOAA

We have been brought together from a variety of agencies and a diversity of disciplines to work toward a goal of importance to all humanity--improved comprehension and use of our physical environment and our oceanic resources.

We come together as strangers. We shall be collaborators and friends in a cause of which we can be proud. I know that I speak for Dr. John W. Townsend, Jr., as well as myself, in wishing the whole NOAA family the merriest of Christmases and a happy New Year.

Robert M White

Dr. Robert M. White
Acting Administrator

It is a pleasure to extend Holiday Greetings to all NOAA employees on behalf of the National Marine Fisheries Service. We very much appreciate the warm welcome given us by everyone in Commerce, and the spirit of cooperation that has been extended to us as we seek to meld our efforts into those of NOAA. We look forward to continuing to work toward making NOAA the kind of organization President Nixon had in mind when he submitted his reorganization plan which put us together. From all of us to all of you -- A Very Merry Christmas and a Happy and Prosperous New Year.

Philip M. Roedel, Director
National Marine Fisheries Service

The Office of the Director of the NOAA Corps, and the Director, extend sincere best wishes for the holiday season to all employees of NOAA and especially to the officers of the Corps and the far-flung people in the field.

Rear Admiral Harley D. Nygren
Acting Director, NOAA Corps

My colleagues in the National Environmental Satellite Service join me in wishing all our old and new friends in NOAA warmest Seasons Greetings and best wishes for a Happy New Year. I wish to add my special greetings to all the staff of NESS and their families.

David S. Johnson
National Environmental
Satellite Service

For many of us, the approaching holiday season is the best time of the year. Old or young, we all seem a little happier, a little more generous, than at any other season.

At this, then, the most joyful time of the year, may I add my personal wishes for happiness, and my hope that the year to come will be even better for each of you than the one just passed.

Thomas S. Austin, Acting Director
Environmental Data Service

(continued on page 2)

Season's Greetings (continued)

The Holiday Season provides us an opportunity to reflect on much that has passed during the past eventful year. I especially appreciate the opportunity of addressing each employee of the National Ocean Survey with an expression of good will for the holiday season and also to extend my greetings to the ever increasing family of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. Our new organization has brought in new faces whom we are glad to welcome and with whom we look forward to having the pleasure of working ever more closely as the new year progresses.

The mission of the National Ocean Survey will increase in complexity as we have new opportunities to serve the nation. Harmony is the strength and support of all well regulated institutions and our organization is no exception. With the good will that we have always displayed to each other, no task can be too difficult.

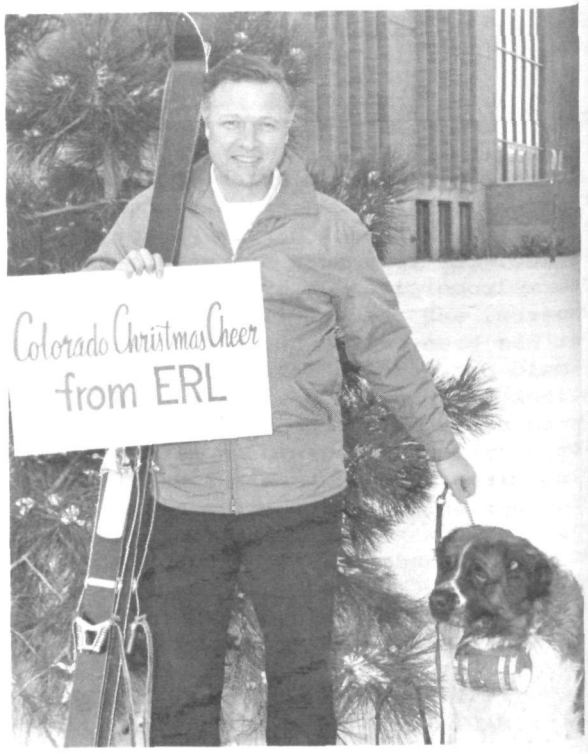
I appreciate the privilege I have had during the past year in working with all cross sections of our personnel to bring about the transition through which we are now passing. Our future will be governed by our personal relationships more than any other factor. For that reason, this holiday season is especially welcome that we may generate to the fullest our sense of brotherhood, generosity, and new effectiveness in working with each other to the advantage of ourselves and those who depend upon us for our products and services.

My best wishes are extended to you and your families, and I am wishing for each a very merry Christmas and a happy and prosperous 1971.

Don A. Jones
Rear Admiral, NOAA
Acting Director
National Ocean Survey

This holiday season will find the employees of the National Weather Service on duty around the clock in stations over the nation and nearly around the world. As always, you will be devoting your efforts to the protection and well-being of others. On behalf of the National Weather Service headquarters staff and myself, I extend to you all our best wishes for the holiday season and for a New Year in which you will find new satisfaction in providing an essential service to your fellowmen.

George P. Cressman
Director, National Weather Service



Season's Greetings from Dr. Wilmot N. Hess, Director of the Environmental Research Laboratories

First High-Speed Weather Line Joins Washington and Tokyo

A vast new system of global communications for the exchange of weather data became a reality recently with the inauguration of a high-speed, 24-hour "hot" line between Tokyo, Japan, and Washington, D.C. The new line flashes information halfway around the world at a rate of 3,000 five-character words per minute. John Straiton, chief of the National Weather Service's Communications Division, states that this is far too fast for human eye and brain, so, "actually it's computers talking to computers." During the next five years, the plan calls for other high-speed lines to be opened linking major cities all around the globe. In several instances, this will mean upgrading existing links to 3,000 words per minute. The completed network, a key element of the World Weather Watch, will consist of three World Weather Centers--Washington, Moscow, and Melbourne--and eight Regional Telecommunications Hubs in Brasilia, London, Paris, Offenbach, Prague, Cairo, Nairobi, and Delhi.

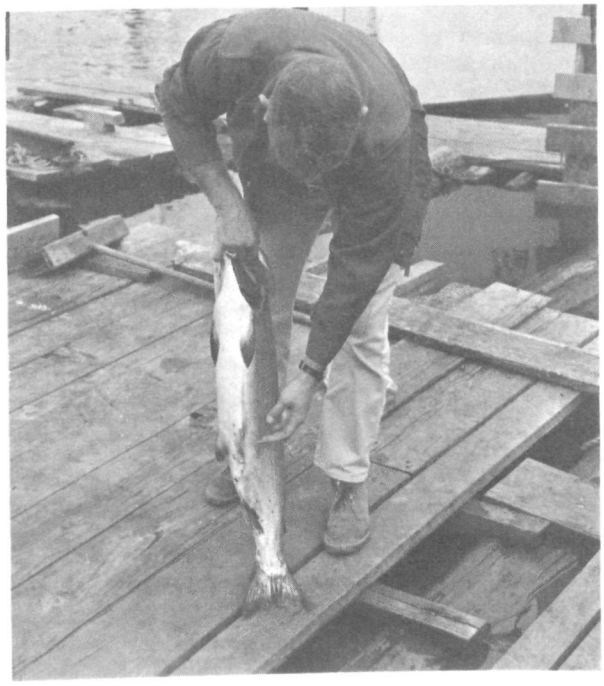
NOAA-1 Satellite Launched December 11; Will Undergo System Checkout by NASA

The NOAA-1 spacecraft was successfully launched by the National Aeronautics and Space Administration on December 11 at 6:35 a.m. EST. From the Western Test Range, Lompoc, California, the satellite was placed in a near-polar orbit, with an apogee of 795 nautical miles, perigee of 768 nautical miles, and an orbital period of 114.8 minutes. Equator crossing is at 3:05 p.m. mean local sun time. The satellite will be turned over to NOAA after NASA has checked out the spacecraft systems.

Construction of Miami Ship Facility Starts

Construction has begun on the Nationa. Ocean Survey's Miami Ships Base on Dodge Island with the pouring of concrete for the footings of four one-story buildings. Completion is scheduled for July 1. The buildings will be leased from the Port of Miami and will provide a site for the NOAA Ships DISCOVERER and RESEARCHER, an office building, a laboratory, and a warehouse. Facilities will also be available for the National Marine Fisheries Service and the University of Miami's Institute of Marine Sciences. An 800-foot-long and 250-foot-wide berth has been dredged alongside the site for the NOAA ships and three Institute vessels.

Salmon Return to Oregon River With Improved Water Quality



NMFS biologist examines salmon.

Due to cooperative efforts by industry, state and federal agencies, the water quality of Oregon's Willamette River has been improved and modern fishways are being installed at the industrial complex at Willamette Falls. In the wake of these improvements, the National Marine Fisheries Service reports that this year's spawning run of coho and fall chinook salmon has topped all previous migrations. Using a television camera and video tapes -- a method developed by NMFS engineers -- more than 35,000 coho and 7,500 "lunker" chinook salmon were tallied at the new fishway. Two more new fishways are being constructed by the State, with 84 percent of the funds provided by the Department of Commerce, under the Columbia River Fishery Development Program, and 16 percent by private industry. Philip M. Roedel, National Marine Fisheries Service Director, comments: "The return of fall runs of salmon into the Willamette River is particularly gratifying, not only because it represents the recovery of a valuable resource, but also because it proves that a damaged environment can be revived if we wish to do so, and if we are willing to cooperate to achieve that end."

Cooler East Coast Winters Linked to Pacific Warm Spot

Cooling trends have been under way in the eastern United States and other parts of the world in recent years, and a lot of scientists are wondering why.

Jerome Namias--chief of the Weather Service's Extended Forecast Division--looks to the oceans as a cause, noting that observed changes in ocean temperature seem linked to large-scale displacements of air currents around the globe. The oceans, which cover about 70 percent of the earth's surface, change temperature much more slowly than the air above--so they act as a sort of governor on global climate.

Meteorologist Namias--writing in the November 13, 1970, issue of the magazine "Science"--argues that the air-sea relationship is so basic that "scientists may be overlooking the most important factor by neglecting this interaction" when seeking to explain the cooling trends. He believes it "quite possible," for instance, that warm surface water in the North Pacific is responsible for colder winters in the eastern United States.

An ocean-temperature change in which "the sea surface over much of the North Pacific was abnormally warm," has, he believes, produced a strengthening of storm systems there, which ultimately generated more frequent wind flows than usual from the Canadian Arctic into the eastern United States.

During the decade of the sixties, Mr. Namias points out, a persistent shift took place in the winter jet stream, with cold air from the north repeatedly sweeping down over the eastern two-thirds of the nation. Result was that in the east, "winter temperatures averaged 1 to 4 degrees Fahrenheit below the 1931-60 mean," he said, while "west of the continental divide, temperatures averaged above normal."

NOAA Accounting System Approved by GAO

The design of the accounting system to be applied to NOAA was approved October 30 by the Comptroller General. Developed by Administrative and Technical Services personnel in cooperation with the Department of Commerce, the system design now will be printed for distribution to Management Control Centers. The design provides a framework for the operational accounting system, which will be incorporated in the Finance Handbook.

Natural Oil Seepages in Gulf Studied in Sea Grant Project

Texas A&M University's Oceanography Department is studying natural oil seeps in the Gulf of Mexico. The research is supported by the university's Sea Grant Program and grants from six oil companies. Texas A&M's 100-foot oceanographic research vessel, R/V ORCA, is being used in the study. William E. Sweet, Jr., research associate, is coordinator for the project, which involves both faculty members and graduate students. The project includes a study of the origin and properties of natural oil seeps and the circulation pattern of their products. Field surveys, conducted on a seasonal basis, includes release of hundreds of "drift cards" in seep areas to analyze the path and time for water movement from the site. Rewards are being offered to persons returning the cards with notation of the date and location found. While hydrocarbons from natural seeps have been described in governmental reports as early as 1902, no systematic scientific investigation has been made to study their location, as well as geologic, chemical, and physical properties.

Rahn Advises Corn-Growing Industry On Weather and Leaf Blight Relationship

Dr. James J. Rahn, of the Environmental Data Service's Agriculture Climatology Office, has prepared a summary of weather influences on the 1970 outbreak of Southern corn leaf blight. The consensus to date is that while Corn Belt weather last summer was favorable for the invading fungus, it was a rather normal summer. Midsummer rainfall was above normal in some places, but atmospheric humidity and formation of dew occurred about as usual.

Dr. Rahn's summary is being used by the U.S. Department of Agriculture in its mid-December release of an advisory bulletin for the corn industry concerning prospects for the 1971 crop. With normal weather favoring recurrence of the disease, the chances are about 1 in 2 that next year could also be bad from the weather standpoint. The actual situation will depend upon the virulence of the fungus responsible for corn leaf blight, the susceptibility of the hybrids available for planting, the economic feasibility of control measures, and, of course, the actual weather in 1971.

Three New Ad Tech Appointments Are Announced

Mr. Lenz

Mr. LeClerg

Mr. Denion

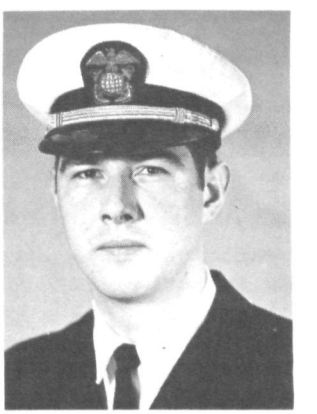
The Administrative Operations Division, of the NOAA Office of Administration and Technical Services, recently announced two new appointments. Conway G. Lenz is the Acting Chief, General Services Branch, replacing Donald J. Denion, who becomes a Special Assistant to the Assistant Administrator for Administration and Technical Services. Robert E. LeClerg has been appointed Acting Assistant Chief, Administrative Operations Division.

Mr. Lenz was formerly the Assistant Chief, Division of Procurement and General Services, National Marine Fisheries Service. His prior experience includes assignments as a contracting specialist with the Federal Supply Service, General Services Administration, and the Bureau of Census, Department of Commerce. Mr. LeClerg was the Chief, Division of Safety Management, National Marine Fisheries Service. He was an administrative officer with the Agricultural Research Service for five years. Mr. Denion has served as General Services Branch Chief, with short exceptions, since the formation of ESSA in 1965. Prior to that, he was the Chief, Property and Supply Branch, Coast and Geodetic Survey.

Tuna Vessels in Restricted Area Spotted by Flying NMFS Agents

The National Marine Fisheries Service announces that U.S. tuna seiners QUO VADIS and POLARIS were cited at Terminal Island, Calif., for violation of U.S. yellowfin tuna regulations. In cooperation with the U.S. Coast Guard, NMFS management agents sighted the two vessels during a surveillance flight on November 29. The vessels were inside the regulatory area despite reporting that they were outside the area. A limited catch restriction is presently in effect inside the regulatory area, while outside the area there is no catch restriction. Consistent with established procedures, the catch is processed, after which the amount paid for the tuna by the processor is retained by the U.S. Government pending further legal action.

Vandermeulen Is Operations Officer On NOAA Ship OCEANOGRAPHER



Lt. John P. Vandermeulen is the new Operations Officer of the Seattle-based NOAA Ship OCEANOGRAPHER. Lt. Vandenmeulen served previously as Operations Officer on the RAINIER and the SURVEYOR. A commissioned officer since 1964, he also spent two years at the Earthquake Mechanism Laboratory in San Francisco.

Blame It on the Boss!

Since Allen Pearson, Director of the Weather Service's National Severe Storms Forecast Center in Kansas City, mentioned NOAA's "Winter Storms" brochure on radio and in the newspaper, the Center has filled more than 400 requests for the publication. Above, Mrs. Jane Parvin of the NSSFC staff, with one day's mailing.

Pacific Halibut Commission Meets Next Month

The 47th Annual Meeting of the International Pacific Halibut Commission (IPHC) will be held in Seattle, Jan. 26-29, 1971, at the University of Washington. Recommendations for regulatory measures will be distributed to interested parties, with pertinent background information, by Dec. 31. During the Annual Meeting, there will be two open sessions with industry representatives.

Paul A. Gareau, NWS Met Tech, To Retire

Paul A. Gareau, National Weather Service meteorological technician at Knoxville, Tenn., will retire Dec. 31. With a total of 19 years' federal service, Mr. Gareau's weather career began in 1961 at Knoxville. Other assignments have been with the Civil Aeronautics Authority and Civil Aeronautics Board.

Infection Enlarges Hearts Of Chesapeake Bay Oysters

Biologists at the National Marine Fisheries Service' Biological Laboratory, Oxford, Md., have discovered a previously unreported bacterial infection of oysters. An NMFS staff research microbiologist and a Maryland state biologist have investigated sporadic cases of Chesapeake Bay oysters with greatly enlarged (hypertrophied) fluid-filled heart cavities. The fluid contains large concentrations of vibrio anguillarum, a bacterium which causes diseases in eels and other fishes, but which is harmless to warm-blooded animals. The condition is being called cardiac vibriosis.

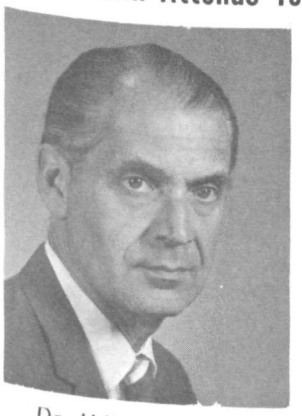
Neil Frank of the Hurricane Center Joins Assistance Mission to Pakistan

Dr. Neil Frank, a hurricane specialist at the National Hurricane Center in Miami, is a special envoy from the National Weather Service to the cyclone-stricken coast of East Pakistan. He is a member of a special mission of the World Bank which began work in Dacca, East Pakistan, Dec. 11. The team is investigating ways to assist East Pakistan government agencies in recovering from the disastrous cyclone which struck that country's storm-prone coastline, Nov. 12, claiming perhaps half a million lives and causing more than $75 million in property damage.

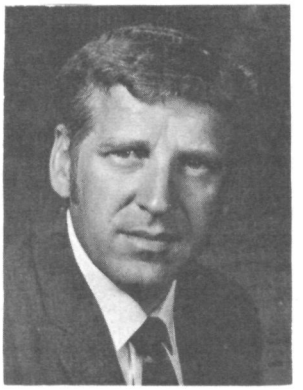
The six-member reconstruction mission is headed by R. Picciotto, who is in charge of the World Bank's East Pakistan Water and Development Program, and also includes a transportation engineer, regional development specialist, engineer, and economist. The mission will make preliminary recommendations for reconstruction projects suitable for financing by the World Bank, including fresh-water supplies, roads, shelters against future cyclones, coastal embankments, and new facilities for agriculture and fishing. The group will also investigate ways to improve communications between the devastated areas and major cities and explore the need for better storm-warning and telecommunications systems, and for public-health installations, village housing and reforestation.

When the mission returns to the United States in late December, it will submit recommendations to help prevent recurrence of the century's worst disaster.

Ruhnke Consults on Canal Fog Problem; Weickmann Attends Tel Aviv Conference



Dr. H.K.Weickmann



Dr. L.H.Ruhnke

Dr. Lothar H. Ruhnke, supervisory physicist at ERL's Atmospheric Physics and Chemistry Laboratory, Boulder, Colo., was invited by the Panama Canal Company to spend the week of November 29 to December 5 consulting with Canal authorities on fog problems in the Canal Zone. Dr. Ruhnke, who is working on warm fog modification using ion space charges, took preliminary measurements of fog particle size and distribution, and the concentration of fog nuclei. Fog dissipation research is of vital importance to the Canal Zone, as large ships cannot navigate the Canal during times when the area is blanketed by fog. This occurs an average of 180 days per year, for at least an hour a day.

Dr. Helmut K. Weickmann, director of ERL's Atmospheric Physics and Chemistry Laboratory, was a major participant in the International Conference on Meteorology in Tel Aviv, November 30 - December 4. The conference was sponsored by the Israel Meteorological Society and the American Meteorological Society. Dr. Weickmann, who is well known for his research in atmospheric physics and weather modification, chaired the session on Cloud and Precipitation Physics. He also presented a paper on "Design, Execution, and Results of a Mesoscale Snowstorm Modification Project."

Burton Is Selected for Western Region Post

Ellis Burton, quality control officer in the National Weather Service's Central Region headquarters, Kansas City, Mo., has been selected as the new aviation service operations meteorologist in the NWS Western Region. Mr. Burton will assume his new responsibilities early in January.

More Boaters Cooperating In Lake Charting Program

The Lake Survey Center's Cooperative Charting Program continued to grow this season, as more and more boaters in the Great Lakes area participate. The program, based on one originated by the National Ocean Survey and the U.S. Power Squadrons in 1962, is a cooperative effort between the Lake Survey Center and the Power Squadrons to provide better navigation charts to the boating public in its area and thereby contribute to greater safety and pleasure.

The Lake Survey charts the Great Lakes, outflow rivers, New York State Barge Canal System, Lake Champlain, and the Minnesota-Ontario border lakes, including Rainy Lake and the Lake of the Woods. The Power Squadrons' purpose is through education to aid in establishing high standards of skill in boat operation, to stimulate interest in safe boating, and to cooperate with the various Government agencies charged with enforcement of laws and regulations related to navigation.

The Cooperative Charting Program for the Great Lakes area was set up in 1965. Under the program, members of the Power Squadrons in the course of their normal boating activities note changes which should be shown on (or removed from) the charts and forward them without cost to the Lake Survey, which incorporates usable information into the next edition. As a result of this voluntary effort, the Center is able to furnish more up-to-date charts to the Great Lakes boater, both commercial and recreational.

To stimulate interest and promote competition, awards are presented for the best District, Squadron, and individual, and letters of appreciation are presented to all participants. This program is one example of how a public-spirited organization can cooperate with a Government agency to reduce costs and at the same time provide a better service to the public.

Two NMFS Employees Win Awards for Blood Program Efforts

William M. Terry, Acting Deputy Director of the National Marine Fisheries Service (right), presents Joan Kreger with a Red Cross Recognition Card for her enthusiasm and untiring efforts as recruiter for the agency's 1969-70 Blood Donor Program. Fred Laney, chairman for the 1970-71 drive (left), holds a Red Cross Certificate awarded NMFS for reaching 116 percent of its quota during the past year. William E. Fox served as chairman for 1969-70, the fourth year that NMFS has gone over the top in its blood drive.

Mrs. Harris, Human Relations Director, Addresses NOAA Administrative Personnel

Mrs. Ruth Bates Harris recently spoke to NOAA's Administration and Technical Services personnel on the subject of human relations and equal employment opportunity. Mrs. Harris is the former Executive Director of the District of Columbia Human Relations Council and is currently the Director, Human Relations for the Montgomery County (Md.) Public School System.

Submit Bond Address Changes to Payroll

Employees participating in the U.S. Savings Bonds program through payroll deduction who wish to have the address on their bonds changed should submit their requests for change to the Payroll Section to expedite handling. The Treasury Department does not perform this task. Any requests received by the Treasury Department will be forwarded to the Payroll Section for processing.

Items to be considered for publication in NOAA WEEK should be submitted to: Office of Public Information, NOAA, Room 804, Bldg. 5, Rockville, Md. 20852. Phone (301) 496-8243.

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

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