



NOAA WEEK

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

Commerce Secretary Lauds Department's EEO Program NOAA Launches Search For Oldest Oceanic Crust

In a recent memorandum on the subject of the Equal Employment Opportunity Program, Secretary of Commerce Peter G. Peterson wrote to Secretarial Officers and Heads of Operating Units and Departmental Offices:

"...It is gratifying to note that Commerce has taken steps which have resulted in real achievements and increased possibilities for upward mobility of a substantial number of employees.

"I commend you for your past involvement. I look forward to more evidence of success as the programs already in effect and the ones under development contribute to change. It is obvious that despite recent curtailment of resources the Department is being maintained. I believe this is extremely important. It reflects the support of a concerned management staff.

"I am deeply committed to the principle of equal opportunity in all facets of the Department's operations involving external as well as internal affairs. I feel I can rely on each of you to continue your actions in this regard, to accelerate efforts to achieve additional progress, and to correct any imbalances that may exist in organizational elements under your jurisdiction.

"Please convey to all employees my sincere support in achieving the objectives of our Equal Employment Opportunity Program."

SAVE THAT DATE !!!

NOAA's D.C.-area employees and their families will have a chance to tour some of the NOAA ships on Saturday, April 15, when the RESEARCHER, RUDE, HECK, and High Speed Launch 1257 will be docked at the Washington Navy Yard. The ships will be open to the public from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Scientists aboard the NOAA Ship OCEANOGRAPHER have embarked on a three-year investigation of a 2000-mile-long corridor stretching from the Hawaiian Islands to the Philippine Sea off the Asiatic coast, which may lead them to the earth's oldest oceanic crust.

This year's four-month expedition, the first of three planned field seasons, will provide a geophysical survey of a 240-mile-wide corridor in an area of the Northwest Pacific whose sea bottom has been virtually unexplored.

Principal investigators for the expedition--Frederic P. Naugler and John M. Wageman, research oceanographers of NOAA's Pacific Oceanographic Laboratories in Seattle, Wash.--said that "seismic data as well as the tectonic geometry of this region suggest that portions of this oceanic crust are considerably older, making it a likely candidate for the oldest oceanic crust in existence."

The NOAA scientists said that while the tectonic (mountain building) history of the Northwest Pacific is complex, with vast regions apparently having subsided, there are indications a crustal section extending from the northwest portion of the Hawaiian Islands to the Marianna Islands bordering the Philippine Sea may have remained relatively unchanged since the late Paleozoic Age some 250 million years ago. If so, this may represent the earth's oldest oceanic crust, and the expedition will attempt to find it. In comparison, the crust between North America and Hawaii is believed to have developed during the past 100 million years.

The ultimate goal of the planned three-year program is to determine the geologic history of the old portion of the oceanic crust and what occurs when the Pacific tectonic plate meets the Philippine Sea tectonic plate. The belief is that the Pacific plate is being consumed by under-thrusting beneath the Philippine Sea plate,

(Continued on page 2)

NWS To Use Remote TV To Monitor Mountain Weather

The National Weather Service will use remote television to monitor weather conditions in a mountain pass, in a test program to be conducted for the Federal Aviation Administration under a \$108,000 inter-agency agreement.

The monitoring operation is scheduled to get underway in July, following installation of off-the-shelf camera and remoting equipment, and continue for six months.

According to FAA Administrator John H. Shaffer, if the experiment is successful, other remote TV weather monitoring systems could be installed in other mountain passes and locations to provide improved aviation weather service to the general aviation pilot operating VFR in these areas.

The remote TV camera in the test program will be located in Stampede Pass, which is 80 miles east of Seattle and one of the east/west routes for VFR air traffic through the mountains. It will be collocated with a manned weather station, operated by NWS, permitting a comparison of the TV data with actual observations.

The TV pictures of weather conditions in Stampede Pass will be transmitted over land lines to the FAA flight service station at Boeing Field in Seattle for presentation on a TV monitor. Flight service specialists at the station will use this information, together with that provided by the NWS observation post, in briefing pilots on weather conditions in the pass

CSC Announces Open Season For Health Benefits Plans

With the setting of final 1972 premiums for the various Federal health benefits plans, the Civil Service Commission has announced an additional 1972 open season beginning March 15, 1972, and ending April 14, 1972.

During this open season, as in previous ones, employees not enrolled may enroll and enrolled employees may change plans, options, and type of enrollment.

Open season enrollment changes by employees will be effective April 16, 1972. New premium rates and new Government contribution rates will also be effective April 16, 1972.

More complete information on the open season will be distributed shortly to all NOAA employees.

NOAA Scientists Report On Lake Erie Cloud Seeding

NOAA scientists have reported that, because nature failed to provide Lake Erie storms to seed this winter, the feasibility of controlled snowfall distribution in western New York has not yet been determined.

"The experimental plan was to seed and modify the major lake storms," said Project Director Helmut K. Weickmann. "These storms develop when cold winds blow along the length of the relatively warm lake.

"We were prepared, but nature chose not to cooperate and the Buffalo metropolitan region, which bears the brunt of major lake snowstorms, enjoyed a mild winter."

However, the scientific team was able to study the basic reactions of certain cloud systems to seeding with silver iodide crystals.

Seeding flights were conducted on November 22 and 30 over the United States side of the lake between Hamburg and Angola, N.Y., using a DC-6 meteorological aircraft operated by the NOAA Research Flight Facility.

The purpose of the four-year old project is to establish whether it is feasible to spread lake snowfall over a larger land area in such a way that the snow burden is reduced along the shore belt. This would be done by increasing the number and decreasing the size and density of snow particles in the storm clouds so that they would drift farther inland. The total precipitation would not be changed by the seeding.

The field experiments were carried out from mid-November to mid-December. The research team, attached to NOAA's Atmospheric Physics and Chemistry Laboratory, Boulder, Colorado, returned January 17-22 but again nature sent them home without a major storm.

Ocean Crust Search (Continued from page 1)

along the Marianna arc of islands, into the Marianna Trench four to six miles below the surface of the sea. It is here that the world's greatest ocean depth has been discovered, almost seven miles (36,198 feet) deep.

The OCEANOGRAPHER is commanded by Captain Herbert R. Lippold, Jr.

Participants in this year's expedition also include these scientists from the Pacific Oceanographic Laboratories--Dr. Robert E. Burns, Lt. Cdr. John D. Vandermeulen and Lt. Cdr. Richard V. O'Connell, --and four scientists from the Institute of Oceanography, National Taiwan University.

NOAA Budget Is Automated At Suggestion of Trainee

For the first time in NOAA's history, its Congressional Budget Estimates were prepared by automation. Magnetic Tape Selectric Typewriters and a Magnetic Tape Selectric Composer were used in getting this year's budget into print.

This method of automation, suggested by Administrative Trainee Robert Fulton, combined with cooperation by the Budget Division, Management Services Division, and Administrative Operations Division, produced the final package in an orderly and timely fashion.

In the past, budget preparation was drastically complicated by the necessity of reducing to $8 \times 10\frac{1}{2}$ inches the oversized pages required for the budget information.

This year the information was typed on the Magnetic Tape Selectric Typewriters and the composer justified space requirements for the various items. The result was a more legible budget, with more lines to the page, that required fewer employees and less overtime work.

Mr. Fulton recently graduated from the Administrative Trainee Program and has been assigned to the Budget Division on a full-time basis.



Shown above are some of the NOAA employees who worked on preparation of this year's budget. They are: (front row, from left) Mary Lou Gorman, Becky Harps, and Velma Defibaugh. (back row, from left) Jeri Anderson, Robert Fulton, Doug Mortl, Marian Felker, and Bonnie Ballard.

New Data Link Now Operational Between NMC and EPA-Raleigh

On March 6, the National Meteorological Center went operational on a new data link to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) at Raleigh, N. C., which makes air stagnation guidance material available at EPA as soon as it is available at NMC.

Twice a day a teletypewriter message containing real time guidance and development type material, along with a background map of the U.S. with meteorological information and soundings already plotted on it, which is produced in NMC's CDC 6600 computer, is relayed to EPA through NMC's IBM 360 communications computer.

The data is ready for use when it is received in Raleigh.

Philip G. Brandis, Chief, Information Processing Branch, Data Automation Division, NMC, supervised establishment of the communication link.

According to Edward M. Gross, Research Meteorologist in the Development Division of NMC, who worked on development of the numerical computer program, the new system replaces one in which computerized objective guidance material was sent via TWX to EPA. Upon receipt in Raleigh, the information had to be plotted on maps before it could be utilized.

Not only is the new system much faster and more efficient, it has enabled NMC to provide much more pertinent information than was previously possible, and in the future EPA will receive even more development type information for its operations.

Accomplishments Under Sea Grant Funds Noted By University of Rhode Island

A computer model that can "predict" the past and future history of the tidal currents and heights in Narragansett Bay has been developed by ocean engineers at the University of Rhode Island under a project funded by a NOAA Sea Grant.

The model makes it possible to calculate the water height and tidal currents in any part of the bay at any time during the tidal cycle, including an approximation of wind effects.

Another accomplishment by URI researchers under Sea Grant funds has been the development of an electric trawl system that has increased the catch of lobsters and crabs up to 50 percent in tests.

The system literally shocks lobsters and crabs into lifting their bodies off the bottom sediment just before the passage of the mouth of a bottom-dragging net, thereby increasing the likelihood they'll be caught.

Captain Watkins Is Appointed SURVEYOR Commanding Officer

Captain John B. Watkins, Jr., has been appointed Commanding Officer of the NOAA Ship SURVEYOR.

This will be his third tour of duty aboard the ship--in 1958-60, he was assigned to help supervise construction of the vessel and then served as Assistant Operations Officer after it was commissioned in April 1960, and he also was detailed temporarily as its Executive Officer in 1967. For the past two years, Capt. Watkins headed the National Ocean Survey's Honolulu office. He has spent eight of his 22 years as a commissioned officer at sea, and has served with various field parties in the continental United States.



A native of Phoenix, Ariz., he received an electrical engineering degree from the University of Arizona.

The SURVEYOR, operated by the National Ocean Survey, is now mapping the sea bottom off the Pacific coast.

Frank A. Blust Receives Bronze Medal



Frank A. Blust, Chief of the Lake Survey Center's Marine Mapping and Charting Division (right), is shown receiving a U.S. Department of Commerce Bronze Medal from Captain Robert E. Williams, Director of the LSC. Mr. Blust received the award for his imaginative leadership during the Lake Survey Center's transfer from the Corps of Engineers to NOAA. His efforts helped to pave the way for a smooth transition.

First Deep Keel Buoy Arrives At National Data Buoy Center



A NASA photo

After a 2,500-mile overland journey from Sunnyvale, Calif., where it was built by Lockheed Missile and Space Company, an experimental prototype deep keel buoy has arrived at the National Data Buoy Center, located at NASA's Mississippi Test Facility.

Jackson M. Balch (left), Director of MTF, is shown above participating in ceremonies marking the buoy's arrival, as Commander William L. King, (right) then Acting Director of the Center, watched.

When fully assembled the 29-foot hull will be configured with a 15.5-foot keel for stability and a 29-foot, fully instrumented mast. The buoy's unique hull is designed to reduce anchor line stress and drag, and allow anchorage in depths up to 10,000 feet.

At sea, two automatic diesel generators aboard will drive generators and charge batteries, and electronic equipment will collect, process and transmit weather and oceanographic data automatically on a pre-timed basis to shore stations.

This buoy system is one of a number which will be deployed for test and evaluation in the Gulf during the summer months prior to the hurricane season.

Income Tax Withholdings To Change

Employees who are subject to state tax withholdings for the States of Iowa, Rhode Island and New York will notice a change in their state tax for the salary checks dated on or after March 29, 1972.

Weather Observing Facility To Open Atop ERL Building



Trainees Garcia, Wilcoxon, and Schroeder

NOAA scientists are training a group of teletypewriter operators to take weather observations in Boulder, Colo., in early spring. The planned cooperative weather station, atop the main laboratories of the Environmental Research Laboratories, will be the first official weather observing facility in Boulder.

Joseph A. Sutorik, astronomer and solar weather forecaster, explains: "Because we run a 24-hour-a-day forecast and warning service for customers interested in being alerted on solar flares, extending our routine responsibility to observations of meteorological phenomena required no major re-scheduling. In fact it was really an obvious step--obvious except that we did not have enough qualified observers. We did, however, have a complete complement of teletypewriter operators on all shifts. So, we started training them to be meteorological observers."

The NOAA training program for Pedro Garcia, Mary Ann Wilcoxon, Jacob Schroeder, Dorothy Hanks, Bette Goehringer, and Steve Jackson included six weeks of introductory lessons taught by Ed Revis, Technical Assistant at the National Weather Service station in Stapleton Airport, Denver.

Practical experience is being gained daily at the as-yet-unofficial weather facility, where the trainees take observations of temperature, dew point temperature, winds, pressure, visibility, clouds, and other visible weather phenomena as a part of their shift responsibilities.

After their training is completed in late March they will take a standard written exam in April. Passing this exam will qualify them as meteorological observers and Boulder will join the NWS's list of communities with a local weather observing station.

Ingrades Delayed by Freeze To Be Paid Retroactively

The Office of the Comptroller General of the United States has ruled that Federal employees are entitled to retroactive pay adjustments for within grade increases, including quality increases, delayed because of the stabilization period; August 16 through November 13, 1971. All such increases which would have normally accrued had there been no pay "freeze" will be paid as of the date they became due. Actions are being processed now and should be reflected in pay checks received in the month of April. Any questions should be referred to your Personnel Office.

Commander Moses Is Named Tsunami Advisor To the State of Hawaii's Civil Defense

Commander Ray E. Moses has been named Tsunami Advisor to the State of Hawaii's Civil Defense. He will also act as liaison between federal agencies and the state government. He is assigned to the National Weather Service's Pacific Region Headquarters to assist in the gradual transfer of the tsunami warning system from the Environmental Research Laboratories to NWS.



Following completion of the reorganization, NWS will assume responsibility for the issuance of tsunami watches and warnings. ERL's observatory at Ewa Beach, near Honolulu, will provide the seismic data on the location and magnitudes of earthquakes which cause tsunamis, or seismic sea waves. A commissioned officer since 1958, Cdr. Moses commanded the NOAA Ship DAVIDSON before going to Hawaii.

He holds a civil engineering degree from the University of Kentucky and also attended the University of Washington, where he majored in physical oceanography.

The station should fill an important observing gap and provide information needed for warnings of winter high-winds, a relatively local, but occasionally devastating problem. The new cooperative observing station will provide timely observations (but not forecasts) to other NWS sites and to local radio, television, and press facilities.



notes about people...

Cecil Ellingwood, Assistant Chief of the National Ocean Survey's Leveling Branch, has been named a member of the U.S. Section of the Vertical Control-Lake Level Subcommittee, a unit of the Coordinating Committee on Great Lakes Basic Hydraulic and Hydrologic Data.

The NOAA member of the Subcommittee is Carl B. Feldscher, Chief of the Lake Survey Center's Compilation Branch.

NOAA personnel were among those honored at the recent North Carolina Wildlife Federation's Annual Governor's Award Banquet, in Charlotte, N.C.

R. O. Parker, Jr., fishery biologist with the National Marine Fisheries Service Atlantic Estuarine Fisheries Center, in Beaufort, N.C., is shown receiving from Lieutenant Governor Pat Taylor the North Carolina Wildlife Federation Award in Wildlife Conservation.



The nomination said, in part, "Mr. Parker showed outstanding leadership in a conservation activity by chairing a committee that constructed a large, scientifically planned artificial reef."

Larry F. Windt, Hydrologist at the Weather Service Forecast Office in Raleigh, N.C.,



received a Shikar-Safari Club International Conservationist of the Year Award for meritorious service in the field of conservation of wildlife and natural resources.

The club's contributions to conservation of wildlife include education of the public concerning wildlife.

Mr. Windt (left), is showing his plaque to Rue Rush, Meteorologist in Charge of the WSFO Raleigh.



Ice Sampling

Don Rondy and John Malczyk of Lake Survey Center's Limnology Division recently made an ice sample collection tour along northern Lake Michigan and Green Bay and the southern shore of Lake Superior from Sault Ste. Marie to Duluth. Their four-wheel drive vehicle was equipped with insulated boxes to keep the ice until their return to Detroit. Samples range in size from eight to ten inches square and vary from 14 to about 30 inches in depth, depending on the thickness of the ice in the area sampled. They visited 15 locations in all and samples were taken at easily accessible sites. The ice will be used to make crystallographic investigations and other laboratory studies on Great Lakes ice, part of a continuing operation under the LSC Ice Characteristics Project. Data obtained will be of value especially to those involved with the extension of the navigation season program on the Great Lakes.

Dr. Dayton L. Alverson, Director of the National Marine Fisheries Service Northwest Fisheries Center, Seattle, Wash., was honored by the Pacific Rim Alliance of the Marine Technology Society for major contributions in the field of fisheries research and management.

Specifically, the award was for contribution to knowledge of living resources in the northeast Pacific Ocean and for development of population estimators and techniques which permit early management decisions on living resources.

John L. Ford, Program Coordinator of the National Weather Service's Engineering Division, was reelected by the Membership of the Department of Commerce Federal Credit Union to the Board of Directors, and by the Board as its first vice-president. John M. Amstadt, Deputy Chief of the Programs Division at NOAA Headquarters, was reelected by the Board as its treasurer. A third NOAA man, Nicholas F. Sampogna, Staff Assistant in the National Ocean Survey's Reproduction Division, is serving the second year of his two-year term as a member of the Board.

Nominations Due May 5 For Gold, Silver, NOAA Awards

Department of Commerce Gold and Silver Medals will be presented in October, as will the 1972 NOAA Awards. In order to ensure sufficient time for consideration and review, nominations for these awards should be submitted by May 5, 1972.

The Gold Medal Award, the highest given by the Department, is granted for rare and outstanding contributions of major significance to the Department, the Nation, or the world. Examples of such contributions include: (a) a major contribution to science, technology, or administration; (b) demonstrated outstanding leadership in the administration of major programs; (c) highly distinguished authorship; or (d) heroic action involving jeopardy of life.

The Silver Medal Award, the second highest given by the Department, is granted for contributions of unusual value to the Department. Examples include: (a) very valuable contribution to science, technology, or administration; (b) outstanding skill or ability in duty performance which has resulted in program advancement; (c) meritorious authorship; or (d) unusual courage or competence in an emergency.

An "Outstanding" performance rating is considered an essential part of the supporting material for Medal Award nominations except in cases of heroic action. Accordingly, it is suggested that action be taken at this time to ensure that the personnel file reflects the correct evaluation of employees when candidates are reviewed.

Forms CD-242 and CD-223 will be used for nominating Medal Award candidates.

The NOAA Awards consist of a plaque and \$1,000, and provide a fine opportunity for NOAA to recognize, in a very substantial fashion, the exemplary contributions of outstanding employees. Normally, one award will be made in each of the following four categories:

1. Scientific Research and Achievement: To recognize unusually significant contributions to scientific research and development, or outstanding contributions to scientific literature, including all areas of specialization represented in NOAA.

2. Public Service: To be granted for unusually significant contributions to the quality and effectiveness of NOAA's public service programs, contributions having such merit as to bring extraordinary credit to NOAA and the Department.

3. Engineering and Applications Development: To recognize unusually significant contributions to the operating or research

San Pedro, Calif., Cameron, La., Are Leading Fishing Ports

San Pedro, Calif., remained the Nation's leading fishing port in terms of value of annual landings during 1971, but Cameron, La., moved from second to first in volume, replacing San Pedro as the volume leader.

Preliminary figures released by the National Marine Fisheries Service show many of the same seaports among the top ten both for value to fishermen and pounds landed, but none occupies the same spot on both lists.

The leading ports, by value of landings were San Pedro, Calif.; Brownsville-Port Isabel, Tex.; Kodiak, Alaska; New Bedford, Mass.; Aransas Pass-Rockport, Tex.; Dulac-Chavin, La.; San Diego, Calif.; Freeport, Tex.; Cameron, La.; and Morgan City, La.

Tuna is the primary species landed at San Pedro while menhaden accounts for most of the landings at Cameron. The port rankings by volume in 1971 were Cameron, La.; San Pedro, Calif.; Pascagoula-Moss Point, Miss.; Dulac-Chavin, La.; Morgan City, La.; Empire, La.; Kodiak, Alaska; Gloucester, Mass.; New Bedford, Mass.; and San Diego, Calif.

Holmquist To Serve as Navy Oceanographer

Rear Admiral C. O. Holmquist, Chief of Naval Research, has been given additional duty as Oceanographer of the Navy. He will perform in this dual capacity until June 1972, when Rear Admiral Joseph E. Snyder, Jr., reports to assume duty as Oceanographer of the Navy. Admiral Holmquist relieved Vice Admiral W. W. Behrens, Jr., who has been assigned to NOAA as Associate Administrator for Interagency Relations.

programs of NOAA in the area of engineering, applied technology, or systems or equipment development.

4. Program Administration and Management: To be granted in recognition of unusually significant contributions to the efficiency and quality of NOAA management and administrative activities.

Nominations for the NOAA Awards will be accepted from any employee or official of NOAA, as well as from persons not previously or presently employed by NOAA, but who, because of their interests, are well informed about some phase of the program cited. In each case, the nomination should be submitted on NOAA Form 53-15 and must be endorsed by the head of the Primary Organizational Element in which the nominee is employed.

For information concerning nomination procedures, forms, approvals, etc., please contact your Personnel Office.

J.J. McCann, Jr., T.J. Risoli, S. Goodmond, and C.W. Lane, Jr., Retire



Samuel Goodmond (right above), assistant punched card librarian in the National Climatic Center's Data Reduction Branch, Environmental Data Service, has retired after 27 years of Federal service. On the left is William M. McMurray, chief, Applied Climatology Division, NCC. Mr. Goodman had been associated with the National Climatic Center since 1960. His previous service included assignments with the General Services Administration and the Postal Accounts Offices in Asheville, N.C.

C. Walter Lane, Jr., Chief of the National Ocean Survey's Reproduction Division, in Washington, D. C., retired on March 17 after more than 38 years of service with the NOS and its predecessor, the Coast and Geodetic Survey. He began his career in 1933 as a lithographic draftsman; served as Chief, Aeronautical Lithographic Section; Assistant Chief, Reproduction Division; and in 1958 became head of the Reproduction Division.



He received the Department of Commerce's Silver Medal in 1966 for his outstanding contributions to the technical development of cartographic reproduction and for instituting and sustaining major improvements in production operations resulting in more efficient, economical and timely chart production.

Mr. Lane was born in Baltimore, attended Johns Hopkins University from 1935-38 and George Washington University in Washington, D.C., 1940-41.

Thomas J. Risoli retired on March 17 after 31 years of Federal service. Since 1955 he had been Chief of the National Marine Fisheries Service's New York City Market News Office, where he began his government career as a GS-2 clerk-typist in 1941. (At that time it was in the Department of the Interior.) In 1949, he was assigned to the Boston Market News Office, subsequently advanced to Market News Reporter, and worked in four other offices throughout the country before being selected to head the Boston Market News Office in 1952.



At his retirement dinner, Mr. Risoli received a Bronze Medal "in recognition of a long and productive career with the Bureau of Commercial Fisheries and the National Marine Fisheries Service in the field of Market News Reporting."

He and Mrs. Risoli plan to continue to reside at 27 Wright Ave. in Staten Island, N.Y. 10303.



John J. McCann Jr., aircraft commander for Research Flight Facility (RFF) and veteran of 78 hurricane and tropical storm missions and 207 penetrations into the "eye" of hurricanes, retired in Miami, Fla., on February 28.

Mr. McCann has flown in Stormfury, hail research in Colorado, snowstorm studies along the east coast, lightning dissipation research in Arizona, monsoon work in India, and many other weather research and modification activities since 1959.

Items to be considered for publication in NOAA WEEK should be submitted to:
Office of Public Affairs, NOAA, Room 221, Bldg. 5, Rockville, Md. 20852. Phone (301) 496-8243.

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

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