

NOAA
062
A UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF
COMMERCE
PUBLICATION
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
March 24, 1972
Volume 3
Number 12

MARINE AND ESTUARINE
SCIENCES LIBRARY
MAR 27 1972
U.S.

NOAA WEEK

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

DISCOVERER Set For Three-Month Atlantic Expedition

Scientists from the United States, France, England, and Venezuela will search for new knowledge of the evolution of the Atlantic Ocean basin on a three-month expedition of the NOAA Ship DISCOVERER beginning March 30.

The expedition will concentrate on geological and geophysical studies of the giant segments of the oceanic crust, called plates, in the area between the West Indies and the submerged mountain range known as the Mid-Atlantic Ridge. It will also study the characteristics of a number of small plates lying between the giant crustal segments of the North and South Atlantic plates and the African plate.

The expedition is being conducted by the Atlantic Oceanographic and Meteorological Laboratories and the National Ocean Survey with financial assistance from the International Decade of Ocean Exploration program of the National Science Foundation.

The expedition is seeking evidence that will make the plate tectonics theory applicable to regional, as well as global, geological problems.

According to the plate tectonics theory, the earth's crust is composed of gigantic rigid moving segments or plates. At certain plate boundaries, there exists an active ocean ridge where hot basaltic material rises from the earth's mantle (next to the earth's outer crusts) to add new crust to the separating plates. The plates are bounded also by trenches, where the oldest parts of the plates sink into the earth's mantle.

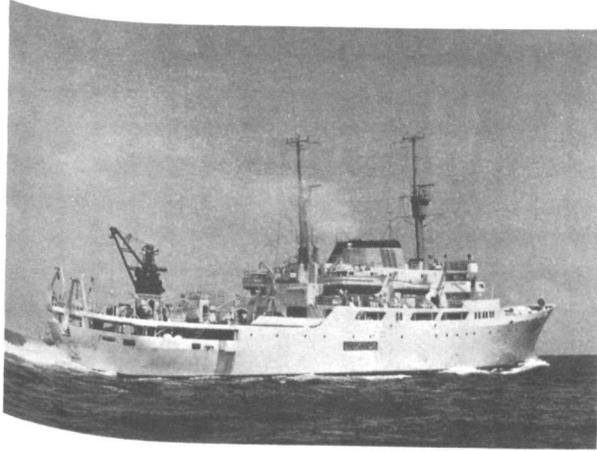
The Caribbean-Atlantic area is believed to contain a number of small crustal plates, including the Caribbean Plate, whose boundaries will be investigated by the expedition. The area is considered critical for this type of investigation since there exists in this comparatively small region of the globe a ridge-island arc system, major fault zones, and several major and minor crustal plate boundaries. The ridge-island arc system is represented by the Mid-Atlantic Ridge and the West Indies' Lesser Antilles Island Arc. Several major fault zones (deep crevices in the ocean bottom) separate the North Atlantic and South Atlantic crustal plates, as well as outlining two minor plates.

(Continued on page 2)

Weather Service VHF-FM Radio Begins Operation In Erie, Pa.

A new VHF-FM radio station began transmitting continuous weather forecasts and warnings for Erie (northwestern Pennsylvania and the central portion of Lake Erie) on March 8. Originating at the Erie Weather Service Office, the 24-hour-a-day weather program, transmitted on 162.40 megahertz will bring the public emergency warnings of

(Continued on page 2)



NOAA Ship DISCOVERER

Gordon B. Littlepage Retires After 39 Years' Federal Service

Approximately 340 colleagues and friends attended a retirement luncheon honoring Gordon B. Littlepage, Jr., Deputy Associate Director of the National Ocean Survey's Office of Aeronautical Charting and Cartography, March 8 on the occasion of his completion of more than 39 years with the Federal government.

Mr. Littlepage's Federal employment began in 1933 as a cartographic engineer. During his almost four decades with the government, he served as Technical Assistant to the Chief of the Chart Division; Assistant Chief of the Aeronautical Chart Division; Chief of the Reproduction Division; Technical Assistant to the Assistant Director for Cartography; and Deputy Associate Director of the Office of Aeronautical Charting and Cartography for the past decade.

As such, he played a key role in the preparation, publication and distribution since 1962 of nearly a half billion navigational charts and related publications. He received the Department of Commerce Gold Medal, its highest award, in 1957.

DISCOVERER Expedition *(Continued from page 1)*

The expedition's chief scientist is Dr. George Peter of the NOAA Miami laboratories. Assisting him from the laboratories will be Charles Lauter, Omar DeWald, George Merrill, Leroy Dorman, and George Lapiene. Other scientists aboard include C. Nakamura from the Woods Hole (Mass.) Oceanographic Institution; Genevieve Alla from the French National Center for the Exploitation of the Oceans (CNEXO); Graham Westbrook from the University of Durham, England; and two scientists from Venezuela.

Weather Radio *(Continued from page 1)*

impending storms, floods, tornadoes, and other severe weather situations. Regular programming will include continuous weather reports such as weather summaries, U.S. Coast Guard reports, observations of temperature, wind, visibilities and sea conditions, plus detailed local and area forecasts. In addition, extended outlooks up to five days and radar reports (when appropriate) will be broadcast.

Preston Smith Is Chairman Of Equal Employment Group

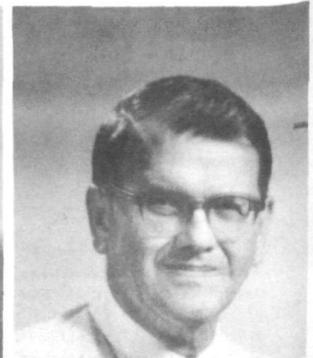
Preston Smith was recently elected Chairman of NOAA's Equal Employment Opportunity Committee. Prior to joining the staff of NOAA's Associate Administrator for Marine Resources nine months ago, Mr. Smith was a staff assistant for two years in the Divisions of Resource Technology and Food Science at the National Marine Fisheries Service. In conjunction with his regular duties in NOAA headquarters, he will head NOAA's effort to establish, maintain, and carry out a continuing affirmative program designed to promote equal opportunity in every aspect of personnel policy and practice in the employment, development, advancement, and treatment of minority employees. Other members of NOAA's EEO Committee are: Warren Jacob (NESS) - Vice-chairman; Doris G. Stewart (EDS) - Executive Secretary; Norman Fitz (NMFS); Greg Richter (NWS); George Murphy (ADTECH); and Ernest Kyle (NOS).

EDS Man "Boss of the Year"

Dr. James D. McQuigg, EDS Research Meteorologist, and Professor of Atmospheric Science at the University of Missouri-Columbia, was honored March 9 as "Boss of the Year" by the Columbia Chapter of National Secretaries Association (International). Dr. McQuigg, who was nominated for the award by Mrs. Marguerite Johnson of the Columbia, Mo., Weather Service Office, was among 17 area men nominated for the annual honor. Selection of the award was made on the basis of Dr. McQuigg's achievements in business, professional and civil fields, and his personal life.



Preston Smith



James D. McQuigg

Weather Looks Good For Apollo 16 Launch, NWS Says

Prevailing mid-April weather at the Kennedy Space Center should be ideal for the launch of Apollo 16, according to the National Weather Service's Spaceflight Meteorology Group. The sixth manned spaceflight to the moon is scheduled to leave the launch pad on April 16 at 12:48 p.m. EST.

Weather for the recovery of the spacecraft and astronauts Young, Mattingly, and Duke 12 days later in the tropical Pacific Ocean is expected to be satisfactory, but will require careful watching as the end of the mission approaches.

The Spaceflight Meteorology Group, which provides the primary weather support to the National Aeronautics and Space Administration for manned spaceflights, bases these outlooks on records of past weather in the launch and recovery areas.

Typically in mid-April in the Cape Kennedy area, there are partly cloudy skies, light and variable winds, and afternoon temperatures near 75°F. Thunderstorms, with lightning and strong gusty winds, occur only infrequently at this time of year. Nevertheless, the possibility of thunderstorm conditions will be carefully considered in forecasts of the launch weather. The first

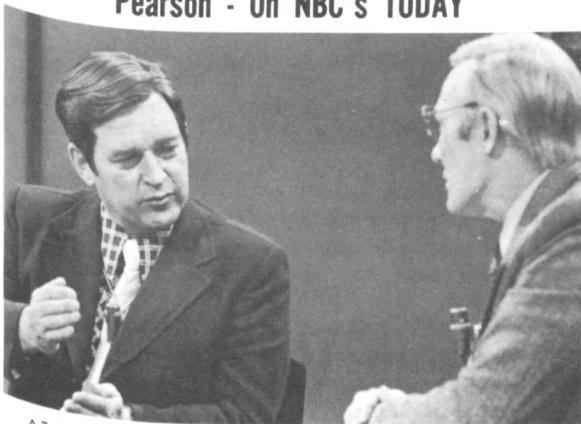
forecast for the launch will be made on April 11, five days before the scheduled liftoff. Before the launch, the spaceflight meteorologists also will be forecasting for several points in the Atlantic and Pacific oceans where an emergency landing could take place if the mission has to be terminated in the early stages.

The weather in the mid-Pacific recovery area (ideally, 5 degrees North, 159 degrees West) can be expected to be good about two-thirds of the time. For the other one-third of the time, it will probably be less favorable than has been experienced in previous Apollo missions. Clouds and precipitation, resulting in lowered visibilities and ceilings, might slow down the recovery procedures and interfere with the TV coverage from the recovery ship, but are not expected to affect the safety of the operations. If, however, conditions should be predicted to be unsatisfactory or marginal for recovery, the spacecraft can be brought down either southwest or northeast of the nominal end-of-mission point.

The meteorologists will be keeping a sharp watch on the weather near the preferred landing point.

Should it become necessary to terminate the mission enroute to the moon, the spacecraft would most probably be returned to earth somewhere in the South Pacific between 1000 miles and 1700 miles south of the Samoan Islands. Weather conditions are normally satisfactory in that contingency landing area.

Pearson - On NBC's TODAY



Allen D. Pearson, Director of the Weather Service's National Severe Storms Forecast Center in Kansas City went on the NBC-TV TODAY show March 9 to talk to host Frank McGee about SKYWARN. SKYWARN is the Weather Service's annual effort to save lives during tornado emergencies by expanding volunteer networks and encouraging the widest possible participation in tornado preparedness programs.

Scientists on Fisheries Ship Conduct Baitfish Investigations

The NOAA Ship TOWNSEND CROMWELL has begun the last of a series of resource assessment cruises to assist in development and conservation of marine resources of the Trust Territory. The CROMWELL is operated by the NMFS, and is based in Honolulu. A main objective of the cruise is to investigate the availability and abundance of baitfish suitable for surface pole-and-line skipjack tuna fishing and for purse seining operations. Fishery scientists will conduct day and night bait surveys in the Marshall Islands and selected areas. Shortage of baitfish has been a major problem for Hawaii's skipjack fishery.

Line Forecasters Council Meets At Weather Service Headquarters

The National Weather Service Director's Third Annual Line Forecaster's Advisory Council was held at NWS headquarters March 3 and March 6-8.

As in the past, the Line Forecasters had the opportunity to learn of recent developments, plans, and policy innovations which have particular impact on the functions and career opportunities of field forecasters. On the last day of the Council the line forecasters met privately with Dr. Cressman to discuss issues of mutual interest and to provide him with a list of recommendations and suggestions for improving the operations of the Weather Service. Topics of particular concern at this session included the current status of the forecast office reorganization plans, new Civil Service Commission standards for meteorologists, interregional mobility, the impact of automation on the future role of the field forecaster and the concept of regional weather coordination centers.

Perry L. Baker was chosen to be the chairman of the 1973 council and Charles H. Sprinkle will be the second member carried over for next year. This council was unique in that one member, Charles A. Smith, is a hydrologist, and this is the first time hydrology has been represented on the council.



At the NWS Line Forecaster's Advisory Council meeting are (from left standing) Burton H. Kirschner, NWSH; Charles A. Smith, Hartford, Conn.; Elmer M. Chadsey, Honolulu, Hawaii; Milo Radulovich, Sacramento, Calif.; (from left seated) Charles H. Sprinkle, National Meteorological Center, Suitland, Md.; Jack Hollis, Little Rock, Ark.; Dr. George C. Cressman, NWS Director; Perry L. Baker, Des Moines, Iowa; and Hiroshi Iguchi, Anchorage, Alaska.

Gulf Coastal Fisheries Center Slates Shrimp Culture Workshop

In cooperation with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the NMFS Gulf Coastal Fisheries Center at Galveston, Texas, will conduct a Shrimp Culture Workshop for Latin American biologists March 20-31. The schedule includes 15 hours of lectures on various aspects of shrimp culture, plus about 50 hours of practical exercises designed to provide experience in the use of specialized equipment and to introduce technical procedures useful in penaeid shrimp culture. The 18 visiting biologists will also be allotted time for field trips to nearby shrimp and catfish culture facilities, for library research, and for individual consultation with staff members of the Galveston laboratory. The scientists will be from Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, El Salvador, Mexico, Panama, Uruguay, and Venezuela.

President Asks Federal Support For Varied Red Cross Activities

March is Red Cross Month, a time when the American National Red Cross seeks the support of every American citizen for support of its humanitarian services. In urging generous response by Federal employees to the organization's needs, President Nixon has said, "The historic record of mercy and service of the Red Cross needs no detailed explanation...These contributions are practical manifestations of the very best in the human spirit. As President of the United States and Honorary Chairman of the American National Red Cross, I extend my warm personal support to its varied activities on behalf of mankind in need...It is essential to the Nation that the Red Cross continue to receive that wide public support, both in funds and in manpower that permits it to wage its creative attack.

Mitchell of EDS Asked To Lecture

Dr. J. Murray Mitchell, Jr., EDS' Project Scientist for Climatic Variation, has been invited to lecture at the University of Washington's Center for Quaternary Research in Seattle, Apr. 17-18. Dr. Mitchell's subject will be "Paleoclimatology and Man's Impact on Climate."

Cdr. Ralph J. Land Is New CO Of Coastal Survey Ship PEIRCE

Cdr. Ralph J. Land, of Norfolk, Va., has been appointed Commanding Officer of the NOAA Ship PEIRCE.

The 162-foot, 760-ton vessel, operated by the National Ocean Survey, conducts hydrographic surveys along the coasts, determining water depths for use in the development of nautical charts. The \$1.9 million vessel, which carries a normal complement of 36 officers and crew, is now conducting hydrographic surveys off the South Carolina and Georgia coasts.

Land joined the Coast and Geodetic Survey, predecessor of the National Ocean Survey, in 1960 and subsequently served at the Fredericksburg Geomagnetic Center, Corbin, Va., and aboard six vessels. He was Commanding Officer of the NOAA Ship FERREL in 1968 and has been serving since the first of the year as Projects Officer at the NOAA Atlantic Marine Center in Norfolk.



Cdr. Land



PEIRCE

Employees Cautioned On Outdated Records

Outdated information in employee personnel files can cause unnecessary delays in career advancement, according to the NOAA Personnel Division.

The Personnel Office and your supervisors cannot properly evaluate your qualifications if your personnel records are not current. Therefore, you should make sure that all information about your self-development activities, unpaid experience, volunteer work (e.g., community and professional association activities), and academic achievements is available in your personnel file. You may bring your personnel records up to date by submitting a Supplemental Experience and Qualification Statement, Form 172, to the Personnel Office. Members of the Personnel Office are available to assist you in properly documenting your experience and training. Do not hesitate to ask for assistance.

Weather Service Names MICs For Atlanta and Atlantic City



Martin Ross



Rheinhart W. Harms

Rheinhart W. Harms has been selected to head the National Weather Service Forecast Center at Atlanta, Ga. He replaces Henry R. McQueen, who has retired. Mr. Harms' experience in weather work, began with service in the Air Force Air Weather Service during World War II. He entered the National Weather Service in 1946. Mr. Harms' assignments included duty as forecaster at New York, Climatologist for Illinois, Executive Staff of the Weather Service at Washington, D. C., and Meteorologist in Charge at Bridgeport, Conn., and Fort Wayne, Ind. Mr. Harms presently is in charge of the Weather Service Office at Milwaukee.

Mr. Harms is a graduate of Wisconsin State University and the Milwaukee Institute of Technology. He will enter on duty at Atlanta about April 10.

Martin Ross has been named to head National Weather Service's Atlantic City office. Ross, former Principal Assistant at the Atlantic City office, succeeded Daniel W. Krueger who retired after 31 years of service. Ross began his career with the Weather Service in 1960 at Atlantic City as a Radar Meteorologist. He has been stationed at Atlantic City ever since except for a two-year tour as Assistant Aviation Forecaster in Washington and a 6-month stint with the U. S. Air Force in 1968.

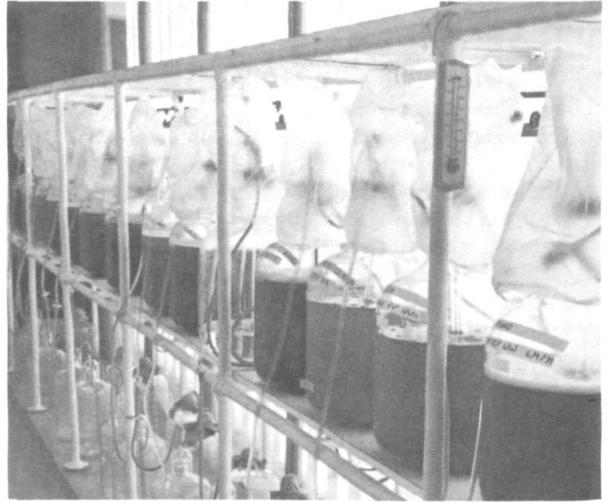
As Meteorologist in Charge, Ross and his staff have the responsibility of providing public, climatic, aviation, agricultural and coastal marine weather services, as well as hazardous weather warnings to residents in a 5-county area in Southern New Jersey. Ross also holds the position of State Aviation Liaison Officer. In this capacity, he is responsible for maintaining continuous liaison with aviation interests and evaluating requirements for new and improved services to the industry within the state.

NMFS Milford Scientists Develop Algae Culture for Shellfish Food

Scientists at the Laboratory for Experimental Biology, National Marine Fisheries Service, Milford, Connecticut, have developed a practical approach to the problems of providing food for shellfish-rearing operations that is attracting national, as well as international, attention. Dr. Ravenna Ukeles, Research Microbiologist in charge of this work at the Milford laboratory, has received requests for assistance in numerous aspects of algal food production from representatives of commercial fisheries industries and Sea Grant University programs in the United States, as well as from such far-flung places as the European continent, British Isles, South America, Middle East, Africa, and Asia. Investigators who are studying the growth and development of filterfeeding invertebrates and also those interested in rearing large numbers of native species as marketable foods are plagued by the needs of young animals for large quantities of nutrients that will sustain the normal development and rapid growth of the species.

One of the requirements in developing a technique for the rearing of American oyster, *Crassostrea virginica*, and hard clam, *Mercenaria mercenaria*, larvae at the Milford laboratory was to provide a standardized food in adequate quantities. Certain species of photosynthetic micro-algae seemed to be a promising food; hence, a system of culturing these species was developed. The goal was to devise a method that was simple, inexpensive and flexible enough to accommodate specialized requirements. Micro-algae used as food in research investigations are cultured in small or moderate volumes under highly controlled conditions, as food for shellfish rearing at the pilot-plant scale in larger volumes yielding harvests of 20-60 liters daily, and for the commercial hatchery in volumes yielding 500 liters daily, with the potential of increasing this production. These methods permit unialgal populations to be maintained in continuous or batch cultures, in natural or artificial sea-water media, and to yield large volumes of high population densities (average of 7 million cells per ml).

Investigators from fishery programs of other nations, who are considering "fish farming" as part of their search for a new source of food for their people, have come to Milford to seek advice on how to set up micro-algal culture facilities consistent with the requirements of the area.



Algal Culture

Also, they request aid in the solution of such troublesome aspects of algal culture as poor growth, toxicity, and contamination of food cultures with undesirable species. Experimental information on formulation of marine culture media, on conditions of optimum illumination, aeration and temperature is provided. From a culture collection of 85 different algal strains, most of which are in pure culture, species likely to provide good foods are made available. Countries that have received such assistance from this NMFS laboratory are: South Africa, Spain, Chile, Israel, Brazil, Ireland, Yugoslavia and South Korea. Technical advice and guidance are provided through frequent correspondence.

This example of international cooperation, a key concept of NOAA, should prove valuable to the global search for an answer to the problem of maintaining an adequate food supply for an expanding population.

Dr. Frederick Davidson Dies

Dr. Frederick Davidson, pioneer researcher of North Pacific fish and former director of the National Marine Fisheries Service biological laboratory in Seattle, Wash., died recently in Grants Pass, Oreg. Well known for his work with pink salmon, Dr. Davidson worked in the Seattle area from 1929 to 1938, first as an associate aquatic biologist, and later as a director of the research facility. Following his retirement, he served as a consultant to the Grant County Public Utility District, and as a fisheries consultant for the Yakima and Nez Perce Indian tribes.

Southeast Fisheries Director Plays Host to Danish Trainees



Cadets from the Danish training ship "DANMARK" visiting Miami recently are shown above being greeted by Harvey R. Bullis, Director of the Southeast Fisheries. They were given a tour of the facility before continuing their training cruise.

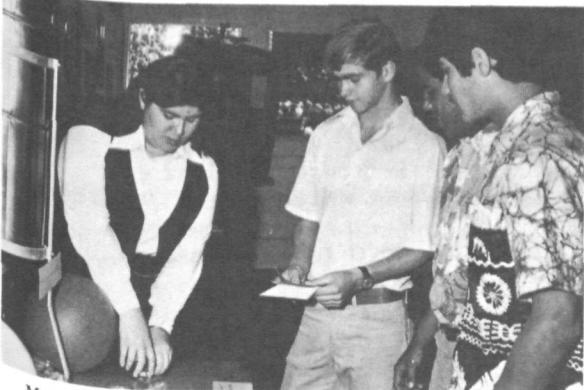
Ocean Survey Team Collecting Storm Data in South Carolina

A two-man National Ocean Survey team is conducting a survey of coastal areas in Horry County, S. C., on flooding from hurricanes and severe ocean storms.

The survey is being conducted at the request of the Federal Insurance Administration which is entrusted by law with establishing insurance rates for private structures. Information furnished by the National Ocean Survey and other cooperating agencies is being used as the basis upon which suitable rates can be determined. In addition, the Federal Insurance Administration will utilize the survey data to prepare maps of special flood hazard areas.

The National Weather Service, as part of this study, will also furnish the Federal Insurance Administration with analysis of flooding over a larger region of the coast. From this, the highest probable flood of a century will be derived to be used as a basis for establishing insurance rates.

Joint NOAA Exhibit at Honolulu



More than 800 students viewed the NOAA exhibit at the St. Louis High School Alternative Program in Honolulu Mar. 8. The theme of the one-day affair was "Inner and Outer Space". Sylvia Graff, National Weather Service, (shown above talking to three students) and John Naughton, National Marine Fisheries Service, each gave a 45-minute slide/lecture presentation. Ms. Graff described and explained how weather data is obtained, analyzed and disseminated; Mr. Naughton discussed work on a research cruise and baiting and fishing operations in the Marshall Islands area.

The NOAA displays and exhibits featured satellite pictures, surface maps, VHF-FM Station KBA99, weather instruments, tsunami charts, diving equipment used in underwater fishery research, drift cards and bottles, skipjack baitfish and a salinity-temperature depth recorder.

Virginia Facilities Plan Open Houses

Three of Virginia's barrier islands have announced plans for their fourth annual open house to be held April 5-16. Five Federal agencies are again participating in this joint event including NOAA which will open to the public its weather satellite Command and Data Acquisition Station, Wallops Station. Other agencies holding open house events are the Assateague Island National Seashore Park, the Assateague Island Wildlife Refuge, the Chincoteague Island Coast Guard Station, and the NASA Wallops Island Station.

NOAA Employees Association Seeks Members

NOAA Employees Association has announced that its membership is now over 2500. The new membership year starts on April 1, 1972. Elections of new delegates are underway. The Association plans to extend its activities nationwide. As membership grows in number so will the benefits. For information on benefits and membership write to Mrs. Doris Brown (W232), National Weather Service, Silver Spring, Md. 20910, or telephone 301-495-2248.

Second Weather Radar Training Class Graduated At Kansas City

Shown at right are the participants in the second weather radar class held at the National Weather Service's Technical Training Center in Kansas City. They are (from left seated) Ray Rexroad, Hondo, Tex.; Bob Burnz, Barking Sands, Hawaii; Elwood Norton, Huron, S. D.; Art Valdemar, Grand Island, Nebr.; Farrell Johnson, Huron, S. D.; Bill Allen, Auburn, Wash.; Tom Morgan, New York, N. Y. (from left standing) Mike Weinrich, Instructor; Joe Lawrence, Medford, Ore.; Maynard McPhee, Missoula, Mont.; Max Cagle, Cape Hatteras, N. C.; Don Whitman, Instructor; Malcolm Lacy, Oklahoma City,



Okla.; Jim Meece, Bristol, Tenn.; Larry Burns, Instructor.

Recent Retirees Include Van Tassel, Chappell, Laird, Rhodes

Edgar L. Van Tassel, Meteorologist in Charge of the National Weather Service office at Scottsbluff, Nebr., retired on March 18 after almost 33 years of Federal service, including more than 22 years in charge of the Scottsbluff Station.

Mr. Van Tassel entered the Weather Service in May 1939 at Abilene, Tex. He subsequently served at Greensboro, N. C., and Central Region Headquarters in Kansas City, Mo., before his selection to head the new station at Scottsbluff in October 1949. In July 1970, he was awarded the Department of Commerce Bronze Medal in recognition of his exceptionally dependable and exceedingly effective service at Scottsbluff.

William B. Chappell, Principal Assistant at the National Weather Service Forecast Office at the Raleigh-Durham Airport, retired March 17 after 41 years' service.

Mr. Chappell joined the Weather Service in 1931. His assignments included posts at Shreveport, La.; Tampa and Miami, Fla.; Knoxville, Tenn.; Norfolk, Nebr.; Thule,

Greenland; Houston, Tex.; Tulsa, Okla.; and Chicago, Ill. He has been Supervising Forecaster and Principal Assistant at the Raleigh-Durham office since 1953.

Harley B. Laird, Supervising Aviation Forecaster at the National Weather Service Forecast Office at Chicago retired March 4 after completing almost 31 years of Federal service. Mr. Laird joined the Weather Service at Grand Junction, Colo., in 1941. He moved to the Denver Forecast Office late in 1942. He then became quality control officer of Aviation Weather Services at Chicago. Mr. Laird was awarded a Department of Commerce Bronze Medal in 1970 for his outstanding service at Chicago.

Ross Rhodes, office machine operator in the Archives Section of the National Climatic Center's Climatic Information Branch, has retired after 26 years of Federal Service. Mr. Rhodes had been employed at the Center since 1961. His previous service included 15 years with the Veterans Administration in Oteen, N.C.



Edgar L. Van Tassel



William B. Chappell



Harley B. Laird



Ross Rhodes

Items to be considered for publication in NOAA WEEK should be submitted to:
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National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

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July 23, 2010