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NOAA WEEK

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

Five NOAA Employees To Receive \$1,000 Awards



A. Glenn Jean Leonard T. Olson Arthur Gustafson Lt. Lowell R. Goodman Dr. Theodore R. Rice

The five winners of the 1972 NOAA Awards for unusually significant achievements will be honored at a dinner in Silver Spring, Md., on September 23.

They are Leonard T. Olson, of New York, N.Y., Dr. Theodore R. Rice, of Beaufort, N.C., A. Glenn Jean of Boulder, Colo., Lieutenant Lowell R. Goodman, of Wallops Station, Va., and Arthur Gustafson, of San Francisco, Calif. Each will receive one thousand dollars and a plaque.

Mr. Olson, the Aviation Services Quality Control Officer at the National Weather Service Forecast Office in New York City, is the 1972 recipient of the Award for Public Service, which recognizes unusually significant contributions to the quality and effectiveness of NOAA's public service programs. He is cited for his outstanding contributions to the safety of air travelers and flight crews through the development of effective weather service programs. His dedication to the cause of aviation safety began in the 1930's, when he gave weather briefings to pilots in the early years of commercial flight. As a pioneer in this field, he developed many aviation forecast guidelines that are still followed today. He established in the New York area the first continuous transcribed radio broadcast to make the latest weather reports and forecasts readily available to pilots. In 1953, he received the Department of Commerce Silver Medal for developing this broadcast service, which has since been extended to more than 140 points in the United States.

In his present position, Mr. Olson is responsible for evaluating, analyzing, and improving aviation weather services provided by the NWS and the Federal Aviation Administration in New York, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, and Connecticut. He has continually improved the quality of weather briefings given to pilots, and has made outstanding contributions to the success of the aviation forecast program.

Second Anniversary of NOAA To Be Marked by Open Houses

NOAA will observe its second anniversary on October 3, 1972. Throughout the Nation, NOAA offices, weather stations, laboratories, observatories, and ships will mark the occasion by holding open houses for the public.

Among the NOAA facilities where open houses will be held are: the National Climatic Center at Asheville, N.C., on October 3; the Sterling Research and Development Center near Sterling, Va., on October 6 and 7; the Southwest Fisheries Center laboratory at La Jolla, Calif., on October 6; and the Atlantic Marine Center in Norfolk, Va., on October 11, where a tour of the NOAA Ship MT MITCHELL will be featured.

First Crustal Movement Map Shows Few Stable Areas in U.S.

A new map of the United States showing vertical movements of the earth's crust indicates that the land in much of the country is slowly rising or falling and that very few really stable areas exist. The first compilation of its kind for the U.S., the crustal movement map was prepared by geodesists of the National Geodetic Survey. It reveals probable annual rates of crustal movement over large regions.

The map is based on measurements made over the past 100 years by surveyors and geodesists of the NGS. Only the larger areas of land subsidence and uplift are shown on the map; much of it is based on interpolation between widely-spaced lines of elevation that have been measured by geodetic field parties.

Some of these movements are minute, detectable only by painstaking and repeated measurements over a period of years. Others are large enough to be of concern in the design and maintenance of engineering structures, and in some areas land subsidence is sufficiently rapid to cause alarm. Samuel P. Hand, Chief of the NGS Vertical Network Division, which developed the map, cited as one example of this the Houston-Galveston area in Texas, which has subsided as much as five feet in 20 years. In the New Orleans area, a subsidence of more than one foot has been detected in a 25-year period.

These cities lie in a large area of subsidence which extends along the entire coastal plain of Texas and Louisiana. Mr. Hand said this rapid subsidence, and subsidence of the Central Valley in California, are largely the result of the removal of underground resources, such as water, oil, and gas. He pointed to Terminal Island at Long Beach, Calif., as an outstanding example of large-scale subsidence. Subsidence

there reached more than 25 feet before it was checked by the injection of fresh water underground to replace the oil that had been removed.

In such flat coastal areas, subsidence increases drainage problems and the danger of storm inundation. Among other areas so affected are the eastern shores of Delaware, Maryland, and Virginia and the vicinity of Atlantic City, N. J.

While some subsidence is caused by man, widespread vertical movements are due to natural internal forces which are forcing the earth's crust up or down. These are referred to by geologists as tectonic movements, similar to those which scientists believe are associated with earthquakes and which formed the mountains aeons ago.

These mountain-building processes are causing the land to rise throughout the western states. Mr. Hand said the area extending westward from the Great Lakes across the northern plains may be experiencing a continued rebound from the withdrawal of the glaciers which once covered much of the area. Measurements also indicate that the southern Appalachians may be rising.

With respect to the unshaded portion of the crustal movement map, Mr. Hand said there is no reason to believe that these areas are not moving. "We have not proved that the unshaded areas of the country are not moving," he stated. "We simply do not have enough information to know."

He added: "There is evidence that subsidence is taking place along most of the Atlantic and gulf coasts. Movements may be occurring across the Central Plains and probably are occurring throughout the Pacific states. In short, there may be no significant area of the country that is really stable."

Summer Employee at NWS WRH Receives Award



Rick Bourdeaux, summer employee of the Scientific Services Division at the National Weather Service Western Region Headquarters (left) received a Special Achievement Award for his conscientious support of several SSD projects, including computer work on the University of Utah digitizer equipment. The award was presented by Rex Warner, Chief of the Operations Division at WRH, who was Acting Regional Director, at the time.

Radar, New Quarters Dedicated at Midland

The new National Weather Service facility at the Midland-Odessa Municipal Airport was dedicated recently, with Congressman George Mahon, Regional Director Lawrence R. Mahar, and many interested area public officials in attendance. The new facility houses a WSR-57M radar and provides new quarters for the Midland WSO.



(From left) Meteorologist in Charge Jim Lunney; Bill Collyns, Editor of the Midland Reporter and Telegram; Congressman George Mahon; and Pat Baskin, City Councilman, at dedication ceremony.

NWS Dedicates Birmingham EMSU; Second Unit in Southern Region

The second Environmental Meteorological Support Unit in the National Weather Service Southern Region was dedicated recently in ceremonies at the Birmingham Municipal Airport. Karl R. Johannessen, Associate Director, NWS, for Meteorological Operations, attended the dedication, as did many local, state, and national air pollution authorities. The other EMSU unit in the Southern Region was installed in Houston in 1971.



(From left) R. Ferry, Meteorologist in Charge at the Weather Service Forecast Office in Birmingham; Karl R. Johannessen, Associate Director, NWS, for Meteorological Operations; P. Pate (hidden), Director of Environmental Health, Jefferson County Health Department; E. Stewart, Executive Secretary to Senator Sparkman; J. Daniel, Staff Attorney, Alabama State Air Pollution Control Agency, Montgomery; and T. Gibbs (hidden), Director Air Programs, Environmental Protection Agency, Atlanta.

William C. Scott Honored for EEO Activity



William C. Scott, Forecaster at the Weather Service Forecast Office in Fort Worth, Tex. (right), recently was presented a cash award in recognition of his excellent work as a member and as Chairman of the NWS Southern Region Equal Employment Opportunity Committee. He also is an EEO Counselor for the North Texas area and has spent much personal time with community organizations interested in minority employment. Louis Richards, Principal Assistant at the Fort Worth WSFO (left), presented the award.

Dr. George H. Ludwig Appointed To NESS System Integration Post

Dr. George H. Ludwig has been appointed Director of System Integration at the National Environmental Satellite Service. In



this new position, he is responsible for planning, developing, and integrating operational systems including satellites and their sensors, command and data acquisition stations, control centers, and facilities for data processing, field services, and communications.

Since 1971, he had been Associate Director for Data Operations of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration's Goddard Space Flight Center, with responsibility for ground data processing for scientific and applications spacecraft, including the establishment of the Center's new image-processing facility for earth resources missions. The previous six years he was chief of the Information Processing Division, Tracking and Data Systems Directorate there. He joined NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center in 1960 as head of the Instrumentation Section of the Space Science and Applications Directorate.

He served in the U.S. Air Force from 1946 to 1952, becoming a pilot and attaining the rank of captain, and then attended the University of Iowa, earning his bachelor's (1956) and master's (1959) degrees in physics and his doctorate in electrical engineering (1960).

While earning his graduate degrees, he established at the University one of the first spacecraft instrumentation laboratories and developed the cosmic ray and radiation belt instruments for the successful Explorer 1,3,4, and 7 spacecraft. As coexperimenter for most of those investigations, he participated in the discovery and early delineation of the Van Allen radiation belts.

Launch 1257 Rescues Virginian and Daughter

There are two Virginians who say they're "indebted to NOAA for life." They are Lieutenant Colonel Edward J. Heinz, USAF of Woodbridge, and his daughter. While sailing on the Potomac off the Quantico Marine Base recently, their small craft "turned turtle" and they were stranded some 2000 yards from shore. At this point, NOAA Launch 1257, engaged in hydrographic survey work in the area, noticed their plight. Lieutenant Commander Glen R. Schaefer, in charge of the launch, and his crew rescued the pair, their boat and all their gear and took them to Quantico. They then untangled the lines of the Heinz boat, furling the sails and loading the boat on their trailer. "We shall be indebted to them and NOAA for life," Col. Heinz wrote the Director of the National Ocean Survey.

Five Employees To Be Honored (Continued from page 1)

Dr. Rice, Director of the National Marine Fisheries Service's Atlantic Estuarine Fisheries Center at Beaufort, N.C., is the 1972 winner of the NOAA Award for Scientific Research and Achievement, given for unusually significant contributions to scientific research and development and for outstanding contributions to scientific literature. He is honored for his outstanding achievements in the field of marine radioecology and for his effectiveness as a research administrator.

In 23 years with NMFS (formerly the Bureau of Commercial Fisheries), Dr. Rice has earned international recognition as an authority on the physiology and ecology of the cycling of radionuclides through the marine environment. His research on the accumulation of radioisotopes by marine phytoplankton was a pioneering effort in this field. He subsequently extended his work to include the feeding rates and accumulation of radioisotopes by estuarine organisms, and the cycling of radioactive materials in marine and estuarine ecosystems. He has authored more than 50 publications on the uptake, accumulation, and retention of radionuclides by marine organisms and on the physiology and ecology associated with this biological cycling of radioactivity in the marine environment. As a research administrator, he has fostered scientific excellence and increased research productivity.

There are two 1972 winners of the Engineering and Applications Development Award, which recognizes unusually significant contributions to the operating or research programs of NOAA through achievements in engineering, applied technology, or systems and equipment development. They are: Mr. Jean, Deputy Director of the Environmental Research Laboratories' Space Environment Laboratory, and Lt. Goodman of the NOAA Commissioned Corps, who is presently assigned to the National Ocean Survey's GEOS-C Project at Wallops Island, Va.

Mr. Jean is to receive the award for his leading role in the development of a data-gathering system which has become the primary element in the space weather service of the Space Environment Laboratory. The Laboratory serves as the Nation's space weather service, providing observations and forecasts of the sun-earth environment. Its forecasts and warnings of solar flares and their effects on man and his environment are vital to planning and day-to-day operational decisions made by operators of radio communications systems, electric power distribution networks, satellite and space probe programs, geomagnetic prospecting firms, and space research and engineering groups. Data for the service is gathered from a network of ground-based and satellite sensors for monitoring solar activity, conditions in interplanetary space, and in the earth's magnetosphere, ionosphere, and upper atmosphere.

In 1963, Mr. Jean became director of the High Altitude Nuclear Detection Studies

(HANDS) project, for which a special array of monitoring instruments and a computer processing system were established. Great amounts of data from many kinds of sensors were processed rapidly, and the results displayed so that operators could follow geophysical events as they were occurring. When the project was phased out in 1967-68, Mr. Jean was instrumental in converting the site and some of the equipment for use for the space weather service. With relatively minor changes in the original HANDS system, the SEL was able to acquire data essential in fulfilling its service needs.

Lt. Goodman was selected for the award because of his leadership and technical ability in increasing the quality and quantity of tidal current data collected by the NOAA Ship FERREL in 1970 and 1971. To monitor tidal currents in near-shore locations, the FERREL is equipped with a system of buoys and suspended instrument packages which gathers data and transmits it to data-collecting facilities aboard ship. Lt. Goodman worked far beyond his normal duty hours to train electronic technicians in maintenance and repair of the equipment, to assure that the equipment was ready for use on schedule, and to correct diagrams in the system manual. Through simulation tests of the sensors, he found the source of a data error and corrected the problem. He also wrote a three-volume operations and maintenance manual for the system. During the same period, he conducted an analytical study of a number of buoy mooring techniques, and the results were used as a basis for successfully mooring current meters in an area of New York City's East River where current velocity is extremely high.

Mr. Gustafson, Meteorologist in Charge of the Weather Service Forecast Office at San Francisco, is to receive the 1972 Program Administration and Management Award, given for unusually significant contributions to the efficiency and quality of NOAA's management and administrative activities. He is cited for significant improvement in weather forecast products and services to the public, as a result of his outstanding meteorological ability and dynamic leadership.

The San Francisco Forecast Office has diverse responsibilities, covering an area extending from the Equator to the Gulf of Alaska, and from the International Dateline to eastern Nevada. Through his superior management and technical leadership of one of NOAA's largest and most important forecast centers, Mr. Gustafson has brought its weather services to a high degree of excellence. He has fostered scientific inquiry among staff members, and continually instituted new techniques and procedures. For example, his leadership in operational use of meteorological satellite data has led to improvement of services during flood situations and of hurricane forecasts for Mexico and the western United States.

Lieutenant Commander Carl Davis Named To Fort Sill Liaison Post



Lieutenant Commander Carl N. Davis is the new NOAA liaison officer at Fort Sill, Okla. His activities will include liaison with the Army's Field Artillery School, Field Artillery Board and Combat Developments Command Field Artillery Agency. Lt. Cdr. Davis joined the commissioned corps in 1963. He recently

served as Executive Officer of the NOAA Ship PEIRCE.

Hurricane Agnes Climatic Data Report Is Published and Distributed to 7,500

Seven thousand five hundred copies of the special publication, "Preliminary Climatic Data Report, Hurricane Agnes, June 14-23, 1972," were published and distributed to selected addressees the latter part of August by the Environmental Data Service's National Climatic Center. In response to a request from the National Weather Service's Office of Hydrology on July 14, NCC gave priority treatment to the publication of the June 1972 Climatological Data (CD) and Hourly Precipitation Data (HPD) Bulletins. The request covered the eastern seaboard states from Florida through New York due to expected heavy demands by public and scientific interests for Hurricane Agnes data. Later South Dakota was added. Others cooperating in the data collection process were NWS' Sub-station Management Sections for the Eastern, Southern, and Central Regions, climatologists for the various states, and cooperative observers. NCC had previously processed a single state special HPD Bulletin in two weeks. This time, as a result of close coordination, cooperation, and improved NCC processing procedures, a total of 12 Bulletins was produced in only three weeks.

Survey Is Made of Great Lakes Chart Users

William J. Monteith, Chief of Lake Survey Center Surveys Branch, representing the Federal Mapping Task Force, coordinated the efforts of Richard Pajakowski, Perry Fremont, Michael Holmes, Ted Kuchciak, Arnold Ryback, Paul Warnick and Bernard Van Nest in a survey of chart users on the Great Lakes. Personal interviews on this survey produced a total of 845 data sheets reflecting ideas and suggestions, many of which can be put to practical use in improving the chart products presently published. These data were, in turn, forwarded to Captain R.C. Darling, NOS coordinator for this users survey.

Specialists From 8 Countries Attend Billfish Symposium

Sixty billfish specialists from eight countries participated in the first International Billfish Symposium held at Kailua-Kona, Hawaii, last month in conjunction with the annual Hawaiian Billfish Tournament.

The arrangement provided scientists with a unique opportunity to meet with anglers and to examine the tournament catch.

National Marine Fisheries Service Director Philip M. Roedel gave the opening address. Also on the program were a welcoming address by Mayor Shunichi Kimura, Chief Administrator of the County of Hawaii; a presentation on mercury in fish by Dr. Albert Kolbye, Jr., Deputy Director of the Bureau of Foods for the Food and Drug Administration; an overview of the worldwide aspects of commercial fishing for billfishes by Dr. Shoji Ueyanagi of the Far Seas Fisheries Research Laboratory in Japan, and a similar paper on sportfisheries aspects by Dr. Donald P. de Sylva of the University of Miami.

The final day of the symposium was highlighted by a scientists-sportsmen panel discussion on billfish biology and research.

This was the first international scientific symposium sponsored by NMFS since it became a part of NOAA. Co-sponsors were the County of Hawaii, the Hawaiian International Billfish Tournament, and the State of Hawaii, represented by the Division of Fish and Game and the State Marine Affairs Coordinator. Other support came from the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations.



(From left) Mr. Roedel delivers the opening address as co-chairmen of the symposium Richard S. Shomura, Director of the NMFS Tiburon Fisheries Laboratory, and Dr. Francis Williams, Institute of Marine Resources, Scripps Institution of Oceanography, listen.



notes about people...

Michael D. McKenzie and Marc Shulman, graduate students from Texas A&M University, are serving one-year internships with the Office of Sea Grant in Washington, D. C. Their task is to assist in describing Sea Grant accomplishments in cost-benefit terms. They will be working primarily under the leadership of Ernest Greenwald, Program Analyst. Mr. McKenzie is working toward a master of science degree in oceanography from TAMU, and Mr. Shulman is pursuing a master of science degree in industrial engineering with emphasis on operations research.

Professor Sam Cuperman, of the Department of Physics and Astronomy at Tel-Aviv University in Israel, is spending a year at the Environmental Research Laboratories' Space Environmental Laboratory, where he is conducting research in magnetospheric and space plasma physics along with Drs. Murray Dryer, Donald Williams, and William Bernstein.

Dr. George H. Keller of the Atlantic Oceanographic and Meteorological Laboratories has been appointed by the National Science Foundation to serve on its Ship Operations Review Panel for the evaluation and funding of all NSF-supported oceanographic ship operations.

Keith Butson, of the Environmental Data Service's National Climatic Center in Asheville, N.C., has been appointed to serve as a member of the Working Group on Statistical Methods and Use of Mathematical Models of the World Meteorological Organization's Commission for Special Applications of Meteorology and Climatology.

Arnold R. Hull, Associate Director for Climatology of the Environmental Data Service, and Harold S. Lippmann, Assistant Chief of the National Weather Service Climatological Services Division, attended the Colloquium on Building Climatology held early this month in Stockholm, Sweden. The Colloquium, "Teaching the Teachers," was sponsored by the World Meteorological Organization and the International Council for Building Research Studies and Documentation. A study-tour of Stockholm and its suburbs demonstrated the applications of climatology to building and community design employed by the Swedish planners. The group also visited the Meteorological Institute at Uppsala for a briefing on the Institute's research into low-level atmospheric processes, and inspection of its new 100-meter tower, which soon will be instrumented to measure these processes in greater detail. Another meeting is planned for 1974 on the application of solar energy.



Leslie Rogers, Biological Aid with the Ecosystems Investigations program at the National Marine Fisheries Service Sandy Hook Laboratory, became the first woman to make a scientific dive aboard the submersible Deep Star 2000. She recently spent approximately 80 minutes surveying bottom fauna in 88 feet of water at a site 10 miles south of Fire Island, N.Y. The dive was one of several made as part of a geological and biological study of the New York Bight.

NMFS Center Shares Space With Consortium

This summer the National Marine Fisheries Service Middle Atlantic Coastal Fisheries Center came to the aid of the New Jersey Marine Sciences Consortium, which had been dispossessed of its former quarters at Cape May, N.J.

A large, unused Army building at Fort Hancock, assigned to the NMFS laboratory at Sandy Hook, provided classroom space for the consortium's 100-plus biology students, while the laboratory's extensive library of marine biology literature was made available for special assignments, the docking facilities accommodated the consortium's three small craft, and several staff members participated in the consortium program by giving guest lectures or seminar series to combined groups of students and lab personnel. Some of the students received extra training by assisting in laboratory research projects.

LSC Party Completes Lake Superior Surveys

Lake Survey Center's Revisory Section, with James G. Ropes as Chief, has completed its triennial surveys of Lake Superior. The results of these surveys will be reflected in updated charts of the area. These will be produced throughout the coming months and all will be completed in time to meet the needs of Great Lakes navigation interests in 1973. The section is now working on Lake Huron.

NOAA Employees' Chess Club Is Formed

The nucleus of a chess club has been formed among Washington-area NOAA employees. Inter-club tournaments and matches with other organizations are in prospect for this affiliate of the NOAA club. The new club needs more members regardless of chess playing experience. Those interested should contact Michael Rothchild on 496-8461

Waldman Receives Bronze Medal At Milwaukee VHF/FM Dedication



Raymond R. Waldman (left), Meteorologist in Charge of the Weather Service Office in Milwaukee, Wis., recently received a Department of Commerce Bronze Medal for his initiative and leadership in developing an effective severe weather warning network for northeastern Ohio. The medal was presented by Robert C. Baskin, Chief of the NWS Central Region's Weather Analysis and Prediction Branch, in the presence of a large group of dignitaries and news media representatives who had gathered for the dedication of KEC-60, a new NOAA VHF/FM facility.

A.L. Zimmerman Appointed MIC at Seattle; Terry A. Ritter Goes To Norfolk WSO

A. L. Zimmerman has been selected to be the new Meteorologist in Charge at the Seattle, Wash., Weather Service Forecast Office. He was formerly the Hydrologist in Charge at the Salt Lake City River Forecast Center.

His earlier assignments were at the Portland, Oreg., and Sacramento, Calif., RFCs, in Western Region Headquarters Operations Division, and as the Advisory Agricultural Meteorologist at Corvallis, Oreg. He graduated from the University of Montana and completed his graduate work in meteorology at the University of Chicago.

Terry A. Ritter is the new Meteorologist in Charge of the Norfolk, Va., Weather Service Office. He has been MIC at the Akron, Ohio, WSO for the past six years. He joined the Weather Service in 1959 as a Briefer-Observer at LaGuardia Airport, N.Y., and in 1962 transferred to Hartford, Conn.

He graduated from Pennsylvania State University with a degree in meteorology and attended the University of Hartford and Kent State University for postgraduate studies.

USPS Gives President Nixon Plaque Honoring Members in Chart Program

District 27 of the United States Power Squadrons last week presented to the President a large bronze plaque to commemorate the naming of a portion of Cape Lookout, N.C., as Power Squadron Spit, honoring those members of District 27 who have participated in the Cooperative Charting Program of the USPS and the National Ocean Survey. The plaque will be affixed to Cape Lookout lighthouse, where it will be on permanent display to anyone visiting Cape Lookout National Seashore.

The presentation was made at the White House by Ronald C. Rau of Winston-Salem, N.C., the 1971-72 Commander of District 27, to John E. Nidecker, Deputy Special Assistant, who accepted the plaque on behalf of President Nixon.

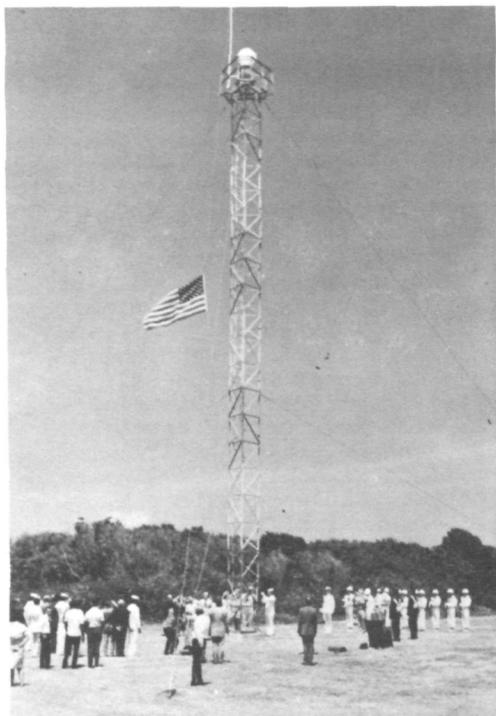
Accompanying Cdr. Rau were Walter R. Cosdon, Chief Commander of the USPS; Rear Admiral Allen L. Powell, Director of the NOS; Captain John O. Boyer, Chief of the NOS Marine Chart Division; William T. Casey of Kinston, N.C., Rear Commander of USPS and Chairman of the Cooperative Charting Program; Representative Wilmer D. Mizell of North Carolina; and USPS officers Donald L. Soefker of Winston-Salem; Charles W. Hammond of Washington, N.C.; Graeme Ross of Charlotte, N.C.; and Robert W. Kost of New Bern, N.C.

The USPS is the world's largest boating organization and is dedicated to safe boating practices. Its 30 districts throughout the U.S. have more than 80,000 members. The 1,000 members of District 27, which includes North Carolina and part of South Carolina, during 1971 reported to the NOS more than 2,200 items for nautical chart maintenance.

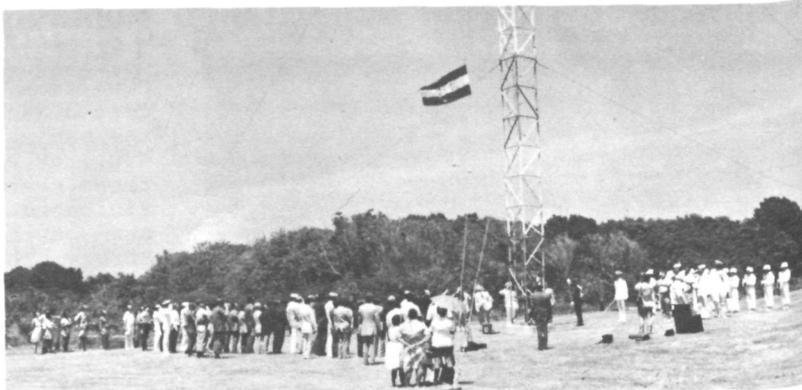


(From left) Mr. Nidecker; Past Cdr. Kost, USPS; Rear Cdr. Casey, USPS; Adm. Powell; Chief Cdr. Cosdon, USPS; Rep. Mizell; and District Cdr. Rau, USPS. (Capt. Boyer is hidden by Cdr. Rau.)

United States Transfers Sovereignty of Swan Island to Honduras



The Stars and Stripes are lowered for the last time on Swan Island.



The flag of the Republic of Honduras is hoisted.



The weather station on Swan Island

The U.S. weather station on Great Swan Island in the Caribbean has a new landlord.

On September 1, sovereignty over the tiny island--which is about two miles long by half-a-mile wide--was formally transferred by the United States Government to the Republic of Honduras. Along with it went Little Swan Island--about one-and-a-half miles by three-tenths of a mile--and a limestone speck called Booby Cay.

The U. S. weather station there will continue to function much as before, with minor differences in reporting procedures. There are five National Weather Service personnel of U.S. citizenry on the island. Patrick Ianelli is the Official in Charge. Under the treaty transferring sovereignty, the Honduran Government has agreed to take on responsibility for maintenance of some of the facilities formerly maintained by the U.S.

In a lavish ceremony by Swan Island standards, the U.S. flag was formally lowered to the roll of a drum and the five-starred blue-and-white Honduran flag was hoisted in its place. Among dignitaries attending were Honduran President Ramon E. Cruz, and his entourage of ministers; U. S. Ambassador to Honduras Hewson A. Ryan; National Weather Service Overseas Operations Chief Vaughn D. Rockney; and Commanding Officer Richard L. Schreadley of the U.S. Destroyer Escort Blakely, which was dispatched to

Swan Island to provide an honor guard for the transfer of flags.

Sovereignty over the Swan Islands, which lie about 95 miles off the coast of Honduras, has been contested for many years. The U.S. renounced its claim to them as a gesture of inter-American good will. Only Great Swan is populated.

The U.S. has had a fulltime weather station on the island, which is extremely important in hurricane forecasting, since 1940. Observations by volunteers were provided as early as 1914. The island is also the site of a radio-navigational beacon for Caribbean air traffic and was for a time the broadcast point for Radio America messages to Cuba, now discontinued.

In its colorful history, Great Swan Island has at one time or another been a source of seabird guano for fertilizer, site of a copra-producing effort by the United Fruit Company, and for a brief time a quarantine station for Latin American cattle destined for the U.S.

Besides the U.S. citizens on the island, there are five local families of Honduran and Caymanian origin whose breadwinners are employed by the NWS to assist in the upkeep of the station. They also raise cattle and tropical fruit, and fish for barracuda, jack, grouper, turbot and spiny lobsters in the clear blue waters surrounding the archipelago.

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.

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