



noaa week

Volume 6 Number 5

January 31, 1975

Monitor Site Is Nation's First Marine Sanctuary

International Women's Year

Message From the Administrator

The United Nations has designated 1975 as International Women's Year in order to recognize and highlight the contributions women are making at every level of our society in all parts of the world. The President has issued a proclamation asking that we all work together to make 1975 an outstanding year for women in the United States, with special emphasis on support of the activities and observances to be arranged under the auspices of the United Nations.

In NOAA, we can be proud of the many contributions made by women. In 1975, we intend to turn the spotlight on the specific accomplishments of women in NOAA as part of our observance of International Women's Year.

More than that, I look forward to NOAA's developing and expanding career opportunities for women through aggressive recruitment and training programs in professional, technical and administrative disciplines. My commitment to equal employment opportunities for all NOAA employees is firm and I look forward to having you join me in making this an outstanding year in all aspects of our Affirmative Action Plan.

Robert M. White

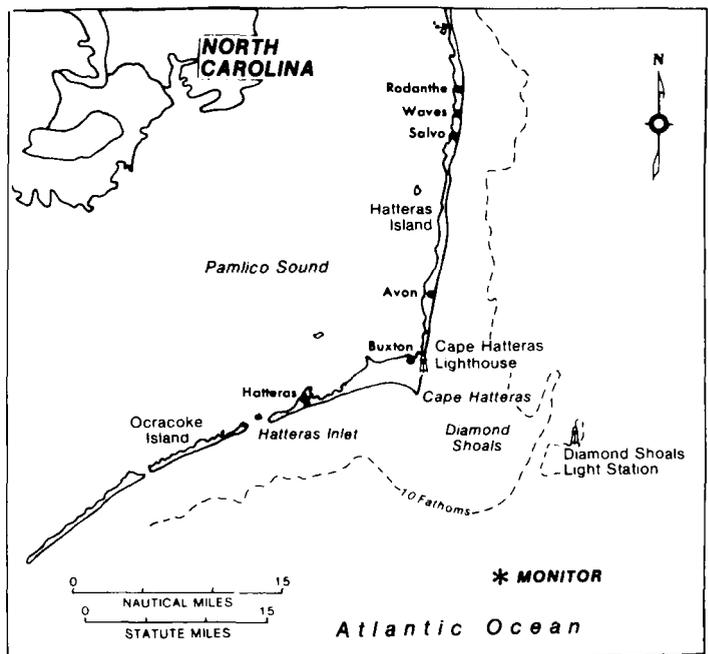
Dr. Robert M. White

The wreck of the famous Civil War gunboat USS Monitor, and the ocean area off Cape Hatteras, N.C., where she rests, yesterday were designated by Secretary of Commerce Frederick B. Dent, with the approval of the President, as the Nation's first Marine Sanctuary. They had been nominated as a Marine Sanctuary by North Carolina Governor James E. Holshouser, Jr., last September.

The designation, which came exactly 113 years after the launching of the vessel, means the remains of the Monitor will be protected from treasure hunters or would-be salvagers, as a symbol of Americana. The wreckage site may also become a major laboratory for archaeological research.

During designation ceremonies at the Department of Commerce, in Washington, D.C., Secretary Dent noted the contribution the Monitor had made to the historic and technological heritage of the country.

(Continued on page 2)



Monitor Site Designated Nation's First Marine Sanctuary

(Continued from page 1)

Best known for her battle with the Confederate ship Merrimack, the Monitor, when commissioned in 1862, also represented a break from standard naval design, symbolizing the end of the wooden warship and the beginning of the modern capital ship.

The Monitor was chosen as a national Marine Sanctuary, Secretary Dent explained, because of its immense cultural values. The Marine Protection, Research and Sanctuaries Act enables designation of ocean areas as Marine Sanctuaries based on their recreational, ecological, esthetic, or conservation values.

The site where the ship's remains lie upside down in 220 feet of water, about 16 miles off Cape Hatteras, will be marked on all new nautical maps, and activities within the one-square-mile sanctuary will be controlled by NOAA's Office of Coastal Zone Management. Dredging, diving, anchoring, laying of cable and trawling will be prohibited, according to Dr. Robert Kifer, Marine Sanctuaries Coordinator of OCZM.

The Monitor was designed from the start to battle what some Union leaders saw as potentially winning the war for the South--the Confederate ironclad Virginia, which was terrorizing the Union fleet, and sinking a number of wooden fighting ships through a combination of shelling and ramming them. Originally commissioned the USS Merrimack, this U.S. Navy wooden steam frigate had been taken by the South, her wooden hull clad in iron plates, her topside remodelled and sheathed in iron, and she had been recommissioned the Virginia.

Launched on January 30, 1862, the Monitor, the first ironclad built with a movable gun turret, was built in 101 days at a Brooklyn, N.Y., shipyard, and was hurriedly dispatched to Hampton Roads, Va., to engage the Merrimack/Virginia.

On March 9, 1862, the famous, four-hour battle was joined, the two ships hammering at one another, often at point-blank range. Then the Merrimack/Virginia, leaking and short on ammunition, retreated into Norfolk,

Va. Naval historians consider the battle a draw.

For the next several months the Monitor remained in the area, and although the Confederate ship reappeared several times the two vessels never rejoined action. In May, Norfolk was taken by Union forces and the Merrimack/Virginia was burned and scuttled.

The Monitor continued on-station off Hampton Roads until Christmas Day, when she was ordered to proceed southward under tow to Beaufort, N.C., preparatory to joining an attack on Fort Fisher, N.C.

Late in the evening of December 30, 1862, as the Monitor and her tow ship, the USS Rhode Island, were off Cape Hatteras, fighting their way through a violent storm, the Monitor began to take on water. For the next few terror-filled hours the crew fought to save the ship, but about midnight "abandon ship" was ordered. All but 16 of the Monitor's crew of about 40 officers and men were rescued before the Monitor at 11 a.m. on the final day of the year of her birth, slipped beneath the surface and sank.

For more than 100 years the precise location of the wreckage remained unknown. But in August, 1973, a group of marine scientists led by John Newton of Duke University Marine Laboratory, using underwater cameras and other electronic apparatus, found the remains. Early last year a more elaborately-equipped U.S. Navy scientific expedition confirmed the earlier find, obtaining hundreds of photographs of the wreckage and eliminating all doubt that it was, indeed, the Monitor.

Among those involved in the discovery and positive identification were scientists from Duke, the North Carolina Department of Cultural Resources, the National Science Foundation, the National Geographic Society, the U.S. Navy, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, the University of Delaware, and Aluminum Company of America.

NOAA Aero Charts To Carry All Major Power Transmission Lines

NOAA has announced plans to include on its aeronautical charts, as a new safety measure, all major systems of power transmission lines.

This step is in line with a recommendation of the Interagency Air Cartographic Committee, composed of representatives of the Department of Commerce, the Department of Defense, and the Federal Aviation Administration. According to the National Transportation Safety Board, there were 147 aircraft accidents in 1971 involving wires and poles, 31 of them fatal.

Large steel transmission towers and their connecting power lines are often a hazard to low level flying, but they also provide good visual landmarks for aircraft, especially when they pass through dense vegetation, including forests, where lanes have been cleared.

Stephen Yachmetz, Jr., is Chief of the National Ocean Survey's Aeronautical Chart Division, which prepares and issues about 49 million aeronautical charts each year. The charts now carry some power lines, based on flight surveys conducted by NOAA aircraft, but most power lines are not presently on the charts.

The NOS has asked 113 power companies in 43 states and the District of Columbia for information concerning the nature and location of their distribution systems, pointing out that location and alignment of transmission lines, in particular their relationship to railroads, highways, rivers and other cultural features, are of utmost importance to guarantee the accuracy of the charts.

As the information is provided, it will be added to the 37 visual sectional and terminal charts for the United States issued by NOAA every six months.

The companies will be contacted periodically to insure that changes and additions to their transmission systems appear on the charts.



Jack Gehringer (center), Deputy Director of the National Marine Fisheries Service, holds the first copy of the full-color "Mollusks and Crustaceans of the Coastal United States" for Congressman Gerry E. Studds of Massachusetts (left), and Ed Tolley, Executive Director of the Shellfish Institute of North America, at Fish Expo held in Norfolk, Va., recently. This is the sixth in a series of fisheries posters depicting aquatic inhabitants of U. S. waters.

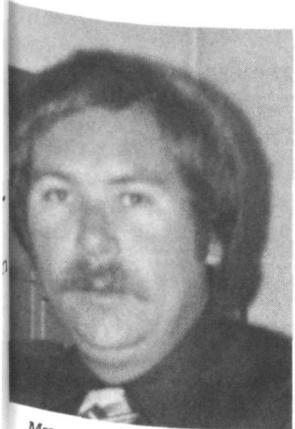
Hamilton To Head Riverside WSO/Ag

Ronald S. Hamilton has been appointed Meteorologist in Charge of the Riverside, Calif., National Weather Service Office for Agriculture, where he has been Principal Assistant since 1971. He succeeds Dale R. Harris, who retired recently.

Mr. Hamilton attended San Bernardino Valley College; received his bachelor's degree in meteorology at

University of Utah; and did graduate work in meteorology and oceanography at University of Hawaii.

The primary mission of the office, which is located on the University of California Riverside campus, is to provide complete agricultural weather service to the agricultural industry in California.



Mr. Hamilton

Dr. Murray Dryer Receives AIAA Space Science Award

Dr. Murray Dryer, a physicist with the Environmental Research Laboratories' Space Environment Laboratory in Boulder, Colo., since 1965, has been given the Space Science Award for 1975 by the American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics. The award is presented annually to an "investigator who has distinguished himself through his achievements in studies of the physics of atmospheres or celestial bodies; or



Dr. Dryer

of the matter, fields, and dynamic and energy transfer processes occurring in space, or experienced by space vehicles."

Dr. Dryer was specifically cited for his "leading contributions to the understanding of interplanetary shock phenomena generated by solar disturbances, and further advances to the knowledge of the solar-terrestrial environment."

The award--a certificate of appreciation and a \$500 honorarium--will be presented at the February 26 Honors Award Banquet during the AIAA annual meeting in Washington, D.C.

Astro Party Surveying in California

A National Geodetic Survey astronomical party headed by Lieutenant Patrick L. Wehling, Jr., is conducting a two-month survey at 11 sites in California along the United States-Mexican boundary. The other members of the party, which will operate in Imperial and San Diego Counties, are Vernon H. Burns and Richard S. Cohen.

The unit is one of two highly specialized NGS survey teams operating throughout the United States which measure the longitude and latitude--the distance from Greenwich, England, and from the poles, respectively--by observing the stars with an instrument called the theodolite.

NWS Provides Early Warnings Of Blizzard in Central Plains

The National Broadcasting Company gave national TV coverage to the excellent warnings provided by the National Weather Service prior to and during the January 10-12 blizzard, which was one of the most severe on record in eastern Nebraska, western Iowa, the Dakotas and Minnesota.

The Weather Service Forecast Office in Minneapolis, Minn., provided a watch lead time of 47-52 hours and a warning lead of 11-16 hours, and the WSFOs in Bismarck, N.Dak., Des Moines, Iowa, and Sioux Falls, S.Dak., did nearly as well. The Regional Warning Coordination Center also performed exceptionally well, according to NWS Central Region Director Charles G. Knudsen. Some NWS employees were trapped at their offices for 60 hours and more.

The storm left drifts piled 12 to 18 feet high and winds were strong enough to cause damage to substantial structures. New snow depth accumulations ranged up to 23 inches.

Deaths directly attributable to the storm, exclusive of heart attacks, are expected to total around 40--a low toll for a storm of this magnitude and duration.

Livestock losses will be counted in the thousands, and losses to game are extremely high, perhaps nearly total, over large areas.

obituary

Horace C. Dwelle

Horace C. Dwelle, former Official in Charge of the National Weather Service Office in Parkersburg, W. Va., died on January 19. He had retired in 1972, after 35 years of weather service.

He began his career at Cheyenne, Wyo., and served subsequently at Casper, Wyo., La Guardia Field, New York City, and Elkins, W. Va., before transferring to Parkersburg in 1962.

His wife resides at 1800 Foley Ave., Parkersburg, W. Va. 26101.



National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

ERRATA NOTICE

One or more conditions of the original document may affect the quality of the image, such as:

Discolored pages

Faded or light ink

Binding intrudes into the text

This has been a co-operative project between the NOAA Central Library and the Climate Database Modernization Program, National Climate Data Center (NCDC). To view the original document, please contact the NOAA Central Library in Silver Spring, MD at (301) 713-2607 x124 or Library.Reference@noaa.gov

HOV Services
Imaging Contractor
12200 Kiln Court
Beltsville, MD 20704-1387
July 23, 2010