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USC&GSS HECK LAUNCHED

The second of two new wire-drag ships, the USC&GSS HECK, was launched Nov. 1 at the Jakobson Shipyard, Oyster Bay, N. Y. The new ship was christened by Mrs. D. Thayer Heath of Brooklyn, N.Y., niece of the late Captain Nicholas H. Heck, after whom the ship is named. Matron of honor was her mother, Mrs. Lewis Heck of Washington, D.C. The HECK is a sister ship of the USC&GSS RUDE which was launched at the same shipyard Aug. 17. Rear Admiral James C. Tison Jr., Director of the Coast and Geodetic Survey, delivered the principal address at a luncheon following the launching.

WB REGIONAL DIRECTORS CONFERENCE SLATED

The Weather Bureau Regional Directors Conference will be held in Kansas City, Mo., Nov. 14-17. Meeting with the six regional directors will be WB Director George P. Cressman; Associate Director for Meteorological Operations, Robert H. Simpson; Associate Director for Hydrology, William E. Hiatt; Director of Systems Development, Merritt N. Techter; and Special Assistant for Industrial Meteorology, Robert G. Beebe. Representing ESSA headquarters at the conference will be Assistant Administrator for Administration and Technical Services, Theodore P. Gleiter.

GHOST SETS RECORD

The first constant-level balloon released in the Southern Hemisphere to reach a six-month lifetime occurred last week. It was launched from Christchurch, New Zealand, and is maintaining a pressure altitude of 200 millibars. The previous record for balloon flight prior to the Southern Hemisphere experiment was one month. The experiment, Project GHOST (Global Horizontal Sounding Technique), is a joint United States (ESSA/National Science Foundation) and New Zealand program to test the capability of small superpressure balloons to remain aloft for extended periods of time to gather meteorological data.

NWRC WINS HANDICAPPED AWARD

The Mayor's committee on employment of the handicapped in Asheville, N.C., awarded the National Weather Records Center (NWRC) a plaque last month as "Outstanding Employer of the Handicapped for 1966." This award was in recognition of NWRC's special efforts to adapt jobs to fit handicapped persons. Ninety-three of some 400 NWRC employees are handicapped but make full job contributions.

BIG BLASTS DUE IN GULF

United States scientists are detonating a series of explosions on the sea floor in the Gulf of Mexico southeast of Galveston, Tex., in an experiment designed to shed new light on the earth's composition. It is a cooperative effort of ESSA and the Graduate Research Center (GRC) of the Southwest, Dallas, Tex. When November weather is favorable, some 30 detonations will be made along the sea bottom in a 100-mile area extending from about eight miles off the coast to 150 miles from shore. Each blast will consist of one ton of high-explosives which will be planted by a ship operating with GRC's Southwest Center for Advanced Studies. Prior to the shots, several of which will be fired daily, the USC&GSS PEIRCE will anchor seven or eight buoys in the testing area in water depths of up to 600 feet. Each buoy will be equipped with a hydrophone which will record on magnetic tape the seismic waves emanating from each explosion. The experiment is one of the most ambitious undertakings of its kind to determine the composition of the earth's crust and the adjoining mantle in the Gulf of Mexico, in the area between the coast and the outer edge of the continental shelf.

NEW AERO CHARTS FOR JOINT CIVIL/MILITARY USE

The C&GS has prepared a prototype high-altitude chart to draft specifications prepared by a task group of the Inter-Agency Air Cartographic Committee (IACC) for a high-altitude en route series of the United States. Copies have been distributed for evaluation by IACC and members of its component agencies including representatives of the Department of Defense and the Federal Aviation Agency. The new series will replace the two series of United States high-altitude en route charts which are now published separately by the Department of Commerce and the Department of Defense.

POPULAR PUBLICATIONS AVAILABLE

The following are popular publications recently issued by ESSA: "Weather and the Construction Industry," one-color, 12-page brochure; "Science and Service -- A Career in the ESSA Commissioned Officer Corps," two-color, 12-page brochure describing ESSA activities and officer careers; "Tsunami Watch and Warning," two-color, 1-page pamphlet describing new tsunami watch and warning terminology. Popular publications out in last six months: "USC&GSS OCEANOGRAPHER -- OSS 01," two-color, 16-page brochure describing ESSA's new research vessel; "ESSA -- A New Agency," two-color, 8-page brochure describing the work of ESSA and line components; "Navigate Safely," two-color, 12-page brochure describing marine navigation and weather services of ESSA; "Tornadoes," two-color, 16-page brochure describing tornadoes, ESSA's warning system and safety rules; "ESSA -- Weather Watch in Space," two-color, 1-page pamphlet that tells about ESSA's weather satellite system; "Operation Eclipse," one-color, 1-page pamphlet describing USC&GSS OCEANOGRAPHER's expedition in November 1966, and "Proposed Global Expedition," a one-color, 1-page pamphlet that describes USC&GSS OCEANOGRAPHER's proposed round-the-world expedition in 1967. All of the above are available through ESSA's C&GS Distribution Division, WSC-1, Rockville, Md. 20852

WOODCOCK NAMED FOR ASSOCIATE DIRECTORSHIP

The appointment of Captain Lorin F. Woodcock as Associate Director for Geodesy and Photogrammetry will be publicly announced tomorrow by Rear Admiral James C. Tison Jr., Director of the C&GS. Captain Woodcock succeeds Captain Joseph E. Waugh who retired Oct. 31. Admiral Tison also will announce the appointment of Captain V. Ralph Sobieralski to succeed Captain Woodcock as chief of the Photogrammetry Division.

PACIFIC WX-MEN PINPOINT HEATED AIR SOURCE

Weathermen are sensitive to public reaction and their own sense of humor proves it. Take the case of the Weather Bureau's Pacific Region headquarters in Honolulu. That ESSA facility was seeking a name for a newsletter it published for its personnel. Recommended was "Ka Makani Kaili Aloha," which translates into "The Wind That Blows the Spirit of Aloha." It was immediately rejected because someone saw in it a possible alternate translation: "Hot Air From the Pacific Region Headquarters."

CASH ON THE BARREL TOP

The Government Employees' Incentive Awards Act provides that awards be paid in cash. Suggestions to make awards payable in savings bonds have been considered by the Treasury Department and the Civil Service Commission. These studies have concluded that it is preferable to maintain the voluntary participation system for savings bonds.

REMINDER

The Open Season for Health Benefits starts on November 14 and ends November 30. During this time, any employee may change his health benefits enrollment, and any eligible employee who is not enrolled in a plan may elect to enroll in one.

DIRECTOR NAMED FOR MARINE LAB

Dr. George H. Keller was appointed last week as Director of the Marine Geology and Geophysics Laboratory of the Institute for Oceanography. The laboratory, located in the Institute's headquarters in Silver Spring, Md., conducts oceanographic research into the origin and formation of the sea floor and its physical features. Dr. Keller was previously head of the geological laboratory of the U.S. Naval Oceanographic Office.

CARIBOU RENT IS ONE BUCK

A new ESSA building in Caribou, Maine, to be occupied solely by the Weather Bureau, is scheduled for inauguration late this month by the Caribou Junior Chamber of Commerce. The building was erected with city funds and is leased to the WB for an annual rental fee of \$1.00.

WATCH YOUR TSUNAMIS

ESSA has inaugurated a new term -- "tsunami watch" -- in its warning vocabulary. The term replaces "tsunami advisory," in the interest of uniform terminology throughout ESSA in dealing with natural disasters. Earlier this year, "tornado forecast" was changed to "tornado watch"; the term "hurricane watch" had been in use since 1956. Tsunami advisories previously have not been generally issued to the public.

BACK TO THE CAMPUS

ESSA State Climatologist for Maryland moved onto the University of Maryland's campus from Friendship Airport's WBAS this week. The establishment of a cooperative office at the university is in line with the Environmental Data Service's policy of close cooperation with university scientists of the various states in working on environmental problems of mutual interest.

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Phone (301) 496-8243

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

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