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INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON WATER FOR PEACE

The program committee of the International Conference on Water for Peace has issued a reminder that the deadline for receipts of United States abstracts is Dec. 1. Some 250 abstracts have been received to date. The United States total is expected to reach 500 and another 500 are expected from other countries. All foreign papers will be published but budget restrictions may limit United States publication to 150 papers. There appears to be a shortage of papers on weather modification, radar meteorology, satellite surveillance, international data collection centers, quantitative forecasting of precipitation and data acquisition collection storage and retrieval systems. The abstracts, not to exceed 500 words, should be mailed to J. Karl Lee, chairman, Conference Program Committee, International Conference on Water for Peace, Department of State, Room 130, Washington, D.C. 20520. The conference will be held May 23-31, 1967 at the Sheraton-Park Hotel in Washington. At Summersville, W.Va., on Sept. 6, in announcing the dates of the conference, President Johnson said the conference would "...focus universal attention on mankind's need for water and to stimulate practical cooperation among the nations of the world in meeting those needs." He originally announced that the United States would convene a "massive, cooperative conference to find solutions for man's water problems" in October 1965.

HARRISONBURG ATTRACTS MAGNETOMETER

Preliminary arrangements have been made with the U. S. Naval Oceanographic Office PROJECT MAGNET, to fly its vector airborne magnetometer over a specified point near Harrisonburg, Va., for a series of magnetic traverses. The area has been subjected to some magnetic measurements made on the ground, and a very sharp magnetic anomaly covering a relatively small area was found. Studies of correlation between the ground magnetic measurements, the airborne magnetic survey, and a series of gravity measurements are planned.

HIGH-SPEED TRAIN TO GET SPECIAL RADIOS

Dr. Robert L. Gallawa of the Institutes for Environmental Research has been named head of a new research project aimed at developing a nonradiating means of communicating with high-speed trains now on the drawing boards. The project is sponsored by the newly-formed Department of Transportation. The research will try to perfect a way for control centers to stay in continuous communication with trains by means of radio signals that radiate at most only a few yards beyond the tracks. Such a limited radiating system would avoid interference with other radio services and would conserve space in the already overcrowded radio spectrum. Dr. Gallawa has left his position as chief of the Radiodetermination Group to take over this program; succeeding him as chief of his former group is Dr. Bernard Wieder.

PEACE CORPS EYES PACIFIC WEATHER

Preliminary weather observer training was provided to Peace Corps volunteers at their training site in Molokai, Pacific Region. Jack Cobb, WBFC Honolulu and William Powell, C&MR Pacific Region Headquarters, visited Molokai early this month where they gave the volunteers demonstrations, lectures, and issued specially prepared weather instruction kits. Further training will be required for Peace Corps personnel who will actually be involved in weather observing and it is expected that Trust Territory technicians-in-charge will do the instructing.

SEISMOLOGISTS VISIT WESTON OBSERVATORY

Efforts are being made by the Coast and Geodetic Survey's Office of Seismology and Geomagnetism to speed up reception of data from the New England Seismic Network for use in the National Earthquake Information Center. An initial step was the recent visit of Leonard M. Murphy, chief, Seismology Division and William N. Green, chief, Observatories Division, to the Weston (Mass.) Observatory, an affiliate of Boston College. The observatory has operated a seismograph station for 30 years and a worldwide standard seismograph for five years. Also discussed were other mutual interests in the field of engineering seismology relative to the study of ground response characteristics and their effects on such structures as bridges, industrial plants and atomic reactors.

A PEAK FOR RUBIN

A mountain in Antarctica has been named in honor of an ESSA senior staff scientist, the Antarctic Society announced this week. Mt. Rubin, a peak located northwest of Patrick Point and southwest of Mt. Stinear in the Southern Prince Charles Mountains was named after Morton J. Rubin, Office of Science and Engineering in ESSA headquarters. Rubin, who has published numerous scientific papers on Antarctica, served as United States observer with the USSR expedition at Mirny in 1958 and is a past president of the Antarctic Society.

FLY BY WIRE

For the cost of just two fares from Washington, D.C., to the recent Weather Bureau Regional Directors Conference in Kansas City, Mo., some 50 Weather Bureau central office officials were able to "sit in" on a number of sessions by telephone. Using special microphones and speaker systems, groups at Kansas City and at WB's Silver Spring, Md., headquarters discussed programs and plans during the four-day meeting, effecting a savings of several hundred dollars.

NEW PROJECTS OFFICER AT AMC

Lieutenant Commander Charles H. Nixon, former commanding officer of the wire-drag ships, the USC&GSS HILGARD and WAINWRIGHT, has been assigned as Projects Officer in the Operations Division of the C&GS Atlantic Marine Center. His duties will include preparation of instructions and work plans for the agency's Norfolk-based ships and all hydrographic field parties operating in the area under the jurisdiction of the Atlantic Marine Center. Lieutenant (junior grade) Gary E. Eskelin will serve as the ships' commanding officer until they are decommissioned sometime during the winter. Lieutenant Eskelin spent 16 months aboard the USC&GSS EXPLORER before his transfer to the wire-drag ships last January.

HYDROGRAPHER'S ENGINEER REEFS HIS SAILS

John P. Coats, Chief Engineer of the USC&GSS HYDROGRAPHER, will retire on Dec. 29, after 34 years of Federal service. During his long career with the Coast and Geodetic Survey, Coats served on the USC&GS ships NATOMA, GILBERT, PIONEER, MARMER, EXPLORER, and PEIRCE.

WB/USAF VETERAN DIES

Final rites for Martin J. Fuerst, USAF (Ret), who died Nov. 9 at his home in Sacramento, Calif., were held in the St. Borromeo Church. Fuerst, a meteorologist, served as a weather instructor during World War II and, following his retirement from the Air Force in 1960, he was employed at the WB office in Sacramento. He retired from the WB in 1963.

AUTHOR WANTED

Dr. J. Murray Mitchell of EDS' Laboratory for Environmental Data Research, met on Nov. 11 in Chicago with the Climatology Group of the Commission on College Geography, Association of American Geographers. The aim of the group, whose activities are being supported by the National Science Foundation, is to develop a syllabus for a lower-division climatology course to provide a much needed modernization of instruction in climatology throughout the country. The syllabus would form the basis of a new textbook in climatology and the search is on for a willing and able author.

VETERAN WB EMPLOYEE TO RETIRE

Harold R. McBirney, chief of the Weather Bureau's Engineering Division, will retire Dec. 29. McBirney began his 38-year Federal Service career with the WB as a "minor observer" at Boise, Idaho, in 1907. A retirement luncheon is scheduled in his honor on Nov. 30. For information and reservations, call Code 179--2468.

SERVICE AWARDS

The Coast and Geodetic Survey's Geodesy Division presented length-of-service awards to the following employees: Charles N. Claire, Delmas B. Newlin, James B. Small, Buford K. Meade, Cecil H. McLendon, Norman F. Braaten, and Charles E. McCombs, 35 years; Anthony J. Lushene and Leonard F. Caouette, 30 years; Cecil F. Ellingwood and Creighton O. Demarr, 25 years, and Marian M. Pilgrim, 20 years. And in the Weather Bureau's Pacific Region: Hubert E. Boyd, MIC, WBAS Kwajalein, 25 years; Paul E. Woolard, TIC, WBO, Guam, 20 years; and Robert G. J. Rivard, Electronic Technician, WBAS Majuro, 20 years.

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Items to be considered for ESSA NEWS must be received by Friday for publication the following Friday. Send material to: Office of Public Information, ESSA, Room 804, Bldg. 5, WSC, Rockville, Md. 20852. Phone (301) 496-8243.

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

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