

ESSA

NEWS

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WEATHER BUREAU HONORED BY SECRETARY CONNOR

In a recent letter to ESSA Administrator Dr. Robert M. White, Secretary of Commerce John T. Connor said: "The dedication to duty by Weather Bureau personnel during the recent severe east coast snowstorm has been brought to my attention. I understand that many were required to work long hours without relief and others endured considerable hardship in getting to their posts. I know that you have commended the personnel involved but I would appreciate your passing along my deep interest and appreciation for such outstanding public service."

LBJ APPROVES NEW CSC PLAN

President Johnson recently approved the Civil Service Commission's program for modernizing the entire system of recruiting and examining candidates for civil service jobs, and directed that it be started as soon as possible. The new program consolidates Civil Service Boards of Examiners at locations where they can provide the greatest service at a reduction of cost. Secretary John T. Connor and Dr. Robert M. White have pledged their full support of these one-stop Federal Job Information Centers in major cities where those interested can get current counseling on job opportunities.

CHOOSE TO MOVE?

If an employee should find it inconvenient to move with his unit to the Gramax Building, the Administration will make every effort to help the individual find another assignment in ESSA, other Bureaus in the Department of Commerce, or elsewhere in Federal Service. The Personnel Division will give special attention to requests for help in relocating. Call Mrs. Edna Leimbach, Room 219, Building 5, WSC, Code 14, Ex. 68373 for assistance.

ADVISORY COMMITTEE SLATED

To insure a broad and long-range view of the future development of ESSA's (C&GS) Commissioned Officer Corps, an advisory committee composed of a number of outstanding scientific technological experts is being formed. Vice Admiral H. Arnold Karo, ESSA Deputy Administrator, will serve as Executive Secretary for the committee. Other members will be announced soon.

GOODIES AT GRAMAX

The 14-story air-conditioned Gramax Building will house many advantages for ESSAites. A restaurant is located in the building on the first floor in addition to a health unit and a branch of the Department of Commerce Credit Union. Some parking space is provided inside the building while ample parking space is available across the street. Bus lines run directly to the building. A special attraction is a roof-top heliport for those with helicopters.

CLIMATOLOGICAL ANNUALS ON PRESS

The 1965 Local Climatological Data Annuals, published by the National Weather Records Center at Asheville, N. C., are being printed now and will be distributed to weather stations within the next few weeks.

ITSA HAS EAR TO THE GROUND

The Institute for Telecommunication Sciences and Aeronomy (ITSA) Infrasonics Group continues to monitor and record major environmental disturbances and just recently detected atmospheric pressure waves (suggesting a volcanic eruption) from the area of Mt. Redoubt in Alaska. Four supersensitive microphones, one each at Table Mountain, Nelson Road, Jay Road, and Gunbarrel Hill -- north and east of Boulder, Colo. -- hear extremely low frequency sound waves generated by earthquakes, tornadic storms, volcanic eruptions, and geomagnetic phenomena. A disturbance is located by triangulation after determining the pressure wave's arrival time at each of the four microphones. More than 500 distinct events have been recorded by the Infrasonics Group since November 1962.

ESSA EXPERT TO MEASURE ION DENSITIES

Dr. Elden C. Whipple Jr., formerly of NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center, has joined the ESSA Aeronomy Laboratory of the Institute for Telecommunication Sciences and Aeronomy at Boulder, Colo. Dr. Whipple will do research on the measurements of electron and ion densities, temperatures, and ion composition in the ionosphere, the magnetosphere, and interplanetary space using rocket and satellite-borne instruments.

NEW MIC'S NAMED

Three new Meteorologists in Charge (MICs) have been named recently to head Weather Bureau Airport Stations (WBAS). James E. Smith, an aviation forecaster at WBAS Honolulu, Hawaii, has been selected MIC at Buffalo, N. Y., and James A. Vollkommer, an aviation forecaster at Kennedy International Airport, New York City, will assume MIC duties at Burlington, Vt. In the Central Region, James W. Zoller is coming from Anchorage, Alaska, to head the WBAS at Grand Rapids, Mich. The new Advisory Agricultural Meteorologist at Kearneysville, W. Va., will be Harold S. Springer, currently located at Lubbock, Tex., and Marvin E. Miller, a research meteorologist at Cincinnati, Ohio, has been selected Ohio State Climatologist.

FROM SHIP TO SHORE

Cdr. Leonard S. Baker, most recently serving on board the C&GS ship Pioneer, is being assigned to the Office of User Affairs at ESSA headquarters. Cdr. Baker is expected to arrive early in March.

PACIFIC FLOOR MAP UPCOMING

A long-range program to map the Pacific-Coast ocean bottom includes a newly announced Federal-State project to be sponsored jointly by ESSA (C&GS) and the California Department of Finance's Land Division and Planning Office. The project's initial phase will be the development of topographic outlines of the Pacific continental shelf from the Mexican to Canadian borders. Further continental shelf investigations may include geophysical measurements (gravity, magnetic, and seismic data), while coastal engineers desire information on tsunami run-up, tides, currents, weather, surf and swell.

HURRICANE DIRECTOR WEARS TWO HATS

Gordon E. Dunn, in charge of the Weather Bureau's National Hurricane Center in Miami, has been designated Director of the National Hurricane Center and also Director of National Hurricane Warning Services. Dunn's new titles include added responsibilities in tropical analyses and prognoses and overall supervision of the WB's hurricane warning services.

REMOTE TOWER DISPLAYS WEATHER

An electronic display board, featuring continuously updated wind, temperature, and moisture distribution in the lower 1000 feet of the atmosphere, is operating now at the Philadelphia Weather Bureau Airport Station. Wind, temperature, and humidity are measured at five levels of an instrumented television tower (located on a hill ten miles north of the Philadelphia airport) and automatically recorded on strip charts, punched in cards, and displayed at the weather station. This remote readout facility, the first of its kind installed in a WB station, is being evaluated for its usefulness in short-period forecasting.

ESSAite DOWN UNDER

Morton J. Rubin of ESSA's Office of Science and Engineering, is attending the meeting of the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) Executive Committee Working Group on Antarctic Meteorology, being held at Melbourne, Australia, until March 4. Rubin is replacing the United States representative on the Working Group, Albert Showalter, who was unable to attend.

STORM FORECASTING CENTER NAMED

The Weather Bureau Office (WBO) at Kansas City has been renamed the National Severe Storm Forecasting Center (NSSFC) in recognition of the center's responsibility for forecasting tornadoes, severe thunderstorms, and related phenomena for all 48 contiguous states. Allen D. Pearson, formerly Meteorologist in Charge of Kansas City's WBO, is the new NSSFC director. All previous WBO components, including SELS (Severe Local Storms Forecasting Center), the Public and Aviation Forecast Units, and the Public Service and Airport Unit, are integral parts of NSSFC and continue their original responsibilities.

MORE CAT DISCUSSIONS

ESSA Administrator Robert M. White was chairman of the general session at the Institute of Navigation/Society of Automotive Engineers' National Air Meeting on Clear Air Turbulence (CAT) this week in Washington. DeVer Colson of the Weather Bureau's Techniques Development Laboratory presented a report on the nature and intensity CAT.

ESSA SCIENTISTS PRESENT PAPERS

ESSA Administrator Robert M. White made the keynote address and five Weather Bureau officials presented papers to the American Meteorological Society meeting on sub-synoptic scale forecasting problems held in Boston last week. Those giving papers were Dr. William Klein, Techniques Development Laboratory; Silvio Simplicio, Eastern Regional Office; Dr. Edwin Kessler, National Severe Storms Laboratory; Donald Pack, Air Resources Laboratory; and Charles Roberts, Technical Procedures Branch.

NEW LOOK ON GRAND CAYMAN

The meteorological program at Grand Cayman, B. W. I., was expanded this month to include hourly synoptic surface observations from 0600 to 2000 daily local Standard Time. Staffed with observers recruited and trained on Grand Cayman, the station is operated under cooperative agreement with the United Kingdom, costs being shared by the Weather Bureau and Caribbean Meteorological Service.

OBSERVATORY DIRECTOR NAMED

Ray Kangas, a geophysicist currently assigned to the Albuquerque Seismological Center, has been appointed Director of the Adak Seismological Observatory in the Aleutian Islands. The observatory is scheduled for completion about March 15, when Kangas will begin installation of seismological equipment. When the facility is fully operational, it will be a vital link in the Alaskan Seismic Sea Wave Warning System and will contribute to a similar system covering the Pacific Ocean.

LIAISON OFFICIAL ENDS TOUR

Frank W. Smith, the deputy liaison officer for ESSA's Institutes of Environmental Research, has returned to ESSA headquarters after concluding a two-week tour of agency laboratories at Boulder, Colo. Among his activities at Boulder, Smith participated in program reviews of the Institute for Telecommunication Sciences and Aeronomy (ITSA).

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 1021, Bldg. 5, WSC, Rockville, Md. Phone (301) 496-8193.

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

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