

Volume 3

Number 47

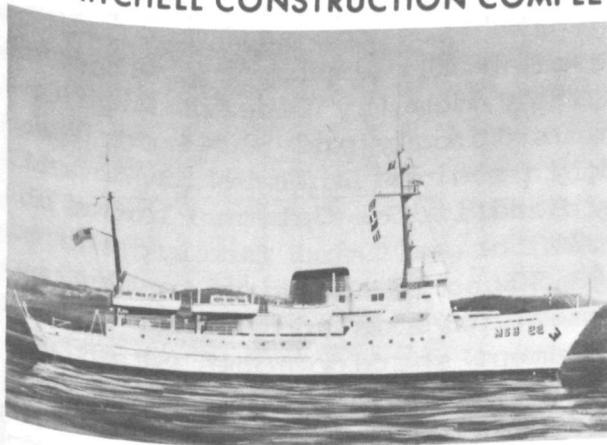
November 24, 1967

ESSA 6 IS OPERATIONAL

Operational control of ESSA 6 was assumed by the National Environmental Satellite Center at noon (EST) on Nov. 21, after the National Aeronautics and Space Administration's checkout had been completed. The new spacecraft is now the basic Automatic Picture Transmission satellite in the TOS system.

HURRICANE BENEFITS ANALYZED

Arnold Sugg, of the National Hurricane Center in Miami, gave a paper on "Beneficial Aspects of the Tropical Cyclone" Nov. 21, at the American Meteorological Society's meeting in Caracas, Venezuela. Analyzing nine drought-breaking hurricanes of the past 40 years, Mr. Sugg concluded that the storm of June 20-July 1, 1945, was the most beneficial, since it brought drought-relief to an estimated 40,000 square miles and caused no deaths and little damage. Any measure of the benefits of tropical cyclones has to be offset by the death and destruction which resulted from these storms, as Mr. Sugg emphasized.

MT. MITCHELL CONSTRUCTION COMPLETED

The USC&GSS MT. MITCHELL has been delivered to the C&GS and is now awaiting commissioning in Jacksonville, Fla., where she was constructed. The new 231-foot, 1627-ton vessel brings to 13 the number of ships now in the Coast Survey fleet. MT. MITCHELL is the first of three sister ships to be completed. The other hydrographic survey ships are the FAIRWEATHER and the RAINIER.

MOBLEY TO COMMAND WHITING



Lieutenant Commander Wayne L. Mobley will assume command of the hydrographic survey ship, USC&GSS WHITING, on Nov. 27. Lt. Cdr. Mobley joined the Survey in 1958 after graduating from Washington State University. His most recent assignment was as Acting Projects Officer at the Pacific Marine Center. He has served aboard four ships and with airport survey parties, and was the first chief of the Pacific Marine Center's Electronic Data Processing Branch.

WMO WORKING GROUPS MEET IN CARACAS

The World Meteorological Organization Regional Association IV Working Group on Regional Requirements for Data and Facilities, chaired by Dr. Sidney Teweles, will meet Nov. 29 - Dec. 1 in Caracas, Venezuela, following the AMS Fifth Conference on Hurricanes and Tropical Meteorology. Philip A. Dales will attend as alternate for S. R. Barbagallo, the group's specialist for telecommunications. The RA IV Working Group on Tropical Areas of Region IV will also meet in Caracas, Nov. 29-30, with Dr. Jose Colon as acting chairman, and Dr. Gordon E. Dunn as a member.

HEALTH INSURANCE PREMIUMS TO RISE

Eighteen plans participating in the Federal Employees Health Benefits Program will increase premium rates, effective January 1, 1968. The increases are needed to meet sharply rising costs of hospital and medical care.

Premium increases for the two most widely used plans are as follows. The Service Benefit Plan will increase its High Option rates only by \$.57 for self only coverage and \$.54 for self and family coverage on a bi-weekly basis; the bi-weekly employee premium will be \$3.89 and \$9.50 respectively. The Indemnity Benefit High Option Plan increase will be \$.58 for self only and \$1.44 for self and family; total employee bi-weekly premiums will be \$3.72 and \$9.30 respectively. The Indemnity Benefit Low Option Plan will increase \$.32 for self only and \$.76 for self and family; the bi-weekly premium will be \$1.46 and \$3.50. (In addition to the premium the employee pays, the Government pays an additional share on a matching basis until the Government share reaches \$1.68 for self only or \$4.10 for self and family. When the maximum Government share is reached, the employee pays any additional increases.)

There will be no "open season" for changing allotments in 1967. The last "open season" was held in November 1966. Under the regulations, the next one must be held no later than November 1969.

ESSA EXCELS IN FEDERAL CAMPAIGN

At a special ceremony at the Department of Commerce, Nov. 15, Dr. Robert M. White, ESSA Administrator, received a Secretary's Honor Award from Secretary Alexander B. Trowbridge for outstanding achievement in the 1968 Combined Federal Campaign of the National Capital area. Contributions by ESSA employees reached 132.8 percent of quota, highest among the larger bureaus of the Department of Commerce.

RADAR STARS ON TELEVISION

WDAF-TV, NBC affiliate in Kansas City, has made arrangements with the National Severe Storms Forecast Center to televise the WSR-57 radar output on the station's news programs. The radar-scope picture from the vidicon camera in the Weather Bureau office is transmitted by coaxial cable to the television station.

FEDERAL OFFICIALS ATTEND ASHEVILLE BRIEFING

On Nov. 8, Dr. John F. Kincaid, Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Science and Technology, and 25 other officials of ESSA, the Air Force, and the Navy traveled aboard an Air Force plane to Asheville, N.C., for a two-day briefing on the environmental data facilities, resources, and activities of the co-located National Weather Records Center, Geophysical Data Center, Data Processing Division of the Air Weather Service, and the Naval Weather Service Environmental Detachment.

FOWLER WINS GRAPHICS AWARD

Frederick A. Fowler, chief of the Presswork Branch of the C&GS Office of Aeronautical Charting and Cartography's Reproduction Division, has received the 1967 "Man of the Year" award from the Graphic Arts Association of Metropolitan Washington. The award commended him "for his continuous and unflinching efforts to assist and advance the cause and growth of graphic arts organizations in Greater Metropolitan Washington." Fowler is a charter member and past president of the Washington Litho Club.



FORMER REGIONAL DIRECTOR IS 80

John A. Riley, the first regional director at Kansas City, celebrated his 80th birthday on Sept. 29. Mr. Riley retired in 1950. His son, Jack Riley, is chief of the Weather Analysis and Prediction Division in the WB Southern Region.

WAIT TILL NEXT YEAR!

A team of USESSA junior officers trampled a team of USESSA senior officers in a touch football game played Nov. 12 on the Washington, D. C., mall. The final score was 26-6. Team captains were Cdr. Jack Guth and Lt. Tom Scygiel. Both teams look forward to another encounter next season.

THREE METEOROLOGISTS DIE

Three WB meteorologists died recently: Gilbert C. Voelker of Minneapolis on Nov. 9, Robert L. Bolin of Milwaukee on Oct. 5, and A. G. Geddes, former meteorologist in charge at Nantucket, on Nov. 14.

WALKER COMPLETES MANAGERIAL COURSE

Charles H. Walker, ESSA Office Services Branch, completed the Commerce Managerial Course held during the week of Oct. 30-Nov. 3.

SERVICE AWARDS

Length-of-service awards are due to be presented to the following ESSA Research Laboratories' personnel this month. 25 years - Howard A. Erickson, Boulder; William A. Hass, Silver Spring, Md.; and Edward C. Morgan, Boulder. 20 years - Harold L. Boen, Silver Spring, Md.; Violet F. Immel, Boulder; Edward M. King, Rockville, Md.; and Katherine L. Wood, Boulder.

NWRC employees eligible for service awards during the fourth quarter of 1967 are: 20 years - Charles R. Barr, Pauline F. Bradley, Gilbert W. Ehrsam, William W. Glenn, Earl F. Myers, and Marcus L. Snelson. 30 years - Edward L. Bass. 25 years - William B. Harris.

Abraham S. Kussman, WB Eastern Region employee, was listed in the Nov. 9 issue of ESSA NEWS as having 25 years of service. Mr. Kussman is eligible for a 30-year service award.

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, Rockville, Md. 20852. Phone (301) 496-8243.

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

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Beltsville, MD 20704-1387
July 23, 2010