

# ESSA NEWS

Volume 5

Number 12

## PEARSON STARS ON 'TODAY SHOW'



Allen D. Pearson (left), Director of the Weather Bureau's National Severe Storms Forecast Center, Kansas City, Mo., discussed ESSA's SKYWARN and tornado preparedness program with Hugh Downs on the March 5 'TODAY SHOW'.

## TRIBUS NOMINATED FOR S&T POST

On Mar. 13, Secretary of Commerce Maurice H. Stans announced President Nixon's intention to nominate Dr. Myron Tribus as Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Science and Technology. Dr. Tribus is Dean of the Thayer School of Engineering at Dartmouth College.

## EMPLOYEE GROUP ELECTIONS SET

The ESSA Employees Association of the Washington area will hold its annual elections for Council Delegates this month and urges employees to participate by running for office as well as by voting. ESSA encourages employee welfare and recreation associations, and its policy is that supervisors permit club representatives to participate in meetings and projects on official time, whenever possible.

## OFFICER CLASSES SCHEDULED

Three more training classes for commissioned officers are scheduled to be held at the Coast Survey's Atlantic Marine Center, Norfolk, Va., this year, beginning April 11, July 11, and October 3. Each will be limited to 15 members.

## JACKSON RADAR DEDICATED

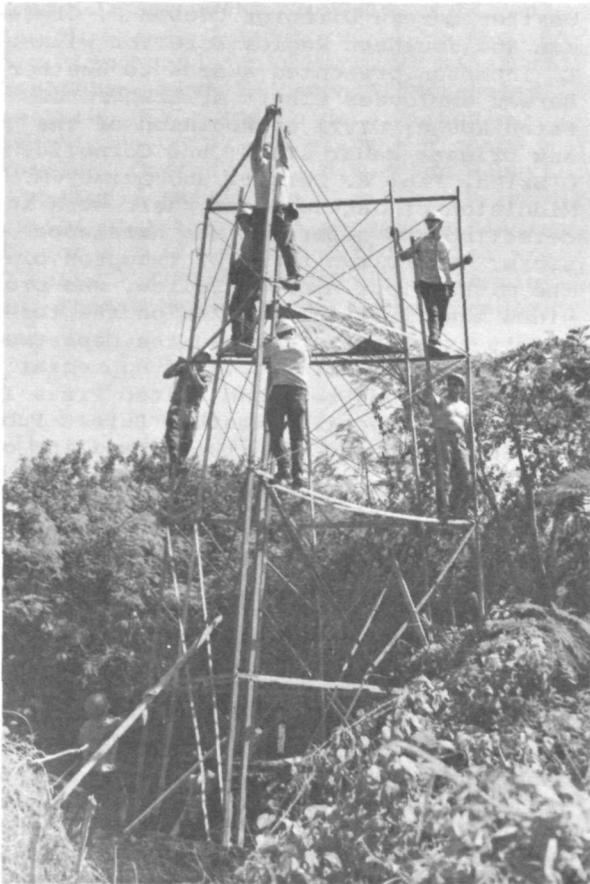
At combined ceremonies in Jackson, Miss., on Mar. 6, a new WSR-57 weather radar was dedicated and a number of awards were presented for exceptional performance during the Hazelwood, Miss., tornado of Jan. 23, 1969. The new Jackson radar is the 34th of this type which is located mainly in the tornado belt of the Midwest and along the hurricane-vulnerable gulf and Atlantic coasts. Weather Bureau Director George P. Cressman and Southern Region Director Wilmer L. Thompson presented awards to Weather Bureau employees Elbert A. Eckhoff of Baton Rouge; Orvil L. Robinson of the New Orleans radar staff; and Cornelius J. O'Brien, Paul A. Pettit, and Quimby M. Middleton of Jackson, for their work in detecting and reporting the Hazelwood storm. Patrolman Larry D. Thompson of the Mississippi Highway Police, who provided the first information on the tornado's existence, received the Department of Commerce's Certificate of Appreciation. The Associated Press and United Press International received Weather Bureau Public Service Awards for their handling of the Weather Bureau warnings. More than 50 prominent citizens from Jackson and the State of Mississippi were present, including Jackson Mayor Allen C. Thompson and Judge A. F. Summer, who represented State Governor John Bell Williams.

## WMO UNIT CONVENES IN SWEDEN

Silvio G. Simplicio, Weather Bureau Eastern Region Director and chairman of the World Meteorological Organization's CAeM Working Group on qualification and training of aeronautical meteorological personnel, has called a meeting of group members to convene in Stockholm, Sweden, during March. The purpose of the meeting is to complete work on a recommended syllabus of aviation meteorological knowledge for meteorologists in aeronautical worldwide services. Other committee members are from Poland, Japan, and Sweden.

## OAHU SURVEY PROGRESSES

An 18-man Coast Survey field party, headed by Carl A. Annis, will conduct a seven-month geodetic survey of Oahu, Hawaii, beginning this month. Structures are being raised at more than 90 sites, including the tops of mountains and in flat country to enable the surveyors to determine, by sighting over trees and buildings, each point's exact geographic position or latitude and longitude. The survey sites were selected last September by a two-man advance unit. The men will carry out the project at some sites with the aid of steel towers ranging from 64 to 90 feet in height. In rugged terrain, such as mountain peaks, four-foot wooden stands will be used to support surveying instruments. U. S. military helicopters will transport the men and equipment to the peaks, some over 3,000 feet high.



Erecting a 77-foot Bilby steel tower at one of the 90 sites on Oahu are members of the C&GS 18-man triangulation party.

## SPRING TORNADO STUDY BEGINS

The ESSA, NESC-WB-NASA Cooperative Tornado Surveillance Program began on March 8. A storm moving through the southwest United States was predicted by the National Severe Storms Forecast Center at Kansas City, directed by Allen D. Pearson, to have the potential for producing severe weather over the Gulf States. ESSA 8 APT showed the storm weakening over land, but strong over the central Gulf of Mexico. Vincent J. Oliver, Project Coordinator from NESC asked that NASA's ATS-III be turned on to take pictures of the area at 15-minute intervals. The Weather Bureau operated its radar and cameras to take continuous radar pictures of the coastal and offshore areas. The astronauts in Apollo 9 passed over the area three times during the surveillance period and may have seen the storm clouds forming. The weather cooperated to some degree, by producing a squall line with thunderstorms extending from central Mississippi out in to the Gulf of Mexico to the southwest. This spring, the Group hopes to collect data from ten tornado-producing storms to help understand the atmospheric changes which precede and accompany these developing storms. The program is a joint effort between Dr. T. Fujita of the University of Chicago, in charge of research; Allen D. Pearson, in charge of tornado forecasting; Stuart Bigler, in charge of radar; Dr. Verner Suomi and NASA, in charge of the satellite; and Vincent J. Oliver, in charge of project coordination and organization.

## CALIF. RAIN DATA COMPILED

Because of the heavy rains in California and the information needs of local water interests, EDS' National Weather Records Center was requested to prepare the January Hourly Precipitation Data Bulletin for that state out of turn. The bulletin has been completed and mailed -- some 4 or 5 months ahead of schedule.

## WB ALASKA REGION LAUDED

The Alaska Rehabilitation Association presented a plaque to the Weather Bureau's Alaska Region "in recognition of achievement and leadership in training and employing native Alaskans," at its Annual Awards Banquet held Feb. 13. This is the first time that the Association has presented an award to a public agency.

## ATEX CRUISE ENDS

The USC&GS Ship DISCOVERER, commanded by Capt. Lorne G. Taylor, has returned to Miami after completing a five-week cruise to study oceanic meteorology in the Atlantic Ocean. The voyage, during which the ship covered 5400 miles and served as a platform for thousands of oceanographic and meteorological observations, was the first extensive study of the meteorological parameters over the open ocean ever undertaken from an array of ships. The Atlantic Tradewind Experiment cruise was a cooperative venture by research agencies of the U. S., the Federal Republic of Germany, and Great Britain. The German ships PLANET and METEOR and the British HYDRA participated with the DISCOVERER. Data collected during the cruise will be studied to learn more about the mechanisms which control weather systems in this region. Chief scientist for U. S. participation in the Atlantic Tradewind Experiment was Feodor Ostapoff, Director, Sea-Air Interaction Laboratory, ERL.

## WB REGION STATION HEADS MEET

The WB Southern Regional Office recently conducted a three-day Storm Warning and General Forecast Technology Seminar for meteorologists in charge and principal assistants representing 27 Southern Region stations. Sessions were devoted to warning responsibility, operational procedures, dissemination methods, and special techniques with primary emphasis on severe local storm procedures and flash flooding. Guest lecturers included Dr. Edwin Kessler, Director, National Severe Storms Laboratory; Joe Galway, principal assistant, National Severe Storms Forecast Center; Charles F. Roberts, chief, Technical Procedures Branch, WBH; and S. O. Grimm, Jr., chief, Emergency Warnings Branch, WBH. Another seminar is planned in the future to accommodate other Southern Region stations.

## DIERCKS WINS AWARD

Frederick O. Diercks, Associate Director, Aeronautical Charting and Cartography, C&GS, received the Luis Struck Award at the meeting of the American Society of Photogrammetry, Mar. 12. Col. Diercks received the award for promoting inter-American cooperation and progress in photogrammetry and hydrographic mapping, and principally for his work in the mapping of Latin America.

## MARSHALLS SURVEYED FOR GARP



Jack Cobb, WB Pacific Region Headquarters upper-air specialist, recently accompanied representatives of the National Center for Atmospheric Research and Kentron Hawaii, on a two-week survey trip through the Marshall Islands. The Marshalls are being considered as a site for an intensive study of tropical atmospheric processes as part of the Global Atmospheric Research Program. The purpose of the research-oriented project is to improve understanding of the atmosphere in the tropics by large-scale collection of surface and upper-air data over tropical oceanic areas. The OIC's at Majuro and Kwajalein briefed the team on station equipment, analysis techniques, and some of the problems involved in forecasting in a "data sparse" area. In photo above, members of the survey team wait to board the Arno "taxi" to transport them to the island.

## LESLEY AWARDED COLBERT MEDAL

George B. Lesley, geodimeter specialist in the Coast Survey's Office of Geodesy and Photogrammetry, has been named to receive the Colbert Medal of the Society of American Military Engineers for 1968. Mr. Lesley will be cited "in recognition of his exceptional contributions to geodetic sciences of special benefit in military surveying through the development of superior techniques, utilizing a laser light source in obtaining precise geodetic measurements." The Colbert Medal, in memory of Rear Adm. Leo O. Colbert, is offered each year to a member of the Coast Survey for the most outstanding contribution to military engineering. The award will be presented to Mr. Lesley at the Annual Military Engineers Dinner May 12.

## SUPERVISORS COURSE HELD



Twenty-seven Washington area ESSA employees attended a Personnel Administration for Supervisors course at ESSA headquarters, Mar. 6-17. Front row: John S. Cook, Albert Whimpey, Russell L. Hovey, Mary R. Skotzko, Connie Zarbo, Walter Stine, Daniel Darr, Roger Matthews. Middle row: Daniel E. Bella, instructor, Albert M. Cohen, James L. Kersse, Charles M. Hoover, Chester G. Jones, George A. Yount, Russell G. McGrew, Harry S. Whitcomb, M. A. Alaka, W. E. Hoehne. Back row: Max Rogers, Charles E. Cotten, Harold M. Jordan, Robert S. Orosz, Bill Langley, Louis Brisky, Bertram Rothenberg, Frank Oxley, Stanley Herman, and Norman Peddie.

## SERVICE AWARDS

Length-of-service awards are due to be presented to the following WB Southern Region employees during March. 35 years - Samuel K. Kerr, Grand Junction, Colo. 30 years - Howard W. Curtis, Des Moines, Iowa, and Henry Hurst, Des Moines, Iowa. 25 years - Charles R. Snider, Detroit, Mich.; Robert H. Moreland, Norfolk, Neb.; Hal F. Riedeman, Detroit, Mich.; and Harrie E. Foster, Jr., Kansas City, Mo. 20 years - Leroy E. Martell, Rochester, Minn.; and Durwood F. Stewart, Kansas City, Mo.

Employees in the Coast Survey's Mid-Continent Field Area receiving awards are: 25 years - Percy E. Chamley, Jr., Recon. Party G-32, Kansas City, Mo.; and John W. Meyer, Triangulation Party G-18, Kansas City, Mo.

## GULF STREAM RESEARCH UNDERWAY

The USC&GS Ship MT MITCHELL is working off the south Florida coast in the Gulf Stream from about 20 miles south of Miami to West Palm Beach in support of the Physical Oceanography Laboratory's Gulf Stream research project with Frank Chew and George Berberian as co-Chief Scientists. The research is being done in cooperation with Nova University in Fort Lauderdale.

## RETIRED WEATHERMEN DIE

Chester O. Tucker, who retired from the Weather Bureau in 1953 as meteorologist in charge at Marquette, Mich., died Mar. 15.

Dr. Fred C. Bates, professor of meteorology at St. Louis University, University City, Mo., and former Weather Bureau forecaster at Kansas City, Mo., died on Mar. 14.

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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