

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
ESSA  
NATIONAL WEATHER RECORDS CENTER  
LIBRARY

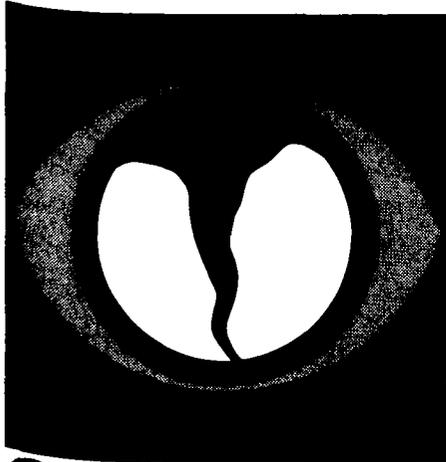
**essa**  
**NEWS**

Volume 5

Number 7

February 14, 1969

### WEATHER BUREAU LAUNCHES SKYWARN CAMPAIGN



# SKYWARN

The Weather Bureau, in cooperation with the Office of Emergency Preparedness, the Office of Civil Defense, and the American Red Cross, has launched an intensive campaign to lower the death toll caused by tornadoes. The stepped-up preparedness program launched in advance of the 1969 tornado season is called SKYWARN and is part of ESSA's nationwide Natural Disaster Warning system which provides warnings of impending environmental hazards, including hurricanes, floods, winter storms, and solar disturbances. SKYWARN is an effort to save lives during tornado emergencies by expanding networks of volunteer spotters and by developing the widest possible participation in preparedness programs. In addition to observer networks, community preparedness plans include the designation of 24-hour warning centers to receive and disseminate tornado watches, warnings and reports. ESSA-Weather Bureau representatives are meeting early in 1969 with public safety officials at the state, county, and local levels in areas where tornadoes occur most frequently to encourage the development of tornado preparedness plans.

As an example, heads of all Weather Bureau stations in Georgia met in Atlanta on Feb. 6 to map out detailed plans for working with Civil Defense and other public service officials at the state and local levels for an intensified program of tornado preparedness. The State Civil Defense Office and the Departments of Forestry, Highway, Fish and Game are expected to sponsor meetings at seven Georgia locations for Weather Bureau officials to train their key personnel in tornado recognition and to define communications for getting storm occurrence reports to the Weather Bureau.



Shown(left to right)are heads of stations on the award-winning West Texas ESSA Weather Wire. James E. Lunney, Midland; Charles M. Crouch, Amarillo; Harold L. Frost, Lubbock; Ottis C. Bobbitt, San Angelo; Shreves C. Goodwin, Del Rio; and Oliver H. Newton, Lubbock Agricultural Advisory Office.

### CEILING RELAXED ON EXECUTIVE PAY

Public Law 90-206 established the Commission on Executive, Legislative, and Judicial Salaries to develop recommendations to the President relative to executive pay. The Commission's first report was reviewed by the President and transferred to Congress on January 15, 1969. While the recommendations did not, in themselves, extend to the General Schedule, their effect was to relax the \$28,000 ceiling on salaries and will result in increases for employees in the upper steps of GS-16, GS-17, and at the GS-18 level. These increases had been recommended at the time of the last general pay raise effective July 1968, but could not be implemented because of the salary ceiling. The new rates, which will be effective February 23, 1969, are as follows: GS-16 Step 8, \$28,162, Step 9, \$28,923; GS-17 - Step 3, \$28,014, Step 4, \$28,889, Step 5, \$29,764; GS-18 - \$30,239. These new rates are the only changes to the current General Schedule pay scale and are not related to the increases scheduled for the beginning of the new fiscal year.

### BEALL SLATED FOR BRAZILIAN ASSIGNMENT

James M. Beall, who has been named Chief of the Agency for International Development's Meteorological Division in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, is in Washington, D. C., to attend Portuguese language school and AID orientation in preparation for his new assignment that will begin in March. Mr. Beall, a graduate of the College of Idaho and Harvard University, joined the Weather Bureau at Tatoosh Island, Wash. He has had assignments in Boise, Idaho; Billings, Mont.; Athens, Greece; La Paz, Bolivia; and at Washington, D. C., where he was Director of Information until his transfer to Alaska Regional Headquarters as Chief of the Operations Division.

## NEW FORECASTS ON FACSIMILE

New short-range forecast guidance produced on the computer were transmitted on facsimile from NMC beginning Feb. 12. A total of eight meteorological predictions covering the eastern United States will be included on each transmission. Several of these represent important "firsts" in central guidance material. Probability of precipitation forecasts covering 6 and 12 hour periods will be the first purely objective guidance of this type available, and will also be the first PoP guidance of any kind for periods less than 12 hours. Another first will be the conditional probability of frozen precipitation forecasts. Sea level pressure and 1000-500 millibar thickness predictions will also be included. These forecasts are made by a method developed in SDO's Techniques Development Laboratory by Dr. Harry R. Glahn, Dale A. Lowry, and George W. Hollenbaugh, using information from the Laboratory's Subsynoptic Advection Model and NMC's Primitive Equations Model.

## ERL ENDS SNOW MODIFICATION EXPERIMENTS

ERL's Atmospheric Physics and Chemistry Laboratory has completed a five-week series of experiments in snow modification over the southeastern Lake Erie region. The experiments were designed to explore whether heavy snowfall in the shoreline section, due to the local effect of the Lakes, might be modified. Some 60 scientists, meteorologists, radar specialists, and aircraft crew members from Cornell Aeronautical Laboratories, Buffalo, N.Y.; Pennsylvania State University, University Park, Pa.; State University of New York at Albany; State University College at Fredonia, N.Y.; and the Desert Research Institute, Reno, Nev., participated in the experiment.

## CLOUD MOTION EQUIPMENT DEMONSTRATED

Equipment for measuring cloud motions derived from ATS geostationary satellite pictures was successfully tested at NESG on Jan. 29. Delivery of the equipment is expected by March 1.

## RICHTER TO HEAD ALASKA WEATHER STATION

Gregory Stanley Richter has been appointed meteorologist in charge of the Nome, Alaska, Weather Bureau Office. Mr. Richter, a former Air Force weather officer, served as MIC at Byrd Station, Antarctica, as well as Station Scientific Leader from 1967 through 1968. He is a 1961 graduate of California State, where he was a member of the Dean's List. Mr. Richter has also done graduate work at St. Louis U.



## FEDERAL WAGE SYSTEM REVISED

The Coordinated Federal Wage System, initiated by the U. S. Civil Service Commission, effective July 1, 1968, stipulates that most hourly wage positions within each local wage area be graded and paid under a single plan. All ESSA wage positions, except wage printing positions paid under the Washington-area schedule and wage marine positions, will automatically convert to the new pay system with the issuance of local area Coordinated Federal Wage System pay schedules. Conversions are expected to be completed by the end of FY '70. Under the new plan:

--ESSA non-supervisory wage positions will be identified as WG positions. These positions will be paid from a 15-grade schedule with each grade having three step rates.

--Wage leader positions (WL) will be paid from a 15-grade schedule with three step rates to each grade. The rates will be 10 percent above the rates for the corresponding WG level. Non-supervisory and leader positions will be converted from their current WB grade to the new system on a grade-for-grade basis and, in most cases, step-for-step.

--Supervisory employees (WS) will be paid from a 19-grade schedule rather than the 17-grade schedule used by ESSA. Each supervisory grade has five steps with the third step designated as the "prevailing rate." The mechanical conversion of supervisory positions may require some grade adjustments (mainly upward) to fit the new 19-grade pay plan. Employees are converted to step rates of the new system according to a prescribed plan. The conversion to step four or five will be based on length of service in grade.

Pay for supervisory grades 1 through 10 is computed by taking specified pay rates for corresponding non-supervisory grades and adding 30 percent of the second step rate of the WG-10 level.

Pay for supervisory grades 11 through 18 is the sum of the third step rate of the WS-10 grade and a percentage of the difference between that rate and the third step rate of the WS-19 grade. The third step (prevailing rate) for the WS-19 will be the first step rate for a grade GS-14. Until July 1969, the third step rate will be \$8.68.

The Civil Service Commission has stated that no employees will suffer any reduction in pay as a result of mechanical conversion to the Coordinated Federal Wage System and has established the schedules so that each WG, WL, and WS employee will receive a prescribed minimum pay increase over his current aggregate rate of pay at the time of the conversion.



### DAVIDSON TO CONDUCT PUGET SOUND SURVEY

The USC&GS Ship DAVIDSON, commanded by Lt. Cdr. Ray E. Moses (left), will conduct a three-month hydrographic survey, the first in more than 60 years, of Hood Canal, Debob Bay, Elliott Bay, and the Dowamish Waterway in Puget Sound, Wash., beginning in mid-February. The results will be incorporated in seven Coast Survey charts covering the waterways to provide up-to-date navigational information to users.

### NWRC FURNISHES MACHINE-PREPARED WEATHER SUMMARIES

The Environmental Data Service has furnished summaries of nearly all of the 11,000 weather observations taken by Great Lakes vessels in 1968 to the WB's Port Meteorological Officer in Cleveland, Ohio. The summaries were prepared at EDS' National Weather Records Center in Asheville, N. C. These observations were previously hand-tabulated in Cleveland. The machine-prepared summaries will make the observations available at an earlier date.

### MACHTA REPRESENTS COMMERCE IN SHEEP DEATH PROBE

Dr. Lester Machta, Director of ERL's Air Resources Laboratory, represented the Department of Commerce on an ad hoc interdepartmental committee investigating the safety of the Army's Dugway Proving Grounds. The committee was established in response to the Utah sheep deaths of March 1968. As a precautionary measure, it recommended more stringent weather restrictions during tests. A program to assess the existing meso-scale forecasting capability was also urged. The group agreed to resume certain chemical agent tests subject to meteorological controls. A report of its findings has been released by the U. S. Army.

### ESSA JUNIOR OFFICERS PREPARE FOR FIELD SEASON

The Pacific Marine Center recently conducted a two-week training course for junior officers assigned to Coast Survey ships in preparation for the 1969 field season. The annual program included classroom instruction and field practice in photogrammetry, photo-identification of hydrographic signals, and the use of the theodolite and Electro Tape. Officers attending the course were: Ensigns Gordon F. Tornberg (DAVIDSON); John Lenart and William D. Neff (FAIRWEATHER); Patrick Hodgson (RAINIER); Efrem R. Krisher, Charles Condon, and Glenn M. Garte (SURVEYOR); and Richard S. Young, Michael Kawka, Richard Olson, Kenneth Lilly, Douglas Danner, and Lt. Harold Nilsson (PATHFINDER). Instructors were survey technicians Robert B. Melby and Lyle L. Riggers.

### HOEHN NAMED PAGO PAGO OIC

John Hoehn has become official in charge of the Weather Bureau Office in Pago Pago, American Samoa, after serving extensive tours of duty in the Arctic and Pacific regions. Mr. Hoehn entered the Weather Bureau at Chicago in 1961 as a meteorological technician. He has served at Johnston Island, Canton Island, Mould Bay, Kwajalein, Marcus Island, and Yap.

### GREGORY AND EDWARDS INSPECT ATLANTIC COAST PORTS

John B. Gregory and Lt. Bobby D. Edwards, marine specialists in the Coast Survey's Marine Chart Division, will conduct a field inspection of navigational facilities and conditions at Atlantic coast ports from Cape Henry, Va., to Key West, Fla., from mid-February until July. Mr. Gregory will start at the Georgia-Florida line and inspect Savannah, Charleston, Wilmington, and other ports between Fernandina Beach, Fla., and Cape Henry, Va. Lt. Edwards will inspect Key West, Miami, Port Everglades, Palm Beach, Jacksonville, and other Atlantic ports in Florida south of Fernandina Beach.

### OWENS HONORED BY BOY SCOUTS

Gerald Owens, meteorological technician at San Diego, Calif., was awarded the Silver Beaver at the Jan. 25 annual meeting of the San Diego Council of the Boy Scouts of America by Astronaut William Anders. The Silver Beaver is the highest award to be presented by a Boy Scout council.

### EDS DISTRIBUTES "CLEAR DAY" MAPS

EDS has obtained color reprints of the "Clear Day" climatological maps produced jointly by EDS, C&GS, and ESSA headquarters employees and cited by the photogrammetry community as a major contribution to the planning of aerial photography. The maps, consisting of 12 monthly "Clear Day" charts for the U. S., are being distributed to ESSA State Climatologists and to Weather Bureau offices for public briefing purposes.



### SURVEY OPERATIONS RESUME IN PUERTO RICO

The USC&GS Ship WHITING, commanded by Cdr. Wayne L. Mobley, will resume hydrographic survey operations this month along the southern coast of Puerto Rico as part of a long-range program to chart the Commonwealth's coastal waters. The surveys, the first in more than 40 years, were launched last year at Cape Rojo and will require several years to complete.



### BATES JOINS OREGON AG. WEATHER OFFICE

Earl M. Bates has been assigned to the WB Agricultural Service Office, Corvallis, Oreg., as advisory agricultural meteorologist. Earlier assignments included Eugene and Portland, Oreg., and Walla Walla and Olympia, Wash. Mr. Bates received a bachelor's degree in geography from Portland State College.

### HUMMEL WINS SPECIAL AWARD

Jack Hummel, meteorologist in charge at Williamsport, Pa., has received the Eastern Region's first award given to an individual who has exhibited an exceptionally fine professional attitude by developing forecast aids for his station. The award was the first step taken to implement special programs, urged by Dr. George P. Cressman, Weather Bureau Director, to enhance professionalism in the Weather Bureau and to promote forecast development at forecast offices. Mr. Hummel has produced climatological studies, maps that have been published in local newspapers, and forecast aids beneficial to users in his area. Most recently, he started a comparative verification of guidance probability forecasts--probabilities he had developed and the local forecasts.

### EIGHT WB EMPLOYEES ATTEND TEXAS A&M



Eight Weather Bureau employees are attending a one-semester agricultural meteorology training session at Texas A&M University. This is the first group to attend the University. Previous agricultural training sessions have been conducted by Iowa State College, Uni-

versity of California, and Rutgers University as part of a long-range program for advancing ESSA's service to agriculture. Shown left to right, Dr. John Griffiths, Texas A&M; Rufus Crosby, Montgomery, Ala.; Leonard Waas, Athens, Ga.; James Yates, Des Moines, Iowa; John Smith, Phoenix, Ariz.; Clement Rochat, San Angelo, Tex.; John Moseley, Baton Rouge, La.; Edward Johnson, Louisville, Ky.; Dr. Horace Byers, Texas A&M Dean of Academic Affairs; and James Fling, Fort Smith, Ark.

## MASTERS DEGREES FOR PANNUTO AND PURVIS

Robert J. Pannuto, Hartford, Conn., Weather Bureau meteorologist<sup>1</sup>, has completed his thesis at New York University toward a degree in meteorology.

John C. Purvis, meteorologist-in-charge, WBFO Columbia, S. C., received a master's degree in science from the University of South Carolina in January.

## EARTHQUAKE DATA AVAILABLE AT EDS

Punched cards containing the data used in the Coast Survey's preliminary earthquake hypocenter publications can now be obtained from EDS. These cards will generally be available within eight weeks after the end of the recording month, and may be purchased for \$5.00 per month of data.

## SERVICE AWARDS

Washington-area ESSA employees eligible for length-of-service awards during January and February are: 35 years - Malcolm Rigby and John Estey. 30 years - Elza Lorimor, Guy Meredith, Zander Ingram. 25 years - Arthur C. Peterson, Loran L. Fisher, Helen L. DeVore, Eldridge Fisher, Jack R. Tanner, Clarence L. Kibler, Hubert C. Keith, Wayne Staats, Lillian Tomer, William Callagan, Ward Wheatley, Pauline R. Moyer, and Victor Mosesso. 20 years - Dorothy Barns, Richard Feeney, Marjory Clark, William Rammer, Lorimer Whitehead, Andrew Caporaso, William Compton, Eugene I. Hagen, Wilton Morgan, Willie Caviness, and Zelma Thomas.

Weather Bureau Southern Region employees eligible for service awards during February are: 30 years - Edward V. Copeland, Miami. 25 years - Laura C. Taylor, Daytona Beach, Fla.; George R. Hopson, San Antonio, Tex.; and Ruben Perez, San Juan, P. R. 20 years - Arby Scott Bottoriff, Fort Worth.

## CAPT. LUCE, RETIRED C&GS CHIEF, DIES

Capt. Robert F. Luce, former chief of the Coast Survey's Division of Personnel and Accounts who retired in 1946, died Feb. 5. During his 41 years with the agency, Captain Luce served as commanding officer of nine Coast Survey ships and headed field and headquarters facilities. He also perfected new underwater soundwave devices for oceanographic depth and position finding.

-----  
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**

## **ERRATA NOTICE**

One or more conditions of the original document may affect the quality of the image, such as:

Discolored pages

Faded or light ink

Binding intrudes into the text

This has been a co-operative project between the NOAA Central Library and the Climate Database Modernization Program, National Climate Data Center (NCDC). To view the original document, please contact the NOAA Central Library in Silver Spring, MD at (301) 713-2607 x124 or [Library.Reference@noaa.gov](mailto:Library.Reference@noaa.gov)

HOV Services  
Imaging Contractor  
12200 Kiln Court  
Beltsville, MD 20704-1387  
July 23, 2010