



U. S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
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ESSA NEWS

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U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE SERVICES ADMINISTRATION

High-Speed Weather Line Links Washington, Tokyo

A major new link has been forged in the system of global telecommunications for the World Weather Watch.

Weather Bureau Communications Chief John Straiton reports that a high-speed hot line between Tokyo, Japan, and Washington, D.C., is now being tested and soon will be in operation 24 hours a day.

Opened in August, the new circuit is the first of the overseas links in the global system to operate at the high speed which is to become standard for the entire network by 1972--delivering information at the rate of 3,000 five-character words per minute.

It replaces a 100-word-a-minute circuit installed in December 1969 as the Weather Bureau's first direct line to Tokyo, and carries almost three times as much data as the WWV circuit to Europe, operating at 1,050 words per minute.

There are plans to upgrade the European

line to the 3,000-word-a-minute rate by December of this year.

Another first for the Washington-Tokyo line is that it is the first circuit operating at this high speed to be geared for error control, so that U.S. and Japanese weathermen can correct mistakes before flashing data halfway around the world.

The massive volume of information transmitted in this manner is far too fast for human eye and hand and brain. So, actually, "it's computers talking to computers," explains Mr. Straiton. "The computers process the material, sort it and deliver the various components to the proper parties."

Ultimately, it's planned that every major nation in the world will have quick access to weather data for the entire globe.

Colorful Ceremony Marks Debut of Weather Centennial Post Card

The first day of issue ceremony for the postal card honoring the United States Weather Services was held at Fort Myer, Va., Sept. 1. Secretary of Commerce Maurice H. Stans was the principal speaker at the ceremony. Other speakers included Assistant Postmaster General Henry Lehne, Dr. Robert M. White, ESSA Administrator and Federal Coordinator for Meteorological Services, and Dr. Donald M. MacArthur, Deputy Director, Defense Research and Engineering, Office of the Secretary of Defense. Also on the program were the United States Army Chorus and a pageant presented by the United States Army Band and the 1st Battalion (Reinf.), 3rd Infantry.



William D. Dunlap (right) of the Post Office Department presented a copy of the new seal of the United States Postal Service to Commerce Secretary Maurice H. Stans at the September 1 ceremony.

Forecasters Help Fire Fighters Battle Blazing Western Forests

Six Weather Bureau fire-weather mobile units have aided in battling the fire in the Wenatchee National Forest in eastern Washington, where 100,000 acres have burned despite the efforts of 8000 fire fighters. Early this week, Western Fire Weather Coordinator Wilbert Krumm reported from the Boise Interagency Fire Center: "Some rains have occurred in the fire areas of eastern Washington, and while they still have much fire in a very serious situation, it appears that the problem is easing slightly. Lightning has set hundreds of new fires in Idaho and western Montana. This has now become the potential danger area, and we are gearing ourselves accordingly." Lloyd Graybill, meteorologist in charge at Kimberly, Idaho, and Robert Allen, leading fire-weather meteorologist from Phoenix, Ariz., are working at Boise and standing by for possible mobile unit action in Idaho and western Montana. Fire danger continues extreme or high throughout the west, Mr. Krumm said, except for Arizona, New Mexico, northwestern Wyoming, southern Colorado, extreme southern Utah, and the Pacific coastal area.

C&GS Equipment On Board Fatal Plane Wreck

An Air Force Globemaster cargo plane, carrying a high-precision camera and other C&GS equipment for a satellite triangulation station at Cold Bay, Alaska, crashed Aug. 26, on a mountain 35 miles northeast of Cold Bay. The aircraft and its seven-man crew were assigned to the 116th Air National Guard Wing and based at Savannah, Ga.; no Coast Survey personnel were aboard. The camera equipment was being taken to Cold Bay for work on the geodetic network linking Alaska, Canada, and the lower 48 states.

Miles Harris Joins AMS Headquarters Staff

Miles Harris, who was editor of the Monthly Weather Review until his retirement from ESSA's Scientific Information and Documentation Division in April, has joined the staff of the American Meteorological Society in Boston, Mass. Mr. Harris will serve as technical editor of the AMS Bulletin.

Four Weather Bureau Men Cited With Commerce Bronze Medals

Commerce Bronze Medals were presented recently to four Weather Bureau men: Samuel K. Kerr, Grand Junction, Colo.; Harley B. Laird, Chicago, Ill.; Edward F. Stapowich, Omaha; and Edgar L. Van Tassel, Scottsbluff, Nebr.

Mr. Kerr, who is meteorologist in charge at Grand Junction, was cited for "years of highly effective and exceedingly loyal service in charge of an ESSA Weather Bureau Field Office."

Mr. Laird, aviation quality control officer at WBFO Chicago, won the honor "for significant improvement in aviation weather requirements and briefing procedures which contributed to the safety of flying."

Mr. Stapowich, Omaha MIC, was commended for "years of highly effective and useful service in charge of an important ESSA Weather Bureau field office."

Mr. Van Tassel, who heads the Scottsbluff office, was honored for "years of exceptionally dependable and exceedingly effective service in charge of an ESSA Weather Bureau field office."

Foreign Naval Officers End ESSA Training

Three officers from the Naval School at Cartagena, Colombia, recently received Certificates of Accomplishment from Dr. Robert M. White, ESSA Administrator, after completing two months of training in physical oceanography at the Atlantic Oceanographic and Meteorological Laboratories and aboard the Coast Guard Cutter ROCKAWAY. Left to right: Teniente de Fragata Pedro R. Monsalve; Teniente de Corbeta Alfredo R. Combariza; Teniente de Fragata Ernesto Cajiao; Dr. White; and Robert Starr of AOML.



ERL Mini-Computer Provides On-the-Spot Data Analysis

A new mini-computer system, designed by ERL instrumentation specialists, is ready to take on maxi-jobs in weather research. The new system tells airborne scientists what they need to know about a storm when they need to know it. They no longer have to wait for months of laboratory analysis to find out what happened; the little computer gives them a preliminary look, allowing them to make on-the-spot flight decisions.

Dr. Helmut K. Weickmann, director of the Atmospheric Physics and Chemistry Laboratory, says: "Meteorological meso-scale studies are best done by aircraft, and it is in aircraft instrumentation that an important step for observing and analyzing these storm systems has been accomplished. With the new equipment we can follow in real time the 'nut shell' life history of the storm, see it become organized, know how much air and water flows in or out and from which side, and see its radar echo develop accordingly. This information is necessary to understand these storms, and it is critical if we want to modify them."

Heinz H. Grote, who developed the mini-computer radar system, says: "We feed information into the computer from aircraft instruments and radar. Latitude, longitude, wind speed in the direction of aircraft flight, and wind speed perpendicular to the aircraft flight path are all given to the computer. While the nose radar is completing a scan, the computer uses this information to calculate the factors we want--basically the exact location of the aircraft and the direction and speed of actual winds. After a loop is completed, the computer calculates the volume of air inflow or outflow and the vorticity.

"The radar scans a full circle but, since it is mounted in the nose of the plane, it spends some time in 'shadow' seeing only the aircraft. During this shadow time, we use the radar scope to display the computer calculations."

Nicaraguan Trains at Climatic Center

Leon Olivares, WMO Fellow from Nicaragua, began a four-month training visit to the National Climatic Center, Asheville, N.c., in August. His major interest is in data processing.

Capt. Taylor Comes Ashore; Dr. Glaser Goes Abroad



Capt. Taylor

Dr. Glaser

Capt. Eugene A. Taylor has been named chief of the Operations and Requirements Division in the Coast Survey's Office of Hydrography and Oceanography. He succeeds Capt. Steven Hollis, who is now Commanding Officer of the USC&GSS RESEARCHER. Captain Taylor joined the Coast and Geodetic Survey in 1950, and last served as CO of the USC&GSS PATHFINDER.

Dr. Arnold H. Glaser, Deputy Director of the Barbados Oceanographic and Meteorological Analysis Project, has been named to a World Meteorological Organization post in Geneva, Switzerland. Dr. Glaser will serve the WMO Secretary-General as Special Assistant for World Weather Watch Management and Coordination. He is scheduled to begin the two-year assignment on September 14.

Weather Bureau Aids Undersea Habitat Project

Project Tektite II, the joint government-industry program to study underwater habitats, is receiving weather advice from the Weather Bureau's San Juan forecast office and the Miami office of the Spaceflight Meteorology Group. The Tektite staff has been kept informed of the locations and potential long-range movement of disturbances in the Atlantic which might affect the aquanauts' underwater "homes" near the Virgin Islands. To assist the forecasters, a climatological study was made which gives the likely movement of tropical storms that could pass near the islands. Acting on information from the San Juan Weather Bureau, the Tektite staff pulled two habitats from the sea as a precaution against Tropical Storm Dorothy, which passed south of the Virgin Islands, Aug. 19-24.

Bonus Added for Holding Bonds

The Treasury Department, in a move designed to encourage people to keep U.S. Savings Bonds until they mature, has added a one-half of one percent "bonus" on bonds held five years or more. The increase brings the interest rate on Series E and H bonds to 5-1/2 percent, the maximum allowed by law. The new bonus means that a person who buys a \$25 savings bond now--with a purchase price of \$18.75--will receive \$25.73 if he cashes it after five years and ten months. A \$50 bond costing \$37.50 will bring \$51.46 at maturity, while a \$100 bond costing \$75 will bring \$102.92 after five years and ten months. The bonds will go on earning 5-1/2 percent after they mature if they are held by their owner.

Waite Takes Top State Weather Post in Iowa

Paul J. Waite, ESSA State Climatologist for Iowa, has been appointed Director of the Iowa Weather Services, a post he will hold in conjunction with his ESSA position. The office is part of the Iowa Department of Agriculture.

Atlantic Marine Center Branch Chief Named

Robert G. Fish, Jr. is the new chief of the Electronic Data Processing Branch at the Coast Survey's Atlantic Marine Center in Norfolk, Va. Mr. Fish, a computer specialist, joined the agency three years ago.

Self-Study Weather Radar Course Available

Study material for a radar self-study course is contained in a Weather Bureau publication Introduction to Weather Radar. It consists of reading assignments in the Weather Radar Manual plus text and illustrations designed to amplify the manual material. Successful completion of the course is determined by an examination graded by the appropriate Regional Office. The course is available to all Weather Bureau field personnel, including those not currently stationed at a radar-equipped facility. The publication has been sent to all Weather Bureau offices, and additional copies may be obtained from Regional Radar Meteorologists.

WB Veteran of 35 Years Leaves

Stephen Lichtblau, meteorologist in charge of the New Orleans Weather Bureau Forecast Office, left the Weather Bureau in August after more than 35 years of service. A native of Hungary, Mr. Lichtblau received his bachelor's degree from Case School of Applied Science, and earned a master's degree in meteorology from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. After entering the Weather Bureau at Chicago in 1935, he served at several other stations and as Regional Director for Alaska, prior to his assignment to New Orleans in 1943.

Length-of-Service Awards

Weather Bureau Pacific Region

30 years - Arthur V. Pierson, Honolulu.
25 years - Florence E. Yasuhara, PRH;
Saul Price, PRH; and Oliver Pelkey,
Kwajalein. 20 years - Herbert T. Hirata,
PRH.

C&GS Mid-Continent Field Area

30 years - Woodrow Johnson, Triangulation
Party G-21, and James W. Taylor, Leveling
Party G-36.

Weather Bureau Western Region

40 years - Jean A. Brown, San Francisco;
Harry B. Hansen, Pomona, Calif.; and
Charles F. Penfield, Los Angeles. 30
years - John P. Junkins, Eugene, Oreg.

Weather Bureau Central Region

40 years - Verne Alexander, SRH. 30
years - R. Keith Leatherwood, Denver;
Leo L. Stern, Waterloo, Ia.; and Robert
W. Ruffle, Omaha. 25 years - Paul E.
Hammett, Jr., CRH; Joseph F. Jenicek,
Evansville, Ind.; Robert J. Babb, Lansing;
and Louis W. Slaybaugh, Norfolk, Nebr.

Weather Bureau Southern Region

40 years - Rollo H. Dean, Lakeland, Fla.;
Cecil E. Carney, Memphis; Leonard G.
Pardue, Jr., Miami; and William L. Tilson,
Mobile. 35 years - William G. Porvaznik,
Tampa. 30 years - Marion B. Gregory,
Amarillo. 25 years - Herman M. Rowland,
Amarillo; James C. Fidler, Oklahoma City
(FAA Academy); Charles E. Clendaniel, Jr.,
Houston; Clyde L. Slay, Jackson, Miss.;
and Jean M. Weinbrecht, Savannah. 20
years - Donald R. Mascarenas, Del Rio,
Tex.; Herbert H. DeGroot, Macon, Ga.;
William O. Craig, Mobile; and Norris B.
Lindley, Mobile.

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