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Great Lakes Shore Areas Face Serious Flood Threat

Ocean Planning Conference To Be Sponsored by NOAA

A major conference on "The Oceans and National Economic Development," sponsored by NOAA, will be held in Seattle, Wash., July 17-19, 1973. The objective of the conference is to lay a basis on which NOAA and other government agencies can plan the future of the nation's oceanographic effort.

Key government officials, industry executives, and leaders of public and private organizations will be encouraged to pool their views and take a fresh look at the ocean's potential for meeting national economic and social needs.

Other Federal agencies, including the National Science Foundation, Office of the Oceanographer of the Navy, and the Maritime Administration, and industrial and conservation groups have been involved in planning the conference. Local and regional arrangements are being made by the SEA USE Council and the Seattle-King County Economic Development Council, which will host the meeting. The Marine Technology Society is assisting in conference organization.

The six conference sessions will deal with: the ocean's energy and mineral resources; the ocean's living resources; the ocean as a recreational resource; coastal zone management and marine resource development; regional organizations and economic development of marine resources; and marine transportation's role in meeting energy needs.

Electronic "Tornado Detectors" To Be Deployed by NOAA in 1973

After obtaining what the scientists call "positive results" during the 1972 tornado season, NOAA will continue its experimental deployment of electronic "tornado detectors" during the 1973 season. The project is conducted by the Wave Propagation Laboratory, one of the Boulder, Colo.-based Environmental Research Laboratories, in conjunction with NOAA's National Weather Service and its National Severe Storms Forecast Center in Kansas City, Mo.

During the 1973 tornado season instru-

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An almost unprecedented flood threat continues unabated for some Great Lakes shore areas and connecting waterways, NOAA warned last week.

Among areas most critically threatened are shores bordering Lake Erie, shallowest of the Great Lakes; the Detroit River; Lake St. Clair, adjacent to Detroit; Saginaw Bay, on Lake Huron; and Lake Ontario. In serious but less danger are shores of the rest of Lake Huron and Lake Michigan. Least threatened is Lake Superior, largest and deepest of the Great Lakes.

Lake Erie and Lake St. Clair remain at the highest levels on record for mid-winter, according to a Lake Survey Center bulletin for January, the latest available. Their levels are expected to continue at record highs through July of this year.

Some lakeshore residents experienced a sample of the flood problem last November 14, when strong winds piled up Lake Erie's water at its western end, causing 22 million dollars in property damage. Such "storm surges" of wind-driven water, on top of already-record lake levels, are the principal worry. National Weather Service meteorologists say a stronger wind than that of last November 14 could produce a storm surge several feet higher. The pile-up of water can occur on any shore, of course, depending on the direction of the wind.

To meet the threat, a number of Federal agencies are joining with state and local officials in a Great Lakes preparedness campaign patterned after Operation Foresight in 1969. The Army Corps of Engineers has held a number of meetings with state and local officials to gear up for the threat, offering advice on ways to minimize the effect of flooding. More preparedness meetings are planned. Other Federal agencies involved include the NWS, the LSC, the U.S. Coast Guard, and the White House Office of Emergency Preparedness, which will take over if the President declares an affected community a Federal disaster area.

Primary cause of the present high levels in the Great Lakes is above-normal precipitation over the past eight years -- ranging from four percent to nine percent, depending on the basin. In 1972, precipitation ranged from eight percent above normal for Lake Superior to 27 percent above for Lake Ontario. Waterlogging of the soil has accelerated the rise by adding to and hastening runoff.

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NOAA Fleet Launches New Season of Oceanographic Investigations

Approximately 1000 scientists, technicians, officers, and seamen will man 22 NOAA ships in a new season of investigations of the ocean and waters that lap the shores of the United States and foreign lands.

Deep ocean surveys will be conducted by the NOAA Ships OCEANOGRAPHER and RESEARCHER. These and other vessels will be involved in studies in such widely-separated areas as the equatorial Atlantic, Sargasso Sea, Puget Sound, Wash., the Great Lakes, the New York Bight, Gulf of Mexico, Caribbean, Eastern Pacific, Gulf of Alaska, and the Aleutians.

In Lake Michigan, the SHENEHON will do research on the physical and chemical properties of its waters. The VIRGINIA KEY, operating out of Miami, will conduct nearshore and coastal oceanography.

Much of the work that will be done by NOAA ships in 1973 will be essential to safe navigation. Marine charting surveys will be carried out by the MCARTHUR, RAINIER, FAIRWEATHER, DAVIDSON, MT MITCHELL, WHITING, and PEIRCE in the waters of the Virgin Islands, South and North Carolina, Georgia, Florida, Alaska, Hawaii, California, and other areas. Wire drag surveys for underwater hazards will be conducted in Chesapeake Bay and in the Gulf of Mexico by the RUDE and HECK.

Current and circulation studies will be performed by the FERREL in the Georgia-South Carolina coastal regions; New York Bight; Long Island Sound; and Mount Hope Bay, R.I./Mass.

While these activities are underway, NOAA vessels will be engaged in important fisheries surveys and research along U.S. coasts, in the Caribbean and Gulf of Mexico, off Nova Scotia, and in the Pacific. Included among these vessels will be the OREGON and OREGON II, BOWERS, ALBATROSS IV, MURRE II, JORDAN, COBB, and RORQUAL.

Like Mailmen, Neither Rain, Nor Snow...

It wouldn't be news in Minnesota but in South Carolina...Mrs. Kathy Stone and Jack Mercer reported for work 15 minutes early at



efforts of Weather Service employees during the snow and ice storm of Feb. 9 and 10 in the eastern gulf coast and southern Atlantic Coastal states. The storm broke daily, monthly, and seasonal records in most places. The forecasts and warnings were quite good and timely.

the Weather Service Office at Columbia, South Carolina, after walking six miles through huge snow drifts. Theirs were typical of the stoic

NMFS Announces Moratorium On Fisheries Loan Applications

After March 1, 1973, until further notice the National Marine Fisheries Service will not accept applications for loans from the Fisheries Loan Fund. The loans are made for financing or refinancing the cost of purchasing, constructing, maintaining, repairing, equipping, or operating commercial fishing vessels or gear, when loans are not available through usual sources.

NMFS Director Philip M. Roedel said the aggregate amount of outstanding loans, applications on hand or anticipated, plus actual or contingent expenses make it impossible to conduct a meaningful program until scheduled collections restore the available capital.

Details of the moratorium on fisheries loans were published in the "Federal Register" on February 20, 1973.

Wyatt Is Redesignated Chief Pilot for NWS

Samuel V. Wyatt, Aviation Safety and Quality Control Program Leader of the National Weather Service's Weather Analysis and Prediction Division, has been redesignated by



Wyatt at controls of Piper Cherokee.

NWS Director Dr. George P. Cressman as Chief Pilot for the NWS. In this capacity, he is responsible for conducting or arranging for flights for NWS Headquarters personnel, and for a general overview of flight operations conducted by regional and field personnel, particularly those associated with weather service evaluation and quality control. Also designated to serve as pilot-in-command of rental or privately owned aircraft used for official business were: Bobbie E. Pifer, WXAP Division; and David W. Holmes and Burton D. Goldenberg, Data Acquisition Division.

NWS Field Offices Will Evaluate Severe Weather Plotting Map

The National Ocean Survey has completed the cartographic work on the standard base map for plotting severe weather watches. National Weather Service field offices will evaluate the map under operational conditions and make suggestions for corrections and improvements.

The map will be printed in two sections: one covering the eastern portion of the United States, the other the western portion. In general, offices in the western and eastern portions of the United States will receive the appropriate geographic sections, while those in the central portion will receive both sections. At the next printing it is expected that a separate central section will be made available.

Frank W. Burnett Retires As Deputy Director of NWS

Frank W. Burnett, who has been Deputy Director of the National Weather Service since March 1970, is retiring on February 26, after 33 years of weather service. He was Deputy Director of the National Meteorological Center from 1965-1970.



He joined the NWS at Roswell, N.Mex., in 1940 and served in Pueblo, Colo.; Albuquerque, N. Mex.; Pendleton, Oreg.; and New York City before transferring to the NMC in 1953.

In 1969, Mr. Burnett, together with Harlan K. Saylor of the NMC, received the Department of Commerce Gold Medal for work in the development of a new technology, the mixing of man and machine (computer) methods to produce central guidance weather forecasts. He also received the Department of Commerce Silver Medal in 1959 for his outstanding work in improving analyses at the National Weather Analysis Center from 1954 to 1959.

He holds a bachelor's degree from the University of New Mexico, attended the University of Chicago on a Weather Bureau scholarship, and has done graduate work at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

Dr. Ridlon Named EDS/MESA Coordinator

The Environmental Data Service has named Dr. James Ridlon of the National Oceanographic Data Center to coordinate the activities of all EDS data centers in management tasks associated with NOAA's Marine Ecosystems Analysis Project. One of MESA's goals is the establishment of baseline levels of environmental conditions for selected coastal regions of the United States. The baseline levels will be determined through evaluation of existing data bases, diverse sampling, and environmental monitoring. Dr. Ridlon and his assistant, Millington Lockwood, are helping the MESA office in the coordination of MESA data and data products as well as the Environmental Data Index (ENDEX) effort to produce an automated bibliography of scientific information on the New York Bight area, the first scheduled to be surveyed by the project. The products will be distributed through the MESA Project Office.

Rossi Is FAIRWEATHER'S Operations Officer

Lieutenant Commander Frank P. Rossi is the new Operations Officer of the NOAA Ship FAIRWEATHER. A commissioned officer since 1966, he has served with the Environmental Data Service, on the NOAA Ship OCEANOGRAPHER, and as a recruiting officer for commissioned personnel in Kansas City, Mo.



New Computer Technique Applied To Managua Earthquake Analysis

The direction of motion around the underground source, or hypocenter, of last December's disastrous earthquake in Managua is being calculated by a newly developed computer technique at the Environmental Research Laboratories' Earth Sciences Laboratories in Boulder, Colo. This "focal mechanism" calculation will help scientists and engineers relate the Managua tremor to the faults which produced it.

The new computer technique results from a cooperative effort of William H. Dillinger and Sam T. Harding, ESL geophysicists, and Allen J. Pope, a mathematician with the National Ocean Survey's National Geodetic Survey. Eventually, they believe, their focal-mechanism program will become part of the computer routine now used operationally to find and describe global earthquakes.

"Once the program enters operational use," Harding says, "it will give us an early view of the strike and dip of the fault that caused an earthquake, and tell us something about the energy content of the earthquake. This kind of information would be invaluable to people in disaster agencies who have to plan for relief operations without knowing what the situation is on the ground. As we add more advanced programs incorporating historical earthquake activity and geological factors, we may be able to make a preliminary damage assessment almost as soon as we get an epicenter."

The new focal mechanism program also has important implications for prediction of tsunamis, the destructive waves sometimes generated by earthquakes. Because generation of a tsunami depends greatly on the direction of fault motion and the amount of energy involved (Aleutian earthquakes below magnitude 6.5, for example, are not considered possible tsunami generators), an early look at these elements would help scientists in NOAA's tsunami warning centers cut the time between the event and issuance of a tsunami warning.

With 46, January Breaks Tornado Records

The month of January 1973 will no doubt be listed as the most active January for tornadic activity since formalized records have been kept. Preliminary reports indicate that 46 tornadoes were reported to the Severe Local Storms Unit of the National Severe Storms Forecast Center. The previous high was 40 tornadoes in 1967. No deaths have been reported for 1973. In January 1967, there were seven deaths.

Seventeen tornado watches were issued by the SELS Unit, nine of which verify. Of the 46 tornado reports, 32 occurred within the time and boundary areas of the watches. An additional five tornadoes were listed as close.

Department of Commerce EEO Action Plan

NOAA was notified recently that the U.S. Civil Service Commission had approved the Department of Commerce National EEO Action Plan for calendar year 1973. This plan, the first to be issued under the provisions contained in the EEO Act of 1972, will provide the guidelines for action plans that the MLC's, Regional Offices, and field installations will be issuing in the near future.

The Plan, while not markedly different from previous fiscal year plans, places an even greater emphasis on line management's responsibility for the implementation of EEO policies and programs. The plan is made up of a number of action items under specific areas defined, as much as possible, in quantitative terms to ensure measurable progress during the lifetime of the Plan.

The significant features of the Plan are as follows:

1. All officials, part-time as well as full-time, who are concerned with the administration of the EEO Program must be identified specifically, their roles enumerated and they must be certified as to their qualifications to perform EEO duties. Resources allocated to EEO in terms of man years and dollars must be shown.
2. Each subordinate Commerce agency must develop plans on a National, Regional and local field activity basis. For NOAA this will mean a National NOAA Plan, National MLC Plan, Regional Plans (NWS and NMFS) and local plans (where NOAA has 50 or more employees). One new feature here is that the regional plans have to be approved by the appropriate Civil Service Commission Regional Office as well as receive NOAA approval.
3. Upward mobility training and education programs must be developed which are designed to provide a maximum opportunity for NOAA employees to advance so they can perform at their highest potential. These programs must be identified as to purpose and must include an estimate of the number of employees who will participate in each program.
4. Detailed goals, timetables and target dates must be established for all program areas and specifically spelled out at all organizational levels.
5. Program Evaluation Systems must be established so continuing reviews can be made of progress at all levels in NOAA.

6. The discrimination complaint processing system has been strengthened to assure employees and applicants of their right to fair and fast adjudication of discrimination complaints. Shorter time periods for processing and increased resources to administer the complaint system are now required.
7. Greater breadth and depth is required in reporting NOAA EEO Program accomplishments. Reports will have to show specific achievements realized and specific problems encountered which impeded progress.

The Personnel Division, in conjunction with the MLC's and the NOAA EEO Committee, is developing the draft NOAA National Plan. Once this plan is developed, its significant aspects will be discussed in Personnel Perspective. As the succeeding plans are developed for MLC's, regions and local activities, they will be publicized in the Personnel Perspective. As these various plans are issued, all NOAA employees should become familiar with the Plan for their organization and geographic area.

Reduction-in-Force--Outplacement Assistance

The task force to aid displaced NOAA employees as reductions in staff occur through reduction-in-force is actively seeking to effect maximum outplacements.

Prospective governmental and non-governmental employers have been contacted and negotiations are being conducted to place as many persons as possible.

Employees who are offered positions and transfer to other agencies will do so without a break in service whenever possible. Placement with nongovernmental organizations generally will be made at dates mutually agreeable to employee and employer, if possible.

As of February 16, a total of 343 employees had received RIF notices. Of this number, offers have been made to other continuing assignments in NOAA to 126 employees. Referrals of the applications of 68 other employees have been made against current or anticipated NOAA vacancies. Multiple referrals are being made when the employee has indicated willingness to relocate to various locations where vacancies may occur.

The placement assistance offered by the task force is in addition to the assistance rendered as a result of reemployment priority lists, displaced employee program, and Departmental priority considerations.

The Supervisor as Manager

All NOAA supervisors have certain rights and responsibilities unique to their positions as part of NOAA management. Their rights are identical to those of all other NOAA employees plus they, within the purview of their individual positions, have the right to assign work in order to carry out the agency's mission. This is, of course, not only a right but a supervisory responsibility as well. Among their other responsibilities supervisors have a major duty to establish and maintain rapport with their employees. Sound employee relations practices not only improve employee morale, they also can directly affect production positively. Supervisors must be adept at dealing with people and at recognizing and resolving employee problems.

In forthcoming issues, Personnel Perspective will focus on the NOAA supervisor's role as manager by discussing the rights, duties, and responsibilities of a supervisor, as well as suggested avenues open for achieving employee development.

Supervisors are urged to contribute suggestions and questions, and those which are determined to be of particular concern will be discussed in the articles on supervisory responsibilities or answered in "That's a Personnel Question." All questions and suggestions should be forwarded to:

PERSONNEL PERSPECTIVE
NOAA Personnel AD423
NBOC #2
6001 Executive Blvd.
Rockville, Maryland 20852

NMFS EEO Committee

In conjunction with the recent pictorial identification of the National Marine Fisheries Service EEO Committee, it should be noted that this Committee also has field responsibilities.

In addition to their duties in the Washington Metropolitan Area Equal Employment Opportunity Program, the headquarters National Marine Fisheries Service EEO Committee is responsible for providing guidance to NMFS regional and center EEO committees.

Retirement Office Telephone Change

Mr. Walter Kurtz, the Personnel Division Retirement Officer, has a new telephone number. Mr. Kurtz may now be reached on 496-8523 (146-8523).

Career Counseling Workshop

Career Counseling Workshops, sponsored by the Personnel Division, which were begun in January 1972, have served to alert NOAA supervisors and managers to the value of well-functioning lines of communication between all organizational levels.

Participants in the five-day Workshop concentrate on the development of effective techniques of communication which are readily applicable to the everyday situation supervisors or managers may encounter. Counseling techniques are developed or enriched through role playing and the use of recorders and video cameras.

Since the Workshop's inception, over a hundred managers and supervisors have been participants and feedback indicates nearly all have found the program beneficial. Many feel the success of the program results from the broad spectrum of employees attending the sessions, the informality of the workshop groups, and the innovative use of video cameras and recorders as training tools.

Because of the intensity of the training, the number of workshop participants is limited to twelve each session. However, with staff now available, more workshops will be held with sessions in the Washington area and throughout the field.

Supervisors and managers interested in attending the Career Counseling Workshop should contact their servicing personnel offices for additional information.

Blue-Collar Wage Law

The Civil Service Commission is working with agencies and union representatives to develop specific instructions and procedures to implement Public Law 92-392. The law covers over 500,000 Federal employees presently under prevailing wage rates and an estimated 110,000 non-appropriated fund (NAF) activity workers who will move under a uniform prevailing rate system for the first time.

Though both groups will be under pay systems administered by the Commission, there will be differences. The law requires that most NAF wage areas be different, and limits wage surveys to retail, wholesale, service, and recreational establishments. The law does not change current health, retirement, leave, and other fringe benefits which will continue to be administered by employing agencies.

ERL Oceanographers Are Studying Coastal Currents Off Miami Beach

Oceanographers of the Environmental Research Laboratories' Atlantic Oceanographic and Meteorological Laboratories have begun a study of the waters off Miami Beach, Fla., to learn how coastal currents collect materials and mix them with the Florida Current.

It is expected that the investigation will produce new understanding of coastal water movements that will enable county, state, and federal management authorities to make better advance estimates of the probable effects of such activities as dredging and sewage disposal.

The study is designed to obtain a data base for a descriptive model of coastal processes. The model is intended to describe the budget of energy and materials in the coastal zone, including heat, nutrients, and pollutants.

Southeast Florida is a unique coastal area because the Florida Current is so near the shore and the coastal shelf is so narrow and shallow at this point. Two major forces drive the coastal shelf water--the Florida Current and the wind. Movement of coastal water will be monitored by eight current meters, placed in a five-square-mile area off Miami Beach.

Cooperating with NOAA, Nova University at Fort Lauderdale will take aerial transport measurements by a special technique developed there, and aerial photographs to determine color differences in the water, and the University of Miami's Rosenstiel School of Marine and Atmospheric Science will take daily surface salinity and temperature measurements.

Marine Weather Services Pamphlet Revised

The "Marine Weather Services" pamphlet has been revised and 100,000 copies have been printed.

Arrangements have been made for distribution to all regional headquarters, and to the Coast Guard Auxiliary, which will use the folder in its public boating safety classes throughout the country.

Great Lakes Flood Threat (Continued from page 1)

NWS forecasters are receiving a constant flow of lake-level observations from the LSC. With this information, whenever there is a likelihood of strong, sustained winds over critically high lakes, forecasters are ready to provide computer-assisted predictions of storm surges in advance of the rising water. These will be labeled "Lakeshore Warnings" and transmitted on Weather Service teletypewriter circuits for relay to the public by newspapers, radio, and TV. NOAA's VHF radio weather stations also will broadcast the warnings on a round-the-clock basis.

NWS To Receive Snow Cover Data On Selected River Basins From NWS

The National Weather Service Office of Hydrology has made arrangements with the Environmental Sciences Group of the National Environmental Satellite Service to receive, from satellite data, snow cover information for a few selected river basins. The data on the basins -- the Willamette River Basin in Oregon, the American River and Feather River basins in California, and the Red River of the North Basin in North Dakota and Minnesota -- will be made available to the River Forecast Centers concerned.

The arrangements for this pilot program were made with Donald R. Wiesnet, Senior Research Hydrologist, NESS, by Allen F. Flanders, Chief, Data Systems Division, and Richard K. Farnsworth, Research Hydrologist, Hydrologic Research Laboratory, NWS.

Results of this pilot program will determine whether it will be expanded in the future.

Texas Survey To Determine Land Sinking

A \$300,000 survey to determine the extent of land sinking in the Houston-Galveston area so remedial action can be taken to reduce damage from inundating waters is now underway. The National Geodetic Survey is in charge of the survey, which has been under consideration for more than two years.

The survey, expected to be completed by May, is being conducted by eight field parties, including personnel from the National Geodetic Survey, the U.S. Geological Survey, and the Texas Highway Department. Funding is being provided by federal, state and local bodies and by private industry.

The subsidence of land in gulf coastal areas has brought increasing problems to home owners, business and industrial establishments, builders and engineers as water inundates land which was formerly high and dry. The land sinking is believed primarily to the rapid increase in the amount of water being pumped from the ground and the removal of oil and gas in some areas. Local officials estimate that about 600 million gallons of water are taken from the ground daily in the Houston area alone.

The project is being coordinated in Houston by Gerald Coleman, Executive Director of the Houston-Galveston Area Council, and Pliny Gale of the American Society of Civil Engineers' Houston Chapter. Samuel P. Hand, Chief of the National Geodetic Survey's Vertical Network Division in Rockville, Md., is in overall charge of the program.

The survey teams, led by Robert R. Gerrish, will conduct approximately 1,000 linear miles of surveys. The NGS team led by James Taylor has begun at Alvin, another led by Lloyd F. Diez began at Liberty, and the other teams are expected to join the operation shortly.

Forecasts for ERTS Aircraft Prepared by NWS Wallops Unit

The Forecast Unit at the National Weather Service Support Facility, Wallops Island, Va., has been periodically preparing forecasts for aerial photographs to be used for comparison with remote sensing information from NASA's Earth Resources Technology Satellite. The aircraft involved is a NASA U-2 from the Ames Research Center in California, operating at 60,000 feet and above and requiring clear or nearly clear skies. The area involved includes most of the eastern seaboard states from Maine to Florida. Beginning in September 1971 and prior to the launch of ERTS in July 1972, the area was photographed every 18 days. Since the launch of ERTS, the area is covered on a monthly basis. Each cycle involves about one week of flying.

These forecasts which the Wallops staff make for the U-2 aircraft are similar to those which the Spaceflight Meteorology Group makes for the NASA RB57, NP-3A, and NC-130B flights.

Tornado Detectors (Continued from page 1)

ments will be installed at National Weather Service stations in Amarillo, Lubbock, and Fort Worth (Carswell Air Force Base), Tex.; Oklahoma City and Tulsa, Okla.; Little Rock, Ark.; Memphis, Tenn.; Jackson, Miss.; Tampa, Fla.; Grand Island, Nebr.; Des Moines, Iowa; Topeka and Wichita, Kans.; and Springfield and St. Louis, Mo. These sites lie along "tornado alley," the curved seasonal path followed by the center of maximum frequency of United States tornadoes.

According to William L. Taylor, who leads the project for the Wave Propagation Laboratory, the instruments measure an electromagnetic "signature" of processes in cloud systems where tornadoes are likely to occur, rather than the presence of tornadoes themselves.

Preliminary data analysis indicated there were 542 electromagnetic responses by the equipment during the 1972 season. These were correlated with the Severe Weather Reports from the National Severe Storms Forecast Center in Kansas City. Equipment responses which appeared to correspond to the severe storm activity within 70 kilometers of the instrument -- 41 tornadoes, 30 funnel clouds, 54 hail storms, 60 windstorms, and 507 local thunderstorms -- were examined to measure whether, and how well, the method worked. The examination indicates that the instrument would have warned against 73 percent of the tornadoes. It would also have indicated about 40 percent of the funnel cloud storms as tornadic, and 27 percent of the hail and windstorms as possibly tornadic. Only 6.5 percent of the local thunderstorms would have produced false alarms.

"It should be emphasized," Mr. Taylor says, "that these results are preliminary and that a more complete analysis must wait for the full storm record when it becomes available from NOAA's Storm Data Publication."

Earthquake Information Center Reports 4,500 Shocks in 1972

Earthquake activity in 1972 was average in terms of tremors felt in the United States and worldwide energy release, but catastrophic in terms of lives lost, although no earthquake-caused fatalities in the United States were reported during the year.

The National Earthquake Information Center, operated by the Earth Sciences Laboratories of the Environmental Research Laboratories, based its preliminary assessment of 1972 seismic activity on data reported by nearly 600 cooperating stations around the world, and on its determinations of epicenters (surface positions), magnitudes, and other aspects of some 4,500 shocks during the year.

The NEIC reports that:

--Total earthquake-caused fatalities of "about 10,000" represent a nearly tenfold increase over the 1971 figure of 1,057. Two disasters made the difference: the April 10 earthquake in southern Iran that reportedly killed 5,374 persons, and the December 23 tragedy in Managua, Nicaragua, where uncounted losses are estimated to be between 4,000 and 6,000 lives.

--It received reports of 282 felt earthquakes in 22 states. The largest of these, a magnitude 7.6 shock on July 30 near Sitka, Alaska, caused remarkably little damage there (about \$9,000) but was felt over a 50,000-square-mile area of Canada and southern Alaska.

--California again led the states in the number of felt earthquakes, with 117 reported. Alaska, the second-rated state in the number of felt earthquakes, reported 113; however, this lower figure is more the result of Alaska's low population density than its comparative seismic activity, which is higher than California's. Montana was third, with 19 felt earthquakes reported, followed by Utah, with 7, Hawaii, 4, and South Carolina, 3. Two felt earthquakes each were reported for Missouri, Arkansas, and Colorado, and one each for Arizona, Idaho, Illinois, Nebraska, Nevada, New York, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Texas, Virginia, Washington, West Virginia, and Wyoming.

--Six tsunamis--long period ocean waves sometimes generated by earthquakes in coastal or oceanic areas, erroneously called "tidal waves" when they reach destructive size--were reported in the Pacific Ocean area during the year. None of these caused significant damage.

Curtis Barton Dies

Curtis Barton, who had been Meteorologist in Charge of the National Weather Service Office in Youngstown, Ohio, for 19 years before he retired last June, died on February 14. His 32 years of service to the NWS included ten years as MIC in Erie, Pa. Survivors include his wife, Mary, of 1812 West Third St., Roswell, N. Mex., and a daughter and two grandchildren.

16th Weather Service Operations Class Is Held in Kansas City



The 16th Weather Service Operations Class was held January 16-February 8, at the National Weather Service Technical Training Center in Kansas City, Mo. Participants were: (front row, from left) Rafael Capo, Lake Charles, La.; Finn Johnson, LaCrosse, Wis.; Jack Sage, Muskegon, Mich.; Frederick Helgeson, Parkersburg, W.Va.; Ruth Jolly, Augusta, Ga.; Francisco Torres-Cordero, San Juan, P.R.; James Spillers, Greenville-Spartan-

burg, S.C.; Roy Phillips, Yakima, Wash. (second row, from left) Mike Weinrich, Instructor; Bernard Spittler, Astoria, Oreg.; Glen Matson, Annette Island, Alaska; Masuo Sakasegawa, Lihue, Hawaii; Curt Doran, Fairbanks, Alaska; William Rudolph, San Diego, Calif.; Marvin Shimp, Lansing, Mich.; Jim Wantz, Instructor; Clifton Champion, Greensboro, N.C.; Seymour Kreppel, Honolulu, Hawaii; Larry McEwen, Instructor.



notes about people...

Dr. William H. Klein, Director, Techniques Development Laboratory, National Weather Service, has been appointed Chairman of the Committee on Forecasting of the American Meteorological Society for the year ending January 1974.

Gerald C. West, Supervisory Electronic Technician at the National Environmental Satellite Service's Command and Data Acquisition Station on Wallops Island, Va., and his wife have received a letter of recognition from President Nixon for their community service and civic activities. The President cited "the recently completed Oyster Museum, which will give visitors and tourists an interesting glimpse into an industry that has been an integral part of the economy and the history of the Eastern Shore," as one of the more important projects of the Wests, who live in Chincoteague, Va.

Dr. Kirby Hanson, research meteorologist with the Environmental Research Laboratories' Sea-Air Interaction Laboratory at the Miami-based Atlantic Oceanographic and Meteorological Laboratories, is representing the United States at the informal planning meeting for consideration of the GATE radiation subprogram being held this week at the Main Geophysical Observatory of the U.S.S.R. in Leningrad.

Solar Geophysical Event Report Available

"Data on Solar-Geophysical Activity Associated With the Major Ground Level Cosmic Ray Events of 24 January and 1 September 1971 - UAG-24," co-authored by Helen E. Coffey and J. Virginia Lincoln of the Environmental Data Service's National Geophysical and Solar-Terrestrial Data Center at Boulder, Colo., has been published under the auspices of the World Data Center A for Solar-Terrestrial Physics. This data compilation, published in two parts, is the sixth in the series of special solar geophysical event reports. These reports fill a need for a medium incorporating detailed data for a particular event in one publication.

Included in this issuance for each solar event are data covering the solar region, solar radio events, space observations, cosmic rays, ionosphere, aurora, and geomagnetism. Copies are available from EDS' National Climatic Center, Federal Bldg., Asheville, N.C. 28801 at \$2.00 a set. Checks and money orders should be made payable to the Department of Commerce, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

Computer-Oriented Editing System In Use

The WYLBUR (computer-oriented editing) system is now completely operational in the Environmental Data Service's Environmental Science Information Center. Publications currently being processed are limited to those requiring multiple corrections and those requiring periodic updates.

Items to be considered for publication in NOAA WEEK should be submitted to:
Office of Public Affairs, NOAA, Room 221, Bldg. 5, Rockville, Md. 20852. Phone (301) 496-8243.

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

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