


50th Anniversary of Meteorology Program

In June 1985, the Department of Meteorology at the Pennsylvania State University will observe the 50th anniversary of the establishment of the meteorology program. There will be a reunion of the graduates of the program and a conference sponsored by the AMS.

Alumni are invited to attend the Second Conference on Mesoscale Meteorology, a national meeting sponsored by the AMS, to be held at Penn State's University Park Campus, 3–6 June, then stay on for a departmental reunion, 7–8 June. Alumni may come for the conference or the weekend activities or both. Housing for the attendees will be available in campus dormitories. Several social events are being planned for the weekend.

More information will be available soon.

meetings of interest

15–20 July 1985. Massachusetts Institute of Technology will offer a one-week elementary course in Design and Analysis of Scientific Experiments, 15–20 July 1985. Applications will be made to the physical, chemical, biological, medical, engineering, and industrial sciences, and to experimentation in psychology and economics. The course will be taught by Professors Harold Freeman and Paul Berger. For more information, write to Director of Summer Session, Room E19–356, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Cambridge, MA 02139.

14–24 July 1985. Irreversible Phenomena and Dynamical Systems Analysis in Geosciences, an advanced study institute under the auspices of the Greek Ministry of Research and Technology, will be held in Crete, Greece, 14–24 July 1985. The institute is being sponsored by the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, the International Solvay Institutes of Physics and Chemistry, and IBM. The institute will be devoted to the application of the ideas and techniques of nonequilibrium physics and the application of the theory of dynamical systems in various branches of the geosciences.

For more information or an application, contact Professor G. Nicolis, Faculte des Sciences, Université Libre de Bruxelles, Campus Plaine, C.P. 226, Boulevard du Triomphe, B-1050 Brussels, Belgium.

2–7 September 1986. The 19th International Conference for Alpine Meteorology (ICAM 1986) will be held 2–7 September 1986 at Rauris, Austria. The conference will include the celebration of the 100th anniversary of the high mountain observatory Sonnblick. The conference is sponsored by the Austrian Society for Meteorology, the Central Office for Meteorology and Geodynamics, and the Sonnblick.

For more information, contact Professor Dr. Konrad Cehak, Head, Organizing Committee ICAM 1986, Hohe Warte 38, A-1190 Vienna (Wien), Austria.

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References


25 years ago...

WMO Panel on Artificial Satellites*

A panel of experts was established by the Executive Committee of the World Meteorological Organization in 1959 to advise on how the WMO may encourage the development and use of artificial satellites as a means of providing valuable meteorological data. This panel met in the WMO Secretariat in Geneva on 12–13 November. The chair was taken by Dr. G. D. Robinson, deputy director (Physical Research), British Meteorological Office. The other members in attendance were Dr. H. Wexler, director of Research, U. S. Weather Bureau, and W. J. Gibbs, assistant director (Research and Development) of the Australian Bureau of Meteorology. Professor V. A. Bugaev, USSR, fourth panel member was prevented by illness from attending the first session.

The panel reviewed the present plans and future possibilities for obtaining meteorological observations by means of artificial satellites. It was concluded that the most immediate results would probably be measurements of cloud cover and of solar and terrestrial radiation components. In the more distant future it is conceivable that observations may be obtained of global precipitation patterns, thunderstorm distribution, and vertical distribution of water vapor, ozone, and carbon dioxide.

Dr. Wexler presented a preliminary report of the apparently successful functioning of Explorer VII, from which it is hoped to obtain valuable radiation measurements. Future American plans include the launching of TIROS satellites to observe cloud cover and to obtain more detailed measurements of radiation.

The first results will be mainly of use for research purposes, but operational applications may not be far behind. In particular, it may be possible to detect the development of severe storms at an early stage in areas where this is at present difficult owing to the sparsity of regular weather reporting stations over the oceans and in areas where there are few inhabitants.

The panel recommended that the WMO should encourage the international exchange of meteorological information obtained from satellites and in particular give urgent consideration to the most effective way of disseminating storm warnings based on this information.

The report and recommendations were to be sent to Professor Bugaev for comments and approval.


WEATHER AND HUMAN AFFAIRS*

Weather Records Used in Bandit Roundup.—The Detroit Free Press of Dec. 10, 1933, contains a special article concerning the apprehension and capture of the gangsters who kidnapped Charles Urschel July 22, 1933, that shows a unique use of Weather Bureau records.

Urschel was blindfolded at a home in Oklahoma City and taken for a ride of about 12 hours in an automobile to a house entirely unfamiliar to him, where he was held until the ransom was paid. Agents of the U. S. Bureau of investigation interviewed him carefully upon his release in order to obtain, if possible, a clue to the place where he was held. The fact that the ride was about 12 hours and made rather slowly on off roads indicated the place was within a radius of 300 miles of Oklahoma City. The fact that the days and nights were uncomfortably warm indicated it was not among mountains or hills and the passage of a plane over the place at 10:30 a.m. gave an important clue.

Urschel was able to recall one heavy rain on a certain day. The Weather Bureau checked up the records for the nine days of Urschel’s detention, which helped eliminate place after place. Finally, there was only one place that fitted every condition and that was Paradise, Texas. Following an investigation of suspicious places near this locality the bandits, including Harvey Bailey, Machine Gun Kelly and his wife, and the Shannons were rounded up and given life sentences early in October.—C. J. Root.


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Deadlines Calendar

Fellowships, grants, etc.
15 June 1985 Macelwane Annual Award (this issue, p. 319)
15 June 1985 Hanks and Orville Scholarships (this issue, p. 319)

other
1 March 1985 Requests for field observing support from FOF Advisory Panel (January 1985 BULLETIN, p. 49)
15 March 1985 NASA Scatterometer Research letters of intent (February 1985 BULLETIN, p. 201)
15 May 1985 NASA Scatterometer Research proposals (February 1985 BULLETIN, p. 201)