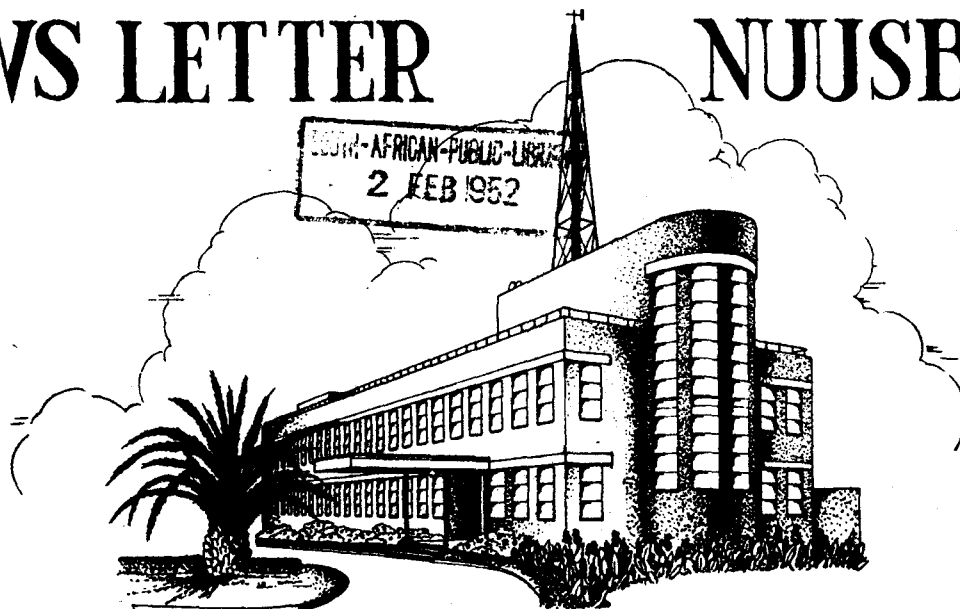


NEWS LETTER

NUUSBRIEF



Weather Bureau

Pretoria

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No. 31

31 OCTOBER 1951

EDITORIAL

With this month's issue thirty-one numbers of the News Letter have appeared since the decision was taken, early in 1949, to introduce such a series to the Weather Bureau's list of regular publications. In the inaugural number, and indeed also from time to time, appeals were made to the staff to contribute items of interest which would be considered for inclusion. A new Editorial Board has been appointed to succeed Messrs. Dreyer and Hayward, who were responsible for the production of the News Letter since November 1950. May we again call upon the staff for their fullest co-operation in helping to keep our bulletin going. Apart from its prime object of a medium of rapid dissemination of technical and personnel matters to staff members, especially those at the outstations, the News Letter provides convenient summaries of the various activities of the Weather Bureau. These have been found to be very useful for official record purposes.

It will be noticed that pages 2 and 3 of the current issue are devoted to an article on the recent occurrence of abnormally low humidity at Pretoria. Future policy will be to include, periodically, such longer accounts of new meteorological work, unusual weather phenomena, observations and measurements of particular interest, and new or specialized instruments. Contributions should be restricted to 1000 words. Those meriting a wider publication will, subsequently, be submitted to an appropriate journal. The Editors would also like to see the News Letter develop into a forum for the discussion of affairs meteorological. Correspondence on all aspects of our profession will therefore be most welcome.

MARION ISLAND

The S.A.N.F. frigate "Transvaal", under the command of Lt. Cdr. J. Johnson, D.S.C., sailed from Durban at 1400 on 22nd, October to effect the seventh Marion Island Relief.

Messrs. W.H. Cogill, Under-Secretary for Transport, and A.A. Cooke, Department of Transport, are making the round trip in order to gain first-hand experience of this icy, wind-swept outpost of the Union. Also on board were Messrs. J.A. King (Weather Bureau) and E. Marsh (Chief Forestry Research Officer), the former to carry out a routine inspection of the island and the latter to investigate the possibility of growing trees there. Dr. J. Leppan is accompanying the party to render such dental treatment as may be necessary to the island's inhabitants.

The passengers due to remain on Marion comprise Messrs. P.S. du Toit, who will be responsible for the restarting of the radiosonde work, E. Rand (Department of Agriculture), whose duties will include the taking of a census of the island's seal population and keeping a record of the migrations of birds, and A. Pelsler (Diesel Engineer). With Mr. du Toit's arrival, the meteorological team will be increased to three as Messrs. La Grange and Borain have agreed to remain for another spell.

Stores and provisions amounting to 50 tons are being transported. These include the Xmas fare and comforts for the "locals". Six sheep and 22 fowls (for egg-laying experiments?)