

WORLD Who's Who in Science

1968

Marquis-Who's Who.

SNODGRASS, James M., Am. oceanographer; b. Marysville, O., May 3, 1908; s. William H. and Clara May (Hopkins) S.; B.A., Oberlin Coll., 1931; postgrad. U. Pa., Harvard; m. Eleanore Catherine Zwerner, July 23, 1936; children—William, Marian (Mrs. Clemens Deisenhammer). Asst. in psychology Oberlin Coll., 1932-34, 36-37; research asso. Free Hosp. for Women, Brookline, Mass., 1938-39; instr. Oberlin Coll., 1939-42; mem. tech. staff Div. War Research, 1942-46; chief engr. motion picture and sound div. Dayton Acme Co., 1946-48; mem. staff Scripps Instn. Oceanography, U. Cal. at San Diego, 1948—, head spl. devels. div. U. S. rep. to Intergovtl. Oceanographic Commn., 1962, chmn. working group on communications, 1962—; mem. Com. on Radio Frequency Requirements for Sci. Research, Ocean Engring. Panel of Com. on Oceanography, panel on gravitational effects Space Sci. Bd., Nat. Acad. Scis.-NRC. Named Man of Year, Nat. Telemetering Conf., 1966. Fellow Instrument Soc. Am.; mem. A.A.A.S., Acoustical Soc. Am., Physiol. Soc. Phila., Marine Tech. Soc., Am. Inst. Biol. Scis., I.E.E.E. (sr. mem.), Sigma Xi. Con- trb. articles to prof. journs., chpts. to books. Research in design, devel. of oceanographic instruments; de- signed first electronic deep sea oceanographic instru- ment, ocean bottom sediment temperature gradient recorder, also radiance and irradiance meters, pres- sure equalized instrumentation. Home: 633 Gravilla St., La Jolla, Cal. 92037.*

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Local Scientist Wins Highest Navy Award

James Snodgrass of La Jolla, a designer of oceanographic instrumentation and equipment has been presented the highest award the U.S. Navy grants to a civilian, the Navy Distinguished Public Service Award, for "distinguished and exceptionally outstanding contributions to the Department of the Navy in the field of oceanographic communications and instrumentation."

Snodgrass is head of the Special Developments Division of Scripps Institution of Oceanography.

RAdm. Thomas B. Owen, USN, Chief of Naval Research, made the presentation to Snodgrass upon behalf of Secretary of the Navy Paul R. Ignatius, during the 5th U.S. Navy Symposium on Military Oceanography, being held at Panama City, Fla.

In notifying Snodgrass, Secretary Ignatius wrote him that he had been awarded the "Navy Public Service Award for outstanding contributions to the Department of the Navy in the field of oceanography."

"This is the highest award which the Navy can grant to a civilian and, on this occasion, I wish to express personally to you my deep appreciation of your valuable services."

The award included a certificate detailing Snodgrass' contributions and a medal.

The certificate reads:

"To James M. Snodgrass: For distinguished and exceptionally outstanding contributions to the Department of the Navy in the field of oceanographic communications and instrumentation"



James Snodgrass

graphic communications and instrumentation

"Mr. Snodgrass has been responsible for the design and development of the expendable bathythermograph, an instrument which has a tremendous impact on the Navy's efforts to predict environmental conditions affecting weapons systems.

"Other major contributions are his role in developing circuitry which has made the Vibration a useful element of oceanographic instrumentation; his part in the design of the heat probe for sub-oceanic measurements of geothermal gradients; and his pioneering of wire telemetry and signal processing to make the output of oceanographic sensors computer-compatible.

"In addition, Mr. Snodgrass

is the oceanographic community's national and international authority of high-frequency radio telemetry. He has been the chief figure over the past decade in the U.S. efforts to obtain the assignment of radio frequencies for exclusive use in the transmission of oceanographic and meteorological data.

"This exclusive use of frequencies became a reality in October, 1967, during the World Administration Radio Conference at Geneva, Switzerland, and constitutes a crucial milestone in the development of a global system of ocean buoys to monitor the oceanographic parameters and of a largely ocean-based world weather watch.

"In recognition of his outstanding contributions, this award is approved. Signed: Paul R. Ignatius."

In 1967, Snodgrass was elected a Fellow of the Instrument Society of America and in 1966, he was honored by the National Telemetry Conference as "Telemetry Man of the Year."

Since joining the staff of Scripps Institution in 1948, Snodgrass has been responsible for the design and development of many currently employed instruments that allow what have been described as striking advances in the science of oceanography.