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Whither the Weather, Steve Knows Why

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WASHINGTON, Aug. 18—Everybody reads about weather satellites but few college students have had Steve Graf's luck to get the inside story.

Steve, a native of Hamilton, has been pouring over thousands of films of the world's cloud formations as televised from the orbiting Tiros V.

Deceptively retiring in manner, 18-year-old Steve talked his way into this fascinating summer job. He had applied for a government interne job through Civil Service. But his freshman year at Miami university ended with no word of a job.

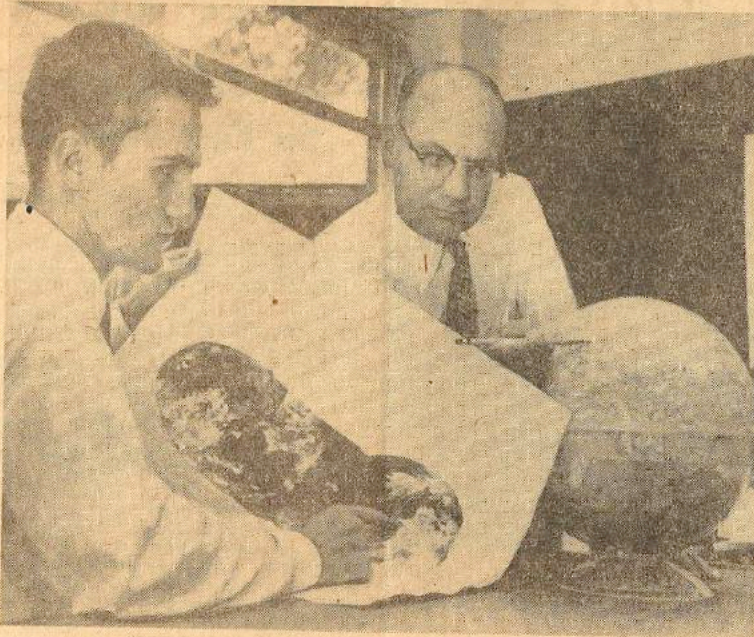
So Steve walked into the office of Vincent J. Oliver, chief scientist of the Weather Bureau's office of forecast development, and made a personal plea.

Oliver was convinced and pulled Steve into the internship program—along with 7,000 other collegiates in the Washington area. For the students it is excellent career training at \$50 to \$70 a week.

For Uncle Sam it is a gimmick for giving top young talent a taste of government service—a taste intended to make them want to come back for more after graduation. Part of the taste included question-asking sessions with President Kennedy and a dozen other high officials.

Steve was assigned to the meteorological satellite lab at nearby Suitland, Md., where Tiros pictures are microfilmed.

With the help of the time stamped on each



STEVE GRAF (L) STUDIES TIROS V WEATHER MAP
Boss Dr. Vincent Oliver Pinpoints Location on Globe.—UPI

picture, the log of the satellite's location and an atlas, Steve pinpoints spots on the earth

shown in the photos. Then he pulls out unusual weather phenomena for further study.

"Some of these phenomena we just did not know about before," Steve's boss said. Traditional observation methods have been giving impartial and often misleading versions about what's been going on in the clouds.

Another phase of Steve's work has been with machines which make forecasts after being fed data about temperature and wind at three levels of atmosphere.

As Steve discovered, the weather doesn't always turn out like the machine forecasts.

Some day weather forecasting will be a far more precise science because of the research Steve has had a hand in. Steve found that although college math and physics were pretty rough "the application is mighty interesting."

Whether Steve will become a scientist however, is not certain. Fair skies always remind him of another major interest, baseball. He was chosen from his league to play in an all-star game this week.

Steve went to Filmore elementary school in Hamilton until 1954. At that time his father, Arthur A. Graf Jr., became secretary to Rep. Paul F. Schenck (R-Dayton) and Steve came to live with his family in the capital.

Incidentally Weather Bureau employes aren't surprised any more if they see a little head peaking out of Steve's shirt pocket. They know it's the chipmunk Steve found back on campus and managed to tame as a pet.

