

METEOROLOGISTS at the Weather Bureau operate a weather surveillance radar.

WEATHER BUREAU CENTENNIAL

Weathermen Don't Just Talk About Weather--They Do Something About It

By BAN B. ALSAYBAR

Who says that everyone is talking about the weather but that no one is doing something about it?

Of course there are people who are doing something about it in our country, hundreds of them, in fact, with their number increasing every year. In 1953 there were 295 of them; last year the number had increased to 839.

For their "doing something" about the weather, we spent ₱485,480. in 1953. Last year we spent ₱2,206,958.

These men forecast the weather and issue storm warnings; they publish weather bulletins and meteorological, seismic, magnetic and astronomical observations, and give daily standard time and rate chronometers. They provide meteorological data to air and sea crafts, commercial or military, within a specified area, to warn them against destructive weather.

Many years ago it required much courage to embark on a voyage across the China Sea, but because of these men we have today, ocean travel has been made much safer and reliable.

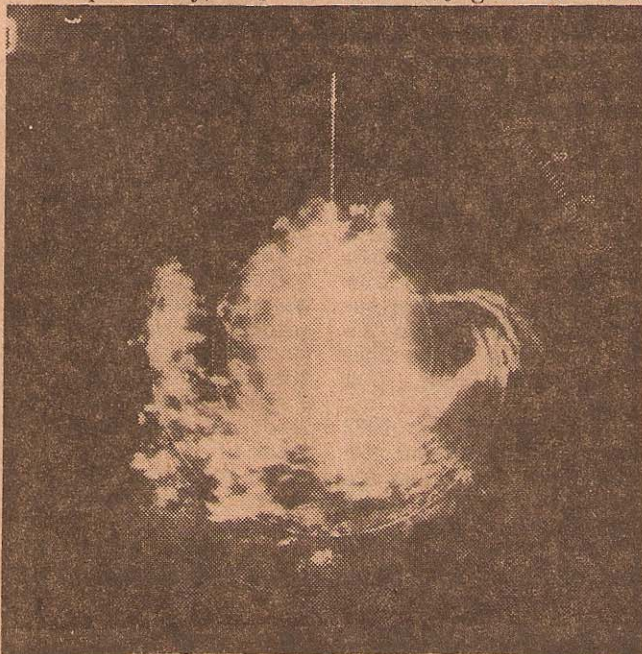
These men are the personnel of the weather bureau, an indispensable agency which is celebrating its centennial anniversary this year.

words of Dr. Roman L. Kintanar, weather bureau director.

Since 1946 there have been 376 tropical cyclones which weathermen say within the Philippine area of responsibility," or in

even more vulnerable to the destructive effects of bad weather conditions.

Dr. Leopoldo Toralbala, director of the Philippine Science high school, is of the opinion that there have been five great scientific



EYE of typhoon Dading on radar.

other words, affected the Philippines. This means an average of 19.8 a year. Last year there were 31 tropical cyclones, a record in the history of our country. In addition to tropical cyclones, the southwest Monsoon, which is triggered by the Asiatic conti-

milestones in the history of the Philippines — the establishment of the bureau of science, the University of the Philippines, the National Science Development board, the Philippine Science high school — and the weather bureau.

tral, shall be known as Observatorio Meteorológico de Manila, it shall be under the dependency of the general board of civil administration of the Philippine Islands, in charge of the said society, and shall take all kinds of observations, and especially those which refer to the study, compilation, and publication of those which may be transmitted to it from the secondary stations."

Thus the Philippine meteorological service, which began as a private center in 1865, acquired its official character under the Spanish government. That was in 1884. Within the years 1885 and 1887, 13 secondary stations were established. The same royal decree provided for the financial remuneration of the Jesuit Fathers—₱1,500 and ₱1,000 a year for the "director and sub-director," respectively, additional sums for the subordinate staff, equipment, maintenance, and other items.

Then the Americans took over. The second Philippine commission which started functioning here in 1900 had been vested with legislative power by the President of the United States. One of the laws it enacted, that was in May 22, 1901, was the one concerning the Philippine meteorological service.