

MARCH IS NATIONAL WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

2015 THEME: Weaving the Stories of Women's Lives

The purpose of National Women's History Month is to increase awareness of the history and contributions of women. Women's History Month had its origins as a national celebration in 1981 when Congress passed Pub. L. 97-28 which authorized and requested the President to proclaim the week beginning March 7, 1982, as "Women's History Week." In 1987, at the request of the National Women's History Project, Congress expanded the week to a month. The U.S. President has issued a proclamation each year to commemorate Women's History Month.

SPOTLIGHT:

Joanne Simpson 1st Woman to Receive a Ph.D. in Meteorology

Joanne Simpson (born Joanne Gerould; March 23, 1923 – March 4, 2010) was the first woman to receive a Ph.D. in meteorology. Simpson was a graduate of the University of Chicago. Simpson was a member of the National Academy of Engineering, and taught and researched meteorology at numerous universities, and worked for NASA. Simpson contributed to many areas of the atmospheric sciences, particularly in the field of tropical meteorology. She researched hot towers, hurricanes, the trade winds, air-sea interactions, and helped develop the Tropical Rainfall Measuring Mission (TRMM).

Read More:

<http://earthobservatory.nasa.gov/Features/Simpson/simpson2.php>



Joann Simpson. In the photo above, taken in the 1950s, Simpson is bent over reams of images of clouds that she filmed during long flights between islands in the tropical Pacific. From the photos, she is drawing detailed maps of cloud formations. These observations underpinned her first major contribution to atmospheric science: the boat-rocking hypothesis that tropical clouds weren't just the passive result of atmospheric circulation, as meteorologists of the day believed, but were in fact the cause of it.