

# Leipper Management Group

*To enable and facilitate the human potential to produce goods and services that will improve the quality of life*

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Monday, September 18, 2000

Dr. Dale F Leipper started his career as a mathematics teacher for San Diego City Schools just before World War II. He worked his way to a B.S. In mathematics at Wittenburg by playing tuba in dance bands and by working in the girl's dormitory cafeteria. He then went to Ohio State for a M.A. in mathematics. He was drafted into the Army in 1941 and was assigned to the Signal Corps after basic training while the rest of his company was dispatched to the Philippines just before the attack on Pear Harbor.

While wrapping laundry in a newspaper he noticed an article about the Army needing candidates with extensive mathematics education to serve as meteorology officers in the Air Corps. He didn't know what meteorology was but figured it had to be more interesting than watching for Japanese submarines off the California coast. He applied for Air Force meteorology duty and was in one of the first classes for training Air Corps weather officers at the Scripps Institution, University of California. After the war, he returned to Scripps to earn a doctorate in physical oceanography.

In 1949, Texas A&M decided to start an oceanography department which would be one of the first of its kind. They hired Dr. Leipper to start and build this department. He served as the founding head of the Oceanography and Meteorology Department from 1949 to 1964. During this period, Texas A&M's Oceanography and Meteorology Department became a world leader in research and education.

In addition to developing basic ideas in oceanography and meteorology college education, Dr. Leipper has researched Gulf of Mexico currents and hurricane physics. A basin in the gulf is named after him and his ideas about hurricane heat sources are being used to drive current research. He has also researched west coast fog and stratus based on interests stimulated by trying to forecast whether bomber pilots could land when returning to the Aleutian islands after completing a mission in World War II. Ideas from his paper about fog forecasting for San Diego are still in use by forecasters.

In 1968 the Navy asked Dr. Leipper to head a new Oceanography Department at the Naval Postgraduate School in Monterey California. He served as department head there for twelve years. He has also served as president of the American Society of Limnology and Oceanography (1957-1958) and the Texas Academy of Science (1955). Dr. Leipper was on the Technical Panel on Oceanography and Executive Vice Chairman of the Meteorology Panel with the U.S. Committee for the International Geophysical Year in 1957 - 1958.

Dr. Leipper is currently retired but still working on research into west coast fog and stratus using the internet for data collection and communication. He is in close communications with colleagues at the Desert Research Institute in Reno, Nevada.

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