



The National Cooperative Observer

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Taking River Observation on Horseback, Tower Top, While Dodging Bridge Traffic

The Good Ol' Days of taking river readings and climbing towers...excerpts taken from a document written in 1960.

At times of high water the Endicott gauge is very difficult to reach. Several times Observer **Stanley Kasperek** had to swim to the gauge house. The current was quite strong at times and Mrs. Kasperek would stand on the bank holding a rope tied to Stanley. He would then fasten the gauge key around his neck and start swimming.

When the regular river Observer on Bird Creek at Sperry, OK, evacuated because of high water, **Wink Creekpaum** hurriedly volunteered to take over.

He received the keys and instructions at 9 pm, October 2, 1959. By 11 pm he had reached the gauge after borrowing a horse and swimming it some distance through the flood waters. From then until 8 am on October 5, 1959, he made continuous stage observations and reports. During this time the highest crest of record, 32.6 feet, occurred and it was necessary for Wink to obtain a boat and rescue his horse. Due to his and the horse's dedication, many thousands of dollars in property and crops were saved in downstream areas. Some lives may have been saved as well.

Charles Thew, a long-time Observer at Willapa Harbor, WA, also served as the Storm Warning Displayman for the town. Charles acquired the 40-foot steel warning and instrument tower that formerly stood on the Hoge Building in Seattle and induced lumbermen and others to furnish

enough steel to make the tower 80 feet high, surmounted with a steel flagpole.

The Willapa Harbor Station was equipped with a Tipping Bucket rain gauge, anemometer, wind vane, sunshine recorder, and hygrothermograph. At the age of 83,



Bird Creek in Oklahoma continue to have a flooding problem. Here it overflows the road.

he no longer climbs the tower to service the instruments.

Ross McKenna, the Observer at Kaycee, WY, since June 1940, recalls that during a flash flood, the rain gauge was about to float away when he rescued it from a 3-foot wall of water.

In 1955, Observer **Harry Hutchinson**, was relieved of river gauge reading duties at his request when observing became too hazardous on the busy 11th Street bridge in Tulsa, OK. There is also a story of an Observer who was hit by a vehicle on a bridge when reading the river gauge. He refused treatment until his observation was called in to the National Weather Service! ❄

Eyes on the Sky: Weather in the Desert

Reprinted from the Basin-Wide Spirit courtesy of Hi Dessert Publish Co., 2010.

When a select group of volunteers gathered in the Yucca Valley of California recently, they identified each other by elevation.

The confab was the annual gathering of participants in the Morongo Basin's Cooperative Observer Program, a partnership

she gathers data and reports to the NWS in Las Vegas.

Using equipment installed by the NWS, Langlois assiduously records the daily temperature and any precipitation that may have fallen at elevation 1376. She was trained onsite by Maker, as were all the volunteers.

Langlois, an artist who has lived in Wonder Valley for 18 years, loves the beauty and solitude of the desert and is an active volunteer in the community. In addition to her weather work, she serves on the Wonder Valley Advisory Commission.

"I love weather, nature, animals ... not too crazy about people," she admits with a smile.

Langlois also volunteers as a certified weather Spotter, a different job than observing. Spotters watch for weather events such as tornadoes, and immediately alert the NWS to potentially hazardous conditions.

"We learn to read clouds as part of the training. Certain types of clouds you'd report on right away," she says, peering into the distance. "I'll never again see clouds with an artist's eye. Now I see cumulus, cirrus or stratus."

Langlois says the most amazing weather phenomenon she reported to the Weather Service was a massive sandstorm that decreased visibility to zero.

"It was moving east and it got higher and higher and it was big," she recalls. "I knew it was going to hit Highway 62 and affect visibility, and it was important for them to know."

Spotters are obligated to report any critical weather, especially high winds and flash flooding. "The Basin is diverse in its weather," Langlois comments.

Maker agrees, saying, "The Morongo Basin is a high-desert region with numerous elevation changes in a fairly short span. This creates a challenge to forecasters because the Basin is not covered well by Doppler Radar."

Until 2003, the NWS forecast offices in Las Vegas and San Diego shared responsibility for Basin weather statements. The NWS Las Vegas took over after officials decided one office should handle all of those duties.

"I'll never again see clouds with an artist's eye. Now I see cumulus, cirrus or stratus."



Donald Stone checks his equipment

between the National Weather Service and citizen volunteers.

The group met with Donald Maker, the program's manager, to discuss issues and get updates about procedures.

Attending were volunteers from the width and breadth of the Basin, from Morongo Valley to Wonder Valley and from Johnson Valley to Joshua Tree.

Theresa Langlois, el. 1376 (Wonder Valley), has been a weather Observer since 2008. Each morning at 9 a.m., "without fail,"

“Also identified was the high vulnerability of each city along Highway 62 to become isolated during various weather events, such as flash flood, severe thunderstorm, heavy snow or dense fog,” Maker says. Thus, Observers and spotters are needed here to provide accurate and reliable weather forecasts and warnings. Maker established and set up eight weather stations throughout the Basin in the latter part of 2008.

“Out of the eight stations I set up, seven continue to operate and provide invaluable data to the operational forecasters at NWS Las Vegas daily,” he says. “I am very proud of the Coop Observers because they are a proven group of dedicated volunteers.”

Don Stone, el. 3249 (Yucca Valley), is perhaps the most dedicated — and thorough — volunteer in the Basin.

The retired postal worker records weather data every morning at precisely 8 am. He has been a spotter for 5 years and an Observer for nearly 2 years, but Stone’s love of weather began more than 50 years ago when he was a boy in El Centro.

The avid weather watcher has kept detailed weather records since 1972 simply because the subject fascinates him. He has

seen, and recorded, a little bit of everything, including extreme heat, tornadoes, heavy snow and floods.

Stone can name the coldest year of the last century (1937), the earliest snowfall (October 1971), and the heaviest snowfall (winter of 1978-79), among many other weather facts and trivia. The highest temperature he’s ever recorded was 112.

Stone says he volunteers for the NWS because, “I’m interested in weather and I keep records.” He uses graphs and spread sheets and has invested his own money on equipment.

The most severe weather event he witnessed was a 1970s flash flood in Yucca Valley that stranded motorists on Twentynine Palms Highway and washed away parts of Old Woman Springs Road.

“There were boulders coming down, and we didn’t know if we were going to make it or not,” he recalls. “All the washes were little rivers, and the big wash looked like the Colorado River.”

Stone says he cannot recall if anyone died during that flash flood, but if Coop existed at that time there is no doubt its volunteers could have helped save lives. ✨

Need some rain? James Riggan recorded 100.05 inches in Arkansas in 2009.

Special Act Award

A Special Act Award was presented to **James Riggan** of Leola, AR, for recording the most rain ever recorded at any site in Arkansas during the 2009 season. James diligently recorded 100.05 inches of rain at his cooperative weather site during the 2009 season. That season broke the state record of 98.55 inches recorded at New Hope, AR, in 1957.



From left, John Robinson, Warning Coordination Meteorologist (WCM), NWS Little Rock, AR; Sean Clarke, Intern; **James L. Riggan**, Observer; and Renee Fair, Meteorologist in Charge (MIC).

Thomas Jefferson Award



From left front are Honoree **Gordon Hensley**, Sharon LeDuc, National Climatic Data Center Deputy Director (NCDC), Asheville, NC; MIC **Malcolm Gregory**, MIC Larry Gabric; and honorees **Ben Ledford Jr.**; and **James Berry**. In the back are NWS Data Acquisition Program Manager (DAPM) Terry Benthall; Katy Vincent, NCDC Communication Coordinator; Steve Garrison, Madison County, NC, County Manager; Gordon Randolph, Madison County Emergency Coordinator; Wes Tyler, South Carolina State Climate Office, Columbia, SC; William Schmitz, Southeast Regional Climate Office Service Climatologist, Chapel Hill, NC; Todd Hamil, Southeast River Forecast Center Hydrometeorologist, Peachtree City, GA.

A Thomas Jefferson and John Campanius Holm Award along with two 30 Year Length of Service Awards were presented to dedicated Observers at NWS Greenville-Spartanburg, SC. Those honored included **Malcolm Gregory** from Santuck, SC, who received the highest Cooperative Observer honor, the Thomas Jefferson Award. Malcolm and his family have been the Observers at Santuck for more than 100 years, beginning in 1893. **Ben Ledford Jr.** from Marshall, NC, was given the prestigious John Campanius Holm Award and a 20 Year Length of Service Award. **Gordon Hensley** from Ashford, NC, and **James Berry**, from Morganton, NC, each received a 30 Year Length of Service Award. James is a past recipient of the Holm Award.

The award day ceremony began with an overview of the Cooperative Observation Program at NWS Greenville-Spartanburg. The staff explained the importance of the Coop Program to NWS, and to other agencies and groups. A tour of the office followed, which included a demonstration of forecast tools, technologies and capabilities. Master of ceremonies Terry Benthall then conducted an outdoor ceremony which included the presentation of awards. A luncheon concluded the day's festivities.

John Campanius Holm Awards



Donna Boggs of Hacker Valley, WV, accepts her John Campanius Holm Award from Jim Campbell, Observations Program Leader (OPL), at the NWS Charleston, WV. The ceremony was attended by her husband, Don, several NWS Charleston staff members as well as local television and newspaper media. The Boggs family, as well as media reps, were given a tour of the office with particular attention paid to the collection, quality control and use of Coop observations in the day-to-day operations. Photo by Andrew Beavers, Cooperative Program Manager (CPM).

NWS Medford MIC John Lovegrove, left, presents the John Campanius Holm award to **Frank Christina** of Mount Shasta City, CA. Frank's exceptional efforts were recognized in letters of appreciation from the California Department of Water Resources and the California-Nevada River Forecast Center. He was also presented with a 25 Year Length of Service Award. Frank has proven his dedication through accurate, consistent and reliable observations over the years. His community relies upon this information through the local newspaper, and he is considered a climate expert for this area.

In early 2010, his daily observations during a snowstorm helped the county receive assistance as part of a federal disaster declaration. Frank shows great pride in his work and it is a model of excellence.



John Campanius Holm Awards

Spencer, IN, Observer **Shelley Edwards** was recognized for more than 27 years of exceptional service with a Holm Award. “Cooperative Observers are the bedrock of weather data collection and analysis,” said MIC Dan McCarthy, NWS Indianapolis, IN. “Numerous technological breakthroughs have brought great benefits to the nation in terms of better forecasts and warnings. But without the century-long accumulation of accurate weather observations taken by volunteer Observers, scientists could not begin to adequately describe the climate of the United States. We cannot thank Mr. Edwards enough for his years of service to America.” Observations have been taken at Spencer since 1946. Shelley joined the program on July 1, 1983, He reports daily temperature and precipitation data as well as river stage readings of the White River. Shelley has provided more than 9,800 daily reports to the NWS.



From left, MIC Dan McCarthy, Observer **Shelley Edwards**, OPL Ed Terrell, and Service Hydrologist Al Shipe. Photo by Brad Herold.



Elizabeth “Liz” Lindig was presented with the John Campanius Holm Award at the Silver K Café in Johnson City, TX. The award was presented by MIC Joe Arellano, NWS Austin/San Antonio, TX. Liz has been taking weather observations at the LBJ National Park for more than 27 years.

Pictured from the left are Steve Smart, OPL; Mike Asmus, Southern Region CPM; Observer **Liz Lindig**; MIC Joe Arellano and Patrick McDonald CPM/HMT. Photo taken by Liz's good friend and co-worker Cynthia Dorminey.

John Campanius Holm Awards



From left, Ed Fenelon, NWS Chicago MIC; Holm Award Honoree **Eldon Gunia**; and Bill Nelson, OPL.
Photo by Bill Morris, Service Hydrologist.

Eldon Gunia of Peru, IL, was presented with the John Campanius Holm Award. In attendance were his back-up Observers, wife **Leona** and sister-in-law Flay, as well as his son **Randy** and his wife **Julie** and their two daughters, **Rachael** and **Lauren**. Eldon began taking observations 39 years ago at the Peru Greenhouse/Nursery, where he reported daily temperature and precipitation data, including snowfall and depth, and soil temperatures to NWS Chicago. The equipment was moved to his residence in 1982. Eldon is an Army veteran and trained storm spotter who has provided many valuable reports. His at-home interview by Tom Skilling, Chief Meteorologist for WGN-TV in Chicago, was aired after a Coop Appreciation Day event, which close to 100 Observers from northern Illinois attended a few years ago. Eldon, Leona and Flay were also presented with gifts and letters of congratulations from federal and state dignitaries.

Recognizing more than 35 years of dedication, NWS named Fremont, MI, resident **Ralph Roossinck** a recipient of the Holm Award for outstanding service in the Cooperative Weather Observer program. The award was presented to Ralph by NWS Grand Rapids, MI, OPL George Wetzel. Ralph has quietly been helping his country, state and local community by performing this daily duty, gathering rain, snow and temperature data uninterrupted for more than three decades. Roossinck began taking observations on December 1, 1975, reporting daily temperature and precipitation data, including snowfall and snow depth. He also provides general daily weather information to the office.



Ralph Roossinck, left, receives his Holm Award from Grand Rapids, MI, OPL George Wetzel.

John Campanius Holm Award



NWS Sioux Rapids, IA, Observer **Brian Waldstein** shows his Holm Award with support from wife **Ann**, and grandson **Xander**. The award was presented by Sioux Falls MIC Greg Harmon. Photo by DAPM Donald E. Morin.

It was a special occasion indeed, when the staff of NWS Sioux Falls, SD, gathered for a potluck luncheon before the holiday season. Making our luncheon a little more special than usual was some extra special guests. **Brian Waldstein**, his wife **Ann** and their grandson **Xander** all joined us to get acquainted and give us the opportunity to thank Brian for his contributions to our Cooperative Observing Program. For more than 25 years, Brian has dutifully gathered and reported weather statistics from his location near Sioux Rapids, IA. He is so dedicated to weather observing and reporting, as well as his community, that he was recognized as a John Campanius Holm Award recipient. The award was presented by MIC Greg Harmon.

Brian has had a life-long interest in meteorology and even seriously considered it as a major during his college career. In addition to being one of our finest Observers, Brian has been an active participant in our Skywarn program, a commissioner of the local Soil and Water District, a board member of the Northwest Iowa Experimental Association, and a member of Buena Vista County Council for more than 20 years.

He is a well known and respected member and leader of his community who is dedicated to the development and safety of the people in his county. He shares his knowledge of weather and the Coop Program with the young people of his community by speaking at elementary schools in his area.

Could it be that when Brian retires, which he says will be no time soon, the next area Observer will be personally trained by the best? We are honored to have Brian in our program. We are proud of his accomplishments. He is truly a member of our weather family.

125 and 75 Year Honored Institution Awards



Power Plant Engineers at **Lawrence Hydro-Electric Associates**, MA, **the Essex Company**, receive an Honored Institutional Award for an amazing 125 years of service.

The award was presented by CPM Kimberly Buttrick, NWS Taunton, MA. The Essex Company, located in Lawrence, MA, is part of our National Historical Climate Network with more than 100 years of weather data collected from this station. Pictured from left are **Lucas Restituyou**, **Pat Donahue** and **John Bowers**. Pat is an encyclopedia of knowledge about the history of Lawrence. The NWS Taunton Service Hydrologist has relied on Pat and his knowledge of flood stage data on the Merrimack River, pictured in the background.

Coweeta Experiment Station in Otto, NC, was recognized for an impressive 75 years of service as a Cooperative Observation Station. The picture of the Coweeta staff was taken in the lobby of their new building in front of the fireplace, which is a gathering place for meetings or lunch on cold damp days. The framed certificate was presented by DAPM Terry Benthall, NWS Greenville-Spartanburg, SC.



50 Year Edward H. Stoll Award



Paul Burman,
Wakefield, NE, seated,
WCM Brian Smith,
NWS Omaha, NE, left;
DAPM Don Morin, NWS
Sioux Falls, SD. Photo
by HMT Joni Brant,
NWS Omaha, NE.

For half a century Paul Burman measured, tracked and recorded the weather at Wakefield, NE. Paul's observation techniques were exceptionally thorough. He has created an unbroken chain of invaluable climate statistics, not missing a single day nor asking for backup support even once in 50 years. In all, Paul took 18,250 observations. He shared his data with the local newspaper, *The Republican*, and with Sioux City television station, KTIV. Paul's exceptional service has been recognized with both the Holm and Jefferson Awards.

He has supported the NWS Omaha Office throughout his observing career and has worked with the NWS Office in Sioux Falls, SD, for the past 15 years. Paul worked closely with OPL Leader Terry Landsvork, NWS Omaha, NE, as well as DAPM Don Morin NWS Sioux Falls, SD. During his long tenure as an Observer, Paul gained the respect and admiration of countless NWS staff.

In addition to his dedication to weather, Paul is an accomplished trumpet player and artist. He also creates his own illustrations for Christmas cards, which usually feature horses and country scenes. Many of his larger works adorn the walls of his home. His art reflects the same attention to detail and accuracy that we have seen in his observations. For Paul, every task he takes on must be done correctly and completely.

WCM Brian Smith, OPL Terry Landsvork, DAPM Don Morin, and HMT Joni Brand journeyed to Wakefield to celebrate the 50th anniversary of a truly exceptional weather Observer and present him with the Edward H. Stoll Award. The celebration took place at a local senior center, where approximately 70 of his friends and neighbors came to thank him for his contributions and to wish him well in his retirement.

OPL Terry Landsvork reviewed the history of the Wakefield station and Paul's impressive background. Retired NWS employees also rose to speak of their admiration for our most senior Nebraska Observers. We left the gathering with a renewed respect for true volunteerism. Paul is finally retiring. He will be missed by those of us who were honored to work with him. His example will not be forgotten.

50 Year Edward H. Stoll Award

Bob Lautzenheiser received the Edward H. Stoll Award for 50 years of service as a Cooperative Observer at Reading, MA. Pictured from left are son **John**, daughter **Mary Wasserman**, son **Will**, wife **Dorothy**, **Bob** holding his award and NOAA/NWS umbrella, son **Tom** and his wife **Claire**. For this honored milestone, a gathering of Bob's family, friends and colleagues met at his home for a luncheon celebration. Bob's wife **Dorothy** and their children put together a delectable buffet for the attendees. The award was presented by MIC Robert Thompson and CPM Kimberly Buttrick of NWS Taunton, MA.



Bob Lautzenheiser is the senior Cooperative Observer in Southern New England. Born October 26, 1915, Bob is 95 years old! Bob has degrees in both math and physics. During the Depression days, while working on his PhD in physics, Bob saw a job opening with the U.S. Weather Bureau. Thus began Bob's weather career in 1940 as a forecaster in Akron, OH.

The following year, Bob moved to the Weather Bureau's Fort Wayne, IN, office. From 1942-1956, he was assigned to the Weather Service Forecast Office at Midway Airport in Chicago, IL. While at the Chicago office, Bob became the Chicago city climatologist with a temporary position at the University of Illinois, Urbana, where he served as interim Illinois State Climatologist.

With climatology now part of his repertoire, in 1956, Bob jumped at the chance to become the NWS Northern New England Climatologist. Bob and his family moved to Boston and settled in Reading, where he began his Observer career on January 1, 1960.

Bob served as climatologist for four New England states from 1956-72 when the NWS abolished the position due to budget constraints. In 1973, the Massachusetts State Resources Commission, now the Department of Conservation and Recreation, paid Bob a small stipend to provide climate data for the state. But by 1975, like the NWS, the state's funding fell through. Bob then moved his office, his work and his passion to his home in Reading.

While working from home, Bob continued as Massachusetts' official climatologist, an unpaid position, through a joint agreement between the state and the NWS. In 1982, he passed on the baton and his honorary title to David Taylor of Lunenburg, MA; however, Bob remains active as an assistant climatologist. NWS Taunton receives occasional emails and phone calls from him when Boston's climate data from Logan Airport is erroneous. Ever a man of detail, Bob keeps all of us in the weather data collecting field honest. Several television meteorologists in the Boston market call Bob for weather statistics and know that the response will be reliable with unparalleled detail.

Bob lost his first beloved wife during a snow storm but found love again during another major snow event. He is a proud and beloved husband, father and grandfather.

50 Year Edward H. Stoll Award



From left Robert Thompson, MIC, NWS Taunton; Kim Buttrick, CPM; **Bob Shilling**, honoree; and Peter Gabrielsen, Chief, NWS Eastern Region Systems Operations Division. Photo by David Doe, family friend.

Bob Skilling's interest in weather began when he was 12. He purchased his first instruments in 1952, including a barometer, plastic rain gauge and Taylor U-Tube thermometer. On January 1, 1953, at age 14, Bob began recording continuous daily weather observations while a freshman at Hingham High School. In 1956, Bob won first prize in the high school science fair for his weather project.

While in college, Bob continued his record of observations. In 1960, Bob visited the office of Massachusetts State Climatologist, Bob Lautzenheiser (see Page 12). After reviewing Bob's observations, Bob Lautzenheiser selected him to become an official Observer.

In October 1960, Bob was hired as a NWS part-time contract weather Observer at the Blue Hill Observatory to take weekend surface weather observations. Bob's beloved work was interrupted when he was drafted into the Army in 1962. While he was in the Army, Blue Hill established a part-time civil service position. After being discharged, Bob got the position. In 1978, Bob became full time. Over the years, Bob has hired and trained numerous part-time weekend Observers. One of whom is Eleanor Vallier-Talbot, now a forecaster at NWS Taunton.

There was a change of hands on April 30, 1999, when the NWS relinquished responsibility of Blue Hill. The change spurred Bob to retire from the NWS after 21 years to become an employee of the non-profit Blue Hill Observatory and Science Center. The Observatory started weekend tours for the public and weekday tours for school groups. While continuing to perform his daily chores as Chief Observer, Bob has enjoyed being a mentor to thousands of students who have come through the observatory since the science center opened.

Bob has been leaning more toward part-time work the past few years. But whether full time or part time, he continues to do the job he loves, taking detailed observations of the day to day weather at one of our nation's benchmark historic climate sites.

Besides his avid interest in weather, Bob also loves music and plays the organ. By day, Bob was a weather Observer while at night he was a musician playing the Hammond organ in clubs and restaurants.

50 Year Edward H. Stoll and Honored Institution Award

From left, Dan Luna, NWS, sons **John** and **Paul Wold**, **Donna Wold**, daughter-in-law **Cathy** and **Michelle Margraf**, Minnesota State Climatology Office. Photo by **Shelley Luna**.



Gordon Wold took his first official weather observation near Santiago, MN, on October 1, 1960. He recorded more than 18,000 observations during his incredible half century of service. Gordon's records were cited for exceptional quality, detail, and timeliness. In 2006 he was recognized nationally for his exemplary efforts when he received the second highest honor given to an NWS Observer, the John Campanius Holm Award.

Gordon's most memorable events included recording a low temperature of -45°F and a high temperature of 105°F , using liquid-in-glass thermometers. He also measured a record 17.0 inches of snow in 24 hours, and a snow depth of 45 inches!

We were deeply saddened when we learned that Gordon had passed away. The weather observations Gordon leaves behind will be an invaluable piece of Minnesota's history.

Gordon's wife, Donna, was presented with his 50 Year Length of Service Award at a special ceremony at the Minnesota Landscape Arboretum in September.



From left, Robert Watanabe of NWS Kahului, Maui, presents a 50 year Honored Institution Award to **Clayton Isobe** of **Hawaiian Commercial and Sugar Company** in Puunene, Maui. The company is Hawaii's only commercial sugar producer and generates enough electricity to power about 8 percent of all power used on Maui. Photo by OPL Mark Farnsworth

50 Year Honored Institution Awards



MIC Larry Ruthi, left, of NWS Dodge City, KS, presents a 50 Year Honored Institution Award to **Jason Wyatt**, Superintendant and Observer at the **Ashland Municipal Light Plant**. The Ashland station was started in 1907 by **C.W. Carson**. There were several Observers until 1960 when the Light Plant took over. Observations taken at the plant are for temperature, precipitation and snowfall. Photo by Jesse Lee, OPL, NWS Dodge City.

Staff of **Primghar Municipal Power** accepting a 50 Year Honored Institution Award from DAPM Donald Morin of NWS Sioux Falls, SD. From left are **Scott Muhlenbruch**, **Denny Logan**, **Cole Leiding** and **Reitzell Wright**, who share responsibility of logging temperature and precipitation data for the city of Primghar, SD. Photo by DAPM Donald Morin



The **Shelbyville Indiana Waste Water Treatment Plant** received the Honored Institution Award for its 50 years of service to the Cooperative Weather Observation Program. For the past 50 years this station has provided temperature and hourly precipitation data including and is a shining example of weather observing at its best. The award was presented by OPL Ed Terrell and HMT Brad Herold, NWS Indianapolis, IN. Pictured, front left are **Jesse Stewart**, **Dustin Williams**, **Ed Williams**, **Gordon Thurston**, and **Bradley Fix**; back row: **Kevin Kredit**, **Richard Clouse**, **Richard Richardson**, **Shelly Higdon**, **Bronda Vierling**, **Jim Vierling** and **Leon Watson**.

45 Year Dick Hagemeyer Awards



From left, Renee Fair, MIC, NWS Little Rock; John Hicks, Community Affairs Specialist for U.S. Senator Blanche Lincoln; Honoree **Brother Anselm Allen**; Tim Gehring, Arkansas Department of Emergency Management Area Coordinator; John Robinson, WCM; and Sean Clarke, Acting OPL.

NWS Little Rock, AR, presented a Dick Hagemeyer Award to **Brother Anselm Allen** at Subiaco, AR, to honor his 45 years of service as an Observer. Brother Anselm is a Benedictine monk at **Subiaco Abbey**. A priest and two monks traveled from Indiana to establish the abbey in the spring of 1878. Their diary indicated that the journey was slowed by flooding in eastern Arkansas, a common problem in the spring to this day. The first night at the site of what was to become the abbey, they noted that the stars shone brightly. Given such attention to their surroundings, it almost seems that Subiaco was destined to be a weather observing site. Official observations at the abbey began in 1897. Brother Anselm has the longest record of service of any of these Observers. In addition to his religious and weather duties, Brother Anselm is an amateur radio operator, runs the Abbey's water plant, and a firefighter, responding to fires at the Abbey and in Subiaco. When asked what happens if a fire alarm comes in during prayer, Brother Anselm replied simply, "We go."

Observer **Billie Heitzenrater** was presented the Dick Hagemeyer Award for 45 years of service providing precipitation readings for the Beaumont, KS, area. Janet Spurgeon, Service Hydrologist, left, and Richard Elder, MIC, NWS Wichita, KS, presented the award to Billie. Also in attendance from NWS was Leon Wasinger, OPL.



45 Year Dick Hagemeyer Awards



Observer **Vernon Hickman** was presented the Richard Hagemeyer Award for 45 years of service in providing precipitation readings for the Barnard, KS, area. Leon Wasinger, OPL, right, NWS Wichita, KS, presented the award to Vernon.
Photo by Janet Spurgeon,
Service Hydrologist.

The Richard H. Hagemeyer Award for 45 years of service was presented to **Louise Yates**, left, of Bismarck, AR, by Sean Clarke, Acting OPL, and Tabitha Clarke Service Hydrologist, NWS Little Rock, AR.



40 and 35 Year Length of Service Award



Henry Hermann of Callicoon, NY, was presented with his 40 Year Length of Service Award by Barbara Watson, MIC, NWS Binghamton. Photo by Mike Nadolski, OPL. Also, in attendance were several of Henry's family members and friends.

John Priester, left, shows his 40 Year Length of Service Award for Bayboro and Reelsboro, NC, presented by MIC Richard Bandy. John originally agreed to volunteer temporarily as an Observer until a permanent Observer could be recruited. Well, some four decades later John is still contributing his time. The award was presented during a Crystal Coast Disaster Coalition Partners meeting. Photo by DAPM Central Wills.



Verlyn Baker, retired Fort Randall Dam employee and all around Pickstown handyman, as well as a long time NWS Observer, shows his 35 Year Length of Service Award. Met. Intern Tim Masters, NWS Sioux Falls, SD, presented the award. Throughout Verlyn's extended history as an Observer, he has not only recorded data for the Coop Network, but also recorded synoptic observations for the NWS until the mid 1990s when automated sensors were installed nearby. We have enjoyed a long association with Verlyn and greatly value his contributions.

35 and 30 Year Length of Service Awards



A 35 Year Length of Service Award and pin was presented to **Lela C. Cooper** of Deer, AR, by John F. Orgler, OPL, NWS Little Rock, AR.



Jean Castles of Fitzwilliam, NH, receives a 30 Year Length of Service award. The award was presented by CPM Kim Buttrick, NWS Taunton, MA. Jean and her husband Dick are the proud owners of many pets: two beautiful German Shepherds, Oden and Brenda; two donkeys, Dotsie and Tortilla; and two sheep, Oliver and Lancelot.



Leo and **Kathryn Dexter** of Fiddletown, CA, were recently presented with a 30 Year Length of Service Award by George Cline, OPL, NWS Sacramento, CA. Although Leo's name is on the certificate, Kathryn has been involved in getting the rain gauge tapes and monthly report forms in the mail.



John Irving of Columbia, IA, received his 30 Year Length of Service Award from Brad Fillbach, HMT, NWS Des Moines, IA.

30 and 25 Year Length of Service Awards



Dick Leavitt of Francestown, NH, receives a 30 Year Award with his wife **Lois** and dog **Lucky** from CPM Kim Buttrick, NWS Taunton, MA. Dick has recently retired from 55 years as a volunteer fireman and 45 years as the Forest Fire Warden. He and Lois celebrate 60 years of marriage in February.



Darla Neal of Lindley, NY, was presented a 30 Year Length of Service Award. The award was presented by Mitch Gilt, HMT, NWS Binghamton, NY.



Ben Borsoff, left, was presented with a 25 Year Length of Service Award at his store in the mountain community of Strawberry, CA. The award was presented by George Cline, OPL, NWS Sacramento, CA.



Vertie Bolyard, from near Bird City, KS, accepts a 25 Year Length of Service Award. The award was presented by Michael Lammers, OPL, NWS Goodland, KS.

25 Year Length of Service Awards



Maury Davidson of West Bloomfield, MI, shows his 25 Year Length of Service Award presented by OPL Bill Deedler, NWS White Lake, MI. Maury has been and remains an enthusiast Observer for the NWS.



Observer **Darla Sue Loyd** was presented a 25 Year Length of Service Award for providing precipitation and temperature readings for the Sedan, KS, area. Presenting the award was Leon Wasinger, OPL, NWS Wichita, KS.



John Garrou of Old Fort, NC, received a 25 Year Length of Service Award for his dedication in providing observations at Old Fort, NC. John's picture was taken at his store, Garrou's Pottery on Cherry Street in Black Mountain, NC. The award was presented by DAPM Terry Benthall, NWS Greenville-Spartanburg, SC.



Observer **Norma Jean Patton** was presented a 25 Year Length of Service Award for providing precipitation readings for the Peabody, KS, area. Leon Wasinger, OPL, NWS Wichita, KS, presented this award.



Tom Mattus of Ashburnham, MA, receives a 25 Year Length of Service award from CPM Kim Buttrick, NWS Taunton, MA. Tom is a meteorologist who works for Commander's Weather out of Nashua, NH. Part of Tom's job includes providing worldwide weather routing for sailboats and motor yachts. Tom also provides detailed wind forecasting for sailboat races all around the world, working with some of the top sailors in the world!

25 Year Length of Service and Honored Institution Awards



For 25 years, **Mark Napier** has recorded the temperature and precipitation data for Cherokee, IA, in addition to monitoring a Fisher & Porter Gauge. Our association with Mark has been great over the years and we appreciate the effort he puts into the program. The award was presented by HMT Mike Buss, NWS Sioux Falls, SD.



Doug Webster, of Hudson, NH, shows his 25 Year Length of Service award. The award was presented by CPM Kim Buttrick, NWS Taunton, MA. Doug works as a Senior Meteorologist at DTN Meteorlogix out of Woburn, MA.



NWS Peachtree City, GA, presented a 25 Year Award to **Albert Wheeler**, Observer in Warrenton, GA. Presenting the award is Senior Meteorologist Shirley Lamback. Every morning Albert takes his coffee at a local café where every morning the local patrons ask him about the weather in Warrenton. Albert loves his weather work and is an excellent NWS Observer. Photo by OPL Frank Taylor.



Randy Bryant, right, of Enka, NC, accepts an Honored Institution Award for the **Colbond Plant**. Randy is the primary Observer and oversees the Coop observations at the plant. The award was presented to Randy by DAPM Terry Benthall, NWS Greenville-Spartanburg, SC.



The employees at the **Western Carolina University Water Plant** in Cullowhee, NC, were presented a 25 Year Honored Institution Award. **Kristy Maddy**, the supervisor, is pictured with DAPM, Terry Benthall, right, NWS Greenville-Spartanburg, SC. From left are **Dave Ross**, **Marty Brow**, and **Chris Korsgard**.

25 Year Honored Institution 20 Year Service Awards



Darin Sloss receives a 25 Year Honored Institution Award on behalf of the **Guthrie Center, IA, Water Pollution Control Plant**. Photo by Brad Fillbach, HMT, NWS Des Moines, IA.



Los Angeles County Fire Department's Pearblossom Station shows its 25 Year Honored Institution Award. From left are **Craig Johnson**, Fire Captain; Bonnie Bartling, NWS Los Angeles, HMT; **Marc Backos**, Engineer; Dessa Emch, OPL; and **Gilbert Martinez**, Fire Fighter. Photo by **Mitch Cohen**, Fire Mechanic.



Supervisor **Richard Robbison**, center, and staff members **John Kingsley** and **Megan Decker** of the **Halstead Well Field Division, Wichita Water Department**, accepted a 25 Year Length of Service Award for the Halstead, KS, area. Leon Wasinger, OPL, NWS Wichita, KS, presented the award to the staff.



Charles Buttrick of Greenville, NH, receives a 20 Year Length of Service Award from Kim Buttrick, CPM, NWS Taunton, MA.

A 20 Year Length of Service Award was presented to **Larry Weiser**, left, of Giddings, TX. The award was presented by Joe Baskin HMT Austin/San Antonio, TX.



20 and 15 Length of Service Awards



Ed and **Sheri Rood Caron** received 20 Year Length of Service awards for Plymouth-Kingston, MA. This station has the distinction of being part of the Historical Climate Network with more than 100 years of data. Sheri's sister, **Jackie Murphy**, right, receives a Certificate of Recognition for serving as back-up Observer. Awards presented by CPM Kim Buttrick, NWS Taunton, MA.

Where's Andy? Like many of our Observers **Andrew Olson**, a busy guy, was not available the day DAPM Donald Morin, NWS Sioux Falls, SD, stopped by to present him with his 15 Year Length of Service Award. Andy is an impeccable Observer and accurately records precipitation at his site in Emerson, NE. We greatly value his service to our program.



Paul Holle received a 10 Year Length of Service Award for collecting daily high and low temperatures plus the rain and snow measurements at his farm near New Salem, ND. The award was presented by OPL Len Peterson, NWS Bismarck, ND.

Tom Bell, right of Story City, IA, receives his 15 Year Length of Service Award from Brad Fillbach, HMT, NWS Des Moines, IA.



Observer **Michael Gillen**, left, was presented a 15 Year Length of Service Award for the Willowdale, KS, area. Presenting the award was Leon Wasinger, OPL, NWS Wichita, KS. Photo by Met. Intern Vanessa Pearce.



Ed Long of Lorimor, IA, received his 15 Year Length of Service Award along with his wife, **Margaret** (not pictured). Brad Fillbach, HMT, NWS Des Moines, IA presented the award.

15 and 10 Year Length of Service Awards



Observers **Richard** and **Karen Fulk** were presented a 15 Year Length of Service Award for providing precipitation readings near Hesston, KS. Presenting the award was Leon Wasinger, OPL, NWS Wichita, KS.



Aaron Boehm of Rudyard, MT, received a 10 Year Length of Service Award. Aaron's dedication to the Coop program and attention to detail is greatly appreciated. Presenting the award was NWS Great Falls OPL Jerome Saucier.



From left, **Lawrence Chang** accepts his 10 Year Length of Service Award. The award was presented by Robert Watanabe, NWS Kahului, Maui. The **Chang Family** has been reporting weather data from the Kahakuloa area of Maui since 1967. Photo by OPL Mark Farnsworth.



Oliver and **Donna Grove** received a 10 Year Length of Service Award. Oliver's dedication to the Coop program is outstanding and much appreciated. Presenting the award was NWS Great Falls OPL Jerome Saucier.



Observer **Katherine Gibson** was presented a 10 Year Length of Service Award for providing precipitation readings for the Goessel, KS, area. Presenting the award was Leon Wasinger, OPL NWS Wichita, KS.



John Gregoire of Mecklenberg, NY, accepts his 10 Year Length of Service Award. The award was presented by Mitch Gilt, HMT, NWS Binghamton, NY.



Rex and Beth Bourland, left, from Comfort, TX, accept a 10 Year Length of Service Award from Pat McDonald, NWS Austin/San Antonio, TX. Photo by good friend Laurel Stranaghan

A 10 Year Length of Service Award and pin were presented to **Douglas M. Byford** of Waldron, AR, by OPL John F. Orgler, NWS Little Rock, AR, and to **Marlene Einspahr**, Observer, at Arcadia, NE, by Met. Intern Briona Chester, NWS Hastings, NE. No photos were available.

10 Year Length of Service Awards



Charles Liese, Observer in Ignacio, CO, received a 10 Year Length of Service Award from Becky Klenk, CPM, NWS Grand Junction, CO.



Judy Loeffler of Newark Valley, NY, accepts her 10 Year Length of Service Award from Mitch Gilt, HMT, NWS Binghamton, NY.



R.G. Marshall, left, Observer, at Loup City, NE, accepts his 10 Year Length of Service Award presented by Mike Reed, HMT, Hastings, NE. Photo by Briona Chester, Met. Intern.



Ardell and **Kevin McCunn** of Massena, IA, show their 10 Year Length of Service award. Photo by Brad Fillbach, HMT, NWS Des Moines, IA.



Lee and **Carolyn Musil** of Burdette, KS, receive a 10 Year Length of Service Award from Jesse Lee, OPL, Dodge City, KS. The Burdett site goes back to 1941 with numerous Observers.



A 10 Year Award was presented to **Barbara Wilson** at Walhalla, SC, by Terry Benthall, NWS Greenville-Spartanburg, SC. Barbara's family took over the site, founded in 1895, in 1916.



Nancy Mayer from Burlington, IN, receives her 10 Year Length of Service Award from Ed Terrell, NWS Indianapolis. Nancy says she likes taking care of the Fischer and Porter gauge and enjoys being in the Coop Program. Photo by HMT Brad Herold.

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