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## 65 Albert J. Myer Year Award



**Joy Cudney** and Meteorologist-in-Charge (MIC) Larry Ruthi,  
Photo by Observing Program Leader (OPL) Jesse Lee

**Joy Cudney**, the Observer near Trousdale, KS, was presented with the General Albert J. Myer Award at her home by MIC Larry Ruthi, NWS Dodge City, KS.

This award is given to observers who complete 65 years of observations. Joy took over for her husband, **Ray**, who was the primary observer from 1949 until his passing in 1995. Joy was his backup before taking over the primary duties. The observing station has been in the family since 1916.

Joy is the second longest serving observer in southwest Kansas. She received letters of congratulations from U.S. Senators Pat Roberts and Jerry Moran, as well as NWS Director **Louis Uccellini**. Presenting the letter from Senator Roberts was Staff member James Lane.

In 2003, Joy was honored with the Thomas Jefferson Award, the most prestigious award

that an Observer can receive. Only a maximum of 5 observers across the country receive this award each year.

Also representing the National Weather Service during the ceremony were Warning Coordination Meteorologist (WCM) Jeff Hutton, OPL Jesse Lee; and Pathway Student Volunteer Andrew White. The ceremony included several of Joy's friends.

The General Albert J. Myer award was established in honor of General Myer who was the observer at Eagle Pass, TX. General Myer later became the chief of the Signal Corp., an early Weather Service

In 1870, by a joint resolution of Congress signed by President Ulysses S. Grant, General Myer was appointed to establish and direct the Division of Telegrams and Reports for the Benefit of Commerce. This division is now known as the National Weather Service.

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## NWS Climate History

The following article is excerpted from "An NWS History of the Signal Corps," the predecessor of the National Weather Service. Ford A. Carpenter was one of country's weather pioneers.

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### Personal View of Ford A. Carpenter

The military service of today [1922] and that of 30 years ago bear no resemblance to each other in the matter of distinction between officers and men.

A generation ago, the Prussian dictum "The officers do the thinking, the enlisted men do the work" was in full force. Bearing this in mind, one can readily see the logical working out of a unique institution such as the Army Weather Service [Signal Service] with scattered enlisted individuals throughout the country officered by a handful of second lieutenants.

#### Signal Service Inspectors

At a seacoast telegraph office, Private Gower, a college man, was entertaining a summer visitor in his office one afternoon. The office was tastefully decorated with the usual equipment and a calendar or two hung on the walls.

The calendars violated the "Sacred Instructions," which permitted no unframed pictures. Without warning, a young Signal Service inspector bustled in; glaring about the little room, utterly oblivious to the fair visitor, this officer, as he proved to be, strode up to the walls and began tearing down the calendars and stamping on them.

The girl fled to the weather man for protection. "That's alright, don't be worried" said Private Gower soothingly. He's harmless. You see he's just escaped from the post hospital for the insane!"

A particularly inconsiderate inspector was checking over the property for which a



Fig. 64.—Sand whirlwind.

Early weather art shows "... gigantic whirlwinds of sand which rise from the earth to the clouds: *The Atmosphere* translated by James Glaisher, 1873. From the work of Camille Flammarion, Figure 64, p. 348.

private was responsible; a pair of scissors was missing. The private had seven pairs, but he could only dig up six.

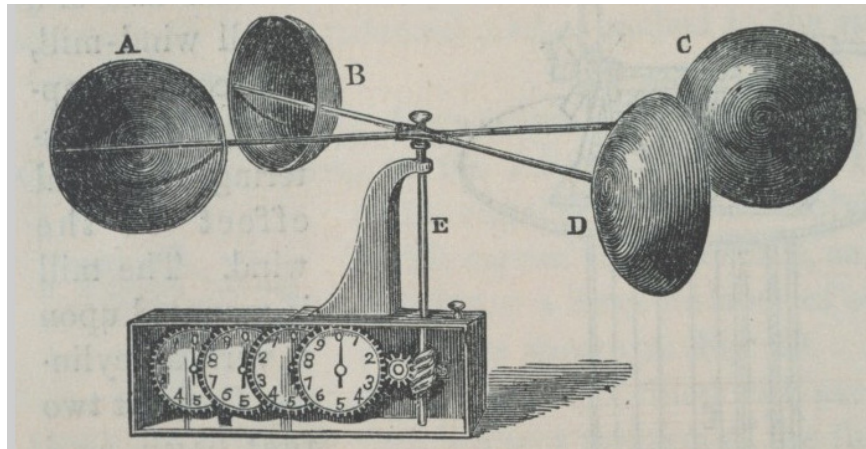
The inspector was insistent that the private find seven scissors; the private searched drawer after drawer. His wife had accidentally dropped a pair of manicure scissors in the drawer and a thought flashed across the distressed man's brain. Seizing the curved blades with thick blotting paper, he turned his back on the inspector and straightened them out. Handing them to the inspector he blandly inquired "Now what do you suppose such a pair of scissors could ever be used for?"

Puty on the spot, the inspector immediately rose to the occasion by replying, "Them were once used in repairing barometer cisterns; they held the linen threads while the buckskin bag was being replaced, but they are out of date now. I'll destroy them."

One particular inspector was thrown in jail for his desire to humiliate Private Burton. On the Pacific Coast, the morning observation had to be taken at 4 am.

"Them were once used in repairing barometer cisterns; they held the linen threads while the buckskin bag was being replaced, but they are out of date now. I'll destroy them."

An early whirling anemometer cups from the 1800s.



This inspector hurried over to the weather office before the hour, stealthily climbed on to the roof and there Private Burton found him. It was dark; there was no previous knowledge that an inspection was to take place. Private Burton had always suspected that sooner or later he was going to find a robber on the roof, so he collared the fellow, notwithstanding his protestations, dragged him down stairs and turned him over to the town marshal.

He filed his telegram, leisurely ate his breakfast, and at 10 am called on his friend the marshal to appear against this suspicious character. Needless to say, the inspector never again tried to surprise a weather man early in the morning.

### Media Importance of Signal Service

Owing to the isolated character of the weather man's work, it often happened that undue publicity was attached to him. In some places, he was as important as the postmaster. Always good material for copy, the newspaper boys regularly worked the weather office for stories.

It was during the great storm of 1888; all wires were down, there was a dearth for news and the ambitious 8-page newspaper of a western town had to be filled.

Frantically the editor dispatched two of his men to the weather office. "The old man wants you to give him an interview—all you can give."

The opportunity of a lifetime thus appeared. The weather man could not believe his ears, "Do you mean to say that I can have all the space I want?" Sure, fire away, we'll give you the whole front page of the *Patagonian*."

The next morning the staid and sleepy residents of Harborland were astounded because the entire front page was devoted to weather; weather of past years, weather on Mount Washington, weather forecasting, weather here and hereafter.

### Rainmaker's Revenge

On the treeless levels in Wyoming, then a territory, a rainmaker appeared. He contracted with the ranchers to make so many inches of rain fall for so many thousand dollars an inch.

He erected mysterious funnels projecting out of dilapidated tents. All this aroused the righteous indignation of the old Signal Sergeant.

He rushed into print, filled the little cattle country newspaper with outbursts against the rainmaker and his promise. The rainmaker said nothing but waited for the long promised rain.

The sergeant became as abusive as the newspaper would print. This was too much for the straight-shooting cowboys. They practiced gunplay on the sacred Signal Service's whirling anemometer cups, shooting them up as fast as new instruments were replaced by the frightened sergeant.

They shot his rain gauge full of holes, and as a last indignity, they caught the sergeant one night and hung him on a big brass hook in his own office by the slack of his trousers.

And then, against all official forecasts, the first rain in 6 months came down in torrents!

*Look for more insights into early weather service history in the next National Observer.*

*The [cowboys] practiced gunplay on the sacred Signal Service's whirling anemometer cups, shooting them up as fast as new instruments were replaced by the frightened sergeant.*

## 75 and 50 Year Honored Institution Awards

From left, OPL **Johnnie Powell**, NWS Sacramento, CA, presents **Cecilo Duran** and his supervisor at the **Auburn California Post Office** with a 75 Honored Institution Award. The Auburn Post Office is located about 35 miles east of Sacramento in the Sierra foothills at an elevation of 1,300 feet. The average annual precipitation is about 36 inches. The wettest year was in 1983 with more than 60 inches of rain was measured. The post office has moved twice since 1940 but it has always delivered the weather.



**Mindy White**, Budget Analyst for the **Ouray National Wildlife Refuge** in Utah, accepts a 50 Year Honored Institution Award from Data Acquisition Program Manager (DAPM) **John Kyle**, NWS Grand Junction, CO. The refuge has been taking quality weather observations since 1965.

**WHKP Radio** in Hendersonville, NC, received an Honored Institution Award for 50 years of service. Receiving this award was **Larry Freeman**, News and Program Director. The award was presented by OPL **Chris Horne** NWS Greenville-Spartanburg, SC.



## Edward R. Stoll and Honored Institution 50 Year Awards

**Delbert Rose**, center, of Scott City, CO, shows his Edward H. Stoll Award for 50 Years of Service. Delbert reports precipitation and snowfall data to NWS Goodland, KS. The award was presented by MIC **Scott Mentzer**, left, and OPL **Brian Warren** of NWS Goodland. Photo by **Jessica Hill**.



**Shannan Marcak**, Needles District Interpreter of **Canyonlands National Park**, receives the Park's 50 Year Honored Institution Award from DAPM **John Kyle**, NWS Grand Junction, CO. Both the Needles District and Island in the Sky area have been taking quality weather observations since 1965.

From left, OPL **Mark Farnsworth**, NWS Honolulu, HI, presents a 50 Year Honored Institution Award to **Randy Lite**, Director of Facility Services/Vice President at **Molokai Hospital**. Randy has been the primary caregiver to the Fischer Porter Rebuild for 24 years. The award was presented at the gauge next to the Molokai Hospital in Kaunakakai on Molokai Island. Photo by **Shenel Emmanuel**.



## Special Service Award 45 Year Dick Hagemeyer Service Awards

**Patricia Hackert** of Palisade, NE, received a Special Service Award in recognition of 57 years of Observer service by Patricia and her family. Patricia retired from the program but not before we were able to tell her thank you for a job well done! Photo by OPL **Brian Warren**, NWS Goodland, KS.



Each day during spring runoff, Observer **Hugh Hastings Jr.** would collect flow data on the Smith River and report his findings to the NWS. For his commitment, Hastings was posthumously awarded the Dick Hagemeyer Award 45 Year Service Award at a ceremony at NWS Great Falls, MT.

"I doubt we could function very well without your help," MIC **Don Britton**, NWS Great Falls, told Hugh's wife **Alana Hastings**, who accepted the award and a letter of commendation from NWS Director **Louis W. Uccellini**. "I feel moved," Alana said of the honor. The family's livelihood, crops and cattle, are intertwined with the river and precipitation, which made Hugh especially interested in weather conditions, Alana said. Cattle, for one, need to be moved to higher ground if the Smith River floods, she noted.

Hugh collected flow readings on the Smith River and precipitation data, including spring runoff. Information Hugh provided helped forecasters estimate how much water was flowing in the Missouri River through Great Falls. **Matthew Hastings**, Hugh's son, said his father used to check the river each morning from April through June when he retrieved the mail and newspaper. "Kind of part of his routine," he said. For many years, Hugh reported on the phone, but in later years he used a computer.

There's a long history of weather observations at the Hastings ranch. Observations for Ulm near the Truly station began in October 1946 with **Hugh Hastings Sr.**, Hugh's father. **Lempi V. Hastings**, Hugh Sr.'s wife, took over observations in March 1964 after Hugh Sr. died. She continued the readings until April 1969, when Hugh Jr. picked them up. He continued the readings for 45 years. Now **Alana**, who had served as the secondary observer during Hugh Jr.'s tenure, is the primary observer.

## 40 and 35 Year Length of Service Awards

**Shirley Dietrich**, Observer at Byers, CO, displays her 45 Year Dick Hagemeyer Award. Shirley's dedication in taking timely and accurate observations for the past 45 years is very much appreciated. The award was presented by OPL **Jim Kalina**, NWS Boulder, CO.



From left, **Larry Rothbauer** of Hallettsville, TX, accepts his 40 Year Length of Service Award from OPL **Steve Smart**, NWS Austin/San Antonio, TX. Larry has been observing and reporting weather data for the National Weather Service since 1975. His dedication was recognized in 2011 with the prestigious John Campanius Holm Award.

**Gerald Scharping** of Albion, NY, was presented with the 40 Year Length of Service Award by NWS Buffalo, NY, OPL **Dan Kelly**. Since Gerald started taking weather observations in 1974, he has measured a total of 1,448.76 inches of rain and 2,706.3 inches of snow!

Gerald was the first manager of the Orleans County Soil and Water Conservation District, a position he held until retiring in 1992. The Albion Coop station has had a continuous record since 1938, and has been within about a mile of Gerald's farm for nearly all of its 77 year history. Photo by **Tom Rivers**, *Orleans Hub*.



## 35 Year Length of Service Awards



**Olin Berry**, of Johnston, SC, accepts a 35 Year Length of Service Award, presented by MIC **Kimberly Campbell**, NWS Columbia, SC. Olin began taking observations at Johnston in 1980, after the previous Observer retired in 1957. Olin's cheerful voice is always a welcome addition to the staff at NWS Columbia. Photo by Hydrometeorological Technician (HMT) **Doug Anderson**.

From left Observer **Stephen and Lois** (not pictured) **Fenster** of Healy, KS, accept a 35 Year Length of Service from MIC **Larry Ruthi**, NWS Dodge City, KS. Also present were WCM **Jeff Hutton**, OPL **Jesse Lee**, and Pathway Student **Andrew White** The Healy station has been in the family since 1901. Lois's grandfather, **Herlan Stewart Jennison** was the first observer. The station was originally about 5 miles northeast of Healy.



**Scot Campbell**, Observer at Brighton, CO, was presented his 30 Year Length of Service. Scot is a supervisor at the **Little Valley Nursery** where two of his employees, **Constantino Mendoza** and **Jorge Montes** help Scot take the weather reports. We appreciate the devotion of Constantino, Jorge and Scot in taking accurate and timely observations. OPL **Jim Kalina**, NWS Boulder, CO, made the presentation.





## 30 and 25 Year Length of Service Awards



**Brice Lambert**, the observer at Ekalaka, MT, received a 30 Year Length of Service Award from NWS Billings, MT, OPL **Larry Dooley**.



**Ross Rekemeyer**, right, of Albia, IA, receives his 30 Year Length of Service Award from HMT **Brad Fillbach**, NWS Des Moines, IA.



**Roger Janssen**, Observer for Flandreau, SD, shows his 25 Year Award for collecting temperature and precipitation data. The award was presented by HMT **Tim Masters**, NWS Sioux Falls, SD. Climate data at Flandreau has been nearly continuous since the early 1890s, spanning an astonishing 125 years. In addition to weather, Roger enjoys fishing, hunting and gardening. He also serves as the general manager of the *Moody County Enterprise* and the editor of the *Outdoorsmen* magazine.



**George Prentiss**, Observer at the **Hourglass Reservoir**, and his trusty companion, **Winnie**, were presented with a 25 Year Length of Service Award by OPL **Jim Kalina**, NWS Boulder, CO.

## 25 and 20 Year Length of Service Awards



**Corey Shaver** accepted a 25 Year Length of Service Award for **Chris Towne**, Observer for Nevada City, CA. The town is in the Sierra foothills at 2,800 feet, about 60 miles east of Sacramento. Nevada City receives about 60 inches of rain a year and over 20 inches of snow. Chris rarely misses an observation, even during inclement weather.

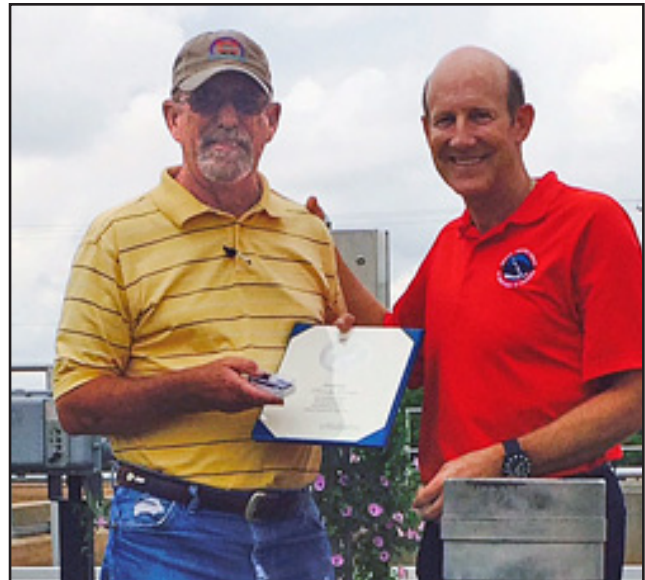


**Moby Wile**, Observer at Buckhorn Mountain, was presented his 25 Year Length of Service Award by OPL **Jim Kalina**, Boulder, CO.

**Alma Smart** of Rocksprings, TX, was presented a 20 Year Length of Service Award by HMT **Cory Van Pelt**, NWS Austin/San Antonio, TX. No photo.



**Janet Lindstrom** of Rockwell City, IA, receives her 20 Year Length of Service Award. The award was presented by HMT **Brad Fillbach**, NWS Des Moines, IA.



From left, **Randy Everett**, Observer at Ballinger, TX, receives the 20 Year Length of Service Award from MIC **Steve Lyons**, NWS San Angelo, TX. Photo by Administrative Support Assistant (ASA) **Jeff Jackson**.

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## 15 Year Length of Service Awards



**Diana Keller**, Observer at Cross Village, MI, shows her 15 Year Length of Service Award presented by OPL **Keith Berger**, NWS Gaylord, MI. Diana still submits hand written B-91 forms each month, which are always clearly written and contain exceptional detail. Diana has carried on despite the tragic loss of her sister to cancer this year. Photo by Cooperative Program Manager (CPM) **Scott Rozanski**.



**Barbara Agnew** in Middletown, CA, received a 15 Year Length of Service Award. She took over from her late husband 15 years ago. Middletown is in Lake County in the foothills of the California Coastal Range. The city averages over 43 inches of rain from October to May. Barbara, at 92 years young is a great Observer, who has seen a lot, including witnessing the bombing of Pearl Harbor, on December 7, 1941.



**Marlene Einspahr**, Observer for Arcadia, NE, receives her 15 Year Length of Service Award. Marlene continues the climate history for the Arcadia area, which started in January 1893. Her parents, **Marjorie and Harold Elliott**, took observations for 25 years before Marlene took over, giving them a family service time of 40 years. The award was presented by DAPM **Marla K. Doxey**, NWS Hastings, NE.



Interpretive Ranger **Scott Stegenga**, right, at **Table Rock State Park** in South Carolina was presented a 15 Year Length of Service Award by OPL **Chris Horne**, NWS Greenville-Spartanburg, SC.

## 15 Year Length of Service Awards



**Charlie Liese**, Observer at Ignacio, CO, receives his 15 Year Length of Service and Special Service Award from the NWS DAPM **John Kyle**. Charlie has been a dedicated and outstanding weather observer since 2000.



A 15 Year Length of Service Award was presented to **Johnny (Skip) Redford**. Skip records precipitation readings for the Cambridge area in south central Kansas. The award was presented by NWS Wichita, KS.



**Ron Trumbo** accepted a 15 Year Award for Quincy, CA, from OPL **Johnnie Powell**, NWS Sacramento, CA. Ron is the local DJ for radio station, KNFL. He reports the weather during his morning talk show. Quincy is in mountains at an elevation of 3,400 feet. Ron reports heavy rain, snow, freezing rain, sleet, and orographic thunderstorm activity. Thanks Ron for such dedication.



From left, **Gary Treadwell**, Observer at Fort McKavett, TX, receives the 15 Year Length of Service award from MIC **Steve Lyons**, NWS San Angelo, TX. Photo by ASA **Jeff Jackson**



From left, **Dallas Saffer** and **Ann Harbison** (not picture) of Flagler, CO, received 15 Year Length of Service Awards from OPL **Brian Warren**, NWS Goodland, KS. Dallas and Ann report temperature, precipitation and snowfall data. Photo by **Olivia Charles**.

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# September, October, November Temperature and Precipitation Outlooks From the Climate Prediction Center

