



# The National Cooperative Observer

The National Cooperative Observer is an online newsletter.

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Spring 2016

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## Yosemite National Park Marks 100 Years



Pictured from left are **National Park Service** Regional Director **Laura Joss**, Yosemite Superintendent **Don Neubacher**, NWS Hanford Observing Program Leader (OPL) **Bill Peterson**, Congressman **Tom McClintock**, NWS Hanford Meteorologist in Charge (MIC) **Kevin Lynott**, and NWS Western Region Systems and Facilities Division Chief **Sean Wink**.

During Earth Day celebrations, NWS Hanford, CA, presented Yosemite National Park with a 100 Year Honored Institution Award.

In 2016, Yosemite National Park will commemorate the National Park Service's Centennial anniversary. The National Park Service was created on August 25, 1916 and will officially become 100 years old on August 25, 2016. The Centennial marks the third consecutive year in which Yosemite National Park is commemorating

an important milestone. On June 30, 2014, Yosemite National Park commemorated the 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Yosemite Grant, the birth of the national park idea. On October 1, 2015, Yosemite commemorated the 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the park.

First protected in 1864, Yosemite National Park is best known for its waterfalls, but within its nearly 1,200 square miles, you can find deep valleys, grand meadows, ancient giant sequoias, a vast wilderness area, and much more.

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## NWS History

*The following article is excerpted from "An NWS History of the Signal Corps," the Signal corps was the predecessor of the National Weather Service. J.W. Smith and Richard H. Sullivan were two of the country's weather pioneers.*

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### Personal View of J. W. Smith

While "on station" [with the Signal Corps, a U.S. Army office] there were some amusing experiences and a few very unusual ones. One of the former was experienced by my predecessor at a small southwestern station at Corsicana, TX.

He told me that soon after establishing his station, he was waited on by a committee appointed by dissatisfied citizens on account of the very unsatisfactory weather conditions caused by the meteorological instruments, as there had been no such weather before "them things were set on the roof."

All the explanations that could be made by my predecessor proved unsatisfactory. The official suggested they adjourn to the cafe over the way for further discussion, where it cost our man about \$25 for sufficient refreshments to convince the committee that the weather instruments were not at fault.

Even in the early days of the service, visitors often came to see how the weather was made, particularly at stations in large towns and cities.

More than a few times I have heard surprise expressed at the small size of the instruments, their insignificance.

Quite a few expected to see quite massive machinery laboring, groaning and belching. They thought devices that could record great gales, hurricanes, and storms must be large and complex.

Visitors have so stated to me, and expressed disappointment at the quiet, silent method in which the instruments do their work. Few, after seeing and having the instruments explained, would fully comprehend them.

Many years ago we carefully explained the equipment to quite a distinguished looking party, and on finishing the story of the wind register, anemometer, etc., the head of the party, as I remember a minister, commented, "Eell it's wonderful how the winds come down those wires and make the records," to which we readily agreed, as more talk was useless.

Weather cranks have been met in all parts where we have served, mostly those who could make much better forecasts than those of the Bureau. One in particular, with considerable local reputation, whose forecasts were often printed by the local papers, came to the office for a chat, during which I inquired as to his theories, methods, instruments, etc., to which he replied, "Oh, I have none, don't need any; my grandmother could tell the weather, and in the same way I can tell it."



Meteorologist reading temperature on top of Weather Bureau facility, circa 1925, NOAA Library

*"Eell it's wonderful how the winds come down those wires and make the records," to which we readily agreed, as more talk was useless.*

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## Personal View of Richard H. Sullivan

So, the man, one known for probity and straightforwardness in the years gone by, that drops by the wayside, carries with his demise a feeling that the old days of self-reliance, promptitude and praiseworthy effort to make a service comparatively little known of some real and tangible benefit to future generations, can never come again. I think it was Solomon, the wise, who once said: "Say not that the former day were better than these," but such a feeling rests in the hearts of our "old men" as the Indians say.

I cannot just now set aside specific instances to support this statement, but somehow, I am constrained to believe the men inherited by the Weather Bureau from the old Signal Service, together with the men that came into the service in the early days of the amplification of Weather Bureau work, were of sterner, more practical and more initiatory stuff than the men entering, say 10 or 15 years later, or even 20 years.

True, many of the old men—many now dead, some still active and progressive, and some still traveling the journey as a sort of memory of the old days—had their faults and their failings.

None could be called perfect in any manner, shape or form; but they did the work for the work's sake, and herein lies a cover for a multitude of sins in any man. We all agree they were ill-paid for time spent as professional men among the most representative interests of the country, and that changes were often made through grave personal sacrifice. But they did the work with a minimum of complaint, and the work was done well. In short, it was their chosen life work, and they played the game always like a true sportsman.

Comparisons are not always acceptable, or wise, but I shall proceed.

The new men coming into the service—well, I may be putting it strongly, but will say a large portion of the newer men—came with a

bludgeon in one hand and a bag in the other.

The prevailing idea seemed to be to get all one can for as little work as one can do (and get away with it). Of course, in order to make room for an element of this sort, it was tantamount to knocking all the old codgers in the head or to throwing them all overboard as antiquated Mathusalehs.

I claim that these men, now old and gray in service, were the backbone and sinew of the Weather Bureau when it needed stamina, and are yet the backbone and sinew of the service in managing to perform the necessary



The local forecast office at Buffalo, NY, 1899,  
NOAA Library

work for the work's sake, withal in the face of accumulating complaints from untimely and often unjust demands of many newer men.

In a general way, the atmosphere just mentioned was of great benefit to the service in the long run, and yet was outside the range of the radical element that desired to advance too rapidly and at the cost of the older men.

It simply developed what might be termed the dormant capabilities, or better, the reserve power, of the old men in order that all work go in on time, whether the subordinate force was capable or not. I think this is one of the main reasons why so many of the gray-haired men are "sticking" today—simply because they can and do deliver the goods, and the element of which I write could not do so, did not do so, or left the service entirely.

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

*None could be called perfect in any manner, shape or form; but they did the work for the work's sake, and herein lies a cover for a multitude of sins in any man.*

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## John Campanius Holm Awards



From left, OPL **Keith Berger**, Honorees **Gary and Carol Fredrickson**.  
Photo by Cooperative Program Manager (CPM)  
**Scott Rozanski**.

Staff from NWS Gaylord, MI, had the privilege of presenting Leelanau County residents **Gary and Carol Fredrickson** with the prestigious John Campanius Holm Award.

The Fredricksons have been taking official weather observations on their Northport farm for nearly 30 years. They began recording weather data for Michigan State University in the 1970s then learned the NWS was looking for someone to fill a similar need. Being the civic minded people they are, the Fredricksons began taking official NWS observations in 1987.

In addition to running the farm and being Northport's resident weather experts, Gary serves on his township board and is a member of the volunteer fire department. Carol also has served on township and Leelanau Memorial Hospital boards, in addition to being the local Girl Scout Leader for more than 20 years.

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## Edward R. Stoll 50 Year Awards

Western Region Director **Dr. Grant Cooper** presented a 50 Year Family Heritage Award to the **Arburua family** in Los Banos, CA. The Arburuas have been NWS Observers since the mid 1950s, providing essential rainfall data on their ranch, which covers thousands of acres.



From left, OPL **Bill Peterson**; Honorees **Jim and Christine Arburua**; **Jean Arburua**, widow of **John Arburua** who began the NWS partnership in 1956; MIC **Kevin Lynott**; and **Dr. Grant Cooper**, NWS Western Region Director.

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## 75 and 50 Year Honored Institution Awards



The **Montana Developmental Center** was presented with a 75 Year Length of Service Award from NWS Great Falls, MT. Presenting the award were MIC **Don Britton** and OPL **Matt Moorman**. Personnel at the Montana Developmental Center take and report daily maximum, minimum and at-observation temperatures, as well as daily precipitation, snowfall and snow depth.

From left, MIC **Don Britton**, and **Montana Developmental Center** Staff **Bruce Giulio** and **Tammy Ross**.

The **Mount Pleasant Water Treatment Plant** in North Carolina received an Honored Institution Award for 50 years of service. Receiving this award was Plant Operator **Ken Black**. The award was presented by OPL **Chris Horne**, NWS Greenville-Spartanburg, SC.



## 50 Year Honored Institution Awards



Firefighter **Philips** of **Fire Station 31** in Wasco, CA, show the station's 50 Year Honored Institution Award. The award was presented by OPL **Bill Peterson**, NWS Hanford, CA.

**Wayne Wickerham** of Huntsville, OH, has been providing precipitation data to the NWS for more than 50 years. Thank you Wayne for your years of service.



Pictured from left are Observer **Wayne Wickerham**, NWS Wilmington, OH, MIC **Kenneth Haydu** and Meteorologist **Ashley Novak**. Photo NWS Service Hydrologist (SH) **Julie Dian-Reed**.

## 40, 35 and 30 Year Length of Service Awards



**Martha Metsch** of Cheviot, OH, has been providing temperature and precipitation data to NWS Wilmington, OH, for more than 40 years. The award was presented by MIC Kenneth Haydu. In 2011 Martha recorded the new Ohio state record for precipitation during a calendar year. Thank you Martha for your dedication and service. Photo by SH **Julie Dian-Reed**.

**Roger Rhonemus** of West Union, OH, has been providing precipitation data and river readings to the NWS for over 35 years. Before taking over the observations from his father, Roger would help his dad take the weather observations. Thank you Roger for your dedication and service. Presenting the award is NWS Wilmington, OH, SH **Julie Dian-Reed**. Photo by Meteorologist **Mike Kurz**.



**Kelly Dunham**, Observer at the **Paso Robles Water Department** received his 30 Year Length of Service Award. Kelly reports both temperature and precipitation. He is dedicated to the observation program. The award was presented by OPL **Bonnie Bartling**, NWS Los Angeles-Oxnard, CA.



## 30 and 25 Year Length of Service Awards



**Jeffrey McCulla**, left, of St. Paris, OH, has been providing precipitation data to NWS Wilmington, OH, for more than 30 years. The award was presented by MIC **Kenneth Haydu**, right. Photo by SH **Julie Dian-Reed NWS**.



**John Stephenson**, left, of Kings Mills, OH, shows his 30 Year Length of Service Award presented by MIC **Kenneth Haydu**. John has not only provided precipitation data, but also regularly reads the manual river gage at Kings Mills along the Little Miami River. John's river observations have directly assisted with river forecasts and warnings for the Kings Mills and South Lebanon areas of Warren County. Photo by SH **Julie Dian-Reed NWS**.



A 25 Year Length of Service Award was presented to **Fred Pfohl**, owner of Fred's General Mercantile at Beech Mountain, NC. The award was presented by OPL **Chris Horne**, NWS Greenville-Spartanburg, SC. Beech Mountain is the highest incorporated community east of the Mississippi with an elevation of 5506 feet.



## 25 Honored Institution, 20 Year Length of Service Awards



Staff at the **Fluor-B&W Department of Energy (DOE) contract** site in Piketon, OH, were honored for their 25 years of precipitation and river observations.

From left are **Carl Faub**, Deputy Director Infrastructure and Site Maintenance; **Dr. Vincent Adams**, Portsmouth Site Director; SH **Julie Dian-Reed**, NWS Wilmington, OH; **Dick Armstrong**, Power and Utilities Operations Support; **Amy Lawson**, Physical Scientist; **Wendell Jenkins**, Operations Water Licensed Engineer.



The staff at **Perry Water Works** in Perry, IA, receive their 25 year Honored Institution Award. Presenting the award is CPM **Brad Fillbach**, NWS Des Moines, IA.



**Tom Bell** of Story City, IA, receives his 20 Year Length of Service Award. The award was presented by CPM **Brad Fillbach**, NWS Des Moines, IA.



**Adrian Fredriksson**, left, and his dog **Lucky**, receives a 20 Year Length of Service Award from OPL **Steve Smart**, NWS Austin/San Antonio. Adrian has been the official Observer for Hondo, taking and recording daily temperature, precipitation and weather data for the town, since 1996. Adrian is retired from the Air Force and also is a retired NWS employee.

## 20 Year Length of Service Awards



**Dan Hawkins**, left, receives his 20 Year Award; **Lynn Puls** receives her 10 Year Award. Dan and Lynn are two members of the **Upper Surface Creek Domestic Water Users Association** of Cedaredge, CO. The award was presented by NWS Grand Junction, CO, Data Acquisition Program Manager (DAPM) **John Kyle**.



**Margaret and Ed Long** of Lorimor, IA, receive their 20 Year Length of Service Award. The award was presented by CPM **Brad Fillbach**, NWS Des Moines, IA



**Cindy Paris** of Hot Springs, NC, was presented a 20 Year Length of Service Award by NWS Greenville-Spartanburg, SC, OPL **Chris Horne**. Cindy also checks the river gage on the French Broad River when the river is on the rise and shares reports with her customers at her bait and tackle shop. Hikers trekking the Appalachian Trail often stop in her town to replenish supplies and to get a hot meal before continuing on the trail. Photo by Senior SH **Josh Palmer**.



**Kevin Pace** of Morrisville, NY, was presented a 20 Year Length of Service Award. The award was presented by OPL **Mitch Gilt**, NWS Binghamton, NY.

## 15 Year Length of Service Awards



**Dennis and Theresa Howick**, left, of Celina, OH, have been providing temperature and precipitation data to the NWS Wilmington, OH, for 15 years. They carry on the family tradition of weather observing dating back to 1956. The award was presented by Meteorologist **Ashley Novak**. Photo by Hydrometeorological Technician (HMT) **James Gibson**.



**Troy Mattheyer**, left, of **Cedar Bluff Dam**, KS, shows his 15 Year Length of Service Award presented by NWS Dodge City, KS, OPL **Jesse Lee**. The Cedar Bluff Dam station began in 1949. Except for a nearly 3-year period from 1998 to 2001, the station has been maintained by the **Bureau of Reclamation** at Cedar Bluff Dam. Photo by Warning Coordination Meteorologist (WCM) **Jeff Hutton**.



**John and Sue Gregoire** of Mecklenburg, NY, were presented a 15 Year Length of Service Award. The award was presented by OPL **Mitch Gilt**, NWS Binghamton, NY.



**Ardell and Kevin McCunn** receive their 15 Year Length of Service Award. The award was presented by CPM **Brad Fillbach**, NWS Des Moines, IA

## 15 and 10 Year Length of Service Awards



**Bobbie Kinser** of Five Points received a 15 Year Length of Service Award from OPL **Bill Peterson**, NWS Hanson, CA, for her outstanding help in recording the weather data. Bobbie was a little camera shy because she had just undergone minor surgery to remove some skin cancer from her nose. She would like to remind everyone to wear sunscreen whenever they go outdoors.



**Lee and Carolyn Musil** of Burdett, KS, were presented with a 15 Year Length of Service Award from OPL **Jesse Lee**, NWS Dodge City, KS. The Burdett station began in 1941 with Observer **John Line**. There have been many Observers since then. Lee's father, **Elmer**, became the Observer in 1989 after **Francis Starr**. Lee took over the duties from his father in 2001.



**Jean and Woodrow Miles** received their 10 Year Length of Service Award for their service at one of the NWS Columbia, SC, "cold spots," Cedar Creek, SC. Photo and presentation by HMT **Doug Anderson**.



**Karen Risch** of Ouray, CO, receives her 10 Year Length of Service Award from DAPM **John Kyle**, NWS Grand Junction, CO. Karen, with assistance from husband, **Bob**, has been taking quality weather observations since 2006.



**Maria Sequeira** of **Central California Irrigation District** office in Los Banos, CA, received a 10 Year Length of Service Award from NWS Hanford CPM **Bill Peterson**. Maria has been accurate and punctual to the point that when our phone rings at 4 pm every weekday, we know exactly who it is.

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# July, August, September Temperature and Precipitation Outlooks From the Climate Prediction Center

