

The National Cooperative Observer Newsletter



WINTER 1986

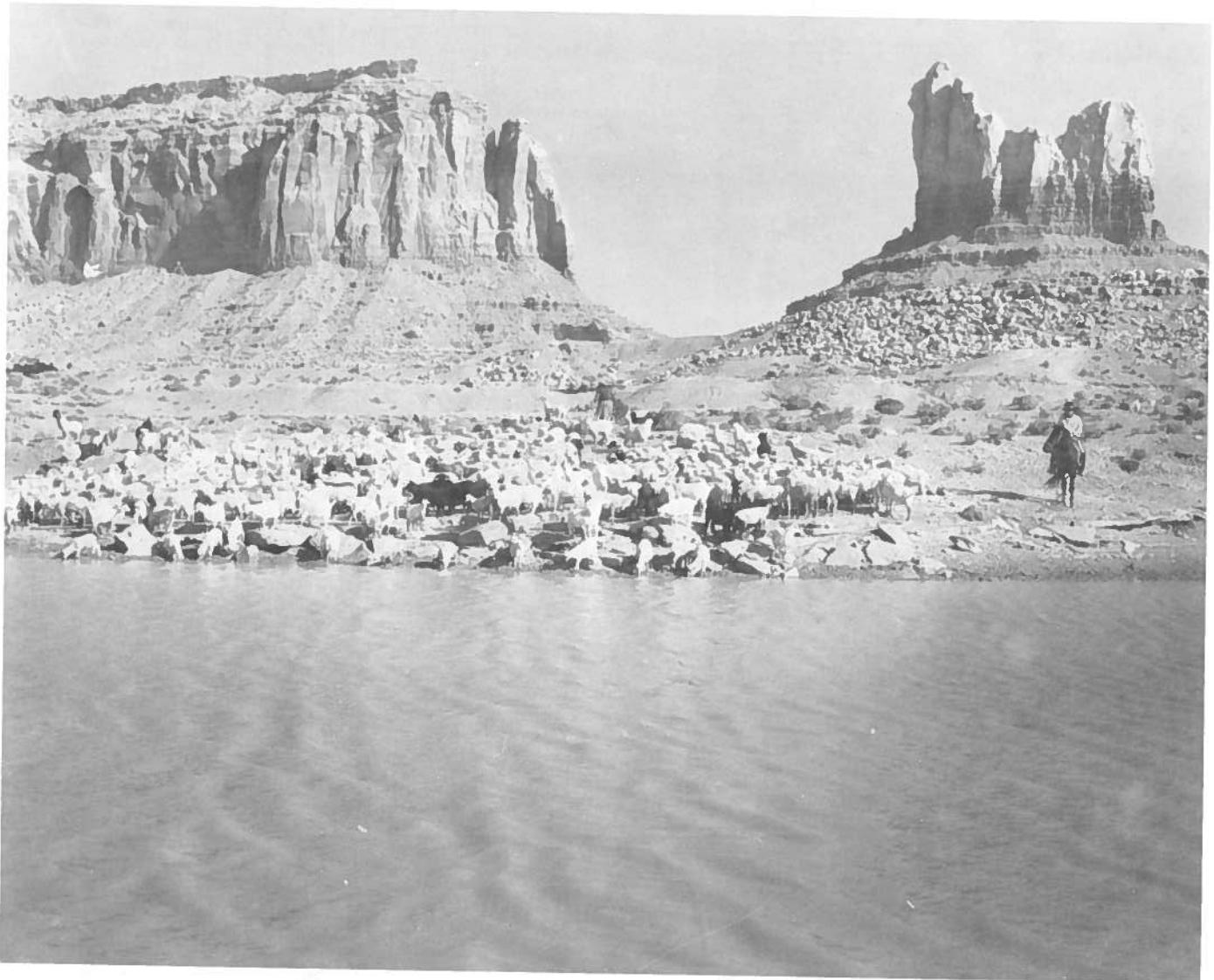
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NATIONAL OCEANIC AND
ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION

NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE

About the cover: A San Juan County Project—Utah. The towering sandstone formations in Monument Valley overlook this view of a Navajo couple bringing their sheep down to water. Herding sheep is the occupation of the Navajos in this part of the Navajo Indian Reservation as it has been for many hundreds of years. Natural reservoirs collect runoff water to provide a drinking place for the sheep. A paved highway running through Monument Valley provides scenes such as this for many thousands of tourists coming to see the wonders of Monument Valley. Bureau of Reclamation photo by Mel Davis.

WESTERN REGION



The first Stoll award recipient in Utah is Francis Tingey (right), Woodruff, UT, shown with wife, Mary. William J. Alder (left), NWS Area Manager, made the presentation. For over 50 years Mr. Tingey has been a dedicated and conscientious observer in one of the coldest communities in Utah. Mr. Tingey reported during the bitter winter of 1948-49 the average temperature in Woodruff was 6.7° with the coldest month being January 1949 with an average temperature of 2.2° below zero.

Even though tornadoes are rare in Utah, one struck in the backyard of Mr. Tingey's residence on June 23, 1965, about 4:45 p.m. The tornado seriously damaged a 50 by 14-foot trailer in which his son was living. In spite of his own property damage, Mr. Tingey and his wife and son went out and measured the path length and width and made a complete tornado survey. This is one of the most complete reports of tornado damage in Utah's history.

This outstanding citizen is 84 years young.



Wylie Boyd, Duncan, AZ, received the John Campanius Holm award. In addition to his community service as an observer—Duncan lies in a fertile valley which is subject to frequent flooding by the Gila River—Mr. Boyd has served as volunteer fire chief and as a school board member.



The Crook family, Heber, UT, were presented with the Holm award. Shown are Mr. and Mrs. Clark Crook with William J. Alder (center), Utah Area Manager, NWS. The Heber, UT, weather records were started in 1859 by John Crook, one of the ten original settlers of the Heber valley. Successive family members have taken over the observations through the years. Clark Crook began taking observations in 1976. The award was made to all the members of the Crook family who have made this continuous long-time climatological record possible.



Radio Station KRCO, Prineville, OR, was presented the 25 year Institutional Award. KRCO started taking observations in 1960. Shown are station manager John Kendall and administrative assistant Jackie DeBoer. Not shown is observer Bob Arnott, who was on vacation, and Vicky Steele, who takes care of the weather forms.



Floyd Poole, Pacific House, CA, was presented a 45-year length-of-service award. Mr. Poole, in addition to rainfall recording, also calls in significant rainfall amounts to the Weather Service Office in Sacramento, CA. In the past Mr. and Mrs. Poole used to call in their observations via radio and even by telegram.

WESTERN REGION



Collins Caldwell, Hysham, MT, received a 35 year length-of-service award. Collins started observing the weather about the same time he became Justice of the Peace at the town of Hysham.



Bob Gregg, project manager of the Lower Yellowstone Irrigation project, was presented a length-of-service award for 30 years of weather observing at the project site at Savage, MT. Daily weather observations began at Savage in 1905, however, when construction of the project began. The 80 years of weather records are among the longest in Montana. The presentation was made by John Fassler, Hydrologist, NWSFO, Great Falls, MT.



Mr. and Mrs. Verne Fairbanks, Joliet, MT, received a 35 year length-of-service award. Verne is also part of a severe storm spotting network for the Billings, MT, area. Mr. Fairbanks was a 1985 recipient of the prestigious Holm award.



Clyde Cook (left), Prairie, ID, was recently presented a 20 year length-of-service award by Ingve Olson, CPM, Boise, ID. Clyde and his family work about 2,000 acres and raise grain and hay for their 175 head of beef.



Mrs. Arnold Hellie, Whitewater, MT, received a 35 year pin and certificate. Mrs. Hellie and her husband Ike farm in northern Phillips County. Beside being an NWS "Co-op Station," Whitewater is also one of the key sites used by the Plant and Soil Department of Montana State University at Bozeman.



The Paris brothers were presented a 20 year award by Bert Soileau, CPM, WSFO Reno. The Paris Ranch is approximately 60 miles south of Winnemucca, NV, via dirt and gravel road. The observations have been taken by the brothers John, Mike, and Arnold. Arnold passed away a few years ago, but his son Bert now lives on the ranch and helps with the weather observations. Shown in the picture are Mike Paris and Alice, wife of Arnold.

ALASKA REGION



Hayes River, AK, located near the mountains near Rainy Pass approximately 100 miles northwest of Anchorage.

Since the last rendition of the newsletter, the station at Eagle River Visitor Center has been put on inactive status. Budget cuts will determine the reactivation date. The station at Seward 9 NW in the Kenai Fjord National Park was reactivated January 1st. The station at Port Protection, in southeast Alaska, was also reactivated and will be relocated in April when the observer will be leaving to go fishing. Another observer has been located. The station at Skagway was relocated and combined with the aviation station located just north of the cooperative station. Wes and Wanda Self have taken over as both cooperative and aviation observer. We have located observers for the two new stations, the first at Halibut Cove Lagoon, on the south shore of Kachemak Bay and the other at Hollis, in southeast Alaska. We hope to be able to open the stations by spring.

The travel restrictions the past few years have cut deeply into the installation of the new MMTS units in the Alaskan region. We hope to get an early start by late spring to replacing the shelters and max and min at eight locations in southeast Alaska, four in the interior and four in south-central Alaska. Some

equipment was installed temporarily at Houston, Kasilof, and Col 5 NW, we hope to have the MMTS installed permanently by early summer. We have prospects for new stations at Chulitna Highway Camp and at Glacier Park Resort.

Some of the aviation observers are sending max and min temperatures on their aviation reports, after the temperatures are entered on the MF1-10C Form the max and min thermometers are being reset. The observers can read the max and min thermometers as many times as they like, but they will only be reset once a day at the time agreed upon for the E-15 Climate Form.

The 1987 season for the evaporation program will soon be here. Prior to beginning the program, please inspect all the equipment and let me know if you need any replacement parts.

We were saddened to learn of the loss of one of our observers, Richard Roberts, of Salcha, who passed away in January. Richard was a dedicated observer in the cooperative program for 14 years and will be missed.