

The National Cooperative Observer

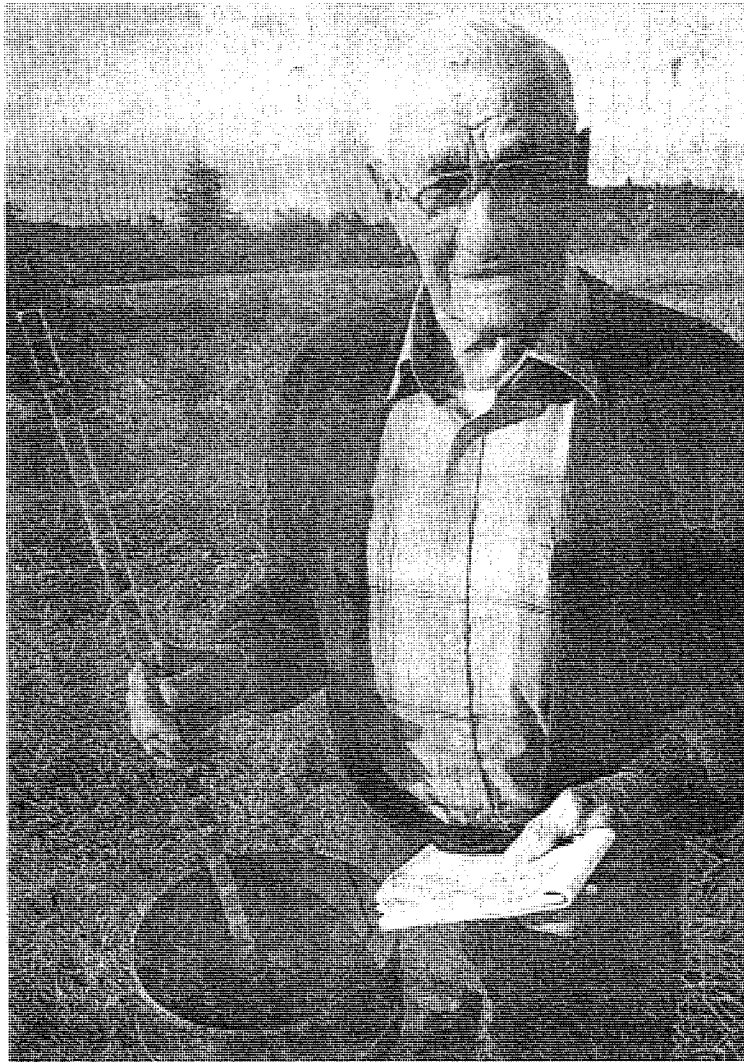


WINTER 1992

VOLUME 10

NUMBER 2

EASTERN REGION SOUTHERN REGION
CENTRAL REGION



-- 100th ANNIVERSARY --

WESTERN REGION
ALASKA REGION PACIFIC REGION

noaa

NATIONAL OCEANIC AND
ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION

NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE

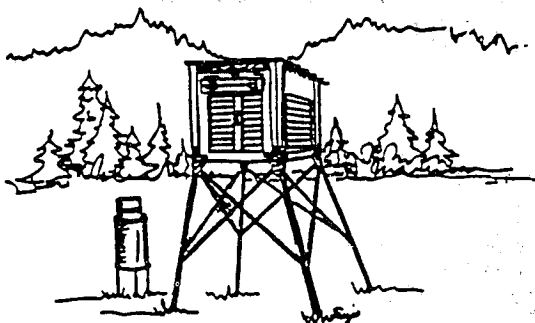
ABOUT THE COVER: Earl Stewart, for 75 years weather observer at Cottage Grove, Oregon, checks the rain gage for his report to the National Weather Service and the National Climatic Data Center. ("The Register-Guard" staff photo by Wayne Eastburn.)

WESTERN REGION

COTTAGE GROVE SENTINEL

Congratulations

Cottage Grove recognizes outstanding citizens



More than 75 years of volunteer experience gives Earl Stewart the know-how to answer when asked...



How's the weather?

VIRGINIA SLIMAN
Sentinel Staff Writer

"My dad, he kind of wanted to get something to keep me occupied. I was a country kid without a lick of sense." — Earl Stewart

Seventy five years of observing rain, snow, wind, and heat have not dampened Earl Stewart's interest in the weather.

Stewart has been a cooperative weather observer for the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Association since he was 15 years old.

At 89 years old, he's now the nation's longest active observer, as well as the oldest. In fact, Stewart will receive an award in October honoring him for 75 years of service to NOAA.

Stewart began his tenure as weather observer back in 1917 when his father volunteered to check the weather in his backyard. At that time the Stewarts were among only a handful of weather observers in Lane County.

Soon after his father volunteered to take weather readings, he assigned the task to his son, Earl.

"My dad, he kind of wanted to get something to keep me occupied. I was a country kid without a lick of sense," Stewart said.

After he grew up, Stewart stayed on the family farm and worked with his father in the pear orchard, and continued to take weather readings.

When his father died, he took over the orchard on the South Sixth Street homestead.

And, as before, he headed out to the small shelter near the driveway every evening at 6 p.m. to check the weather readings.

Stewart's daily ritual involved recording the minimum and maximum temperatures on a special set of thermometers and measuring any precipitation.

He also reported unusual weather conditions like heavy windstorms or snowstorms.

One of the most unusual weather events Stewart recorded in the past 75 years was a 36-inch snowfall in Cottage Grove one winter in the late 1930's, he said.

Each month, Stewart sent his records to the NOAA headquarters in North Carolina where they were analyzed.

Stewart said he hasn't seen the average temperature change a lot over his lifetime of recording. "If it is (changing), it's changing so minutely that I can't tell," he said.

But, he has seen much hotter and much colder weather than the area has recently experienced.

"When I was a youngster, we used to have icicles 18 inches to 2 feet hanging from the roof," he said.

Stewart said he used to ice skate as a youngster on the Coast Fork River and the ice was about 6 inches thick. "There'd be a whole crowd of us kids out there skating," he said.

As a man who has observed the weather almost every day of his life, Stewart said he tends to associate the important events of his life with the weather.

"That's about the only way I can keep track of the dates. You just associate those things with the weather because you pay attention to the weather," he said.

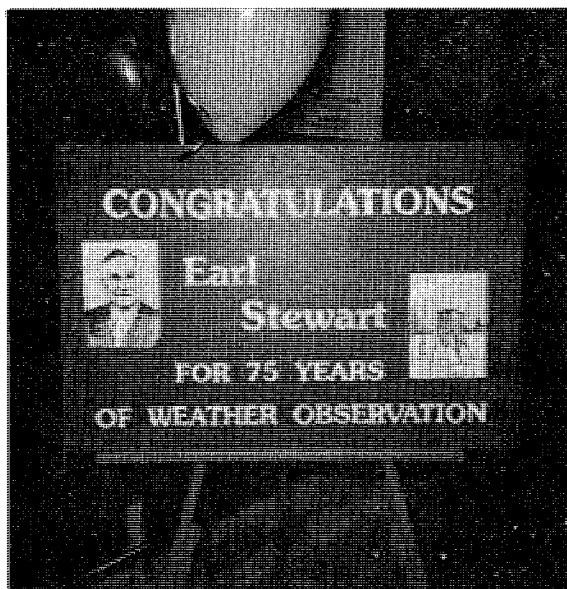
Stewart said he doesn't remember exactly when he retired, but, "I think I retired the year we had the big wind. I was overdue for retirement anyway by about two or three years and I said, "Now's a good time," he said

Even the momentous occasions in his life pale if they aren't connected with a weather event.

Although he never married as a young man, Stewart did marry his former sweetheart later in life, but he can't remember exactly how long it's been. "We never had a windstorm; we never had a freeze, so I can't tell you exactly, maybe seven or eight years," he said.

He does remember how he met her though. "One day when we had a hard freeze for several days and things were all froze over, I met her ice skating," he said.

WESTERN REGION



During 1990-91 the National Weather Service had a Centennial celebration dedicated to 560+ climatological stations "for continuous service to the community and nation over the past century," usually two to three generations.

However, this is the first time that a "75 or more years" award was presented to its namesake Earl Stewart, cooperative weather observer, Cottage Grove, OR.



For this just-created highest award, Dr. Elbert W. Friday, Jr., Director of the National Weather Service, flew in to bestow it to Earl Stewart, for his long lasting dedication in the volunteer weather observation network.

In addition, his wife, Dorothy, made him a surprise gift for his 90th birthday by presenting Earl a very interesting handmade photographic book. The NWS Headquarters has extracted several pictures and drawings depicting a bygone era - for those special pages, complementing this unique event, THANKS!



Among the luminaries attending Mr. Stewart's Special Award ceremony were: Hon. Peter A. DeFazio, Congressman (D), Oregon (4), and George R. Miller (right), Oregon NWS Area Manager and MIC, Portland NWS Forecast Office.

While Mr. Stewart contemplates his well deserved numerous and prestigious NWS plaques and awards, behind him "stands tall" our "frontier man," Clint Jensen, CPM, who has been cultivating such an observer dedication within the Oregon state network for decades.



Dr. Thomas Potter, Director, National Weather Service, Western Region, flew in from Salt Lake City, UT, to congratulate Mr. Stewart for this special award created in his name for this very rare weather service accomplishment.

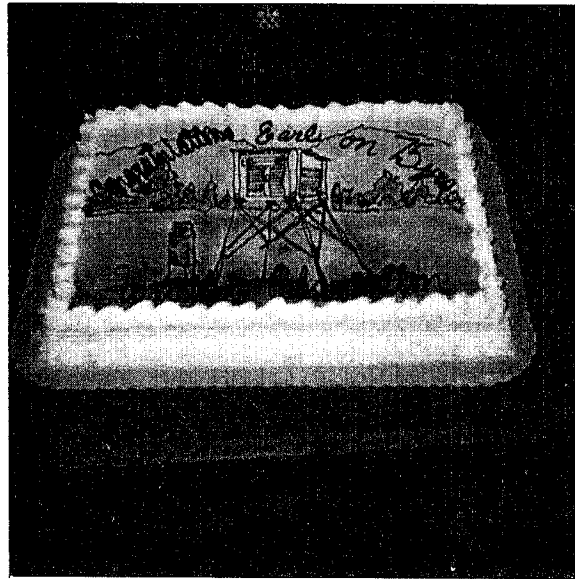
Before, only the late Edward H. Stoll of Elwood, NE, had achieved 76-plus years as a Dean of Weather Watchers, and was received at the White House by Former U.S. President Carter in June 1980.

WESTERN REGION



Over 100 guests were in attendance at "Harris Hall" for this special award presentation, with many local, state, and national officials, and multi-media members.

For the impressive welcome and very friendly ambiance, countless extra hours were devoted by George R. Miller, Area Manager, Portland Forecast Office, and John Reynolds, MIC, Eugene National Weather Service Office. Bravissimo!

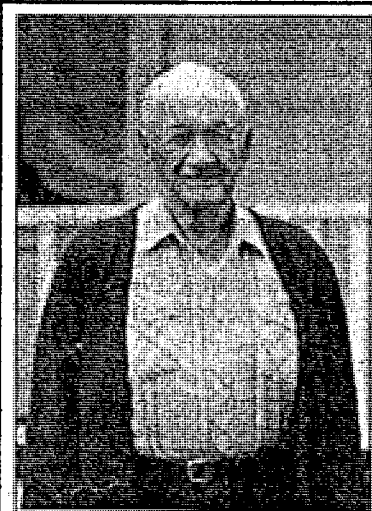


For this premier presentation - from personal invitations and an inquisitive press to an artful pastry - nothing was omitted under the watchful eyes of the National Weather Service Office leaders from Portland and Eugene. Congratulations, George and John!

Senior of the Month

Lane County Edition Page 18 • July 1989

72-year weather watcher honored



EARL STEWART stands in front of the home where he has recorded weather data for 72 years.

(Photo: Kristen Johnson Ingram)

Earl Stewart, 82, began reporting on the weather from Cottage Grove in 1917, when his father decided that volunteering for the National Weather Service would keep his kids out of trouble. Now, after 72 years of service, he has been honored with the Holm Award, a volunteer recognition named after the minister who began systematic weather recording in American in 1644.

Clint Jensen, who manages cooperative weather observers from the National Weather Service office in Portland, said he doubts whether anyone in the U.S. has been watching temperature and rain measurements longer than Stewart.

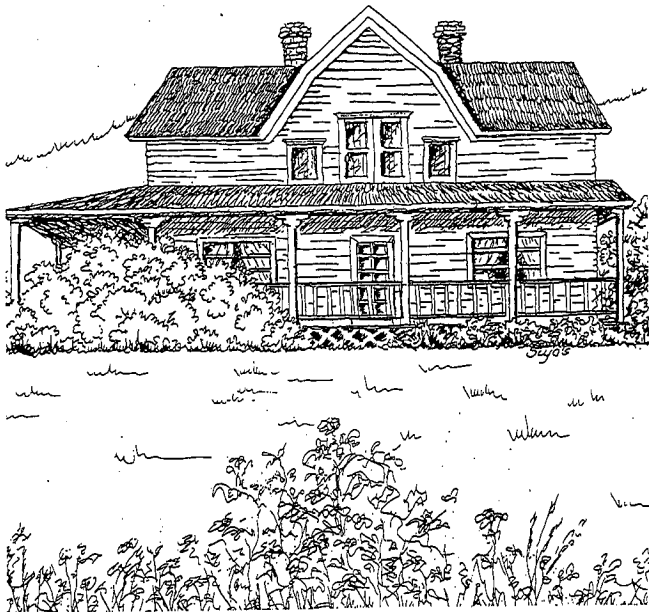
The little weather station, consisting of two thermometers that measure daily highs and lows, contained in a louvered wooden box on legs, and a steel rainfall gauge, is in the same spot where it was when the 12-year-old Stewart began watching the weather. Stewart, like his father, raised pears on the land; his orchard was destroyed by the Columbus Day storm in 1962.

In the 1930s, Stewart dated a girl named Dorothy; six years ago, they met again, fell in love, and married. They continue to live in Cottage Grove, where Earl watches the weather.

SINGLE OUT A SENIOR • 3511 S.E. 82nd Ave. • Portland, OR 97266 • 777-5188

Write or call the editor of the Senior Tribune to nominate your choice for "Senior of the Month"

WESTERN REGION



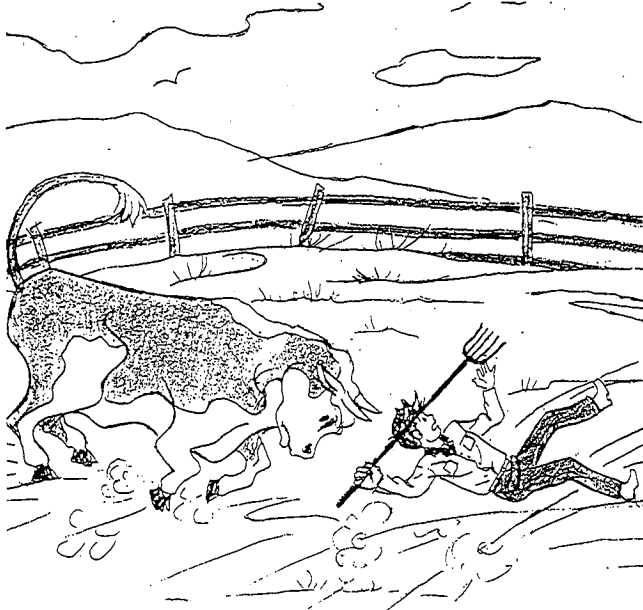
The Stewart home, pictured above, was built in 1904, and has been in the Stewart family since then.



THE STEWART BRIDGE

Before there were any bridges going north across Mosby Creek to Garoutte Road, everyone had to ford across the river. Some of the people that lived over there were Bonapart (Boney) Patten and Jasper Patten.

It was important to have a bridge across the river and the bridge that is standing there now with the Stewart name on it was built in 1930. It was called Stewart Bridge because it was built on the Stewart property.



THE PLAYFUL BULL

The Columbus Day Storm of 1962 damaged Earl's fruit trees so much that he decided to retire from being an orchardist, and to give more attention to his herd of cattle. He kept the cattle at his Mosby Creek place. He would go out once a day to check on them.

One day Earl was working around the feed lot when the Hereford bull, normally a gentle bull, decided to give Earl a free ride. The bull caught Earl from behind and tossed him through the air into some fresh manure. Earl whacked the bull with a pitchfork and evidently taught the bull a lesson because he never tried to repeat that trick again.

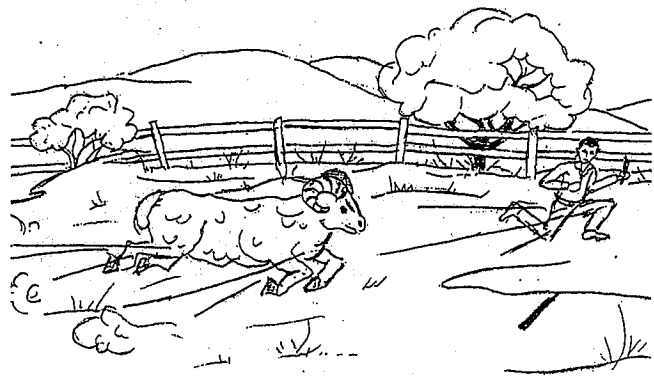
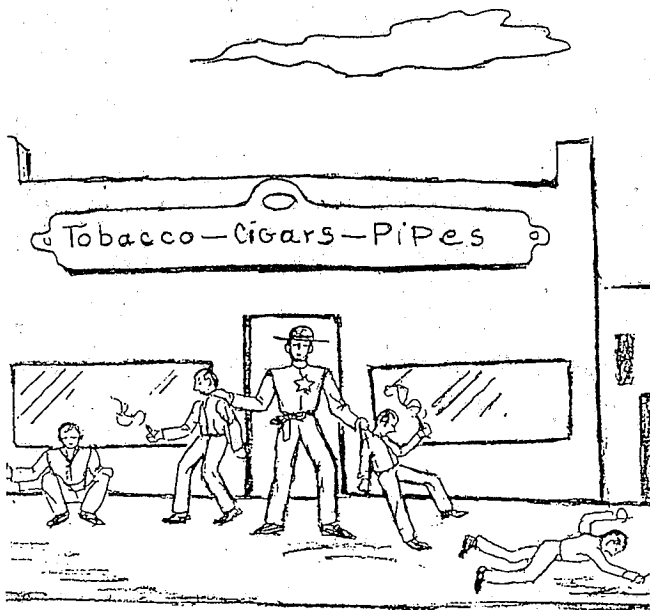


Main St., Cottage Grove, Ore., looking West

This is Cottage Grove in the early 1900s when Opal was living in the area. The man on the right who is starting to cross the street is Clint Stewart, Earl Stewart's father. Notice that the street has not been paved and there is a little ramp for people to use to cross the street without getting their feet muddy.

Earl thinks that they were preparing for a parade. If this was the 4th of July, the princess would be riding on a float and she would be called Miss Columbia. Both of Earl's sisters, Ruth and Nellie Stewart, once were "Miss Columbia."

WESTERN REGION



Three neighborhood kids, George, Henry, and Earl, were downtown one evening. Henry had a little money in his pocket and there was a store on the west side of the bridge which was open in the evening. They talked it over and decided that they would go to the store and buy some cigars. None of them had ever smoked before but they thought that would be a pretty grown up and important thing to do. So they started down the street and crossed the bridge. They went into the store and Henry bought some cigars and passed them out to Earl and George. Then he put the rest in his inside coat pocket.

Knowing they were all too young to be smoking, one of them said "What would we do if Constable Green Pitcher saw us now?" Then they all instinctively turned around and there was Green Pitcher looking at them intently through the window. When they looked at him and he saw that they had seen him, Constable Pitcher came on in.

He asked the proprietor, "Are you selling tobacco to these boys?" The proprietor didn't want to lie to the constable but he wanted to dodge the question so he said "No," feeling he had sold cigars to the boys and not tobacco. But the constable went over to Henry and opened his jacket and pulled cigars out of his pocket. He stuck them under the proprietor's nose, and he had to admit that he had sold them to the boys.

They had a trial and in those days they were very strict about these things. The proprietor of the store was fined and it put him out of business. The boys all felt pretty guilty.

When Earl was a youngster, he had heard talk about a big ram sheep with great big horns like a mountain ram that was being kept in Ambrose Woodard's pasture which was down a little bit south of the Stewart home and toward the river. He had heard about other kids being scared of this ram and that it was very mean and would chase anything that got into his pasture. One day Earl and his friend, George, got together and decided that they wouldn't be scared to go in and fight that ram. So they armed themselves with long sticks and made their way down Sixth Street to Woodard's pasture where the sheep were grazing.

The idea was that they would both get on a fence post and at a given moment they would both jump over into the pasture with their sticks and see what the ram would do. So they were sitting on the fence post for awhile thinking about it, trying to conjure up their courage. Earl finally decided it was time to go so he gave the signal and he jumped in, but George didn't. As soon as Earl was inside the fence the big old ram started in his direction. He was coming at a real fast pace toward him with his head down in position ready to butt Earl into oblivion. Earl was able to side step just before the ram got to him and hit the ram over the head as he brushed by him, but all Earl managed to do was to break his stick.

So the ram backed up and turned around and was coming toward Earl again, lickety-split with his head down and his horns in place ready to show that he was boss of the pasture. Earl was again able to side-step out of his path and with the second weapon he had gotten from George, hit the ram again. George still hadn't stepped into the ring. He was watching from the sidelines. He was two years younger than Earl and probably a little more fearful, but by this time Earl was as scared as anybody could be. Now Earl had broken both of his weapons and the ram was coming at him again. Having had enough, Earl was willing to concede that the ram was king of the pasture. So as quickly as he could he ran for the fence and managed to get over and out of the pasture just in time to be out of the reach of the ram. Earl had learned a lesson and never again tried to fight a big ram.

WESTERN REGION

Weather watcher

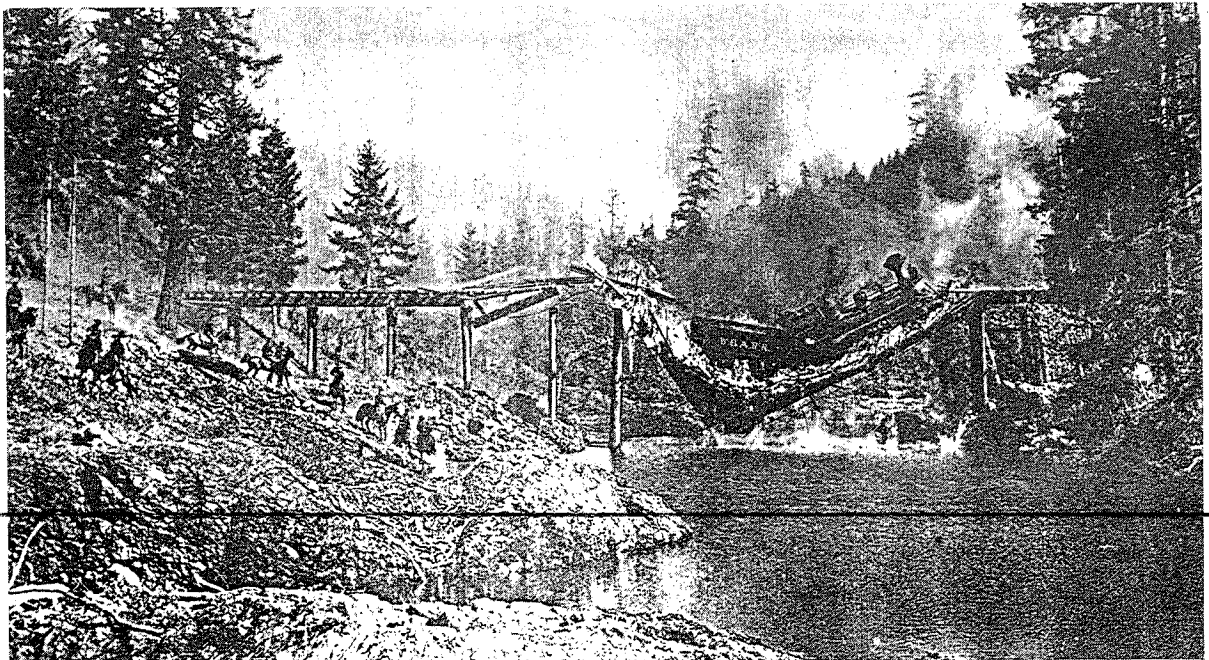


Cottage Grove resident Earl Stewart was awarded the Edward H. Stoll Award, the Helmut E. Landsberg Award and a letter from President George Bush in recognition of his 72 years of continuous weather reading for the National Weather Service. Stewart, who began work as a cooperative weather observer with his father, was presented with the awards by Weather Service officials at Eugene's Mahlon Sweet Airport last week. In all, Stewart has made more than 26,000 recordings.

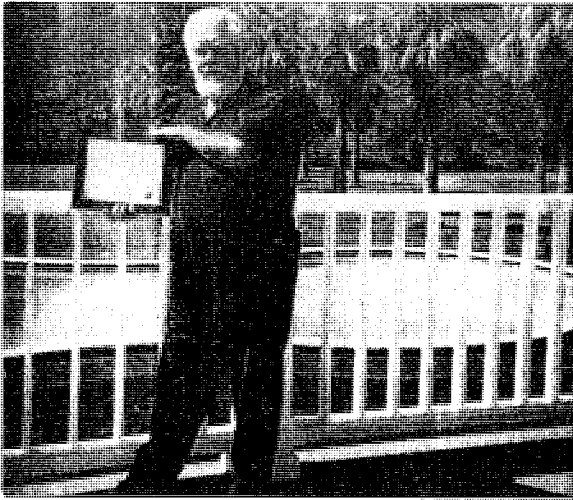
Photo (left to right): Marv Shogren, MIC, WSO Eugene; Earl Stewart; and George Miller, Oregon NWS area manager.

From Buster Keaton's Film

"The General" - 1926



WESTERN REGION



Bud Mullins, Castle Hot Springs, AZ, received a Special Service award. Castle Hot Springs, north of Phoenix, is a true "oasis in the desert."



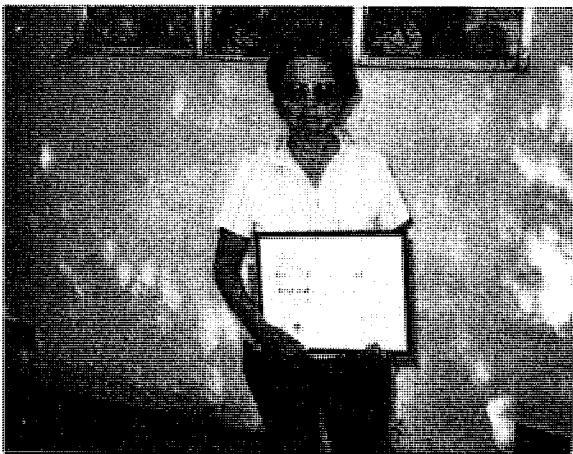
Napa State Hospital, Napa, CA, received both a 50-year Institutional award and a Centennial award. Fire fighters John Kleinsorge (left) and Steve Newnom (right) accepted the awards. The fire department continues a record of observations at the state hospital that dates from 1877.



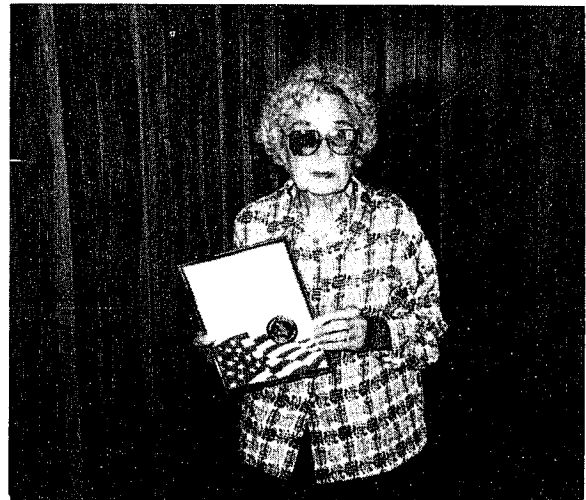
A Centennial station award was presented to the City of Vacaville, CA. Fire fighters at Fire Station #3 continue a record of observations begun in 1880. Accepting the award (left to right) are Fire Fighter Ken Chan and Fire Captain Gary Robinson.



A 50-year Institutional award was presented to the City of Paso Robles (CA) Water Department. Walt Kuhn (left), observer, and Dick Avery (right), water superintendent, accepted the award. The award was presented on behalf of the National Weather Service by Gary Barbato (center), service hydrologist, WSFO San Francisco.



Carla I. Shields, San Benito, CA, accepted the Edward H. Stoll Award for 50 years of service. The award recognized Mrs. Shields and her late husband, John, for providing precipitation records since 1942. Mrs. Shields also received a letter of congratulations from Dr. Elbert W. Friday, Jr., Director of the National Weather Service.

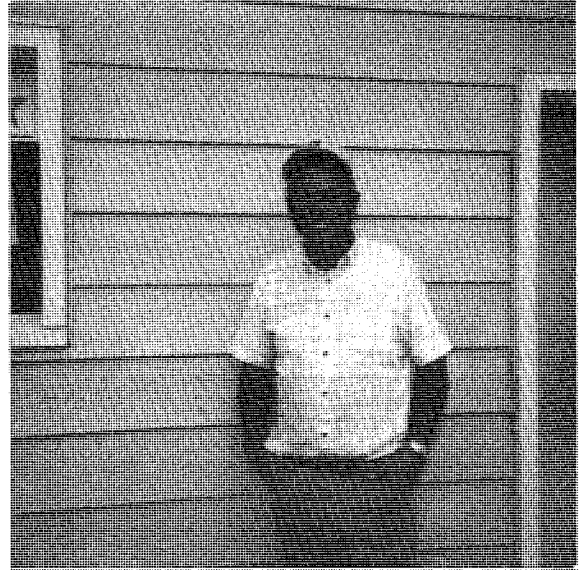


Anna Howe, Montgomery Creek, CA, received a 30-year length-of-service award. Mrs. Howe provided rainfall reports from 1962 until August 1992, when she lost her home in a fire that burned 64,000 acres of timber in Shasta County, CA.

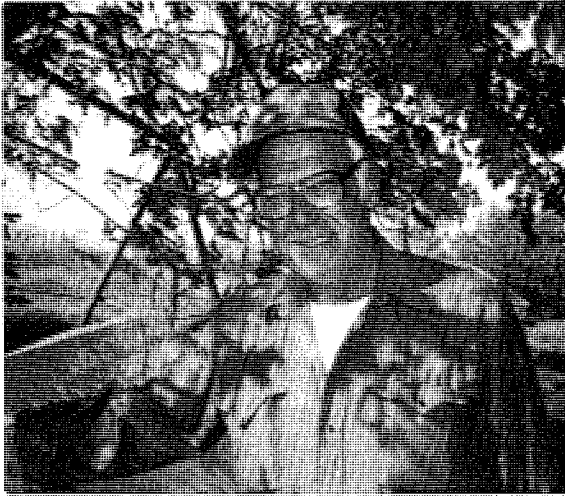
WESTERN REGION



The Northern Agriculture Research Center, Fort Assiniboine, MT, received an Institutional award for 75 years of service. The weather data obtained at the research center is used both by the National Weather Service and by the State Climatologist's office at Bozeman. The award was accepted by staff members (left to right) Tom Allen, Don Anderson, and Gregg Carlson.



Richard Hansen, Gildford, MT, received a 20-year length-of-service award. Mr. Hansen took over the observing duties from his grandfather, Jennings Swinney.



Elmer Peterson, Alzada, MT, received a 30-year length-of-service award.



Mildred and Rich Howard, Hysham, MT, received a 20-year length-of-service award. The award was presented to the Howards by CPM George Cline, WSFO Great Falls, MT.

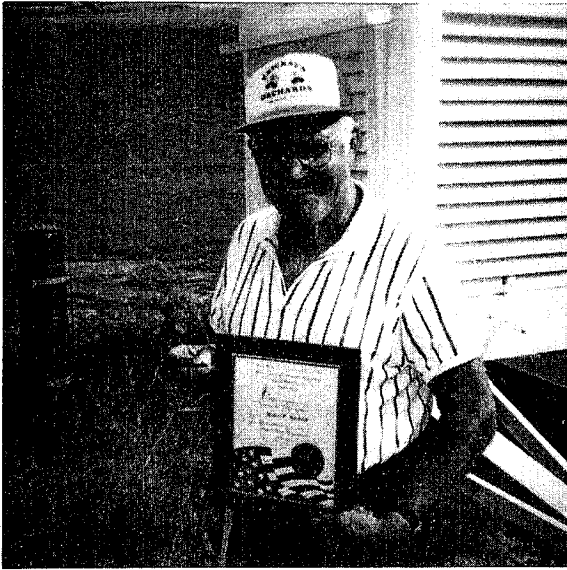


James Wood, Jr., Loma, MT, received a 30-year length-of-service award. In 1962, Mr. Wood took over the weather observing duties from Henry Pope, who began the Loma weather record in 1950.



Frances Slade, Malta 7 E, MT, received a 20-year length-of-service award. The award was presented on behalf of the NWS by George Cline.

WESTERN REGION



Walter Ericksen, The Dalles 1 SW, OR, received a 30-year length-of-service award. Now retired, Walter helps his son with their cherry orchards.



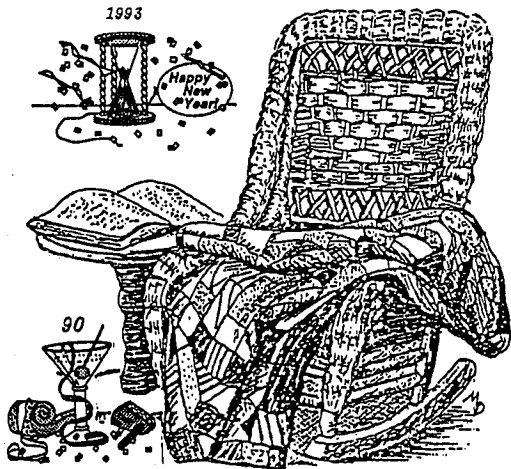
Marjorie Banks, Cave Junction, 1 WNW, OR, received a 30-year length-of-service award. Marjorie operates the "ab" network site at Cave Junction 1 WNW, which is located near the California border.



The Oregon State Highway Department, Adel Maintenance Section, received a 25-year Institutional award, which was accepted by Dave Newton. Thanks are due also to Mark Martin and the rest of the crew. Adel is an "ab" network station located in south-central Oregon about 15 miles north of the California border.



The U.S. Forest Service, Paisley (OR) Ranger District, was presented a Special Service award by CPM Clint Jenson, WSFO, Portland. Shown with the award are District Ranger Roger King (right) and Lora Carlson.

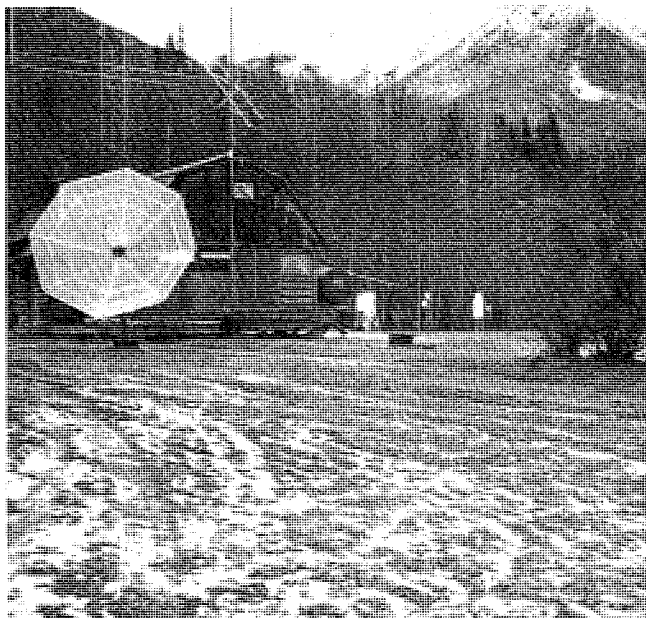


The chair and a quilt from NWS celebrant Earl Stewart's home at Cottage Grove, OR.

10-Year Awards Presented in the Western Region

<u>State</u>	<u>Observer</u>	<u>Station</u>
AZ	Gary Garland Patsy Rineer	Oak Creek Canyon McNeal
CA	Robert Shannon Albert Green	Miranda 4 SE Harlem 4 W
MT	Dick Kennedy Roy Linger Bob Sooy	Clark Canyon Dam Molt 6 SW Wisdom
NV	Donna Bailey	Pine Valley
WA	William Simmons Pamela Getsfrid	Oakville Greenwater

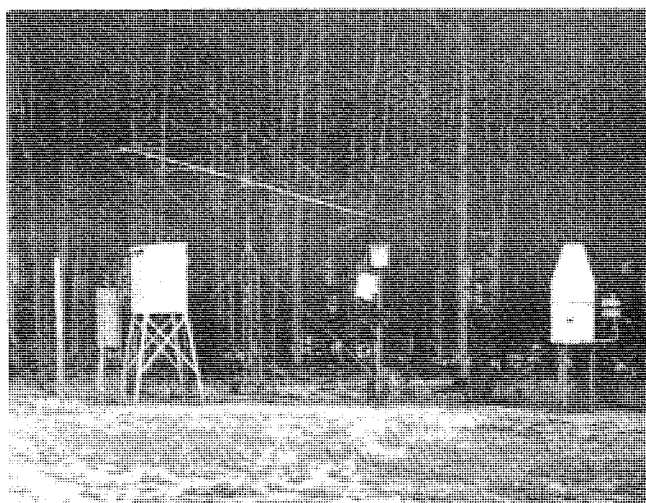
ALASKA REGION



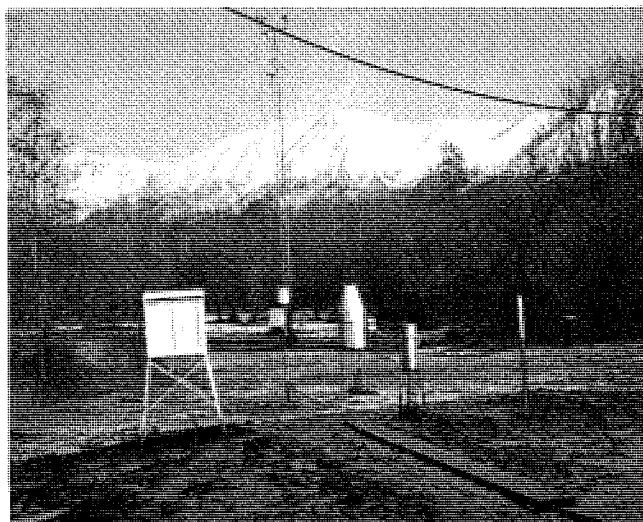
The home of Rick and Bonnie Kenyon, observers, McCarthy 3 SW, AK. Both are HAM radio operators (KL7WX and KL7WZ) as this is the only means of communications.



The DC MMTS System



The western view with the Meteor-Burst antenna in the background. Aviation observations are relayed via Meteor-Burst Comms System to Anchorage.



The northeastern view looking toward the Kennicott Mine at the base of the mountain.

The Alaska Region received its first two DC MMTS systems in early October. The solar panel on one was broken during shipment and the unit control box failed on the other unit. The remaining system was installed and put into service on October 21st at McCarthy 3 SW, AK. The National Cooperative Observer, Summer 1992, featured a cover picture of the abandoned Kennicott Copper Mine, the coop station is located about 10 miles southwest of the mine on the opposite side of the Kennicott River. The system reports the air temperature and soil temperatures at 4-, 8-, and 20-inch depths. As McCarthy usually has temperatures as low as -40° and only short periods of winter sunlight, this should be a real test for the new system.

ALASKA REGION

During 1992 Institutional awards were presented to the following stations.

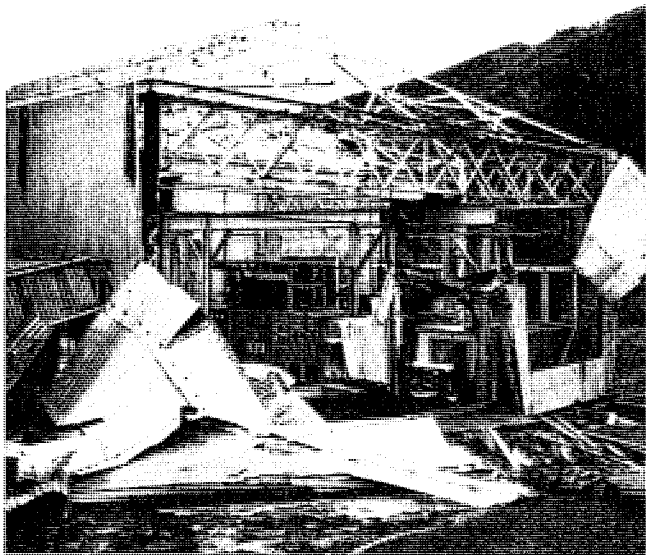
25 Years

National Marine Fisheries, Auke Bay, AK
National Park Service, Glacier Bay, AK
United States Coast Guard Loran Station, Attu, AK

50 Years

National Marine Fisheries, Little Port Walter, AK

PACIFIC REGION



PH Wainiha on Kauai showing powerhouse damage by Hurricane Iniki September 11, 1992. The LARC TB rain gage did not suffer damage and the F&P gage (portion showing on right) also survived the strong winds.



Hanahanapuni's F&P gage and SRG remain standing. However, the storage shed and work area were demolished by Hurricane Iniki.



A sample of Hurricane Iniki's brute force: Trees blown down near Kalihiwai Street.



Hanapepe LARC site showing the force of Hurricane Iniki's winds. The pole moved a total of 8 inches; the gap at the base measured 4 inches.

PACIFIC REGION



A 100-year Institutional award was presented to the Hakalau station, Mauna Kea Agribusiness Company. Left to right: William Cushnie, Field Superintendent; John Cross, Ag. Research & Crop Control Superintendent; Stella Cabatic, Records Administrator; and Donald Cataluna, President.



Waialua Sugar Company was presented a 75-year award for Waimea. Geri Deliz (left) and Kathleen Ribbila accepted the award.



Civic Action Team Captain Ryberg and SSgt. Holman received a 10-year award for Paies-Kitti, Pohnpei. Left to right: Ray Terada, Captain Ryberg, SSgt. Holman, and Akira Suzuki, OIC Pohnpei.

EASTERN REGION

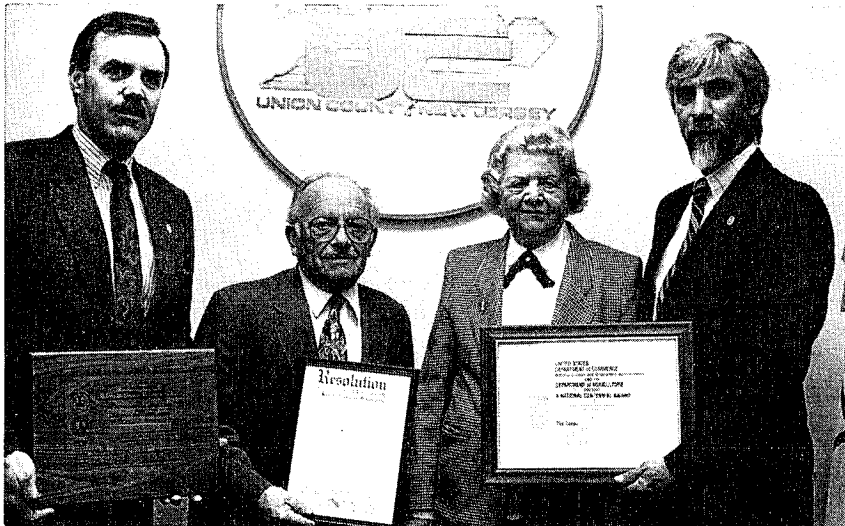


Ivy Buchanan, 95, observer, Mapleton Depot, PA, and Mapleton's oldest resident for 49 years, was presented with the Thomas Jefferson Award. This award is presented to approximately five of the most outstanding cooperative weather observers in the United States each year. Those honored are selected from the more than 12,000 observers who devote so much time and effort to recording the climate of this country.

Lars O. Feese (left), Hydrologist in Charge, River Forecast Center, Harrisburg, and Gregg B. Rischel, Hydrologist, presented Ivy with the Thomas Jefferson Award at her home on Railroad Street.

Ivy graciously accepted the award and a dozen red roses. "This is a memorable day in my life. I don't know how many more years I'll be here, but my niece, Eva Hooper of Mapleton, says I'll make it to 100."

When asked to what she attributes her longevity, Ivy said, "I don't worry and I don't lose my temper very often. I always think that tomorrow will be better. I try to eat proper foods and not much red meat. Work is good for everyone." Photo by Kim Free of The Daily News.



The Plainfield, NJ, Centennial station award was presented to the current observer, Vivian J. Scherer. The presentation was made at a meeting of the Union County Board of Chosen Freeholders held in Elizabeth, NJ. In addition, the Board passed a Resolution honoring Mrs. Scherer for her service to her community. Vivian is carrying on a family tradition. Her father, Samuel K. Pearson, was the cooperative observer at Jersey City, NJ, for several years before taking over the station at Plainfield in 1920. Mrs. Scherer has been the observer since her father passed away in 1957. The record at Plainfield began in 1887. Arrangements for the presentation of these awards were made by Anthony Mach, Cooperative Program Manager, Hartford, CT.

Photo left to right: Michael Wyllie, Area Manager, New York City; Louis A. Santagata, Chairman, Union Company Board of Freeholders; Vivian J. Scherer; and Tony Mach.

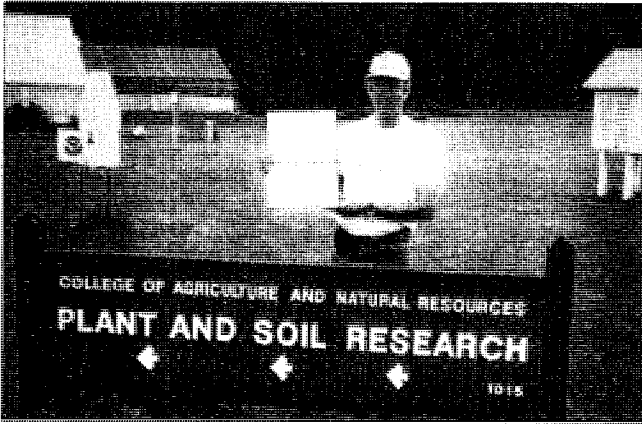
EASTERN REGION



On October 29, 1992, Mrs. Ora Bell Burgin was presented with several awards for her 50 years of volunteer service to the National Weather Service and the nation. Dr. Susan Zevin (Director NWS Eastern Region) presented Mrs. Burgin with the Edward H. Stoll Award, and Dr. Kenneth Hadeen (Director of the National Climatic Data Center) presented Mrs. Burgin with a Certificate of Service for her contribution to the documentation of the climate of the U.S. Mrs. Burgin is the observer at Hot Springs, NC, and began her observations for the NWS in October 1942. She had already been an observer for the Tennessee Valley Authority for three years prior to beginning her work for the NWS. Mrs. Burgin's dedication to her weather observations also earned her a Special Service award from the National Weather Service in 1978. Despite inoperative telephone service, Mrs. Burgin still got her river report out to the National Weather Service and as a result saved lives during the deadly floods of November 5, 6, 1977.

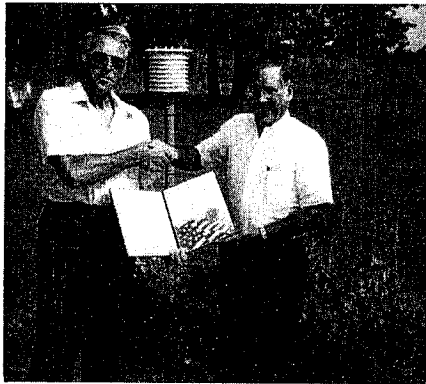
The October 1992 award ceremony was held at the National Climatic Data Center (NCDC) and was attended by over 60 NCDC employees and other government officials. Two television stations and the local newspaper provided excellent media coverage.

EASTERN REGION

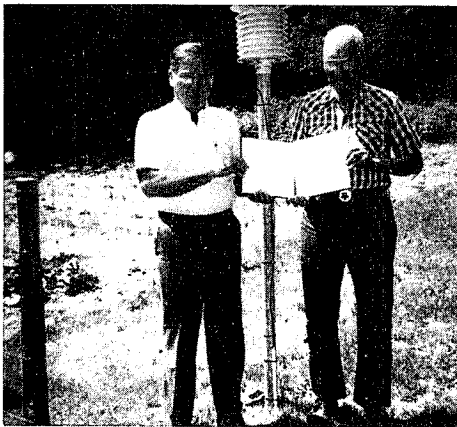


The University of Connecticut maintains the longest continuous cooperative weather station in the State at Storrs, CT. The University received recognition at the southern New England Centennial Celebration but it was discovered that the actual 100-year Institutional award had been somehow overlooked. To set the record straight the award dated June 1988 was presented to the University of Connecticut Agronomy Research Farm. The actual observer, Steve Olsen, who manages the research farm, accepted the award on behalf of Dr. Karl Guillard, Department Administrator, and his predecessor, Dr. William Wengel.

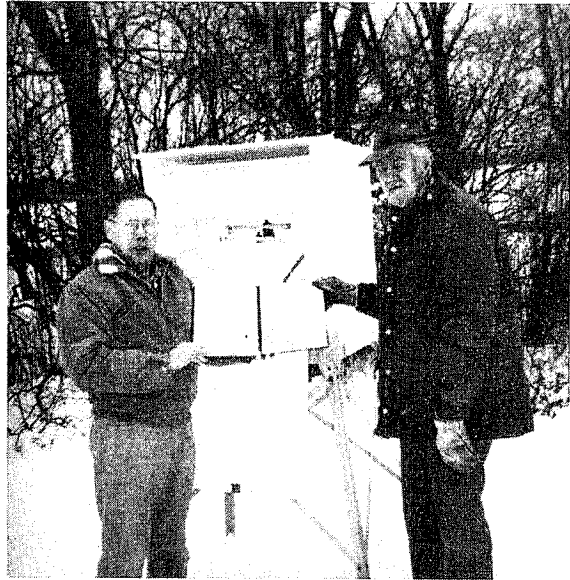
Presentation of the award was made by Anthony Mach.



A 30-year length-of-service award was presented to Donald Bartleson, observer, Sodus Center, NY, by Ray West. Photo left to right: Donald Bartleson and Ray West. Photo taken by Mrs. Bartleson.



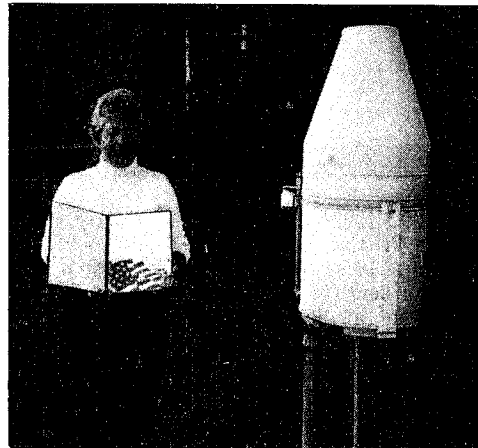
Everett L. Wagar (right), observer, Grafton, NY, was presented a 30-year length-of-service award by Ray West (left). Photo taken by Mrs. Wagar.



Our Lawrenceville, NY, observer, Robert Patten (right), received a 20-year length-of-service award from Ray West (left). Photo taken by Mrs. Robert Patten.



Jack O. Aber, observer, Canisteo, NY, was presented a 10-year length-of-service award by Ray West.

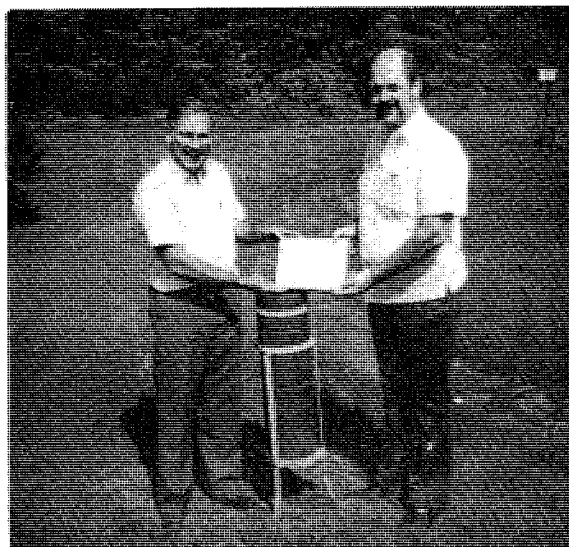


Lauretta Fish, observer, Whippleville, NY, was presented a 10-year length-of-service award by Ray West.

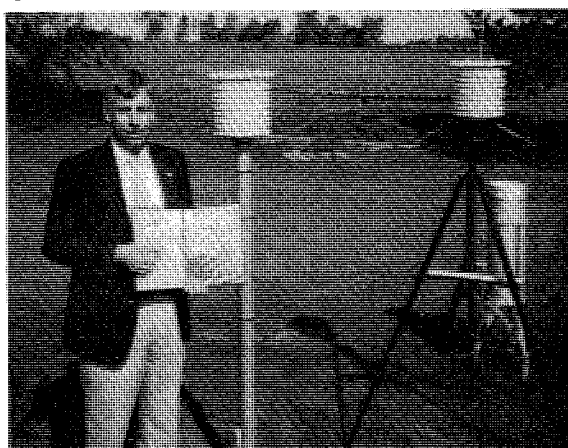
EASTERN REGION



Robert Richards, observer, Broadalbin, NY, was presented a 10-year length-of-service award by Ray West.



The Glens Falls City Department of Water, Glens Falls, NY, was presented a 50-year Institutional award by Ray West. Donald Coates (right), manager of the Water and Sewer Department, accepted the award. Photo taken by Derrick Burch.



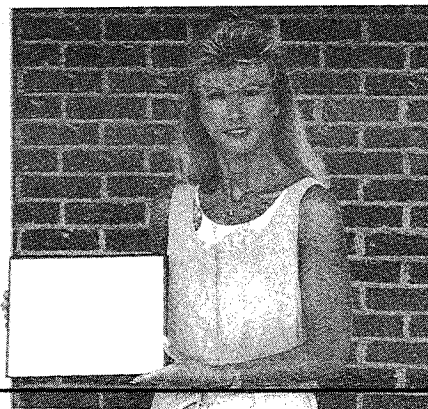
A 10-year length-of-service award was presented to David Werner, observer, Malone, NY. Presentation was made by Ray West and photo was taken by David Werner.



A 50-year Institutional award was presented to the Niagara Mohawk Power Corporation, Schuylerville, NY. Jack Powers (right) accepted the award. Presentation was made by Ray West (left), retired CPM, Albany, NY.

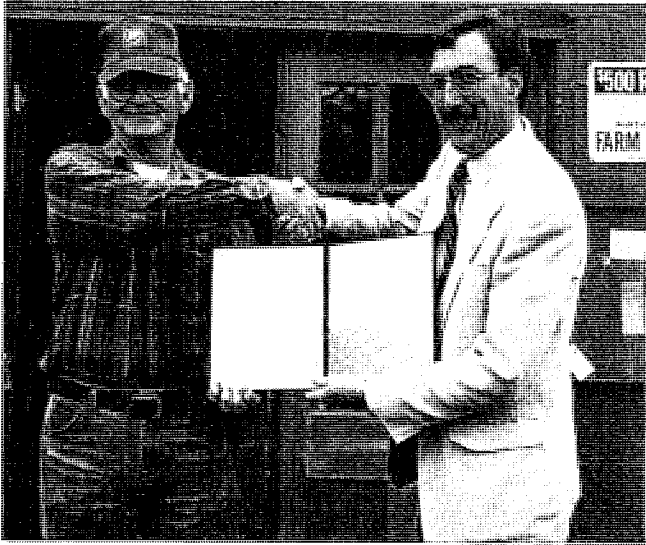


The Albany Bureau of Water, Alcove Reservoir, Alcove, NY, was presented a 50-year Institutional award by Ray West. Accepting the award was James Perkinson, Chief Alcove Reservoir Patrol. Photo left to right: Ray West; James Perkinson; Bonnie Lee Snyder, Patrol; and Bob Van Voorhis, Patrol. Photo taken by Joe Arabski.



Radio Station WADA, Shelby, NC, was presented a 25-year Institutional award. Ms. Debbie Surratt accepted the award. Presentation and photo were made by Michael Wyatt, CPM, Columbia, SC.

EASTERN REGION

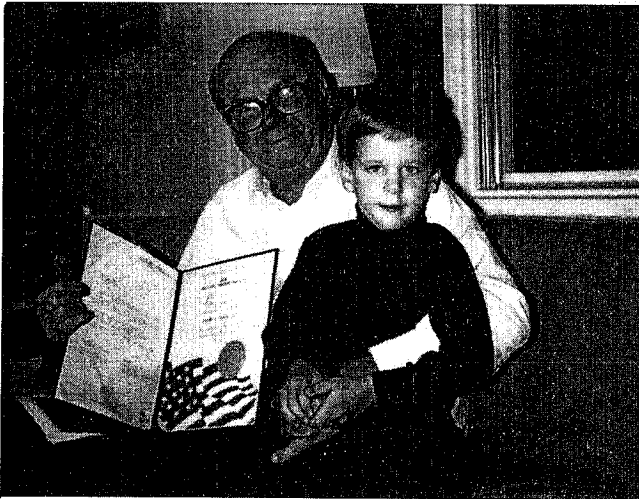


Don Reeves, observer, Canto, NC, was presented a 20-year length-of-service award by Ron Jones (right), OIC, WSO Asheville, NC. Arrangements for the presentation and photo were made by Michael Wyatt.



Isabel Whitney was presented a 40-year length-of-service award by James Donahue, CPM, Portland, ME.

In addition to her weather observing duties at South Newbury, VT, Mrs. Whitney was the postmistress there until the Post Office was closed a little over 10 years ago.



Joseph H. Conger, Jr., observer, Edenton, NC, received a 10-year length-of-service award. Pictured above is Mr. Conger and his grandson. Philip Duncan, CPM, Raleigh, NC, made the presentation and took the photograph.



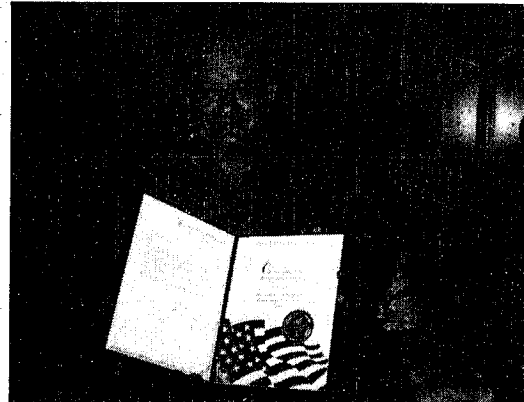
Armand Violette, observer, Rumford, ME, accepted a 30-year length-of-service award from Al Wheeler (left), Area Manager, Portland, ME.

Mr. Violette's weather career began in the early days of World War II as an upper air specialist in the Philippines.

Arrangements for the presentation and photo were made by James Donahue.

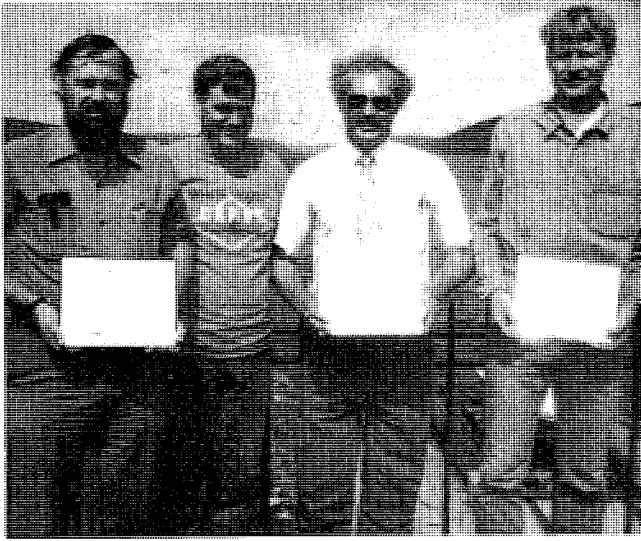


Jon Umphress, observer, Kenton, OH, was presented a 10-year length-of-service award by Keith Williams (left), CPM, Columbus, OH.



Our West Brimfield, MA, observer, Charles Muniec, received a 10-year length-of-service award from Tony Mach.

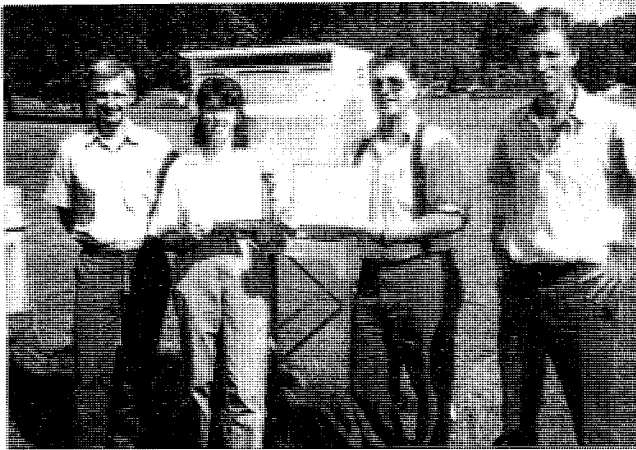
EASTERN REGION



Three 50-year Institutional awards were presented to the Metropolitan District Water Commission for service at Belchertown, New Salem, and Hardwick 3 WSW (formerly Quabbin Intake), all in Massachusetts. Roland Beaudoin, Chief, Engineer, for the Engineering Staff at Windsor Dam, where the Belchertown station is located, accepted the awards presented by Anthony Mach.

MDC-Engineering Department maintains a network of rainfall observers surrounding the Quabbin Reservoir in Central, MA, and is the actual observer at Belchertown. Doris Cornwell is the actual observer at New Salem, and John Guzik at Hardwick 3 WSW.

Photo left to right: Peter Izyk, Doug Williams, Roland Beaudoin, and Joe Burek. Due to a death in his family, Engineer Dave Supczak was absent from the photo.



Two 25-year Institutional awards were presented to the Greenfield Department of Public Works for service at Greenfield, MA, and Montague City, MA. The awards were presented at the Waste Water Pollution Control Facility in Greenfield, MA, by Anthony Mach. The plant's operators are the actual observers; and Sandra Shields, Chemist and Plant Manager, oversees the program.

Photo left to right: Dave Kaczynski, Sandra Shields, Michael Leach, and Cliff Bassett.



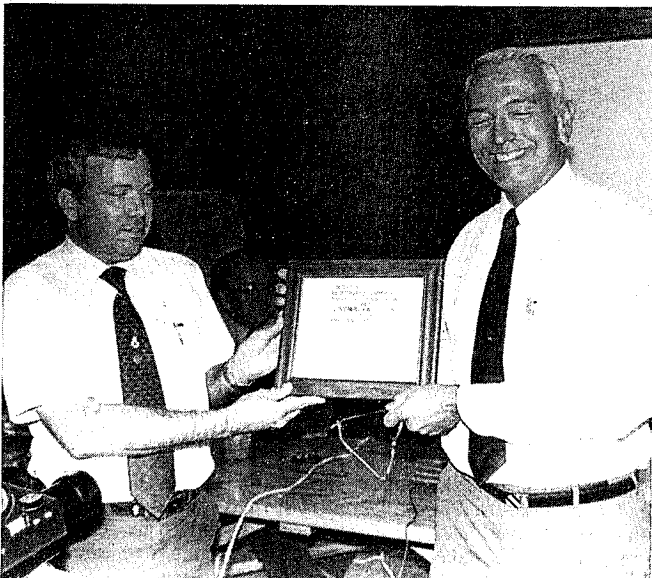
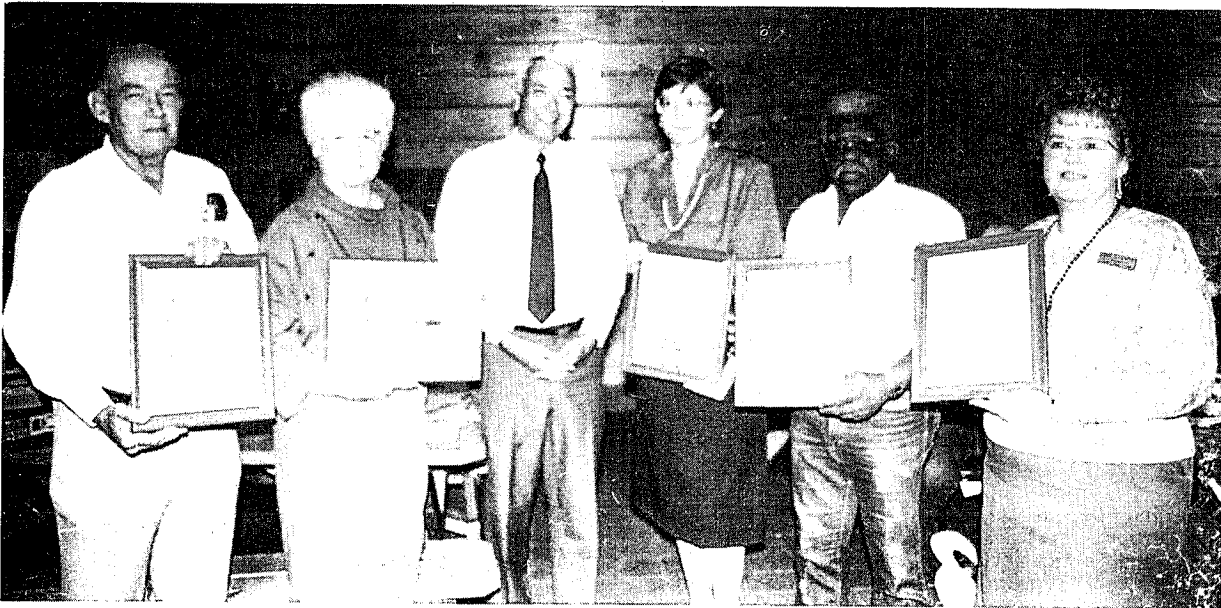
Paul Little, observer, North Creek, NY, received a 10-year length-of-service award.



The Town of Pulaski Water Treatment Plant, Pulaski, VA, was presented a 25-year Institutional award. Accepting the award are Sharon Altizer, Lab Technician, and Duane Cox, Chief Operator. Presentation and photo were made by David Keller, CPM, Charleston, WV.



Centennial awards given during Chamber luncheon



WEATHER AWARDS...

Al Dreumont, South Texas Area Manager for the National Weather Service, was guest speaker at the quarterly Chamber of Commerce luncheon Tuesday, and took time out to present special awards to the City of Luling and local weather observer, B.J. Benefiel. Above, City representatives display the Centennial plaque and various weather charts presented by the NWS. From left are, City Manager Harold Watts; Council member Norma Harmon; Dreumont; Council member Charlotte Hellums; Council member O.J. Wade, Jr.; and City Secretary Ruby White. Left; Dreumont presents a Centennial plaque to Benefiel, far left. Benefiel, who has served as the local weather data collector for the past 14 years, was recognized for his data collecting skills, and for his recent publication on the weather of the county for the past 110 years.

SOUTHERN REGION -- 100th ANNIVERSARY --

Weather was the topic of conversation Tuesday, as Al Dreumont, South Texas Area Manager for the National Weather Service, addressed those guests at the quarterly Chamber of Commerce luncheon at City Market.

Also attending the luncheon were: Louis Withrow, Meteorologist-in-Charge, with the National Weather Service office in Austin; John Patton, hydrologist with the South Texas NWS office; and Mike Clay, Meteorologist for K-XAN news in Austin.

Dreumont applauded Luling's 11 observers who have collected data over the past 110 years. B.J. Benefiel, local cooperative observer, was recognized for both his service as an observer, and for his work in compiling local data in a publication entitled "Caldwell County Weather."

"This book includes 110 years worth of history, put into human terms," Dreumont noted. "It is an important study in human history." He urged those present to read the publication, and to see what the weather of the past brought about for the County.

In celebration of the centennial of the local observation station, Benefiel was presented with an appreciation plaque, and with a study of climatology in pictorial form.

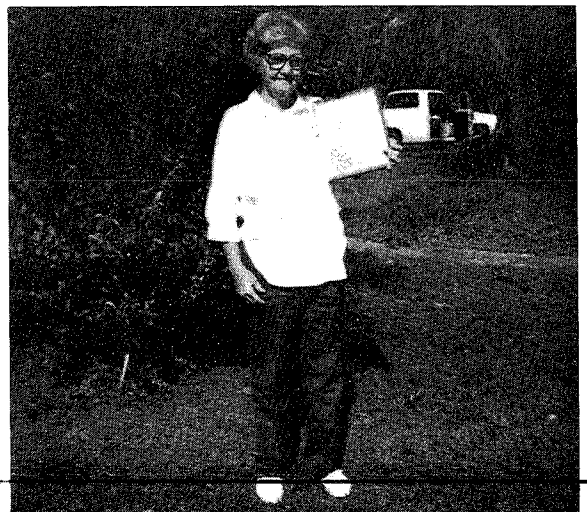
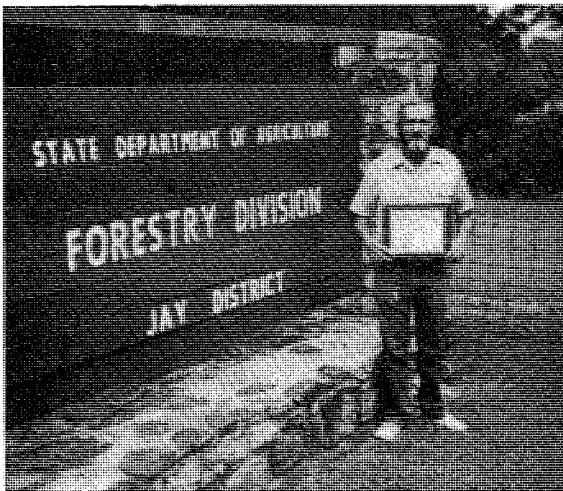
The City of Luling was also presented a centennial plaque, and with framed historic weather charts that can be hung for all residents to view. The charts included the Palmer drought index for the city, rainfall information, historic temperatures, and monthly climatic data. Accepting the awards on behalf of the City were City Manager Harold Watts, Council members Norma Harmon, O.J. Wade, Jr., and Charlotte Hellums; and City Secretary Ruby White.

Dreumont praised the collection skills of Luling's past observers: Benefiel, who has taken and recorded local weather data since 1978; Ivan J. Merritt, who served as observer from April 1961 to February 1978; Collie B. Appling, July 1958 to April 1961; Richard R. Hicks, May 1949 to June 1958; Robert L. Williams, December 1945 to April 1949; John S. Carter, September 1943 to December 1945.

The area manager also presented a slide show on various aspects of weather. He asked, "Why should you in Luling, located about 150 miles from the coast, worry about hurricanes?" Dreumont then explained that hurricanes effect all citizens of the state - as taxpayers, as insurance payers, and as human beings who care about such a storm's effects on others.

He noted that in the early 1900s Galveston experienced the most devastating disaster in U.S. history, when over 6,000 persons perished during a hurricane. He mentioned other hurricanes, including a 1919 storm that entered the Gulf of Mexico south of Florida and killed 500 sailors in the Florida area and 360 persons in Corpus Christi; and two storms in 1933, which occurred a month apart, and both hit in the Brownsville area. Dreumont said that from 1900 to 1990, the U.S. has experienced 95 hurricanes, with 40 of those being described as "major."

Although deaths from storms have decreased drastically over the years, Dreumont said that property damage has increased. He also noted that much of the state's populace has little experience with storms.



An Institutional award for 25 years service was presented to the Oklahoma Forestry Division, Jay, OK, from the Department of Commerce for outstanding contributions to the field of meteorology. Woody Currence, CPM/LZK, presented the award to Doug Drake (pictured).

Martha B. Rhodes, observer, Farris 3 WNW, OK, was presented a 20-year length-of-service award. Beverly Reese, HMT/OUN, made the presentation.

SOUTHERN REGION

100th ANNIVERSARY

Karen's Column. . .

Local weather observer, B.J. Benefiel, has presented The Newsboy with a copy of his compilation of data entitled "Caldwell County Weather" and, although I have not had the opportunity to read the text in its entirety, I have had a chance to note a few impressive facts, which I will share with you now.

From the section of 1869-1870, we find an article concerning Caldwell County's State Representative and Special Agent of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Lea T. Beaty, of Lockhart. In an address before the Legislature concerning the "Galveston Bill," Lea gave his own account of the greatest river flooding that Caldwell and Gonzales Counties had ever known. Lea was living at Belmont, on the Guadalupe River during 1869-1870. He said, "In 1869 and 1870, floods swept all crops from the valleys of the Colorado, Guadalupe, and San Marcos Rivers. No relief was asked or given. The highest flood in the history of the San Marcos River at Luling occurred in either 1869 or 1870 and a stage of 40.40 feet was reached during that time. This information was provided by Mr. Zedler and Mr. Schackel, who lived along the stream and this has been documented in U.S.G.S. reports.

"Mr. J. Josey operated a little store near Luling and had a cotton gin on the San Marcos River. Along about that time, the worst flood swept through here that has struck this country before or since that time."

"A notable incident connected with the flood was the birth of Noah Josey. Mr. Josey had several bales of newly ginned cotton at his place and he received warning just before the flood swooped down upon him that it was coming. He summoned all the hands on the place and they hurriedly tied all the bales of cotton together in an attempt to prevent its washing away. The flood struck in all its fury, and the water continued to rise until it reached the upper windows of his one and a half story house. Not only were they distressed by the mere fact that Mrs. Josey was trapped in the house by swirling waters, but she was also about to give birth to a child. The men floated the cotton to a vantage point about the house and Mrs. Josey climbed out of the upper story onto the bales of floating cotton. The child was born almost immediately, and this raft of cotton broke loose and floated approximately a mile, to where there was a bend in the river; and the cotton was tossed against land by the swirling down to solid ground, and the boy was named - Noah."

In 1873, Texas suffered one of its worst droughts, which caused the "Great Cattle Die-Up." The skinning of dead cattle became an active and competitive occupation; whoever found an animal down and going to die could put his claim of ownership. The following year, after dogs, wolves, and buzzards had finished their scavenger work, some began buying horns, hoofs, and bones for shipment. There was soon an enormous evil smelling pile on the railroad right-of-way in the center of Luling.

In 1879, the worst tragedy of the year was the Lockhart tornado disaster. "News of the almost total destruction of our neighboring city of Lockhart reached us by stage yesterday. At 5:00 p.m. on last Sunday evening it (Lockhart) was visited by a terrific cyclone, which swept down over the square and the eastern part of town, leaving ruin and desolation in its track. Houses were blown down, fences and trees scattered everywhere, and it seemed as though everything must succumb to the angry blast. It lasted only a few minutes, but it seemed hours to those who watched with blanched cheeks and prayerful hearts for it to subside." Buildings totally destroyed included the Presbyterian Church, Houston Hotel, Dr. Blunt's new residence, Mrs. Galbreath's residence, Tobe Swearingen's residence, A.M. Ross' two residences, Theo Bellinger's residence, Henry Bloodworth's residence, J.G. Wiley's residence, French George's residence, S. Levysen's residence, D. Capterton's residence, L. Halfin's stable, W.E. Field's stable, the Methodist Church, the Depp residence, and several other small residences. No one was killed.

In 1880 we find, "For the farmers who thought Spring had come and planted corn, they are now convinced that they were crowding the season. It is a difficult matter to tell anything about Texas weather. A bitter cold norther blew in the night of March 13, followed by rain and sleet the following night. All the vegetables and early corn were killed, and the fruit was also destroyed. Stock suffered terribly and the loss was very heavy. Lea Beaty and the other market gardeners had spent much money and labor in an effort to supply their customers with early vegetables."

During the week of July 27, the area experienced a heavier rainfall "that was ever known at this season." "The following day, one of the San Marcos rural mail carriers, while working the Martindale-Staples area, drove into a little branch that had been swollen by the heavy rains and before he realized his danger, he was in swimming water and his horses and buggy were swept down by the current. He succeeded in getting out the buggy, but both horses were drowned and the mail sack washed down the stream. In trying to save his horses, the mail carrier came very close to losing his own life, but fortunately caught the limb of a tree over hanging the stream and succeeded in getting ashore. The mail was found the next day and was brought to town."

In the 1939 section we find an account of the hailstorm which occurred at 6:30 p.m. May 8. Twenty-four people were sent to the Luling hospitals for treatment of cuts and bruises, and the storm inflicted an estimated \$250,000 in damage in Luling and an undetermined amount of damage to crops over a 10-mile area. Parents were fearful that two or three children not located immediately after the storm may have been seriously injured. However, they were found safe, though cut and bruised by pelting hailstones. A 2.35-inch rain accompanied the hailstorm, and greater amounts were reported to the north, where some roads were flooded. Windows on the west side of nearly all houses in Luling were smashed out and damage was increased as the torrential rain, driven by hard winds, flooded the buildings. Persons caught in the streets and in cars were battered by the hailstones, some of the stones being 3.00 inches in diameter. Reports indicated that 11 persons were treated for cuts and contusions at the Green Cross Sanitarium and 13 more at the Luling hospital. Two deaths were reported as a result of the storm. Power lines were disabled and the entire city was in darkness on the night of May 8.

There are a lot more items of interest in the publication, which we can hopefully share with you later. We thank Benefiel for our copy of his work, and congratulate him on the fine job he has done, both on the manuscript and in collecting local weather data.

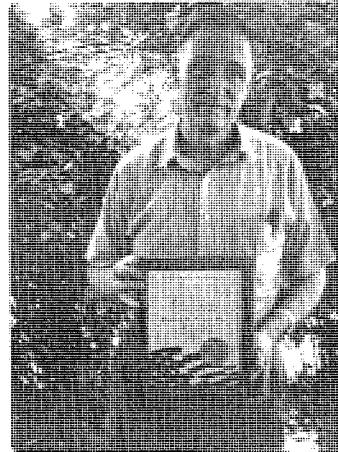
The Luling Newsboy & Signal (September 17, 1992)

SOUTHERN REGION

-- 100th ANNIVERSARY --



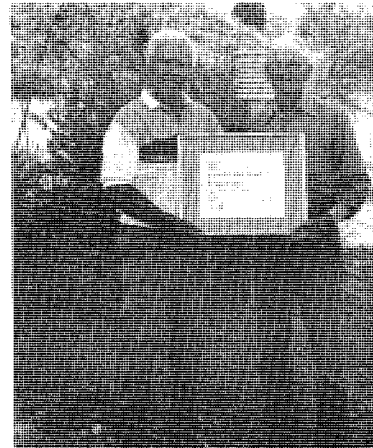
A 20-year length-of-service award was presented to M. H. Roney, observer, Dothan, AL. Bill Kent, CPM/BHM, made the presentation.



A 20-year length-of-service award was presented to Joseph Acree, Jr., observer, Moorhead, MS. Mr. Acree is a pharmacist in Moorhead. Thom Stenman made the presentation.



L. Douglas Griffith (shown above right), the official observer for Dallas (Paulding County), GA, was awarded the John Campanius Holm Award at a meeting of the General William J. Hardee Camp No. 1397, Sons of Confederate Veterans at the Paulding County Library. Mr. Griffith has been the observer since 1973. The John Campanius Holm Award is one of the National Weather Service's highest honors. Numerous friends and relatives of Mr. Griffith attended the ceremony. The award was presented by Carlos Garza, Area Manager, MIC/WSFO, Atlanta, GA.



Ralph H. Wright, observer, Redrock 1 NNE, NM, received the Edward H. Stoll Award for 50 years of service. In 1985 Mr. Wright received the Thomas Jefferson Award. The weather station has been in the Wright family for the past 60 years, his father being the observer for the first 10 years. Mr. Wright also received the "Holm" award in 1978. Presentation was made by Dick Snyder (right).



A 25-year length-of-service award was presented to J.C. Nance, observer, Ripley, MS. Mr. Nance owns and operates a local grocery store in Ripley. Thom Stenman, CPM/JAN, made the presentation.



A 35-year length-of-service award was presented to Dawson "Doc" Campbell, observer, Gila Hot Springs, NM. Charlie Liles (left), made the presentation. Dick Snyder, CPM/ABQ.

SOUTHERN REGION

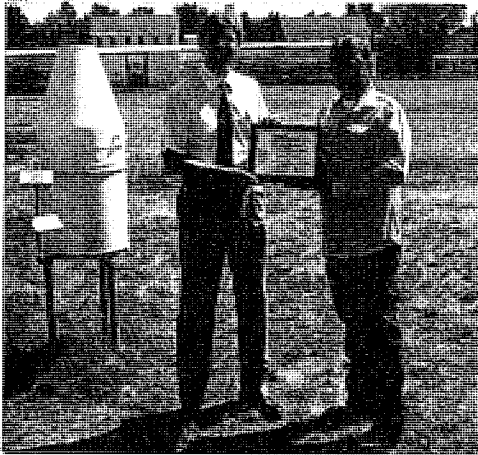
-- 100th ANNIVERSARY --



Chama, NM, received a Centennial Station award. This station was established in 1889. Pictured left to right: Dick Snyder, and Charles "Chuck" Fisher, U.S. BOR/Station Chief.



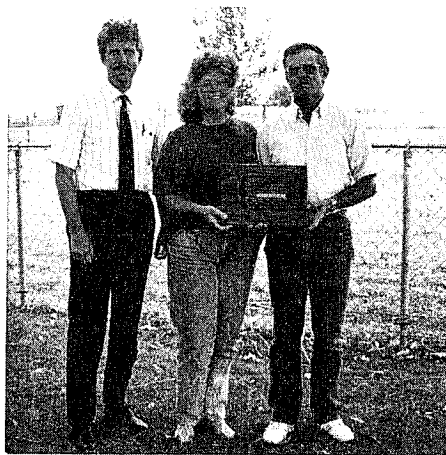
Socorro, NM, received a Centennial Station award. This station was established in 1893. Pictured left to right: John Greenwald, rancher/farmer; Charlie Liles; and Cullen Woods, minister.



Fort Bayard, NM, received a Centennial Station award. This station was established in 1867. Pictured left to right: Charlie Liles, and Steve Chacon, Steam Plant Supervisor.



Springer, NM, received a Centennial Station award. This station was established in 1887. Pictured left to right: Charlie Liles and Eugene "Gino" Lopez, presently the youngest cooperative observer in America.



Lordsburg 4 SE, NM, received a Centennial Station award. This station was established in 1881. Pictured left to right: Charlie Liles, Tanya and Robert Lowery, observers.



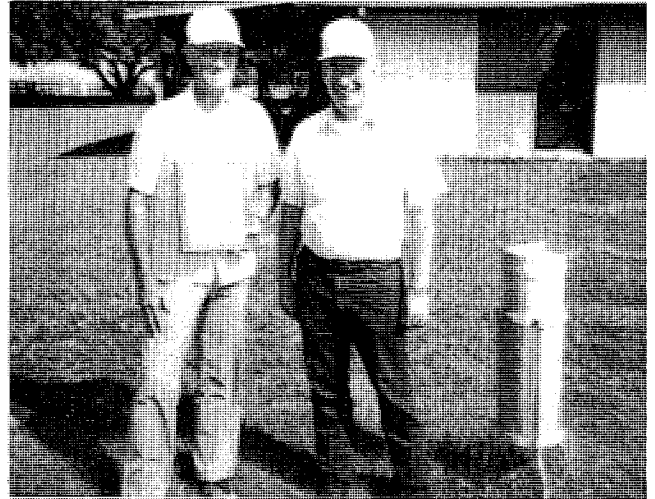
State University, NM, received a Centennial Station award. This station was established in 1851. Pictured left to right: Charlie Liles, and Dr. Gary Cunningham, Director, Agri. Science Centers and Experimental Station.

SOUTHERN REGION

-- 100th ANNIVERSARY --



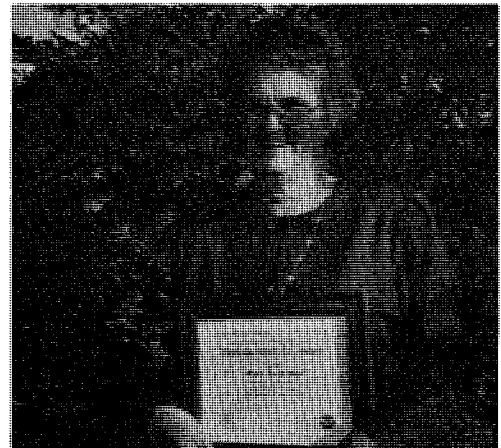
Taos, NM, received a Centennial Station award. This station was established in 1889. Pictured left to right: Dick Snyder, and Stewart Jones, owner/General Manager, Radio Station "KKIT" and observer.



Brooks M. Schley, George West 2 SSW, TX, received a 30-year length-of-service award, recognizing his excellent service as an observer. This station has been in the family since 1922. Presentation was made by Richard Vehrs (right), CPM/SAT.



A 30-year length-of-service award was presented to Lorene Goldsborough, observer, Clinton, OK. Mr. Goldsborough is pictured with his wife. Presentation was made by Carl Wilkins, HMT/OUN.



Mina Ruth Hart, observer, Pittsburg, TX, received a 25-year length-of-service award. Presentation was made by Jerry Wolfe, CPM/FTWT2.



G. E. Cargill, observer, Channing, TX, received his 30-year length-of-service award recently. Mr. Cargill does an excellent job with the recording rain gage in a sparsely settled area of the Texas Panhandle. Chuck Megee, CPM/LBB, made the presentation.



A 25-year length-of-service award was presented to Frank D. Holey, observer, Swan 4 NW, TX. Mrs. Holey is pictured with her husband. Presentation was made by Jerry Wolfe.

CENTRAL REGION
Happy Century!



G. R. Burkholder, Gregory, SD, was presented a Special Service award for 35 years of weather observing. The award was presented by Greg Harmon (pictured left), MIC(AM), and David Olkiewicz, CPM, WSFO, Sioux Falls. Mr. Burkholder is 100 years old; he reached the Century mark on July 12, 1992. Happy 100th Birthday!



A 50-year Institutional award was presented to Bill Gay (second from right), Fire Chief of Crane Naval Weapons and Surface Warfare, IN, by John T. Curran, AM/MIC, WSFO, IN (pictured second from left). Witnessing this presentation are Captain Howard (in uniform) and fireman Ted Townsend (holding certificate). Assisting Curran is Roger Kenyon, CPM/IN.

CENTRAL REGION

-- 100th ANNIVERSARY --

HETTINGER COUNTY HERALD

Official Newspaper of the City of New England and New England School District No. 9 Single Copy 45¢

Number 6

New England, ND 58647

Thursday, February 7, 1991

New England's weather station celebrates one hundred years

By Lewellyn Rustan

The U.S. Weather Bureau's Observer Station in New England was 100 years old in January. Although Station #326315 was established in 1888, actual records started in January 1891.

Manned by voluntary observers, the station measures and reports high and low daily temperatures, precipitation, including depth of snow on the ground, and river levels. Severe summer storms...hail, high winds, rains in excess of one-half inch...are called in immediately.

The data becomes part of the information used by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) to record and forecast weather.

Allen Schmidt, observer since 1984, said he is sometimes asked by other entities for important data. The ASCS office in Mott has called for precipitation information. "They use the date to determine drought periods," he said. The liveliest time he's had was when Mott was concerned about flooding from the Cannonball River in the spring of 1986. He was checking the river level every few hours. "They rely on us observers," he said.

When Allen and his wife, Arlys, realized the station was approaching its 100th anniversary, they requested information about its history. The history includes 1,200 pages...one for each month since its beginning...of reports.

An inspection report dated September 24, 1904 describes the location of the rain gage: "In northeast corner of barbed wire hay pen about three feet from corner post and 12 to 18 feet from hay stack." The observer at that time was W.C. McKenzie.

Fifteen observers have manned the station in various locations since its beginning. They are: Lewis A. Dodge, L.M.P. Griswald, A.H. Keene, H.W. Smith, W.C. McKenzie, John M. Connolly, R.S. Lewis, O.L. Greene, W.S. Jones, W.L. Sales, E.J. Freeman, F.S. Sleight, Adna S. Hatch, Anton Selinger, and Allen Schmidt.

Allen monitors temperatures with equipment that gives digital readings of high, low, and current temperatures. The sensor is in his backyard. The rain gage is in the backyard, and also measures snowfall. The snow is melted to measure actual precipitation.

The data is recorded daily, and is sometimes reported in the local newspaper. A reporting day runs from 7:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.



Weather observer, Allen Schmidt, stands beside the official rain and snow gage in his backyard.

Due to the often extreme differences in rainfall from one area to another, Allen has been accused of lying when asked about a recent rain. But he gets a lot of calls asking, "How much rain did we get?"

Allen and Arlys enjoy looking over old records, which include weather records given to them by Fr. Dahmus before he left Scheffield. Allen says people are especially interested in data about the 30s, since it was dry then, as it is now. "Right now, because it's so dry, everybody's comparing our weather to the 30s. Moisture-wise, it's just as bad."

Those comparisons look like this (annual precipitation):

1931	17.00	1981	18.03
1932	16.93	1982	24.85
1933	13.60	1983	14.84
1934	8.82	1984	15.12
1935	15.70	1985	17.58
1936	7.27	1986	20.52
1937	16.26	1987	15.30
1938	17.73	1988	8.53
1939	15.42	1989	15.34
1940	19.14	1990	11.92

These are actual recorded figures, taken from the New England station.

(Continued next page...)

CENTRAL REGION

-- 100th ANNIVERSARY --

A comment in the records indicated that 1934 was the "sixth year of drought." It identified the 8.82 inches of precipitation as a record low. That was a record broken in 1936 with just 7.27 inches, a record that still stands, although threatened in 1988 when only 8.53 inches of moisture fell on the New England station.

In 1936, every reporting station in the state noted "sub-normal amounts of precipitation for the year." Hettinger reported only 4.17 inches. February was the coldest month on record, and July was the hottest. The lowest temperature was recorded at Parshall on February 15, with a 60 below zero reading. On July 6, the mercury reached 121 degrees at Steele.

Allen noticed patterns. Studying the 30s, he said, "It seems the hot and dry go together." Record highs and lows, occurring in the same years, also caused Allen to believe temperatures over a year sort of average out. "As cold as it gets in the winter, it gets that hot in the summer," he said.

"I really enjoy it. It's fun," Allen said. But like most of the area farmers, he'd really like to see some heavy rains. The heaviest rain he's recorded in nearly seven years, was just over 2 inches. He doubts that even floods like those that followed the drought in the 30s, would upset many people. "I think it would take lots of rain to get anybody mad anymore," he said.

Happy or mad, when it comes, Allen will measure and record it, and it will become part of the permanent data on file at NOAA, just as it has for the last 100 years. Allen and his "official ruler" are ready.

The recent cold January isn't anything new. The records indicate in January of 1937, the daily low temperature was below zero every day of the month except two. On one of those, it was 1 degree above, and on the other, it was zero.

Arllys helps with the records. Allen's next-door neighbor, Eugene Fitterer, is the alternate recorder. He gathers the data when the Schmidts aren't home.

CENTRAL REGION

Floyd Gray Receives Thomas Jefferson Award from the National Weather Service

Floyd Gray (center) was presented the prestigious Thomas Jefferson Award from John T. Curran (left), and Larry Lee (right), Deputy Meteorologist in Charge for the Louisville office.

Gray is the local observer for the National Weather Service. (Staff photo by Marcus Amos)



John Curran, National Weather Service Area Manager for Indiana, presented the Thomas Jefferson Award to Floyd Gray on Thursday, October 1, during a special dinner honoring him at the Best Western Scottsburg Inn.

Gray is the observer at Scottsburg. He records climatological observations for the National Weather Service. He is one of five observers to receive this award nationally.

The National Weather Service Headquarters personnel established the Thomas Jefferson Award in 1959. The award honors a volunteer observer for unusual and outstanding accomplishments in the field of meteorological observations. The award is named for the third president of the United States.

The Statesman made an almost unbroken series of weather observations from 1776 to 1816.

There are 222 cooperative weather observers in Indiana and over 11,000 nationwide.

Private, governmental, and university concerns, including the National Weather Service, corps of engineers, farmers, builders, and utility companies use Gray's and others observations. He and other nearby observation stations determine the local climate of Scottsburg and south-central Indiana.

The data assists the weather service in flood and flash flood forecasting, climate trends, cooling and heating requirements of homes and businesses, water supply needs, and local reservoir requirements.

Gray contacts the weather service with rainfall and snowfall reports on a daily basis.

Special weather events are recorded and reported via telephone to the National Weather Service at Indianapolis. At the end of each month, his accurately complete forms are sent to the National Climatic Data Center for processing and publication at Asheville, NC.

Gray is retired from employment by the City of Scottsburg. He was born in Memphis and moved to Scottsburg when he was six years old. He started taking weather observations on his own while in high school and he graduated in 1935.

He became the official observer in January of 1946.

In 1988, he received the John Campanius Holm Award, which is the second highest award given to observers.

Gray is totally devoted to the study of the weather. This interest includes memorizing many dates of special weather occurrences. He is also a poet and combines his poetry and weather knowledge to produce limericks and poems.

Many Scottsburg residents are familiar with his poetry. The Scott County Journal and The Chronicle have published his monthly weather report and poems for several years.

For many years, Gray raised popcorn, popped, and sold it in front of the Sale Barn in Scottsburg. He can still be seen there selling popcorn.

The Scott County Journal, Scottsburg, IN (October 1, 1992)

Happy Holidays!

CENTRAL REGION



"Two prestigious John Campanius Holm Awards were presented to two observers from different locations in Wyoming at the same awards presentation. Leland Landers, Gillette 9 E, and Walter Hauber, Weston 1 E, WY, are the recipients for 1992. Presentation was at Gillette, WY." Left to right: Rich Griggs, MIC, Casper, WY; Gladys and Leland Landers, Gillette 9 E; Arlene and Walter Hauber, Weston 1 E; and Bill Parker, Area Manager, WY.



Pictured is David Copenhaver accepting the 25-year Institutional award for the Carrington Research Extension Center at the Carrington 4 N, ND, station. The station records daily maximum and minimum temperatures, precipitation, evaporation, soil temperatures, and hourly precipitation data. This station is a cooperative station and part of the North Dakota State University Agricultural research network. Thank you Dave and guys for a job well done! Picture and presentation by Vern Roller, CPM, WSFO Bismarck, ND.



Pictured at left is Freda Disrud and at right is her son, Arlynn Disrud, with the family pet "Lady." The Disrud family has been recognized for 20 years of weather observations at the Rolla 3 NW, ND, weather station. Freda's husband, David, was the observer who took over the weather station in May 1972. He became ill, had to retire for health reasons, and has since passed away.

CENTRAL REGION

-- 100th ANNIVERSARY --

Camp Crook Ranger Station Honored For 100 Years Of Data To National Weather Service



David W. Olkiewicz (left) of the National Weather Service presents a plaque honoring 100 years of service by the Camp Crook Ranger Station to Charlie Odell, Ranger Technician at Camp Crook.

For 100 years the U.S. Forest Service Ranger Station in Camp Crook has played a vital part in supplying data for the National Weather Service. To commemorate these 100 years of service, the Camp Crook Ranger station was presented a plaque of appreciation on Thursday, July 30, 1992. Making the presentation to USFS Ranger Technician Charlie Odell was David W. Olkiewicz, the Cooperative Program Manager of the National Weather Service office in Sioux Falls, ND.

In June of 1892, the Ranger Station began supplying this data. The rain gage and thermometer were monitored by Thomas Ashcroft during those early years. In April of 1910, the National Weather Service began providing equipment and instruments to the Camp Crook station.

The weather station in Camp Crook is part of a network of some 200 stations in South Dakota that observe precipitation and temperature for the NWS, which operates a nationwide climatic system. Some stations report on a daily basis while others report on a monthly basis. This data is used in studies of weather and climate of South Dakota and is used to determine normal means and extremes of both temperature and precipitation.

The data eventually is received at the National Climatic Data Center in Asheville, North Carolina, where it becomes the official record of temperature and rainfall.

The weather station at Camp Crook is actually a multi-use, cooperative station that sends data to more than one location. It is also interagency since the NWS is under the Department of Commerce and the USFS is under the Department of Agriculture. It is part of the NWS Computer System, reporting on a daily basis. This data is used for crop and agriculture summaries and for forecasts. It also reports to the Custer National Forest Regional Office, providing information used to determine fire weather indexes and forecasts, which is issued twice a day. The information is also probably used by such government agencies as the ASCS and the SCS for ag-related statistics and forecasts.

There are several weather stations in the NWS network in Harding County. These are all operated on a volunteer basis as a community service. None of the operators are paid for monitoring of the stations. Monitoring stations that record both temperature and precipitation are Sophie Sarsland in the Ludlow area, Roy and Nola Horvey in the Ralph area, Virginia Lemm in the Redig area, and the Camp Crook Ranger Station. Monitoring stations that just record precipitation only are Jody McCoid in the Harding area and Clara Braun in Buffalo.

The totally automatic weather station just north of Buffalo, which records precipitation only, is part of a different weather network.

The Center of the Nation News, Buffalo, SD (July 30, 1992)

Length of Service Awards Presented in Central Region

Name	Station	Years	Name	Station	Years
Dennis Thompson	Wals 1 W, CO	25	Wilma Baker	Scott City, KS	10
			William Gerber	Burlington, CO	10
			Marion Hamilton	Syracuse, KS	10
			Herb Janssen	Shaw 2 E, CO	10
Bradd Batt	Lisco, NE	20	Dorothy Simmons	La Junta 20 S, CO	10
			Roger Wadleigh	Cheraw 1 NE, CO	10

CENTRAL REGION

-- 100th ANNIVERSARY --

Willow City weather station marks 100 years



Vern Roller, NWS cooperative program manager, Willow City Mayor Ed Kleba, weather observer Hubert Miller, Donald Stoltz, NWS area manager, and Marthe Roletto, NWS hydrologist.

by Janie Solarski

In a state where weather has such an influence on the livelihood of so many, it's reassuring to know that people like Hubert Miller are on hand to keep accurate accounts of the elements that impact us. Miller is one of a long line of volunteer cooperative weather observers in Willow City who have collected data for the National Weather Service over the past 100 years. The station was honored Tuesday, December 10, as a Centennial Cooperative Station for completing 100 years or more of continuous service. "It's quite an honor," Miller said. "There are only a few in the state."

Willow City's cooperative station was established in 1891. It and eight other stations in North Dakota were presented certificates and plaques for their dedication. Three other stations were also established in 1891: Dickinson Experiment Station, Grafton, and Jamestown State Hospital. Stations in Wahpeton and Napoleon were established in 1889, New England in 1888, Grand Forks UND in 1887, and Pembina in 1871. "It's pretty remarkable to have a 100-year record," said Vern Roller, Cooperative Program Manager for the National Weather Service in North Dakota.

There are about 240 stations in the North Dakota Cooperative Network and approximately 12,000 nationwide. Roller said, "This does not include the observers utilized by many of the local television stations, and other weather monitoring networks. Many of the cooperative observers do, however, also report to these other programs as well." About 70 percent of the stations are at the homes of individuals who have an interest in weather. The remaining stations are at businesses and other institutions that have a need for accurate weather information, or feel a need to help with the program. Radio stations, sewage treatment plants, packing companies, as well as the "guy down the street" are all helping to monitor the weather of the state and the nation, Roller said.

A long line of observers

Miller has been the volunteer observer in Willow City since October 1, 1989. Before that it was Kenneth Sanderson, from July 1981; the Rev. George Brodner, from June 15, 1979; Robert E. Withey, from November 2, 1966; Mrs. O. M. Sanderson, from July 25, 1956; and O. M. "Matt" Sanderson, for many years prior to that. A complete record was not available.

Donald Stoltz, Area Manager for the National Weather Service, said some individual volunteers have recorded data for as long as 50 years. "And there's a family in Minnesota which has done it for 100 years," he said.

As a group, the cooperative observers collect maximum and minimum temperatures, rainfall and snowfall readings, and monitor river levels. Some stations do all of the services, while others do only one or two.

Miller, who is the city superintendent and policeman, takes his readings at one of the city pump houses every morning at 8 a.m. His equipment, which includes a sending unit outside the house that is wired to a digital reader inside, provides a reading of the maximum and minimum temperatures in the previous 24-hour period. He also records the present temperature and measures rain and snowfall. "We put the equipment in the pump house, since I have to check those every day anyway," he said. Each month he sends his records to the Bismarck office, who then forwards it to the National Climatic Data Center in North Carolina. "If there are extremes, cold or hot temperatures, or a lot of rain or snow, I call it in to Bismarck right away," he said.

The Cooperative Network has been used to develop the largest and best climatology record in the world. When someone needs to know the average temperature or rainfall for an area, the information comes from the data supplied by this network. And the majority of the data being used to study the "Greenhouse Effect" has been collected by this group. The information gathered by these observers has been widely used for sectors of the economy as diverse as agriculture, business, commerce, industry, engineering, and aviation. "There are a lot more uses for it than people realize," Roller said. And the records continue to acquire greater value with the passage of time. "The 100-year data base generated by these dedicated citizens provides a benchmark, unique in the world, of untold value for studies of global climate change," he said.

Stoltz said it's getting more and more difficult to find those dedicated citizens to serve as observers. "With a declining population and an aging population, we're running out of people to take readings," he said. "That's one of the major problems with this program." The average age of the volunteers is over 60 years old. "It takes a very dedicated person. And since it's basically a volunteer thing, it's not very popular," he said.

The National Weather Service likes to have the stations separated by a certain distance, which is getting more difficult as population declines. Roller said the service is working on developing automated equipment, but doesn't look for anything too soon.

Courant Bottineau, ND Tuesday, December 17, 1991

CENTRAL REGION



Henry Dembowski, far left, was given a handshake and a plaque for his 40 years of recording weather for the National Weather Service. David Theophilus made the presentation while other weathermen were on hand to contribute to the recognition. They included, from left, back row: Don Davis, Tom Sinclair, Leonard Czaplowski of Loup City and Terry Landsvork.—Times Photo

40 Years Of Weather Service

Henry Dembowski was presented a 40-year service award on October 5 by David Theophilus, Nebraska Area manager for the National Weather Service (NWS).

Also in attendance were Tom Sinclair, NWS Regional Cooperative Program Manager from the Central Region Headquarters in Kansas City; Terry Landsvork; and Don Davis, manager of the Grand Island weather service.

Dembowski has been the official weather observer at a site six miles northeast of Loup City, near the Sherman Reservoir, since September 29, 1952. He has devoted time and effort to the recording of daily precipitation occurrences throughout these past 40 years.

The award consisted of a framed service certificate and a service pin.

The National Weather Service uses the information received from cooperative weather observers for environmental and flood forecasting activities. There are over 11,500 volunteer cooperative weather observers scattered throughout the country. Their observations are the backbone of the United States climatology program.

The Department of Commerce, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, and the National Weather Service greatly appreciate this service and extend their congratulations to Henry Dembowski for a job well done.

Sherman County Times, Loup City, NE (October 6, 1992)

CENTRAL REGION



Service Award Presentation

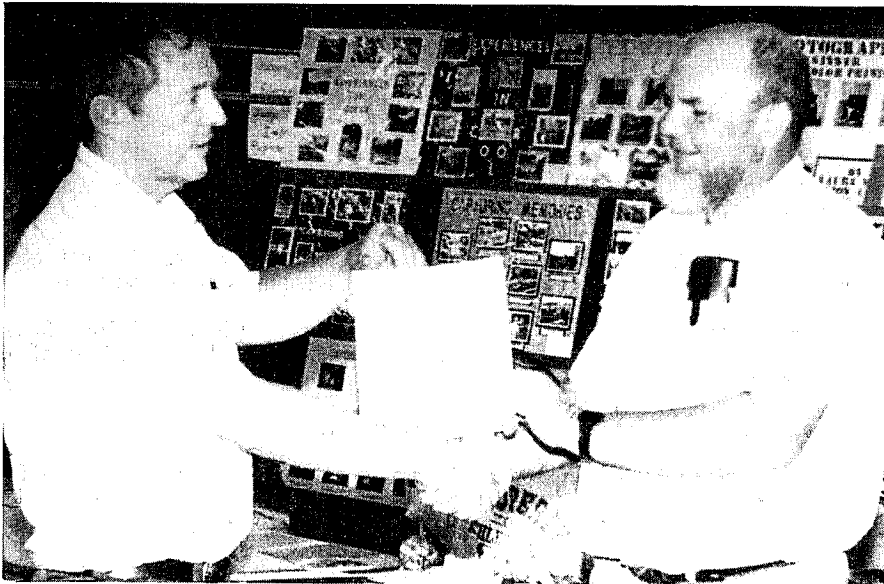
Thomas Klanecky was presented a 10-year service award on October 5, by David Theophilus, Nebraska Area Manager for the National Weather Service (NWS). Also in attendance were Tom Sinclair, NWS Regional Cooperative Program Manager from the Central Region Headquarters in Kansas City; and Terry Landsvork, NWS Cooperative Program Manager for Nebraska.

Klanecky has been the official weather observer for Ord since September of 1982. He has willingly devoted time and effort to the recording and reporting of daily precipitation and also reads the river gage on the North Loup River east of town during the periods of high water.

The data provided by cooperative observers is used extensively by the National Weather Service, the State Climatologist Office, and numerous others in the public and private sectors. The information becomes a permanent part of the climatic record and includes a variety of weather elements such as precipitation, temperature, evaporation, river water level, and severe weather occurrences.

The award consisted of a framed service certificate and a service pin.

Ord Quiz, Ord, NE (October 5, 1992)

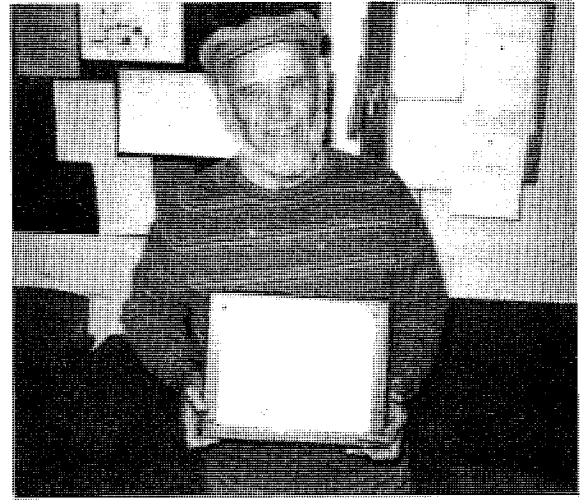


Gordon Jackson was presented a 25-year award at Farmland 5 NNW, IN. The award was given by Jim McIntyre (left), MIC, MAWSC, West Lafayette, IN.

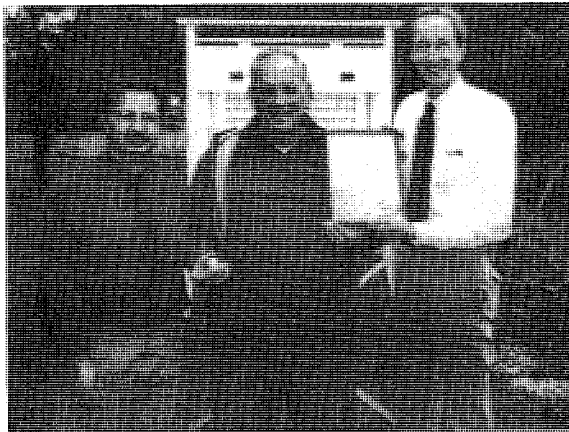
CENTRAL REGION



Dorothy Simmons, La Junta 20 S, CO, was presented a 10-year length-of-service award by Mike Elias.



Two awards were presented to Lores Steury of Goshen College, Goshen, IN. Mr. Steury represented the college and was presented a 75-year Institutional award. Then Mr. Steury was awarded a 10-year individual award for his efforts in the cooperative program as an observer. The awards were jointly presented by John T. Curran, AM/MIC, WSFO, IN; Larry Mowery, OIC South Bend, IN; and Roger Kenyon, CPM/IN.



Eldon Gunia (center), observer, Peru, IL, was presented a 20-year length-of-service award. Making the presentation were Joe Baalke (left), OIC at Marseille, and Bill Morris (right), service hydrologist.



Grafton J. Longden, Jr., Greencastle 1 SE, IN, was presented a 45-year length-of-service award by Area Manager John T. Curran (left) and Albert Shipe (right) SH/IN. Mr. Longden received the John Campanius Holm Award in 1985 and continues to be an excellent observer in west-central Indiana.



Robert Pucek, Kankakee, IL, was presented a 20-year length-of-service award by Bill Buckingham.

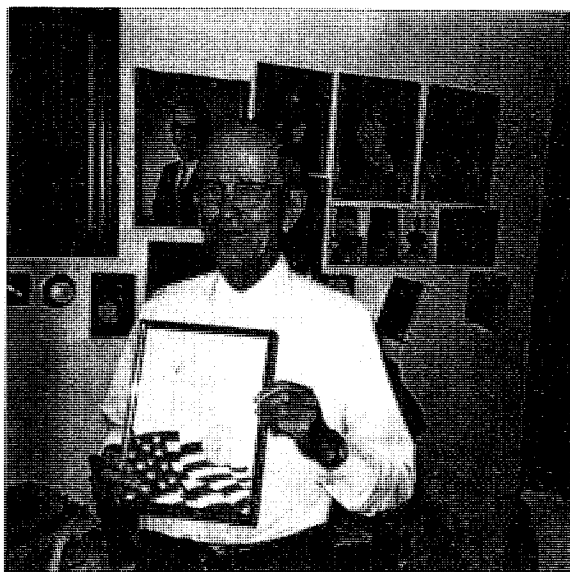


Norman S. Creek, Liberty 3 SSE, IN, received a Special Service award for 35 years as an observer from Jim McIntyre, MIC, Midwest Agricultural Center at Purdue University, West Lafayette, IN. Photo by R. Kenyon, CPM/IN.

CENTRAL REGION



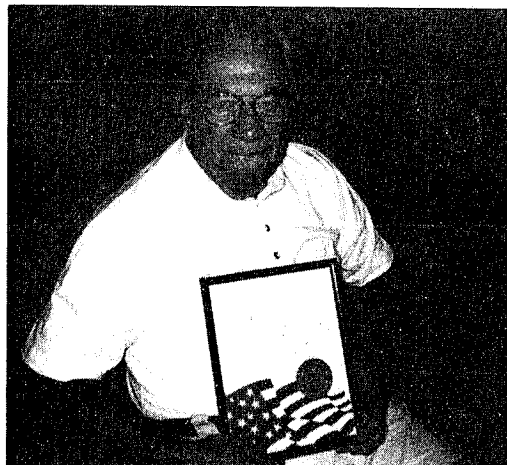
Charles D. Meyer, Bowling Green 3 NE, IN, was presented a 20-year length-of-service award by Albert Shipe and Roger Kenyon.



Earl Artley, Russell Springs, KS, was presented a 40-year length-of-service award by Mike Elias, CPM/GLD.



Gordon Thurston, Shelbyville, IN, received a 15-year pin from Roger Kenyon.



Phil Tommer, Kinsley, KS, was presented a 30-year length-of-service award by Mike Elias.



Mr. and Mrs. David S. Means, observers, Emmetsburg, IA, were presented a 10-year length-of-service award by Bill Newman, CPM/DSM.

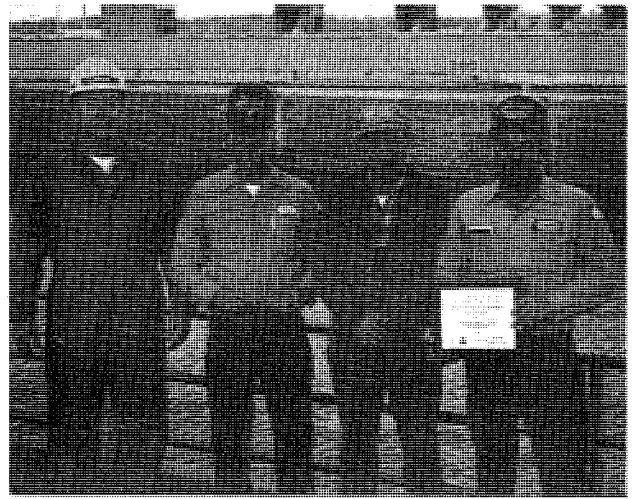


Howard Frost (right), Lockmaster, and Ernest K., Assistant Lockmaster, Station: Corps of Engineers, Lock #2, Lockport, KY, was presented a 75-year Institutional award by Peter Tellez.

CENTRAL REGION



Robert Smith (left), Lockmaster, and Mike Thomas, Assistant Lockmaster, observers from Gest Lock #3, were presented an Institutional award for 75 years service. Presentation was made by Peter Tellez, CPM/SDF, Louisville, KY.



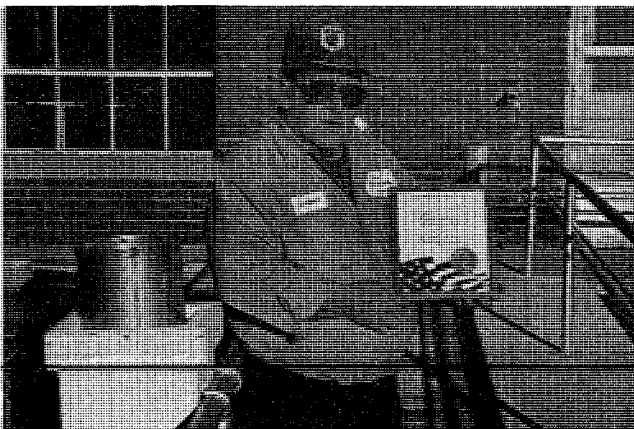
Lock and Dam 24, Clarksville, MO, U.S. Corps of Engineers, was presented a 50-year Institutional award. Left to right: Bob O'Shea, Don Mirick, Mike Preston, and Chris Morgan. While the observation program is a group effort, the guys say Cindy Zimmerman, not pictured, is the official observer.



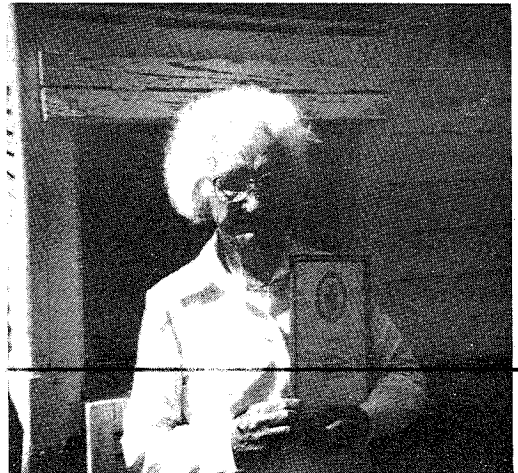
Robert Utne (center), Madison, MN, was presented a 30-year length-of-service award by CPM Michael Asmus. Pictured with Mr. Utne are Doug Dunkers (left), Madison's City Administrator, and Harold Hodge (right), the Community Public Service Director.



Mary Harden, Antioch, NE, was presented a 50-year service award and the Edward H. Stoll Award by Mike Elias, CPM/GLD.



Harry Clark, Louisiana, MO, was presented a 10-year length-of-service award. He is the waterworks supervisor and a member of the Elks. Karl Sieczynski, CPM/STL.



Eva Andrews, Nenzel 23 SSW, NE, was presented a 10-year length-of-service award by Mike Elias.

NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE HEADQUARTERS

THE COOPERATIVE OBSERVER AWARD PROGRAM - HOW IT WORKS

Cooperative observers can be granted three types of awards: (a) length-of-service awards, (b) recognition for specific acts of bravery and service to their communities and/or the National Weather Service (NWS), and (c) recognition for sustained performance of exceptional value and quality.

Length-of-service awards are usually presented to observers every 10 years (beginning with their 10th year) by their cooperative program manager (CPM). Some NWS regional offices also send congratulatory letters to observers. Policy was recently changed, authorizing the granting of award certificates every 5 years, starting with the 10th year, although as of this writing, the new certificates were not yet available in most areas.

Observers who have been active for 40 years receive a letter of appreciation from the Director of the National Weather Service in addition to a length-of-service award.

Upon completing 50 years of service, the Edward H. Stoll Award is granted, together with a letter of appreciation signed by the Director, National Weather Service. The Stoll award was established in honor of a man who served as a cooperative observer without interruption for 76 years.

After 60 years, the Helmut E. Landsberg Award and a letter of appreciation signed by the President of the United States are sent to observers. The Landsberg award was named in honor of the man largely responsible for establishing the nationwide climatological network as we know it today. Since presidential letters are signed only once every four years, their presentation to the observer may be delayed.

The Albert J. Myer Award is granted to observers having completed 65 years of service. It is named after the observer at Eagle Pass, Texas, who later became the chief of the Signal Service--the forerunner of the NWS.

The Ruby Stufft Award is presented to observers having completed 70 years of observations. In 1991 Mrs. Stufft of Elsmere, Nebraska, became the first woman observer to reach the 70-year milestone.

Those rare observers having served 75 years have earned the Earl Stewart Award. Mr. Stewart completed 75 years of continuous observations at Cottage Grove, Oregon, in October 1992.

The Albert J. Myer, Ruby Stufft, and Earl Stewart awards were first granted in 1992. Also in 1992, the first Ruby Stufft and Earl Stewart awards were presented to their namesakes. The formats of these three new awards are identical to that of the Edward H. Stoll Award.

There are also awards for special or sustained achievements. There are five methods of recognizing special accomplishments by cooperative observers: (a) letters of appreciation, (b) special service awards, (c) public service awards, (d) the John Campanius Holm Award, and (e) the Thomas Jefferson Award.

Letters of Appreciation may be sent to an observer by an NWS official to express satisfaction with consistently good or above-average services rendered.

The Special Service Award is granted to express appreciation for special services rendered by an individual or organization. It may be prepared, approved, and signed by the local supervisor, including the CPM, hydrologist, community preparedness staff, or other official. It may be awarded for any significant service believed appropriate by an official of the supervising office, including (a) timely and unusual action to insure receipt of weather reports at collection centers, (b) unusual assistance or ingenuity in maintaining equipment and observations in times of emergency, (c) consistent or unusual service rendered to a local office where other awards do not apply, and (d) as an intermediate award when significant services are rendered to warrant recognition, but the requirements of other awards have not been met. For example, it may be used as a length-of-service award for intermediate years (e.g., 15, 25, etc.) if no other award is available for this purpose.

NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE HEADQUARTERS

The Public Service Award is one step above the Special Service Award. It is presented to institutions or individuals who have performed meritorious service but may not qualify for a higher award. This may be granted to individuals who have undergone considerable risk to their life or safety to report rainfall, river stages, or severe weather, for example, that has contributed to the issuance of life-saving warnings by the NWS. Approval for granting this award must come from the NWS Headquarters.

The two highest ranking awards, the Holm and Jefferson, are granted for sustained levels of performance.

The John Campanius Holm Award is granted each year to a maximum of 25 observers nationwide, selected by their CPMs to honor them for outstanding accomplishments in the field of cooperative observations. The award was named for a Lutheran minister who was the first person known to have taken systematic weather observations in the American Colonies in 1644 and 1645.

CPMs select candidates for the Holm award from among their observers who rank highest in several of the following categories: (a) length of service (generally 20 years or more), (b) accuracy and legibility of records, (c) taking and reporting observations under occasionally hazardous or extreme weather conditions over an extended period, (d) unusual efforts to maintain continuity of observations during illnesses, emergency absences, or equipment failure, (e) consistent or unusual efforts to ensure that forms are sent in promptly, (f) independent preparation or publication of climatological data or summaries, based on quality, consistency, and length of time issued, (g) consistent and/or unusual efforts to disseminate weather information, (h) consistent and/or unusually good care of their instruments, and (i) a high level of cooperation with NWS officials and representatives, and activities in the community (civic or religious).

The selection of the best 25 Holm Award candidates is made after a thorough, careful review of all candidates by officials at NCDC and NWS Headquarters.

The Thomas Jefferson Award is the most prestigious given to cooperative observers. It is named after our third president, who kept an almost unbroken series of weather records from 1776 to 1816. This award is given to no more than five observers a year, for outstanding and unusual achievements. All candidates for the Jefferson award must have received the Holm award at least 5 years earlier.

The selection of winners follows the same procedure as for the Holm award.

USCOMM-NOAA-ASHEVILLE, N.C.-1993-11,300

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