

# The National Cooperative Observer Newsletter



FALL 1986

VOLUME 4

NUMBER 1

EASTERN REGION

SOUTHERN REGION

CENTRAL REGION



WESTERN REGION

ALASKA REGION

PACIFIC REGION

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NATIONAL OCEANIC AND  
ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION

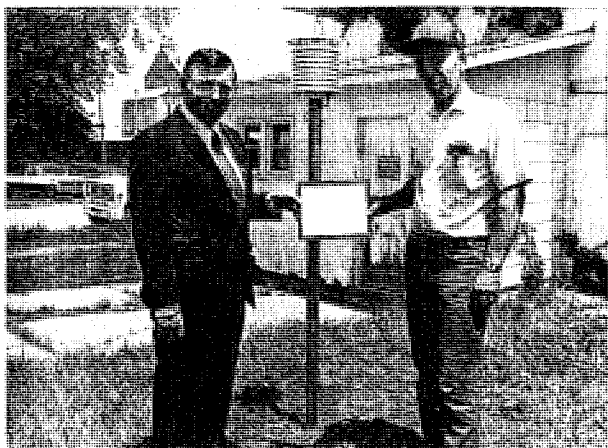
NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE

About the cover: STORM IN THE SAN JUANS. View of the San Juan Mountains from the Dallas Divide west of Ridgway in southwestern Colorado. (Photo: Bill Jate, CPM).

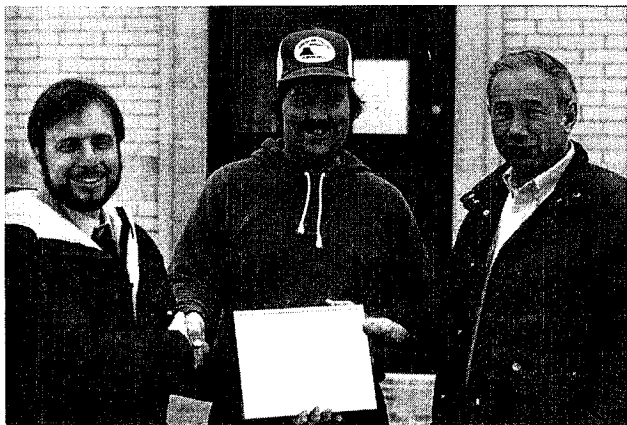
## CENTRAL REGION



Harold R. Connley, observer, Williamstown, KY, was presented a Holm's Award by Peter Tellez, CPM, Louisville, Ky.



Durward Nice, Jr. (left), City Administrator, received a 25-year Institutional Award for the city of Girard, KS, from Gary L. Funke.



A 25-Year Institutional Award was presented to the Albion WWTP, MI, by Ken Rizzo MIC/LAN to Kevin Markovich (center) and Stan Sommer (right).



Mason D. Flora, cooperative observer, Harveyville, KS, was presented a 40-year service award. Mrs. Flora was also present.



Mr. & Mrs. Levi Ray Dellinger, Howard 5 NE, KS, were presented a 35-year award by Gary L. Funke, CPM.



Roger C. Jones, observer, Big Bow 2 S, KS, was presented a 35-year Service Award by Mike Elias, CPM/GLD.

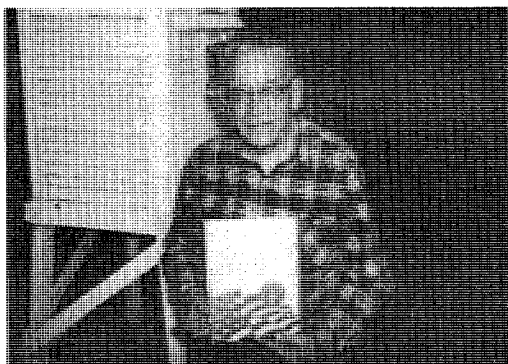
## CENTRAL REGION



John Hodges (center), Oolitic Purdue Experimental Farm, IN, was presented a 25-year award by CPM, John Hennek (left) and Service Hydrologist, Al Shipe (right).

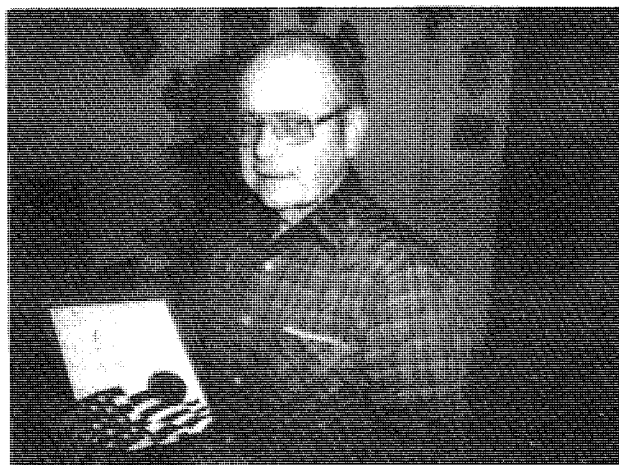


The Wyoming Highway Department at Burgess Junction was presented a 25-year length-of-service award by Don Halsey, OIC, (left). Accepting the award was Ron Petty.

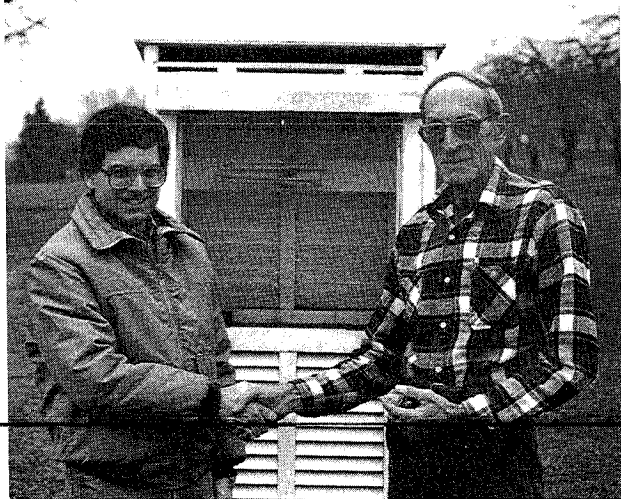


John G. Mosher, Jr., observer, River Falls, WI, was presented a 25-year award.

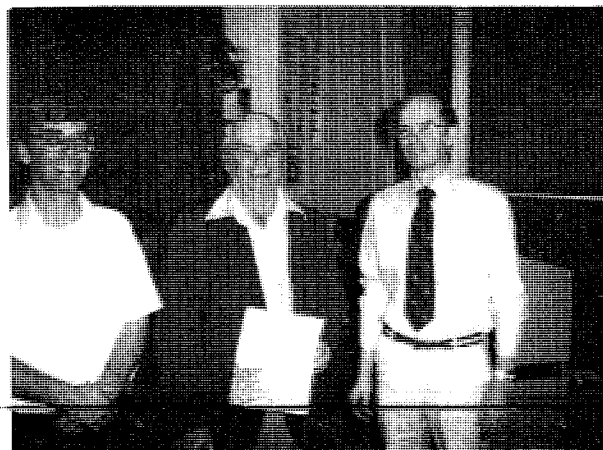
Mr. Mosher started in meteorology with the military in World War II. He recently retired as Prof. of Meteorology from the University of Wisconsin, River Falls.



Gilbert Tews, observer, New Ulm, MN, was presented a 20-year award by CPM, Leo Behrens.



Douglas Warman, Watervliet 1 S, MI, was presented a 25-year length-of-service award by J.D. Carlson, Agricultural Weather Service, Michigan State University, East Lansing, MI.



Robert Zollman (center), Medora, IN, was presented a 20-year award by Al Shipe (left) and MIC, John Curran (right).

## WESTERN REGION



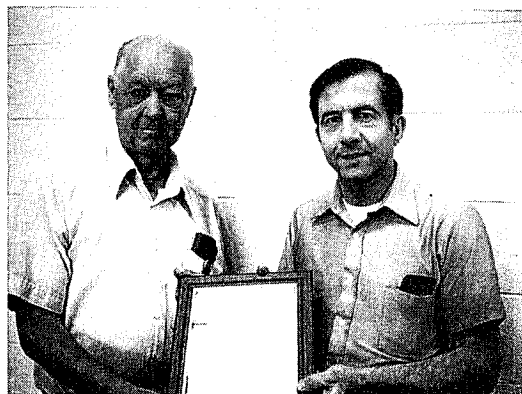
Mona Kurtz, observer at the Irene Mountain weather station near Wauconda, WA, was presented the Helmut E. Landsberg award by Richard Hutcheon, NWS Area Manager. She is the first recipient of this new award. Mrs. Kurtz has taken precipitation observations for over 60 years at that site. She has previously been honored with the Holm and the Stoll awards.



A luncheon was held in Springfield, OR, to celebrate Irene Walters' 45 years of service. George Miller, Area Manager for Oregon; Charlie Baker, MIC at Eugene; and Clint Jenson represented the National Weather Service at the function. Irene was presented her award by George Miller. Shown with Irene is Charlie Baker. Congratulations, Irene!



The Ochoco Ranger Station, OR, was presented a 50-year Special Service Award (Institutional) by CPM Clint Jenson. Shown from left to right are: Billie Ketchum, Sandy Gannon, Debbie Hargis, and Judy Allen.



Clinton Zanto, Highwood, MT, was presented a 40-year length-of-service award. Clinton's goal is to visit all 50 of the United States--at last count he's visited 45 states. David E. Olson (right), Area Manager for Montana, made the presentation.



Leonard McAtee, Cameron, MT, was presented a 45-year length-of-service award. Leonard, a recently retired postmaster, watched over a recording gage, a duty he took over from his father in January 1940.



Lewis "Ole" Weaver, Barnes Station, OR, was presented a 25-year length-of-service award by Clint Jenson. Ole, a rancher, started taking "obs" in 1961.

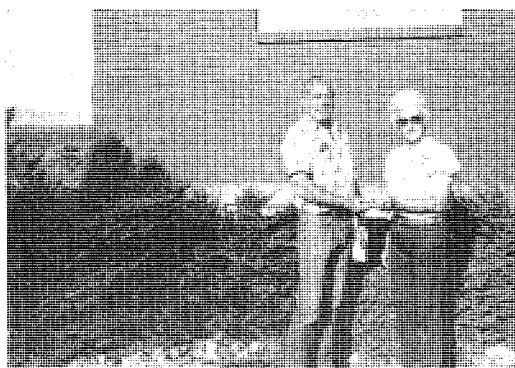
## WESTERN REGION



Martha Mawkins, Duckwater, NV, was presented a 20-year length-of-service award by Bert Soileau, WSFO Reno, NV. Besides tending her garden, Martha likes to fish for catfish in the nearby streams. These catfish escape from the fish hatchery just up the road.



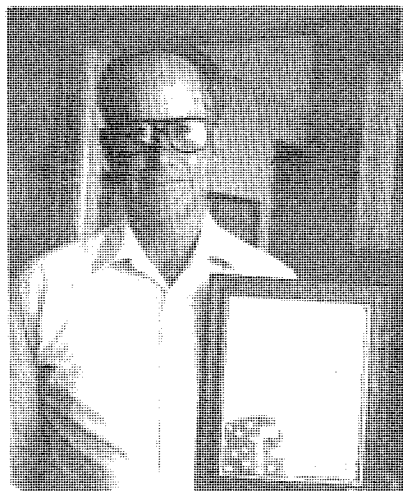
Jim Shaw, Lodge Grass, MT, was presented a 20-year length-of-service award. Jim does an excellent job of caring for a recording precipitation gage. Jim is 83 years young.



Beth Jones, Malta, ID, was presented a 20-year length-of-service award by Ingve Olson, CPM, WSFO, Boise. Mrs. Jones, a lifelong Idahoan, enjoys fishing in the summer and snowmobiling in the winter. She also does oil painting in her spare time.



The Lott family has maintained excellent observations at Twin Bridges, MT. Pictured are Dawes (left) and Junior who takes most of the daily temperature and precipitation readings. Mrs. Dawes Lott does the paper work. The Twin Bridges weather information is included each week in the Madisonian newspaper located at historic Virginia City, MT.



Clark Roberts, Myton, UT, was presented a 20-year length-of-service award by CPM Dean Hirschi. He takes the observations in addition to his job as postmaster. His son and several other persons have assisted in making the observations complete by taking the readings on Sundays. Clark is also a farmer-rancher and is interested in weather conditions.

The following articles are not accompanied by photos.

George Meyer, Idaho Falls 16 SE, ID, was presented a 30-year length-of-service award by Ingve Olson. Mr. Meyer has lived in the Bone, ID, area since 1920, and still puts in a full day on the ranch running the swather and doing dozer work.

Joe Peterson, Alder 17 S, MT, was presented a 30-year award. Joe and son Bruce share the duties of recording daily precipitation and high and low temperatures. About the time Joe took over the station, cattle were still being driven by cowboys to the railroad at Monida for shipping.

Jack Brehm, Broadview, MT, was presented a 20-year length-of-service award for recording temperatures and precipitation. Jack wanted to wait for 25 years to enter into pictures. Jack is also the postmaster at Broadview.

Dick and Kitty McKay were presented with a 20-year award by Bert Soileau. The McKays live on a remote ranch located about 40 miles southwest of Eureka, NV. There is no phone, electricity, or mail service, but the beauty and solitude make up for the lack of conveniences. Wild horses and antelope roam the nearby hills.

# ALASKA REGION

Since the last rendition of the newsletter. New stations were opened at the South Fork of Eagle River Valley and 16 miles north of Seward. Ten new river stations were added to the B Network. The station at Hoonah was relocated. Stations at Emmonak and Angoon were reopened. Because of cold weather, budget cuts, and other problems, six stations were put on the inactive list. We hope to have them back in the spring.

Fifty-three of the new AC-MMTS units have been installed replacing the older wooden shelters and thermometers at cooperative stations. We have 38 units yet to be installed. No word has been received as to when the new DC-MMTS units will be available for installation at cooperative stations with no power.

An article by Neil Davis of the Geophysical Institute, University of Alaska, may prove interesting to cooperative observers in the Fairbanks area. Fox Permafrost Tunnel.

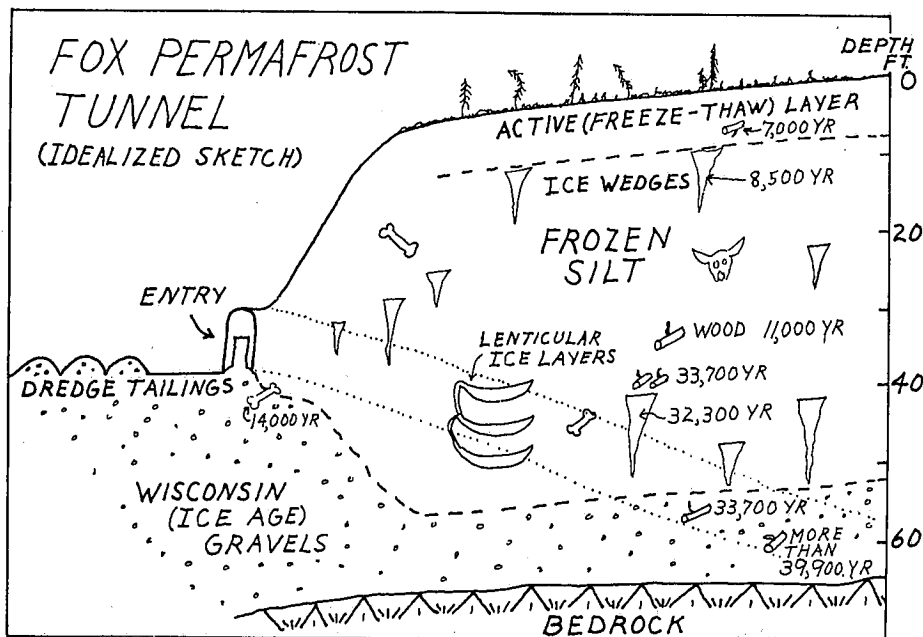
"Sloping gradually down into a frozen hillside near Fox, the CRREL (Cold Regions Research and Engineering Laboratory) Permafrost Tunnel provides a fascinating portal into the past originally dug by the United States Army to test methods of tunneling in frozen silts and gravel, the Tunnel penetrates through a 40,000-year-old accumulation of soil, gravel, ice, wood, and bones. Enough organic material is

distributed in the material to enable radiocarbon dating of many of the objects seen in the Tunnel wall.

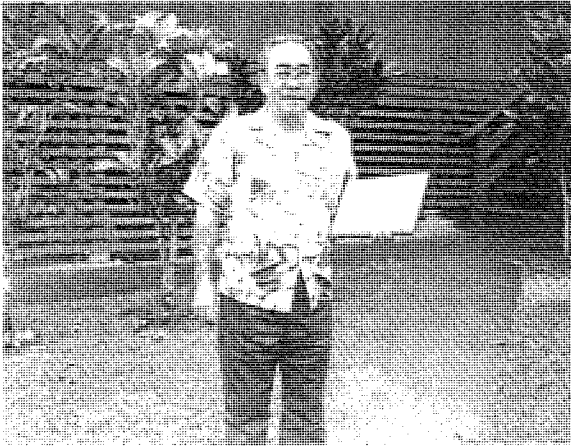
Down at the bottom are gold-bearing gravels, laid down perhaps as long as 100,000 years ago. Above the gravel are layers of debris-laden mucks composed mainly of fine-grained wind-blown soil (LOESS). Downslope creep over the years has mixed up this material. Pieces of trees and ancient bones show in the Tunnel walls; some are tagged with signs showing their ages.

Spectacular ice wedges are cross sectioned by the Tunnel as are lenticular lenses of pure ice, stacked one atop the other. How these lenses form is evidently a mystery, but it is known that water migrates through the muck when it is near the freezing point and somehow accumulates to form the ice bodies.

Those lucky enough to have the University's Dr. Earl Beistline guide them on a tour through the Fox Tunnel receive a valuable short course in the recent past. In the dim lamplight one can almost see the old miners of 70 years ago picking away in their handdriven tunnels much like this one. And the  $-5^{\circ}\text{C}$  temperature almost carries one back to the ice ages when the now entombed bones jutting out of the wall were parts of living animals ranging over the Tanana Valley."



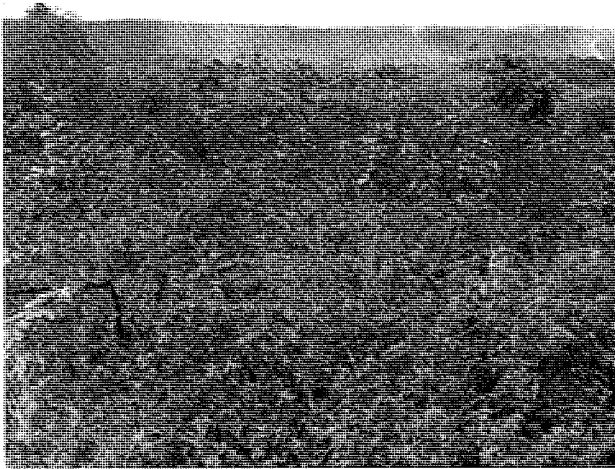
## PACIFIC REGION



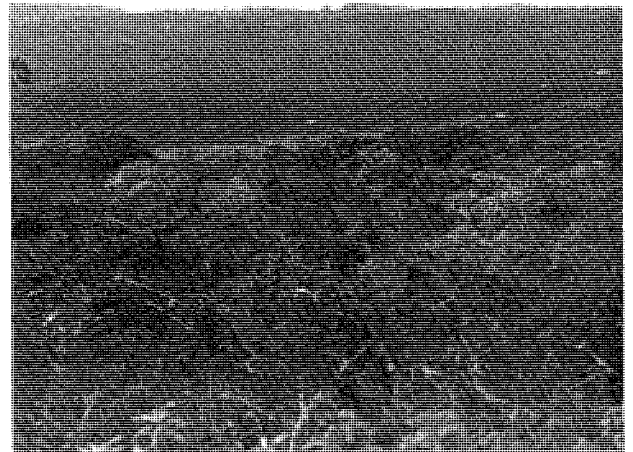
Paul Ikene, observer, Maunawili, Oahu, was presented with a Special Service Award. He retired after many years with H.S.P.A. Maunawili Breeding Station.



Robert White, (right), Tantalus 2, Oahu, was presented with a Special Service Award by Ray Terada, CPM/PRH.



Leading edge of the lava flow that has slowed down and has burned out shrubs and trees in its path.



Advancing lava flow from Kilauea Crater at a distance.

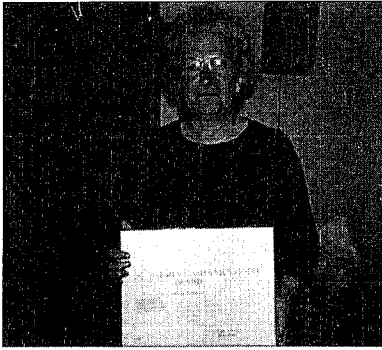


Lava that has crossed the highway in Puna.



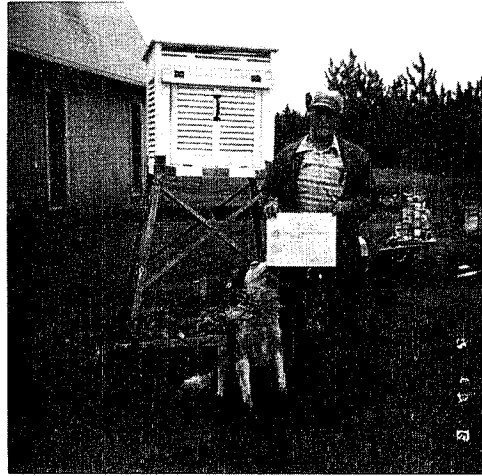
Another view of the lava by the highway.

## EASTERN REGION



Hester S. Jackson, cooperative observer, Star Tannery, VA, was presented the John Campanius Holm Award for outstanding accomplishment in the field of meteorological observations.

In 1983 she was given special recognition on her retirement from the U.S. Postal Service for traveling 600,000 miles in her 30-year rural carrier career without an accident. Presentation was made by James Smith.



Ben F. Thompson, cooperative observer, Canaan Valley, WV, was presented the John Campanius Holm Award for outstanding accomplishment in the field of meteorological observations. James Smith made the presentation.



Charles F. Meroney, Jr., observer, Mocksville, NC, was presented the John Campanius Holm Award for his long period of outstanding accomplishment in the field of meteorological observations.

Presentation was made by Robert E. Muller, MIC, Raleigh, NC, and Earl Rampey, CPM, Columbia, SC. Photo: Left to right: Katherine Meroney, Charles Meroney, and Robert Muller.



Henrietta Brandt, cooperative observer, Walhalla, SC, was presented a Thomas Jefferson Award.

In 1976 she received the John Campanius Holm Award for outstanding accomplishment in the field of meteorological observations.

Presentation was made by Al Oliver, OIC, Greenville-Spartanburg, SC, and Bernard Palmer, MIC, and Earl Rampey. Photo: Left to right: Al Oliver, Miss Henrietta Brandt, and Bernard Palmer. Photo by Ashton Hester Keowee Courier.



Rassie L. Sims, cooperative observer, Alderson, WV, was presented the John Campanius Holm Award for outstanding accomplishment in the field of meteorological observations.

The award presentation was made by David Keller, Hydrologic Cooperative Program Manager and Robert Tibi, Hydrologist, Charleston, WV.



James D. Hawkins, cooperative observer, Buchanan, VA, was presented a Thomas Jefferson Award by Hurtis Smith (left), MIC, Richmond, VA. Photo by Mrs. Hurtis Smith.



## EASTERN REGION



Thomas W. Eliason, Jr. (center), observer, Chestertown, MD, was presented a Thomas Jefferson Award.

Mr. Eliason is a graduate of Washington College and a retired accountant.

In 1968 he received the John Campanius Holm Award for outstanding accomplishment in the field of meteorological observations.

Presentation was made by Fred Davis (left), MIC, Baltimore, MD, and W.J. Moyer (right), State Climatologist for MD, and James Smith, CPM, Baltimore, MD.



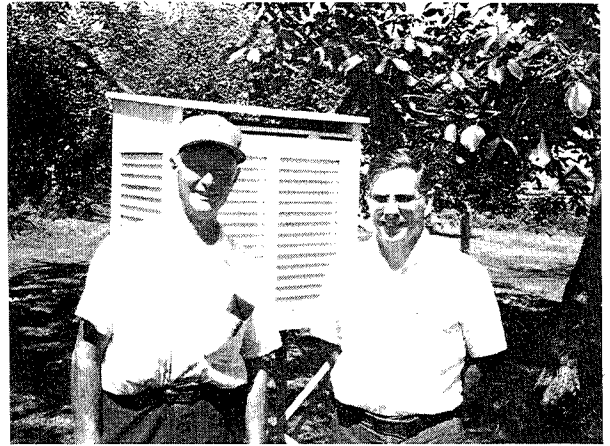
Bill Tope accepted a 50-year Institutional Award on behalf of the U.S. Corps of Engineers, New Philadelphia, OH.

Presentation was made by Michael Wyatt, CPM, Columbus, OH.



Gary Wheeler accepted a 25-year Institutional Award on behalf of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, North Hartland Lake, VT.

James Donahue, CPM, Portland, ME, made the presentation.



Peter Berganskas, cooperative observer, Brockport, NY, was presented a 35-year service award by Gerry English, MIC, Rochester, and Ray West, CPM, Albany, NY. Photo: Left to right: Peter Berganskas and Ray West.



Dennis C. Pike, cooperative observer, Farmington, ME, was presented a 20-year length-of-service award by Jerry French, Hydrologist, and James Donahue. Photo by Joe Rankin of Farmington Sentinel.

### COOPERATIVE OBSERVER AWARDS

The following persons are recipients of top Cooperative Observer Awards for 1986:

#### JOHN CAMPANIUS HOLM AWARDS

Harry F. Bennett	- Strongstown, PA
Armand A. Violette	- Rumford 1 SSE, ME
John Y. Burton	- West Point 2 SW, VA
Robert T. Dornin	- The Plains, 2 NNE, VA
Delwood E. Merrill	- Merrill, MD
Meade Palmer	- Warrenton 3 SE, VA
Marguerite Wilson	- Thurston, NY

We congratulate each of you for your outstanding work which has earned you this distinctive award.

Arrangements for presentation of your award will be made by the field representative for your area.

## SOUTHERN REGION



George Martinez, Maintenance Foreman, was presented a 50-year Institutional Award for Conchas Dam, NM. Dick Snyder, CPM/ABQ presented the award.



Faltin C. Beierle, Spring Branch, TX, was presented a 30-year length-of-service award by Bill Crouch, WSFO/SAT.



Sam Holmberg, Erick, OK, was presented a 35-year length-of-service award by John Lambert, CPM/OKC.



William R. Butler, Ponotoc, MS, was presented a 30-year length-of-service award by Maxie Brown, CPM/JAN.



Daisy Slaton, Gorman, TX, was presented a 35-year length-of-service award by Alan Starnes, CPM/ACT.



Elmer DeVaney, Progresso, NM, was presented a 30-year length-of-service award by Dick Snyder.

## SOUTHERN REGION



Hugh J. Moser, Jefferson City, TN, was presented a 30-year length-of-service award. Caught Mr. Moser working hard this day so we didn't take too much of his time. Larry Arnold, CPM/MEM presented the award.



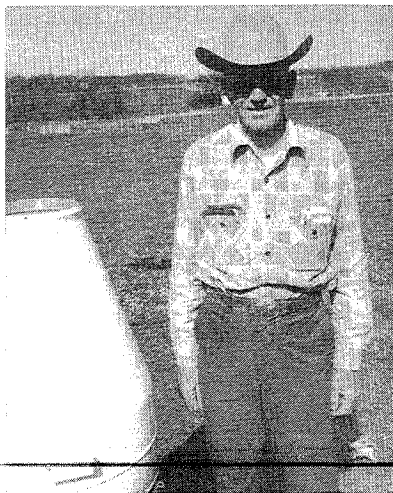
Franklin Yates, Shelbyville, TN, was presented a 30-year length-of-service award by Derrel Martin (left), MIC Nashville. Mr. Yates is the Times-Gazette publisher in Shelbyville.



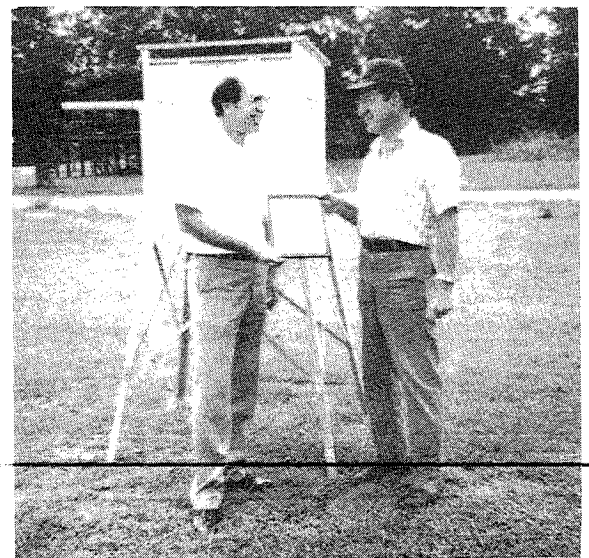
Thomas Nichols, Santa Rosa, NM, was presented a 30-year length-of-service award by Dick Snyder.



Williford P. Nalley, Dublin, GA, was presented a 25-year length-of-service award by Ralph Funderburk, CPM/MCN.



Lawson Safley was presented a 30-year award two days before he retired from the University of Tennessee Experiment Station at Springfield, TN, after more than 35 years of service. Mr. Safley has turned his weather duties over to the new superintendent. We wish you luck and good fortune in your retirement.



Pierce Reeder (right), Leola, AR, was presented a 25-year length-of-service award by Woody Currence, CPM/LZK.

NOTE

An important reminder to observers changing charts on the recording weighing rain gage: With rains upon us the National Climatic Data Center needs your help in changing charts punctually. Charts should be changed:

- (1) At least once a week, preferably on Monday.
- (2) On the first day of each month.
- (3) Within 24 hours after precipitation has ended.

Do not change the chart during rain that is heavy enough to wet the trace and cause the ink to spread. During a heavy or continuous rain when there is danger that the bucket may overflow or that the capacity of the chart may be exceeded. Empty the bucket, but do not change the chart until precipitation ceases. Your assistance is appreciated.

USCOMM-NOAA-ASHEVILLE, N.C. 1986-10,800

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
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NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL SATELLITE, DATA, AND INFORMATION SERVICE  
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ASHEVILLE, N.C. 28801

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POSTAGE & FEES PAID  
United States Department Of Commerce  
NOAA Permit No. G - 19**