

# The National Cooperative Observer Newsletter



FALL 1987

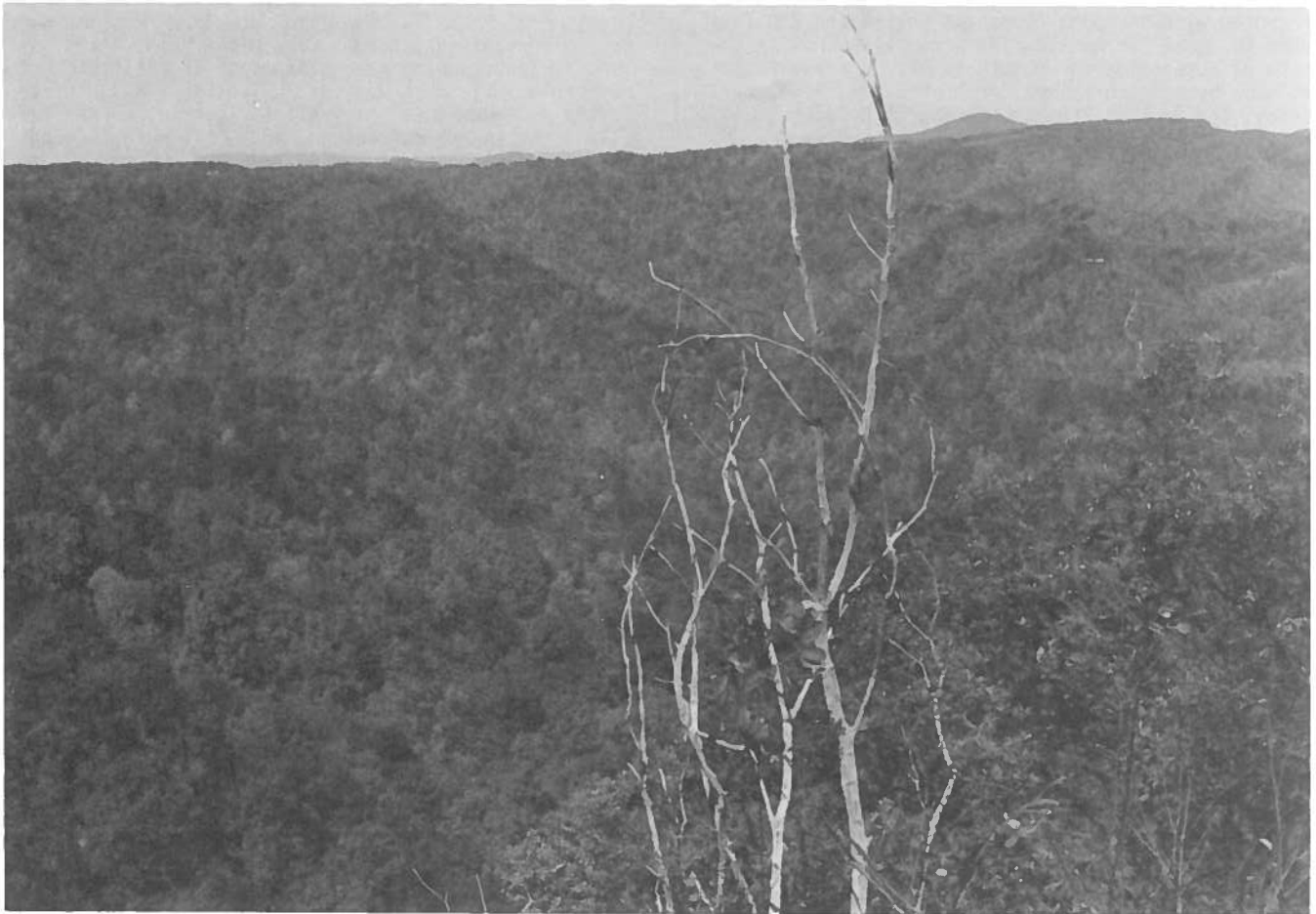
VOLUME 5

NUMBER 1

EASTERN REGION

SOUTHERN REGION

CENTRAL REGION



WESTERN REGION

ALASKA REGION

PACIFIC REGION

**noaa**

NATIONAL OCEANIC AND  
ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION

NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE

About the Cover: This is a picture of what the valley north of Marion, NC, looks like in the fall. Photo by Earl Rampey, Cooperative Program Manager, Columbia, SC.

## EASTERN REGION



George F. Alverson, observer, Whitmire 4 NE, SC, was presented with the John Campanius Holm Award. This award is given for outstanding accomplishments in the field of meteorological observations. Presentation was made by Bernard Palmer, Area Manager, and Earl Rampey, Cooperative Program Manager, Columbia, SC. Photo: Left to right: Bernard Palmer and George F. Alverson.



Ethel B. Carey, observer, Edmeston, NY, was presented with the John Campanius Holm Award for outstanding accomplishments in the field of meteorological observations. The presentation was made by Roland Loffredo, Area Manager, and Ray West, Cooperative Program Manager, Albany, NY. Photo by Roland Loffredo.



Ralph Snow (right), Project Manager and Tim Flynn (left), accepted a 25-year Institutional Award on behalf of the U.S. Corps of Engineers at Ball Mountain Lake, VT. Presentation and photo by James Donahue, Cooperative Program Manager, Portland, ME.



Elizabeth and Dr. E.R. Ohle, are shown looking over a 40-year length-of-service pin and certificate. Dr. Ohle is our observer at Celso 2 S, NC.

Dr. Ohle received the John Campanius Holm Award in 1980 for outstanding accomplishments in the field of meteorological observations. He is a retired physician and is a native of Austria. He and Elizabeth enjoy gardening and hiking in the surrounding mountains.



George W. Madison, observer, Palmyra 1 E, VA, was presented a 30-year length-of-service pin by James Smith, Cooperative Program Manager, Baltimore, MD.



Cyril G. Small, observer, Lockport, NY, was presented a 30-year length-of-service pin. Ray West made the presentation. Photo: (Left to right): Ray West, Cyril G. Small.

## EASTERN REGION



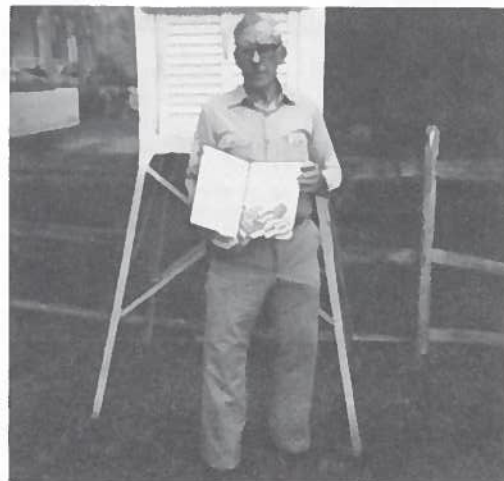
Zella H. Vetter, observer, Moorefield 2 SSE, WV, was presented a 30-year length-of-service pin by James Smith.



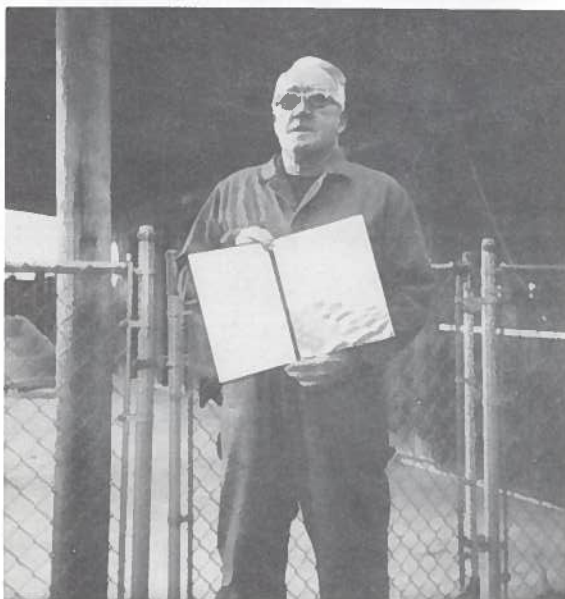
Ralph Davis, observer, Tye River 1 SE, VA, was presented a 20-year length-of-service pin by James Smith.



Kenneth L. Close, observer, Frostburg 2, MD, was presented a 20-year length-of-service pin by James Smith.



John F. Jones, observer, Walkerton 2 NW, VA, was presented a 20-year length-of-service pin by James Smith.



Irving A. Davis, observer, Hector, NY, was presented a 20-year length-of-service pin by Ray West.



Glenna B. Larrick, observer, Gore 4 SW, VA, was presented a 20-year length-of-service pin by James Smith.

## SOUTHERN REGION



Everyone talks about the weather, but Fay W. Rienhardt was awarded for 36 years of measuring the weather at Socorro, NM. Mrs. Rienhardt was presented with the John Campanius Holm Award recently. Dick Snyder, CPM, Albuquerque, NM, and Boyd White, MIC/AM/WSFO/ABQ, made the presentation.

A buffet dinner was given at the First Presbyterian Church of Socorro by Mrs. Rienhardt's friends and church congregation. About 50 people were in attendance. Mrs. Rienhardt has been measuring rainfall since 1951 on her ranch 45 miles south of Socorro. She has consistently demonstrated the highest qualities of reliability, accuracy, and promptness in carrying out her assigned duties. Our congratulations and thanks to an outstanding lady.



J. Verdell Williams (center), observer, Abbott, AR, was presented the John Campanius Holm Award for outstanding accomplishments in the field of meteorological observations. He was also awarded a Special Service Award in recognition and appreciation of significant public services rendered for the National Weather Service.

At 78, Mr. Williams has been measuring the rainfall more than half his life and plans to continue as long as he is able. Presentation was made by Robert C. Landis (left), Director, NWS, SRH, Woody Currence (right), CPM/LZK, and Arnold R. Malpass (not shown), OIC, Ft. Smith, AR.



A 50-year Institutional Award was presented to the U.S. Public Health Hospital, Carville, LA. Accepting the award was Byron Gautreau. Presentation was made by George Cry, HIC/Slidell.



Lawrence H. Warburton, observer, Freer, TX, was presented a 45-year length-of-service award by Bill J. Crouch (right), MIC, San Antonio, TX. Congratulations Mr. Warburton.



## SOUTHERN REGION



Adam C. Melton, observer, Searcy, AR, was presented a 35-year length-of-service award by Woody Currence.



Dennis C. Decker, Menard, TX, was presented a 30-year length-of-service award by Alan Starnes, CPM/ACT.



Viola Adlof, Three Rivers, TX, was presented a 30-year length-of-service award by Fred Roush, OIC/CRP and John Leathers, CRP.



James F. Page, observer, Olney, TX, received recognition for over 30 years. Jerry Wolfe, CPM/FTW, made the presentation.



Laura Campbell, observer, Greenwall Springs, LA, was presented a 30-year length-of-service award by John Mosely (left), MIC, Baton Rouge, LA.



Vallie Sue Sorrells, observer, Crandall, TX, was presented a 25-year length-of-service award by Robert Manning (right), RCPS/Southern Region HQ and Jerry Wolfe (not shown).

## CENTRAL REGION



J. Hilton Rhoades, observer, Blair, NE, was presented the Stoll Award, 50-year Service Pin, 50-year certificate and letter from Dr. Hallgren, June 9, 1987. Left to right: George Matuella, SMT, WSFO/OMA; Mr. Rhoades; Koy Osugi, Service Hydrologist, WSFO/OMA; and Tom Sinclair, CPM, Omaha.



Marvin Pedretti (left), lockmaster at Guttenberg L&D 10, IA, was presented a 50-year Institutional Award from Homer Farmer. Photo by Ed May.



Wayne Currier (third from right), lockmaster at Dubuque L&D 11, IA, was presented a 50-year Institutional Award from Jack Kowalski (second from left), OIC/WSO/DBQ. Other personnel at L&D 11 are pictured along with Homer Farmer, CPM/DSM, at far right. Picture was taken by Ed May, Service Hydrologist WSFO/DSM.



La Grange Sewage Plant, IN, was presented a 25-year Institutional Award. (Left to right) John Hennek, CPM, and Gregory Hart, Plant Superintendent.



Loren Hager (center), lockmaster at Bellevue L&D 12, IA, was presented a 50-year Institutional Award by Jack Kowalski (right), OIC at WSO/DBQ. Also pictured is Homer Farmer, CPM/DSM. Picture taken by Ed May, Service Hydrologist WSFO/DSM.



The Martinville Sewage Plant, IN, was presented a 25-year Institutional Award. (Left to right) Al Shipe, Service Hydrologist; Tony St. Clair, Superintendent, and Dallas Fincher.

## CENTRAL REGION



Layton Munson, observer, Sedgwick 5 S, CO, was presented a 40-year length-of-service award by Mike Elias, CPM/GLD.



Roy Fuerst, Cedar Butte, SD, was recently honored by the National Weather Service for 35 years of weather observing. Mr. Fuerst was presented with a 35-year length-of-service award by David Olkiewicz.



Bill Brabham, observer, Arnold, NE, was presented a 35-year length-of-service award by Tom Sinclair.



Charles H. McMurtrey, Summer Shade, Ky, was presented a 35-year length-of-service award and emblem, by CPM Peter Tellez.



Jack Dorman, Castlewood, SD, was recently honored by the National Weather Service for 35-years of weather observing. Mr. Dorman was presented with a 35-year service award by David Olkiewicz, Cooperative Program Manager, NWSO, Sioux Falls, SD.

Mr. Dorman began taking observations for the Weather Service in 1951. He retired from the Weather Observation program in October 1986. Mr. Dennis Mickelson has replaced Mr. Dorman as the official National Weather Service observer at Castlewood. The observations of temperature and precipitation recorded at Castlewood are sent to the National Weather Service in the form of monthly reports. These observations are published and used in studies of the weather and climate of South Dakota.

(NO PICTURE)

Paul Mraz, observer, Dupree, SD, was recently honored by the National Weather Service for 35 years of weather observing. Mr. Mraz was presented with a 35-year length-of-service award by David Olkiewicz.

Mr. Mraz began taking observations for the Weather Service in 1951. The observations of temperature and precipitation made by him are sent to the National Weather Service in the form of weekly and monthly reports. These observations taken at Dupree are published and used in studies of the weather and climate of South Dakota.

The award presented to Mr. Mraz is a small token of the National Weather Service's appreciation of his devotion and diligence.

## CENTRAL REGION



Harold Sommerfeld, Hesston, KS, was presented a 35-year length-of-service award. Pictured left to right: Gary Funke, CPM; Harold Sommerfeld; and Philip Swain, MIC, Wichita.



Norma Nixon, Peck 3 WSW, KS, was presented a 30-year length-of-service award. Presentation was made by Philip Swain and Gary Funke. Photo: left to right: Philip Swain, Norma Nixon, Gary Funke.



Edward Sondag, observer, Sykeston, ND, was presented a 35-year length-of-service award. Picture and presentation by Vern Roller, CPM, WSFO Bismarck, ND.



Milton B. Ruhnke, Woodbine 7 N, KS, was presented a 25-year length-of-service award. Milton monitors water stages on Lyon Creek. The stream flows through the farm that has been in the Ruhnke family for three generations.



Allen Hellesund, observer, Timber Lake, SD, was recently honored by the National Weather Service for 30 years of weather observing. Mr. Hellesund was presented with a 30-year length-of-service award by David Olkiewicz.



Donald Whitebread, Junction City 5 SE, KS, was presented a 25-year length-of-service award for reading the river gage on Clarks Creek. Donald is a rural mail carrier and active in the local civic theatre.





Paul Hemberger, observer, Halstad, MN, was presented a 20-year length-of-service award. Paul reads the river gage at the Hillsboro 11 ESE, a gaging site on the Red River between ND and MN. Picture and presentation by Vern Roller.

Length-of-Service Awards

<u>State/Name</u>	<u>Station</u>	<u>Years</u>	<u>State/Name</u>	<u>Station</u>	<u>Years</u>
COLORADO			NEBRASKA		
Fred Tanner	Campo 7 S	20	Mr./Mrs. William Brabham	Arnold	35
			Henry Dembowski	Loup City 6 NNE	35
			Phyllis Malcom	Cozad	15
ILLINOIS			SOUTH DAKOTA		
Robert and Dorothy Garris	Chester	30	Dr. Morris Schuurmans	Wagner	30
Glenn M. Doolen	Kinmundy	25	G.R. Burkholder	Gregory	30
Gerald Dean Lawrence	Patoka	25	Vern Simons	Red Owl	25
Hennepin Power Plant	Hennepin (Inst. Award)	25	Edward W. Poshusta	Howard	25
Alfred R. Jacober	Highland	25	South Dakota State Univ.		
Dalias A. Price	Charleston	25	Experiment Farm	Centerville	25
Dorothy A. Bullard	Morrisonville	25	Stuart Newberg	Alcester	25
Kathleen D. Holliday	Ramsey	20	Don Seedorf	Wentworth 2 WNW	20
August T. Rosenberg	Washington 1 WSW	20	William E. Knock	Davis	15
Hugh Lynn	Clay City 6 SSE	15	Rudolph Opp	Leola	15
Ronald D. Spencer	Pinckneyville	15	John Davis	Bonesteel	10
Stephen and Allie Clinton	Ina	15	Dennis Rausch	Onaka	10
Robert G. Moorhous	Mt. Vernon	15	Raymond M. Judy	Forestburg	10
David W. Myers	Dix	15			
Allen and Michell Smith	Wayne City 1 N	10	WISCONSIN		
Carl W. Pieper	Hammond 1 E	10	Univ. of WI Agricultural		
Martin M. Aubertin	Chebanse 5 E	10	Research Station	Ashland	75
			Paul J. Wolske	Kewaunee	25
INDIANA			Irving Bennett	Wisconsin Rapids	25
Ann Gerth	Mount Vernon	20	Mr./Mrs. Robert Bennett	Soldiers Grove	25
			Marland Watrud	Blanchardville	20
			Donald C. Drye	Martintown	20
			Elleen McGee	Park Falls	20
KANSAS			Herman Prudlick	Strum	15
Mr./Mrs. William Ireland	Florence	25	Louis D. Knudson	Galesville	15
			Ronald A. Berg	Blair	15
			WYOMING		
MINNESOTA			Oscar Yoder	Phillips	47
Grace Stern	Fayette 3 SW	25	Edward Prosser	Pine Bluffs	40
Warren H. Putney	Frankfort 2 NE	20	Henry A. True	Wheatland	30
Torvias Kangas	Buffalo	15	Al Johnson	Wheatland	20
			Bill Sorenson	Albin	20

## WESTERN REGION



The Pondera County Canal and Reservoir Company, Valier, MT, was presented a 75-year Institutional length-of-service award. Over the years the company has had several name changes and, of course, a number of observers, but none better or more reliable than Betty Olson, Fay and Bill Stokes, the present observers. The presentation was made by John Fassler, Hydrologist for the National Weather Service.



The California Department of Parks and Recreation was presented two 25-year Institutional length-of-service certificates for weather stations at Richardson Grove State Park and Standish and Hickey State Park. Shown are Dave Toronto (left), MIC/WSO, Eureka, CA, and Joe Hardcastle (right), a ranger in the area for over 10 years. Both parks are located in the majestic redwood country of the northern coastal area.



The Corvallis Water Bureau, OR, received a 50-year Institutional length-of-service award. Bob Worthean accepted the award on the water bureau's behalf.



Patsy Hoover is shown with the 25-year Institutional Award for the Fossil station, Wheeler (Oregon) County Extension Office. Elva Madden and Extension Agent Ken Killingsworth also take observations.



A 25-year Institutional Award was presented to the California Department of Forestry at Anza by Wilbur Shigehara, MIC/WSO San Diego. Shown accepting the award is Captain Carey Townsend.



Wilbert Nott, observer, Santa Maria Valley Water District at Twitchell Dam, was presented a 25-year Institutional Award by MIC Robert Coe.

## WESTERN REGION



The Oregon State Highway Department was presented a 25-year Institutional length-of-service award for their Baker #2 station. Shown accepting the award are foreman Tom Williamson (right), and assistant Marvin Doway.



John H. Daybell (right), observer, Porterville, CA, was presented a 40-year length-of-service award by Lyle Hammer, head of the NWS office in Fresno. (The man on the left in the photo is a local newspaperman, identity unknown.) Mr. Daybell operates a plant nursery.



The City of Powers, OR, Public Works, was presented a 25-year Institutional Award by CPM Clint Jenson. Shown with the award are Public Works officials Nicky Stallard (left) and John Cowan. The City has had the station since November 1962.



Harold Del Ponte, observer, Klamath, CA, was presented a 40-year length-of-service award at a Kiwanis luncheon in Crescent City, CA. Jim Henderson (right), Area Manager, Northern California, made the presentation. Mr. Del Ponte noted at the luncheon that an annual average rainfall of over 80 inches adds up to approximately 27 feet of water.



Ronald Roduner (left), City Supervisor, is shown accepting a 25-year Institutional Award for the City of Quincy, WA, from James Holcomb, MIC, Wenatchee, WA.



Clorene Akers, observer, Hernandez 7 SE, CA, was presented a 35-year length-of-service award by Rocky O'Shaughnessy, CPM, at her ranch south of Hernandez, CA. Mrs. Akers' home is located north of the town of Coaling, CA, that was almost totally demolished by a major earthquake a few years ago.

# ALASKA REGION

A new river station was opened at Mile 42 Steese. The five letter I.D. is STHA2. The aviation and COOP station at Minchumina was reopened. The new observer is Stella Wildrick. A new station was opened on Kalgin Island located in Cook Inlet at the lodge. The main observer is Eldon Welch. The station at Circle was put on the inactive list. The observer will be away for a few months.

Service emblems will be presented to the observers at the following stations in the Alaskan Cooperative Network for their services and contribution to the climatological program.

## A Network

	<u>Years</u>		<u>Years</u>
Tok	20	Cooper Landing 6 W	10
College 5 NW	10	Homer 8 NW	10
Glen Alps	10	Paxson	10
Manley Hot Springs	10	Slana	10
Port Alsworth	10	Whites Crossing	10
Sutton	10		

## B Network

	<u>Years</u>
Anchorage Tuxedni Park	10
Willow Creek	10
Seward-Resurrection Reservoir	10

The interior of Alaska has many thunderstorms, but are there any thunderstorms in the Arctic? An article by Dr. Neil Davis of the Geophysical Institute, University of Alaska, should enlighten us a bit.

"The history of thunderstorms observed in the high Arctic reads like that of great auroras at low latitude-it dates back many years, but the number of events is not large."

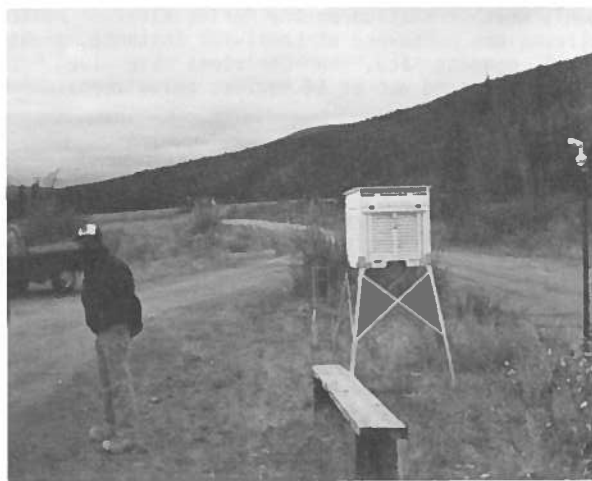
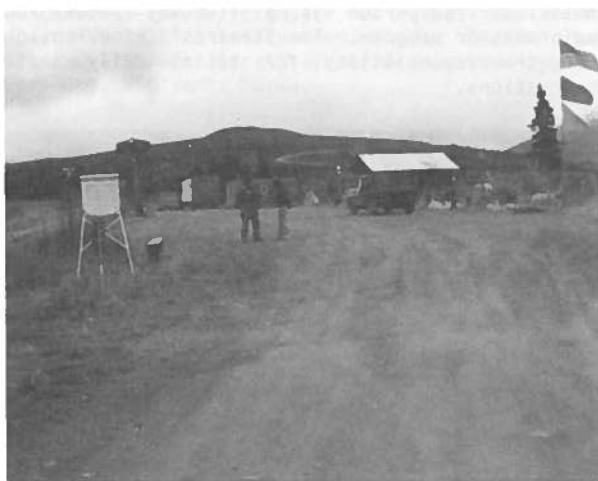
Part of the historical sparseness of observed thunderstorms in the Arctic Ocean and on surrounding shores is due simply to the lack of people to observe the thunderstorms. But mainly, thunderstorms are rare in the Arctic regions because the conditions necessary for formation of the tall clouds are lacking. A warm earth surface, irregular terrain, and plenty of moisture in the middle atmosphere contribute to the formation of strong updrafts and the associated condensation of moisture at high altitudes involved in the development of thunderstorms.

Looking into thunderstorm history, Mr. Arne Hanson of the Naval Arctic Research Laboratory at Barrow, AK, has uncovered an observation of an Arctic thunderstorm made in 1580. A manuscript Hanson has prepared contains a quotation written aboard a ship sailing the Kara Sea, North of Siberia.

"...the winde with a showre and thunder came to the southwest and then wee ranne east northeast."

Several thunderstorms on the north Siberian coast were recorded in the late 1700s, and at least nine were observed on the northern coast of Canada, Alaska, or Siberia, by explorers in the period 1815-1826. During the last 30 years, Hanson reports that three thunderstorms have been observed far offshore and well out over the icepack. These observations proved the error of a prediction made in 1933 by the famous oceanographer H. U. Sverdrup. He suggested that thunderstorms would never be observed out in the icepack area more than 10 km from shore.

Since Arctic-region thunderstorms are comparatively rare, it is worthwhile to write down the details of any observations of them that might be made. At the Geophysical Institute we happily collect and archive descriptions of unusual events of this type.



Cooperative station "Mile 101 Steese" looking north and south.



## TIPS FOR COOPERATIVE OBSERVERS

This section of the newsletter has been added as an informal medium in which general and technical information can be presented to cooperative observers nationally. The National Weather Service, National Climatic Data Center, and all users of weather records greatly appreciate your efforts as cooperative observers. Without your support there would be no cooperative weather observing program.

\* \* \* \* \*

### CLARIFIED PROCEDURES FOR RECORDING MAXIMUM AND MINIMUM TEMPERATURES

Those observers who have the Maximum/Minimum Temperature System (MMTS) know that the temperatures are displayed to the nearest tenth of a degree Fahrenheit. However, WS Forms E-15, E-22, etc., completed by coop observers, and the values published in the monthly Climatological Data for each State, are in whole degrees.

The computer processing system at the National Climatic Data Center is designed to accept temperature values in whole degrees. Therefore we are asking for the assistance of those observers with MMTS units to round their temperature readings to the nearest whole degree before entering the value on the form.

For example:

If the MMTS readout is:	the form entry is:
51.0	51
50.9	51
50.8	51
50.7	51
50.6	51
50.5	51
50.4	50
50.3	50
50.2	50
50.1	50
50.0	50

This rounding will eliminate a bias which is currently being introduced in the archived and published data.

Thank you in advance for your cooperation.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION  
NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL SATELLITE, DATA, AND INFORMATION SERVICE  
NATIONAL CLIMATIC DATA CENTER  
FEDERAL BUILDING  
ASHEVILLE, N.C. 28801

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