

# The National Cooperative Observer



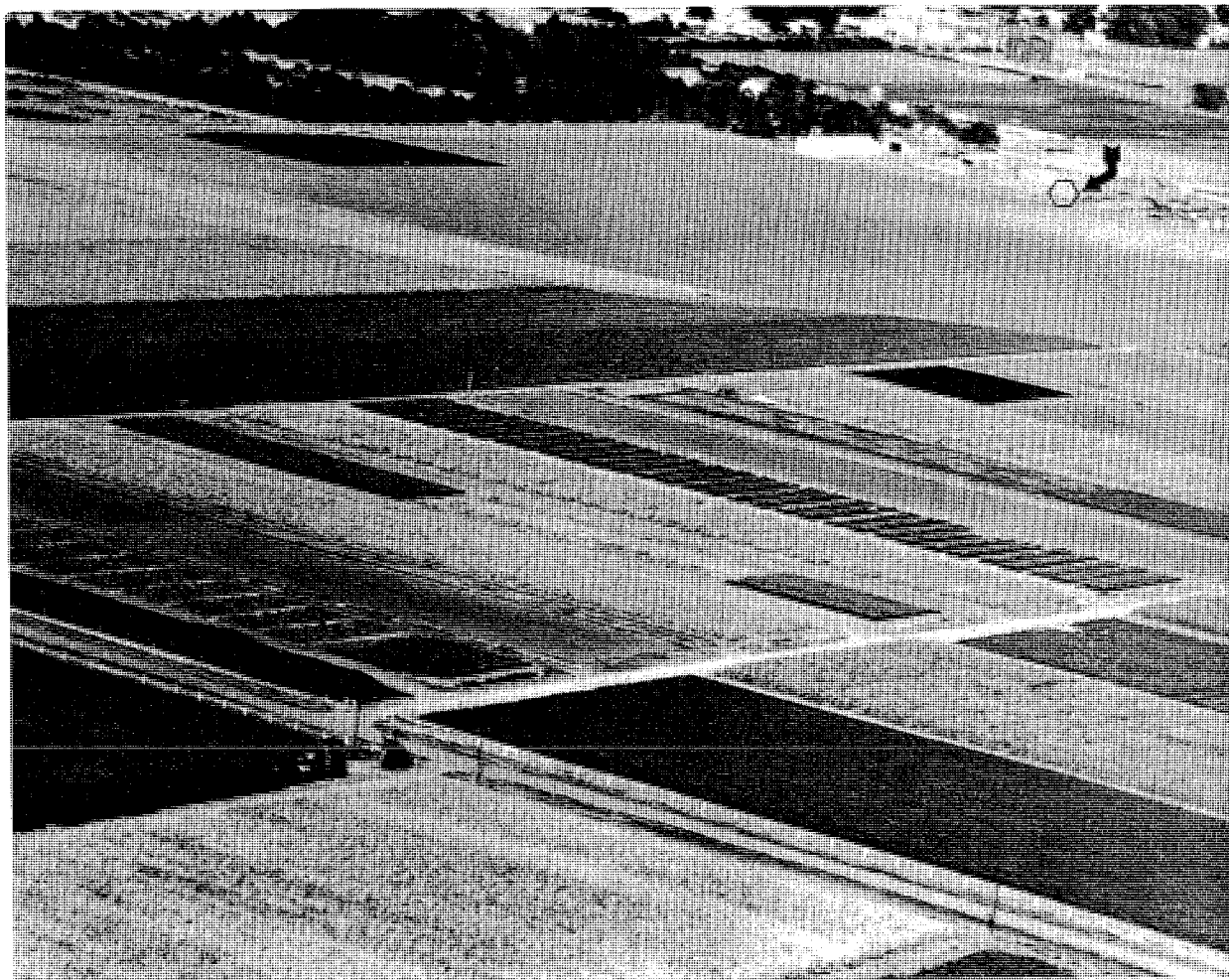
SUMMER 1991

VOLUME 8

NUMBER 4

EASTERN REGION      SOUTHERN REGION  
CENTRAL REGION

55 100th ANNIVERSARY 55



WESTERN REGION  
ALASKA REGION      PACIFIC REGION

noaa

NATIONAL OCEANIC AND  
ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION

NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE

**ABOUT THE COVER:** Northeast Research Center of Kansas State University at Colby, KS. The aerial view of the center showing research plots all laid out neat and tidy. This research center lies in the northwest part of Kansas, approximately 60 miles east of Colorado and 50 miles south of Nebraska. The flat tableland is typical of the western side of Kansas. (Photo: Mike Elias, CPM, Goodland, KS.)

## PACIFIC REGION



Nicholas Rapozo, cooperative observer, Kilauea, HI, was nominated to represent the Pacific Region at the national cooperative centennial ceremony. With 106 years on record (established 1885), Kilauea, HI, is the oldest individual cooperative station in the Pacific Region.



Toni Fernandes, "McBryde Sugar Company" employee/observer, Koloa, Kauai, and representatives from 16 other 100-plus years cooperative stations were honored at the Pacific Region's centennial awards banquet on March 21, 1991. The banquet/awards ceremony was one of the most successful and enjoyable events hosted by PRH. Wish you were there.



Among eight cooperative stations maintained by Hamakua Sugar Company employees already, four were established over a century ago. On behalf of those dedicated observers from Haina, Kukuihaele, Ookala, and Paauhau, HI, Roy Ishuzu; Robert Abran; and David Morgan (left to right); received a Centennial Commemorative oak-wood plaque and a salad bowl.



Richard H. Hagemeyer, Director of National Weather Service, Pacific Region, was the principal speaker and the host for this rare event. While other guests were already selecting various delicious deserts and enjoying tonic with tropical juices...he was worrying about matching the right salad bowl (with its small tag - bearing the station identification number) with the particular observer (Kukuihaele, HI, since 1884)!

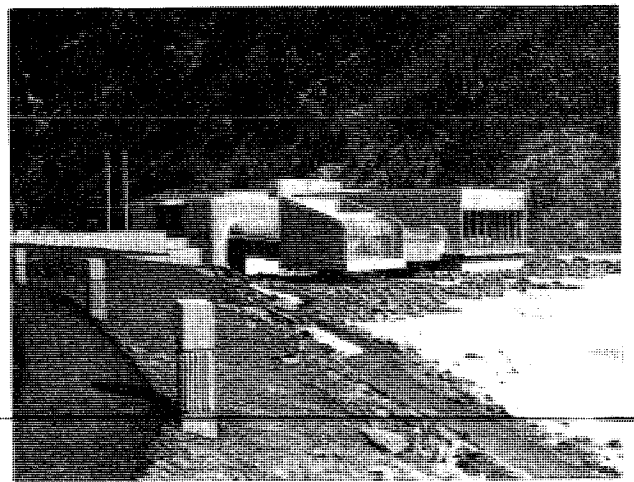
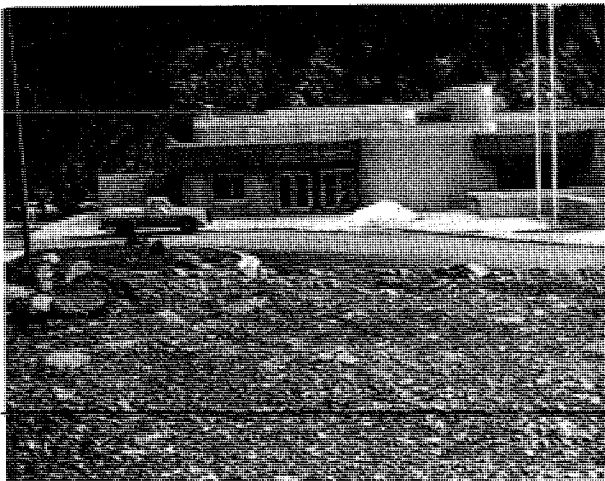
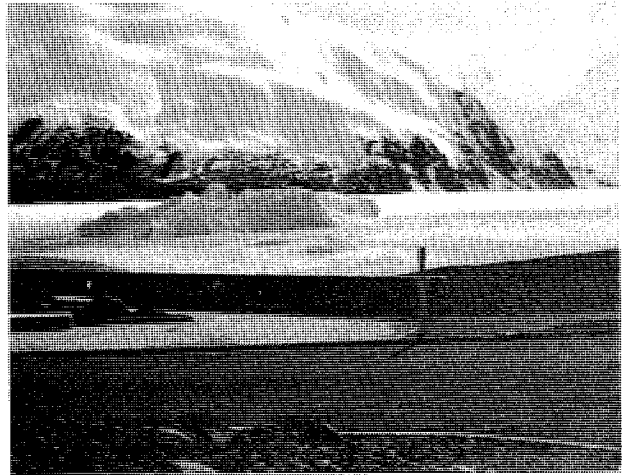
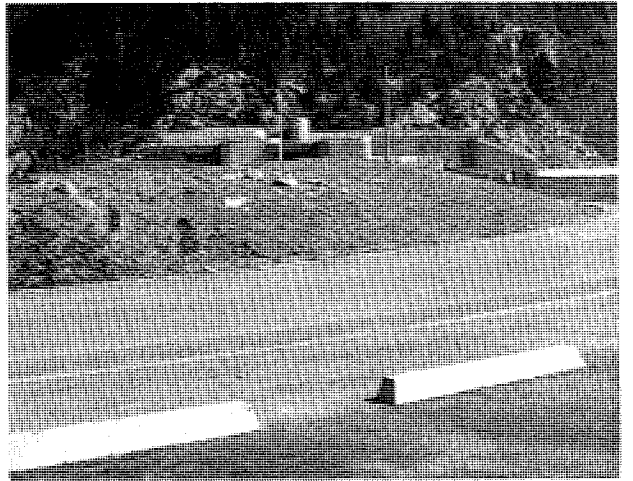
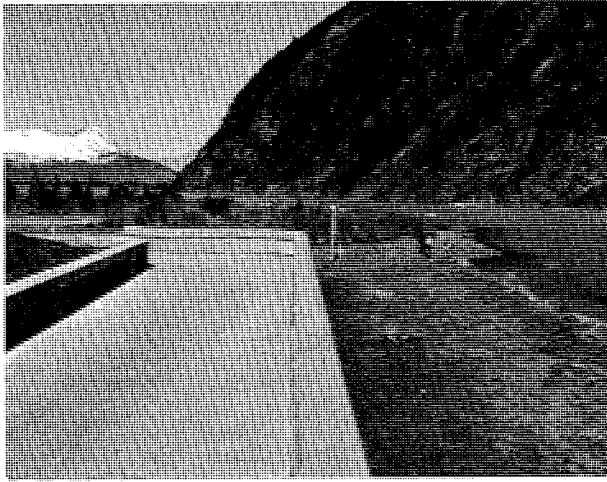


During this enjoyable banquet, our "Candid Camera" had caught the National Weather Service Headquarters representative, Mena C. Loman, Federal Coordinator, carefully "coordinating" her lean meal" and "one calorie" drinks. What a relaxing ambiance at the first Spring Day here -- compared to our continental hustle! (Photos by Orlando R. Almarza, CPM, Hilo, HI.)

### Centennial Cooperative Stations

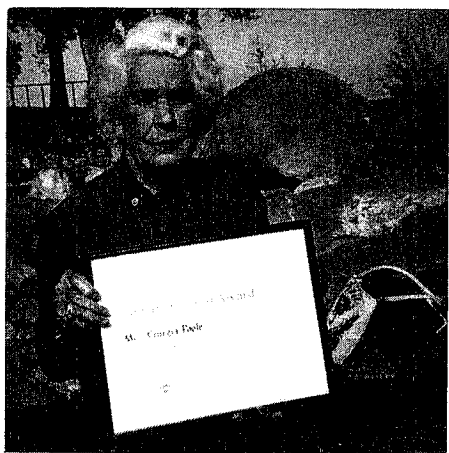
Ewa Plantation, HI	-	since 1891
Haina, Hawaii Island	-	since 1891
Haleakala Ranch, Maui Island	-	since 1891
Hamakuapoko, Maui Island	-	since 1884
Kahuku, Oahu Island	-	since 1891
Kapapala Ranch, HI	-	since 1886
Kilauea, Island of Kauai	-	since 1885
Kohala Mission, HI	-	since 1890
Koloa, Kauai Island	-	since 1887
Kukuihaele Mill, HI	-	since 1891
Naalehu, HI	-	since 1891
Nuuanu #5, Oahu Island	-	since 1890
Oluwalu, Maui Island	-	since 1891
Ookala, HI	-	since 1891
Paauhau, HI	-	since 1890
Sprecklesville, Maui	-	since 1883
Waianae, Maui Island	-	since 1891

## ALASKA REGION

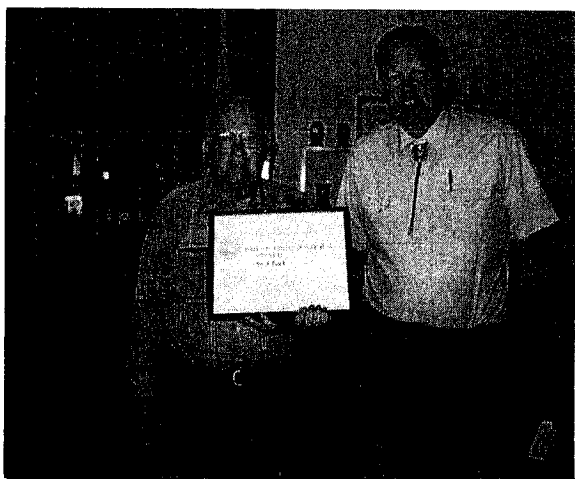


Portage Glacier Visitor Center is located 50 miles southeast of Anchorage. The center draws some 400,000 visitors per year. The modern 13,600-square-foot center was built to give visitors a panoramic view of the glacier. (Photos by Ed Misiewicz, Chief, Anchorage, AK.)

## WESTERN REGION



Georgia Poole, Pacific House, CA, was presented the Stoll award honoring her for the 50 years of outstanding service which she and her late husband, Floyd, contributed. The presentation was made at a meeting of the supervisors of El Dorado County, CA. Dr. Thomas Potter, director of the Western Region, National Weather Service, presented the award. Shown in the group photo, left to right: Roger Pappas, MIC, WSO, Sacramento, CA; Dr. Potter; CPM Bert Soileau; Mrs. Poole; and Ira Bartfeld, HIC of the California-Nevada River Forecast Center at Sacramento.



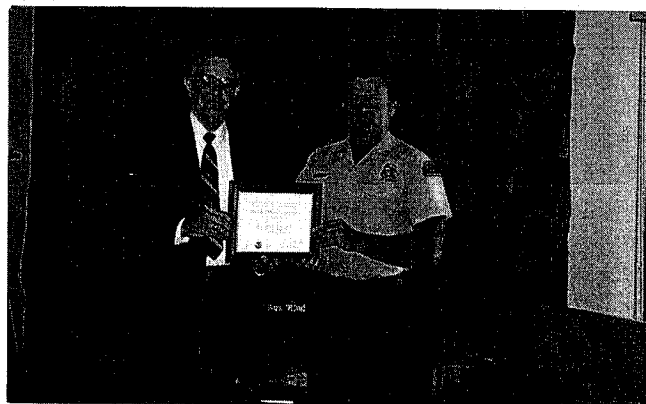
Fred Buck (left), Willcox, AZ, received the prestigious Holm award. Mr. Buck is a retired school principal. His daily reports, along with record highs, lows, and precipitation, are published in the local newspaper of Willcox, a farming community in southeastern Arizona. CPM Irv Haynes (right) presented the award for the NWS.



Susie Lorenzen, Day, CA, accepted a Stoll award on behalf of the Lorenzen family for their 50 years of dedicated service. The original observers were Mr. and Mrs. Henry Lorenzen. The observing duties were later taken over by their son, Peter, who in turn has passed them on to Susie, his daughter-in-law. The rain gage has remained in the same location for the past 50 years. Peter built a beautiful split rail fence around the gage.

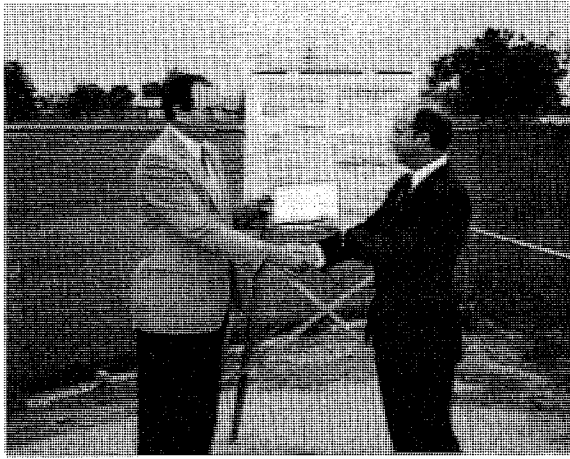


Tom Braden (right) accepted a 75-year Institutional award for the Dry Land Experimental Station in Lind, WA. Mr. Braden has been taking the weather observations for the last 16 years. The award was presented by Ken Holmes (left), MIC, WSO Spokane.



The Kern County (CA) Fire Department, Lebec, CA, was presented a 50-year Institutional award. Captain Bill Cooper (right) accepted for the Fire Department. Arthur Lessard (left), NWS Area Manager for Southern California, presented the award.

## WESTERN REGION



The City of Lodi, CA, received a 50-year Institutional award. Fire Chief Larry Hughes (left) accepted the award from Roger Williams, Deputy Meteorologist in Charge of the San Francisco Forecast Office. The observations are taken by the firemen of Lodi Fire Station No. 3.



The San Gabriel, CA, Fire Department was presented a 50-year Institutional award. Arthur G. Lessard, NWS Area Manager for Southern California, presented the award. Shown in photo (left to right): Mike Terry; Mr. Lessard; Marilyn Espalin; and John Carothers.



A 50-year Institutional Length-of-Service award was presented to the Merced Irrigation District, Merced, CA. The award was accepted by Darrell Larimer (right), Office Engineer. Lyle Hammer (left), MIC, WSO Fresno, presented the award on behalf of the National Weather Service. The Irrigation District manages and provides water for farms in the Central San Joaquin Valley, CA.



Mr. and Mrs. Arnold Hellie, Whitewater, MT, were presented a 40-year Length-of-Service award. Their son Vernon now shares the duties of precipitation reading. Their reliability and consistency have helped the NWS maintain an accurate record of Montana's climate. The award was accompanied by a letter of congratulations from Dr. Elbert Friday, Director of the National Weather Service.

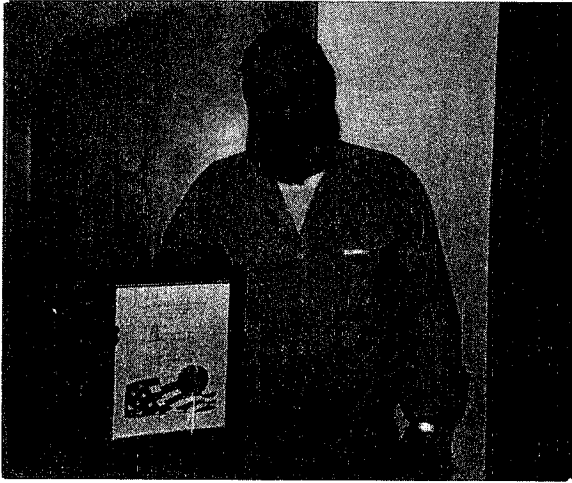


The Modesto, CA, Irrigation District was presented a 50-year Institutional award. The City of Modesto has records dating from 1871, and the Irrigation District has provided the data for the last 50 years. Norm Hoffman, NWS Area Manager for Northern California, presented the award. Pictured (left to right): Wayne Eble, Dispatch Supervisor; Norm Hoffman; and John Kidd of the Board of Directors of the Modesto Irrigation District.

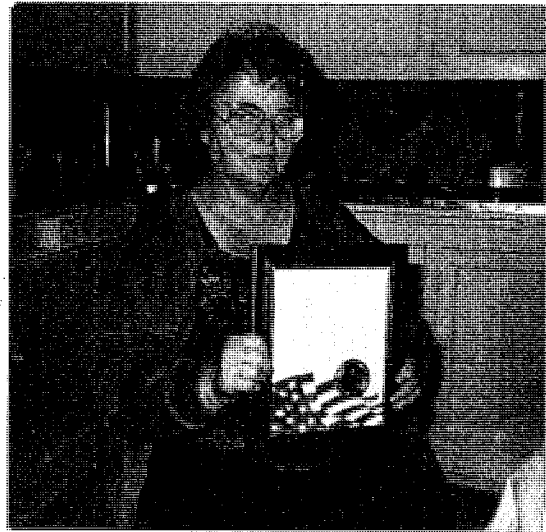


George Okano (left) was presented a 30-year Length-of-Service award for his station at Wheatland, CA. Presenting the award on behalf of the National Weather Service was Roger Pappas (right), Meteorologist in Charge, Sacramento, CA.

## WESTERN REGION



John Loch was presented a Length-of-Service award for 30 years of service as an observer at his ranch 6 miles east of Dutton, MT. When he began his duties, his equipment was a clock-driven, pen-and-ink recording device which measured precipitation. Today a solar-powered, digital rain gage sits in his yard.



James H. Fauver, Grays River, WA, had earned a 30-year Length-of-Service award, but unfortunately passed away before the award could be presented. Marie Fauver accepted the award for her late husband.



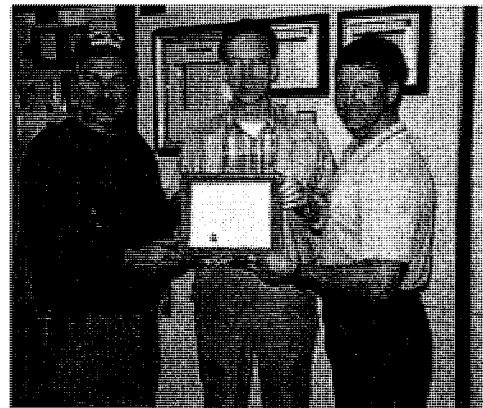
Warren Ronning, Rock Springs, MT, was presented a 30-year Length-of-Service award. In addition to taking daily readings, Mr. Ronning also serves as a severe weather spotter, notifying the Weather Service in the event of any potentially dangerous weather he may witness. George Cline, CPM, Forecast Office, Great Falls, MT, presented the award.



Roberta Finkbeiner (right), Connell, WA, was presented a 30-year Length-of-Service award. Ken Holmes (left), MIC, WSO Spokane, made the presentation. Mrs. Finkbeiner began taking observations when she and her husband were farming. She continued the weather station after their retirement. Mr. and Mrs. Finkbeiner have recently celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary. Congratulations, doubly!



Eugene Cronrath (right), Harrington 4 ENE, WA, was presented a 30-year Length-of-Service award by MIC Ken Holmes. Mr. Cronrath expects to retire from farming soon, but plans to continue observing the weather.

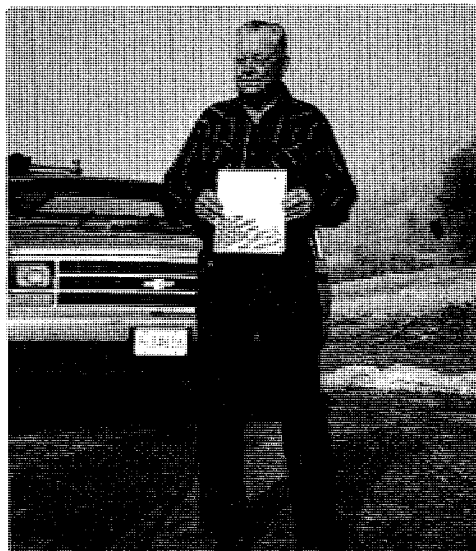


A 25-year Length-of-Service award was presented to the City of Longview, WA, water treatment plant. The award was accepted by (left to right): Kit Waddle; Larry Coplen; and Ron Wilson. The award was presented by CPM Rick Orres.

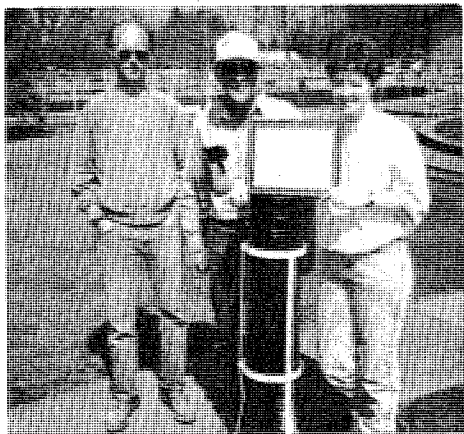
## WESTERN REGION



The Othello Agriculture Research Unit of the Washington State University was presented a 25-year Length-of-Service award. The award was accepted by (left to right): Mark Weber; Jack Kennedy; Earl Stuckel; and John Steinbock. Abbie Schneider, now retired, also made a major contribution to the weather observing program.



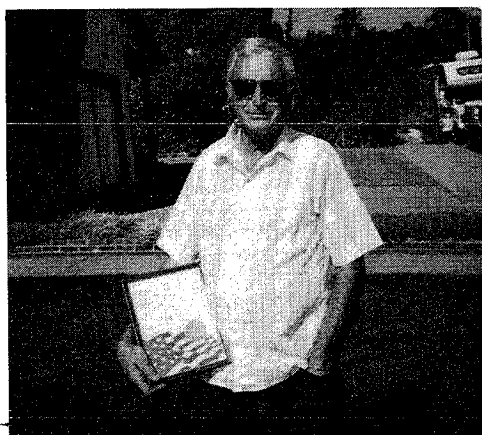
Stanley Topham, a rancher in the area around Auberry, CA, was presented a 20-year Length-of-Service award by CPM Carl Freeman.



The City of Sedro Woolley, WA, was presented a 25-year Length-of-Service award by CPM Rick Orres on behalf of the NWS. The award was accepted for the City by (left to right): Bob Blakely, Stu Earnst; and Debbie Allen.



Omer Erickson, weather observer, Vananda, MT, was presented a 20-year Length-of-Service award. The award was presented by George Cline as a token of the Weather Service's appreciation for commendable public service.



Roy Lowe, Healdsburg, CA, was presented a 20-year Length-of-Service award. Roy is a retired fire fighter with the Healdsburg Fire Department, and continues to assist the department as a camera man in documenting local fires and emergencies. Mr. Lowe also serves as a backup observer for the river gage on the Russian River in Healdsburg.



Frank Kolar, observer and rancher, Raynesford, MT, was presented a 20-year Length-of-Service award on behalf of the National Weather Service by Dan Forsum, Meteorologist; and George Cline.

## SOUTHERN REGION



James W. Forbes, cooperative observer, Center, TX, was presented the John Campanius Holm award at a Lions Club luncheon. Ernest Ethridge (right), OIC, Weather Service Office, Shreveport; and Malcolm Moreau (left); presented the award to Mr. and Mrs. Forbes (center).



Sarah Barger and Hoover Willard accepted a 50-year Institutional award for the Corps of Engineers, Blue Mountain Dam, AR. Woody Currence, CPM/LZK, made the presentation.



Morgan City, LA observer, Huey Landry (second from left), was honored with a grand tour of the Weather Service Forecast Office and River Forecast Center at Slidell. Bill Crouch (second from right), Area Manager for Louisiana, presented the John Campanius Holm Award to Mr. Landry during the tour. After the award presentation, Mr. Landry and his wife, Mae Lynn (left), were treated to a great lunch. Malcolm Moreau (right), Cooperative Program Manager, made the arrangements for the presentation. Mr. Landry requested that the award be made at our Slidell Forecast Office. He had never had a chance to visit a weather office in his 32 years as Morgan City's cooperative observer.



A 50-year Institutional award was presented to the Corps of Engineers, Nimrod Dam, AR. Pictured from left to right: John Young, Resident Engineer; and Bobby Smith. Woody Currence made the presentation.



William E. Grigsby, cooperative observer, Sanderson, TX, received a Special Service award. Mr. Grigsby had 56 years service before he had to retire due to his health. He is shown with Mrs. Grigsby and Andy Anderson, MIC/AM LBB. Assisting in the presentation was Chuck Megee.



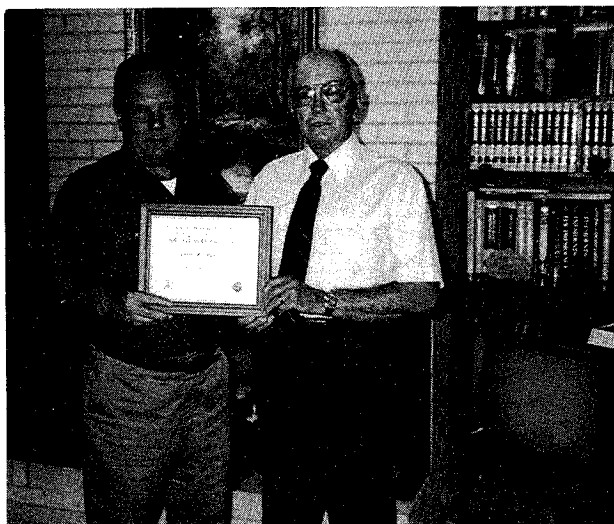
G. Arthur Coffman, cooperative observer, Cameron, NM, received a 45-year Length-of-Service award. Mr. Coffman is 87 years old and does an excellent job of keeping the weather records. He zips around his farm easily with his 4-wheel ATV. Presentation was made by Andy Anderson (left), and Chuck Megee.



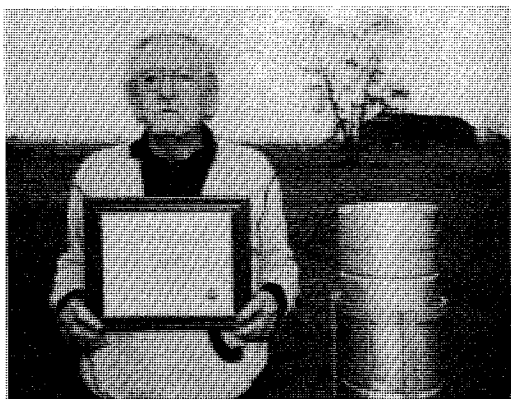
## SOUTHERN REGION



Mavis Altmiller, cooperative observer, Darrrouzett, TX, was presented a 45-year Length-of-Service award. Mavis is holding one of four albums in which she keeps newspaper clippings of weather-related events and happenings in and around Darrrouzett. Chuck Megee, CPM/LBB, made the presentation.



Estes B. Bozeman, cooperative weather observer, Winnfield, LA, was presented a 35-year Length-of-Service award by Malcolm Moreau. Mr. Bozeman received the John Campanius Holm Award in 1977.



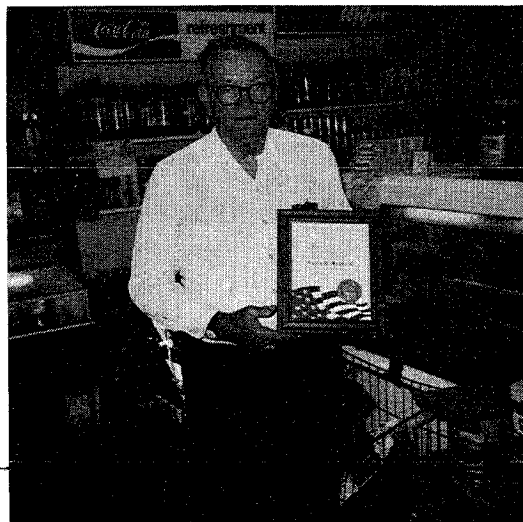
Ross I. Davis, cooperative weather observer, Waller 3 SSW, TX, was presented a 45-year Length-of-Service award by Alan Starnes, CPM/ACT.



Mitchell Drake, cooperative weather observer, Haleyville, AL, was presented a 30-year Length-of-Service award by Bill Kent, CPM/BHM.

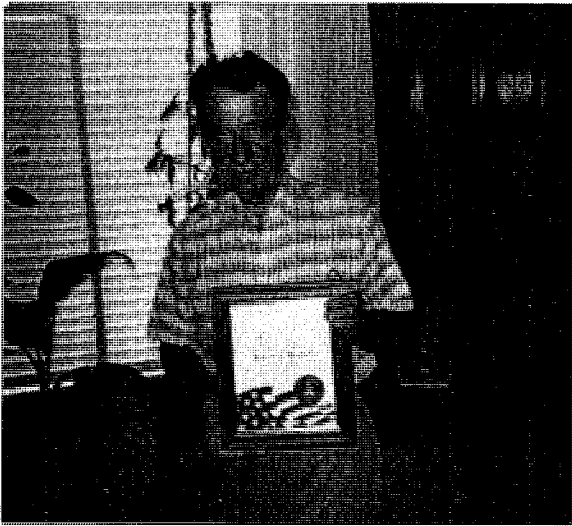


Clara A. Johnson, Johnson Ranch, NM, was presented a 40-year length-of-Service award. Mrs. Johnson is a very good weather observer in the NWS National Climatic Program and also takes daily aviation weather reports for the State of New Mexico. She also runs a very successful Indian Trading Post and is deeply involved with the family's cattle and sheep ranch activities. Quite a woman, always busy and does an outstanding job in anything she enters. Dick Snyder, CPM/ABQ, made the presentation.



A 30-year Length-of-Service award was presented to Owen B. Hendrix, Antoine, AR. As a cooperative observer, Mr. Hendrix's daily weather reports have been extremely helpful and accurate during the past 30 years. Presentation was made by Woody Currence.

## SOUTHERN REGION



Pierce A. Reeder, cooperative weather observer, Leola, AR, was presented a 30-year Length-of-Service award by Woody Currence.



Woodrow W. Harrell, cooperative observer, Rockwall, TX, was presented a 25-year Length-of-Service award. Mr. Harrell is a retired agriculturalist and is presently a realtor. Presentation was made by Jerry Wolfe, CPM/FTW.



Alex Mares, cooperative weather observer, Ocate, NM, was presented a 30-year Length-of-Service award. Mr. Mares is a retired Postmaster at Ocate. Presentation of the award was made by Dick Snyder.



Sue Wheeler, cooperative weather observer, Morgan 3 WNW, TX, was presented a 25-year Length-of-Service award by Alan Starnes.



A 25-year Institutional award was presented to the Corps of Engineers, Bardwell Dam, TX, by Alan Starnes.

## SOUTHERN REGION



Radio Station KHBR, Waco, TX, was recently awarded a 25-year Institutional award. Pictured from left to right: Harmon Hunt, Disc Jockey; Damon Isbell, Program Director/Announcer; Alan Starnes; Rick Bailey General Manager; and David Jackson, Engineer.



A 25-year Institutional award was presented to the Corps of Engineers, Stillhouse Hollow Dam. Those who accepted the award are left to right: Front Row: Melissa Santana; Donna Skrabanek; and Michael Johnson. Back row (left to right): Lawrence B. South; Kevin Shelton; Larry Michna; and Robert G. Adams. Alan Starnes made the presentation.



Freddie Potter, cooperative weather observer, Weatherford, TX, was presented a 20-year Length-of-Service award. Freddie is a retired electrical contractor. Pictured with Mr. Potter is his wife. Presentation was made by Jerry Wolfe.

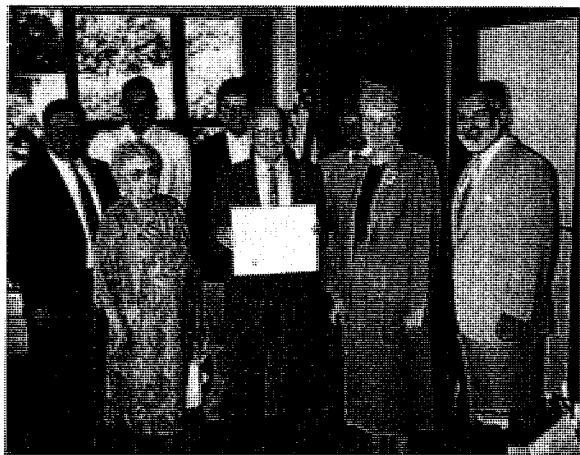


A 20-year Length-of-Service award was presented to Mary N. Avery, cooperative observer, Hodges, AL, by Bill Kent.



A 20-year Length-of-Service award was presented to Zonelle Jackson, Seymour, TX. Mrs. Jackson is a hospital administrator. The award was presented by Jerry Wolfe.

## EASTERN REGION



Gilman Ford, observer, West Burke, VT, was presented the 60-year Helmut E. Landsberg award.

The ceremony was held in the State Office building at Montpelier, VT. Governor Madeleine Kunin made the award presentation. Those in attendance included Roland Loffredo, MIC/WSFO, Albany, NY; Steve Hogan, MIC/WSO, Burlington, VT; and several officials of New England Power Company.

In 1980, Mr. Burke received the Edward H. Stoll award along with a 50-year Length-of-Service pin.

Mr. Ford received the Thomas Jefferson award in 1970. This award is presented annually to only five of the most outstanding cooperative weather observers in the United States. 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. This award is for unusual and outstanding accomplishment in the field of meteorological observations.

Back in 1965, Mr. Burke received the John Campanius Holm award for his long period of outstanding accomplishment in the field of meteorological observations.

Left to right: Hugh Sullivan, NEPCO; Mrs. Avis Ford; Ed Robins, NEPCO; Steve Hogan; Gilman Ford; Bill Dodenhoff, NEPCO; Governor Kunin, and Roland Loffredo. Photo by James Donahue.



G. Holmes Gregg, observer, Lincoln, VA, was presented the John Campanius Holm award for his outstanding accomplishments in the field of meteorological observations. This award is presented annually to only 25 of the nearly 12,000 cooperative weather observers in the United States. Bill Smith, Cooperative Program Manager, Baltimore, MD, made the presentation.



Grace Grove (left), former observer, Dale Enterprise; and Virginia Grove Weaver, who is Mrs. Grove's stepdaughter, accepted the John Campanius Holm award for this family's outstanding service to the National Weather Service and the community of Dale Enterprise, VA, for more than 100 years as cooperative weather observers. Members of this family have served as observers at Dale Enterprise since the station was established in 1880.

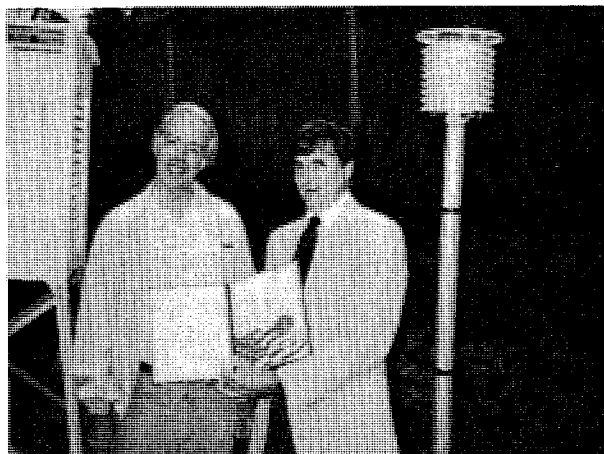


An Edward H. Stoll award and a 50-year Length-of-Service award was presented to Ethel B. Carey, observer, Edmeston, NY. Photo and presentation by Ray West, Cooperative Program Manager, Albany, NY.

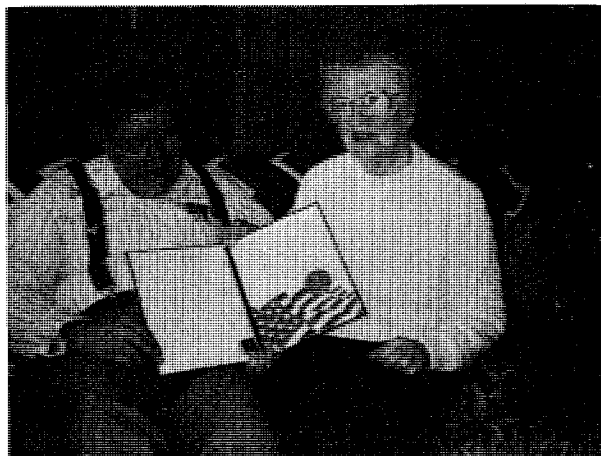


A 50-year Institutional award was presented to the Public Service Company of New Hampshire, Swans Falls, ME. Richard Morin (right) and Roland Lavigne (left) accepted the award from James Donahue (center), Cooperative Program Manager, Portland, ME. Photo by Tom Hawley, Hydrologist, Portland, ME.

## EASTERN REGION



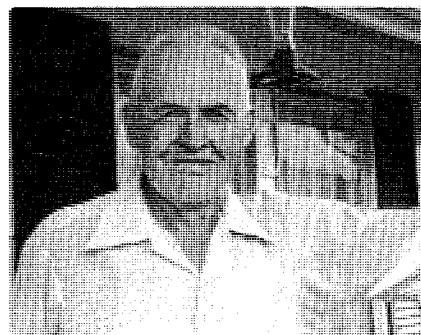
Our Hingham, MA, observer, Bob Skilling (left), received a 30-year award. The award was presented by Bob Thompson, Meteorologist in Charge, Weather Service Forecast Office, Boston, MA. In addition to the taking and recording the observations at Hingham, Mr. Skilling also records observations at the Blue Hill Observatory, where he is observer in charge. He also works at the Weather Service Forecast Office at Boston where he fills in during staffing crunches. Photo by Tony Mach.



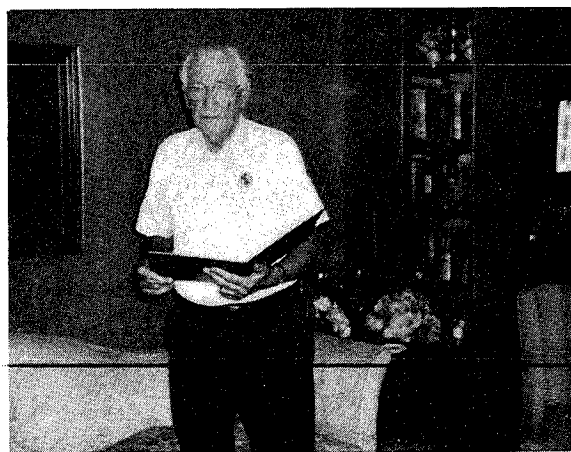
Mildred Schips was presented a 30-year Length-of-Service award at her home in Port Jervis, NY. Although Mrs. Schips is listed as the observer, she was quick to point out that her husband, Ralph, has taken his fair share of observations during the past three decades. "We work as a team," she stated. Tony Mach, Cooperative Program Manager, Hartford, CT, made the presentation and took the photo.



Richard Leavitt (right), observer, Frankestown, NH, accepted a 10-year Length-of-Service award from Tom Hawley, Hydrologist, Weather Service Forecast Office, Portland, ME. Photo by James Donahue, Cooperative Program Manager, Portland, ME.



A. Worth Phillips, observer, West Jefferson, NC, was presented the Edward H. Stoll award along with a 50-year Length-of-Service award by Earl Rampey, former Cooperative Program Manager, Columbia, SC, who has since retired.



Harold Hollis, observer, Cooperstown, NY, was presented a 40-year Length-of-Service award. Mr. Hollis is the mayor of Cooperstown. Presentation and photo by Ray West.

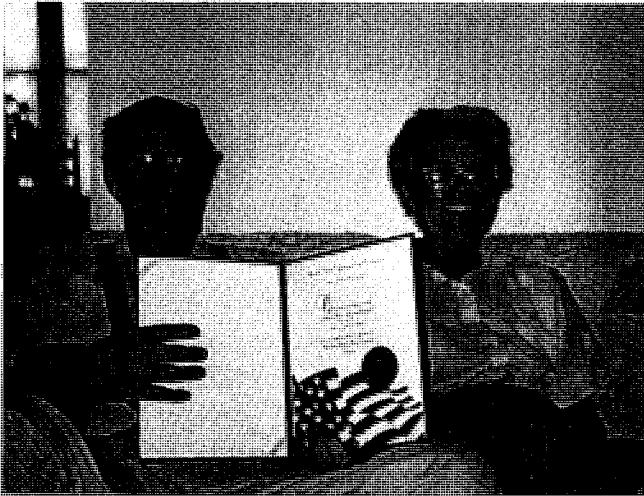


Cecil Oehler, who is our observer at Prospect, OH, received a 30-year Length-of-Service award from Michael Wyatt, former Cooperative Program Manager, Columbus, OH.

Mr. Oehler is shown taking a river reading from the wire weight gage located on the Scioto River bridge in Prospect, OH.

He had several distinguished helpers with reading the river equipment. They are Larry Barnett, Professional Umpire for American League Baseball; Buck Rogers, Manager of the Montreal Expos; and Jerry Lane, Rookie National League Umpire.

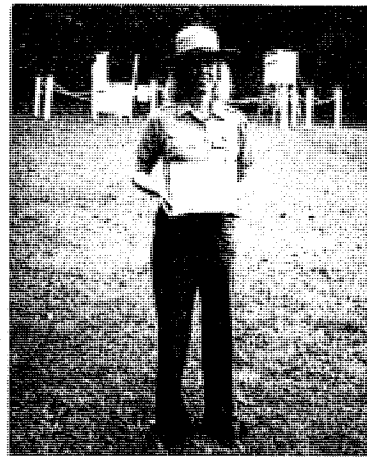
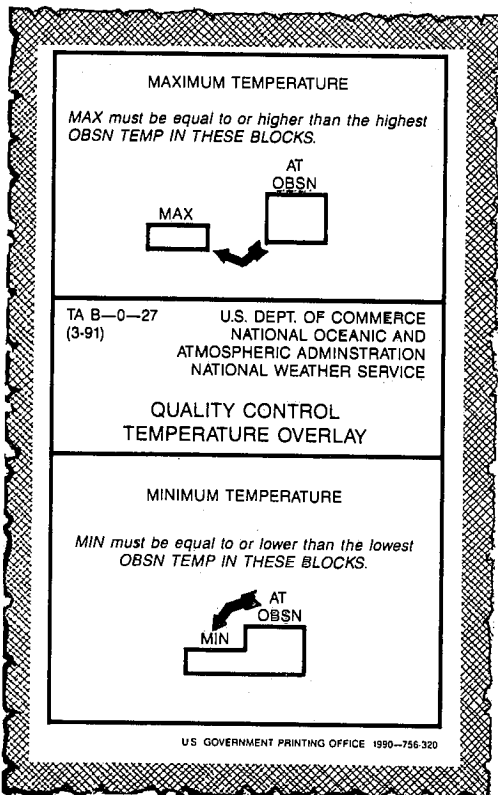
# EASTERN REGION



Mr. and Mrs. John Finger, observers, McClellanville, SC, received a 10-year Length-of-Service award from Earl Rampey.



Our Staffordsville, VA observer, Frank B. Strader, Jr., was presented a 20-year Length-of-Service award by Dan Houser (left), Deputy Meteorologist in Charge, Weather Service Forecast Office, Charleston, WV. Photo by David A. Keller, Cooperative Program Manager, Charleston, WV.



A 25-year Institutional award was presented to the Luray National Park Headquarters, Luray, VA. Accepting the award is Ranger Brenda Ritchie. Bill Smith made the presentation.

WS FORM B-91 (7-89) NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE

**RECORD OF RIVER AND CLIMATOLOGICAL OBSERVATIONS**

STATION (Climatological) (River Station, if different) **YOUR STATION**

STATE **YOUR STATE** COUNTY **YOUR COUNTY**

TIME (local) OF OBSERVATION RIVER **7A** TEMP. **6P** PRECIPITATION **6P**

TYPE OF RIVER GAGE **WIRE - WEIGHT** ELEVATION OF RIVER GAGE ZERO **836.37** Ft. FLOOD STAG. **8**

DATE	TEMPERATURE F.		AT OBSNS	24-HR AMOUNTS Rein, melted snow, etc. (Inches and hundredths)	At Ob. Snow, ice pellets (Inches and fractions)	PRECIPITATION Draw a straight line observed, and probably occurred								
	MAX.	MIN.				1	2	3	4	5	6	7		
1	95	61	81	.01										
2	101	57	86	.01										
3	97	67	82	2.05										
4	100	71	87	0										

The Quality Control Temperature Overlay has been revised by NWS-Headquarters and reprinted (10,000), under No. TA B-0-27/3-91.

This transparent plastic templet is a very helpful Technical Aid (TA) for our observers to correctly select the highest and the lowest daily temperature values from NWS Form "E-15/B-91." It is available from the NOAA Logistic Center in Kansas City, MO, via your CPM. (Prepared by Alexander Radichevich, NWS-Headquarters, Silver Spring, MD.)

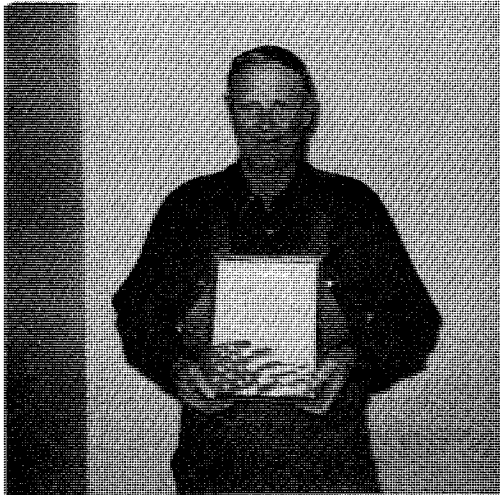
## CENTRAL REGION



Carl Lovell, observer, Cheyenne Wells, CO, was presented a 30-year Length-of-Service award by Mike Elias.



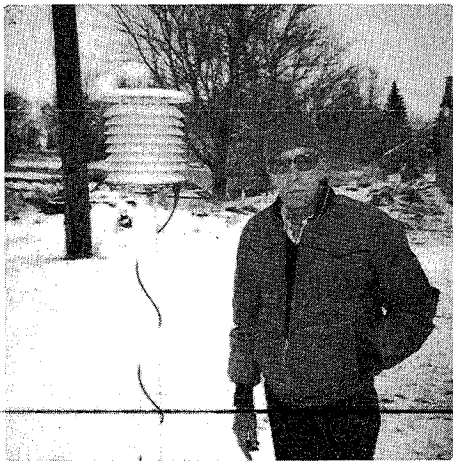
Theodore C. Ochsner, cooperative observer, Tuttle, ND, is pictured with his recent 40-year Length-of-Service award. He also received a pin and letter from Dr. Friday. Picture and presentation by Vernon Roller.



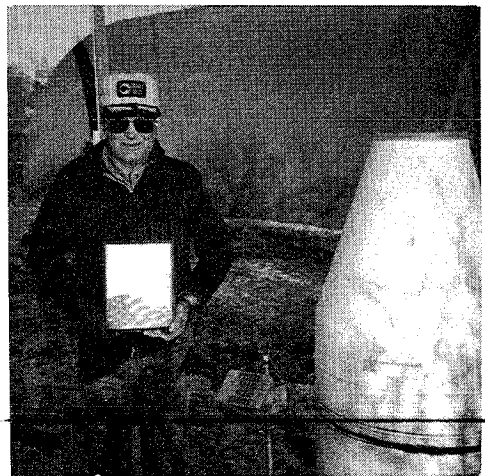
Clement Mitchell, observer, Arapahoe, CO, was presented a 20-year Length-of-Service award by Mike Elias.



C. J. (Ceph) Goddard (pictured at left) with his wife, Jessie Goddard. Mr. Goddard was recently presented a 20-year Length-of-Service award and pin. The Goddard's ranch is located at Watford City 12 E, ND, and was an original cowboy line camp. Part of their ranch house is the original line camp and is 100 years old. Picture and presentation by Vernon Roller.



Pictured is Fred O. Forthun, cooperative observer, Hettinger, ND. He recently received his 40-year Length-of-Service award, pin, and letter from Dr. Friday. Picture and presentation by Vernon Roller, CPM, WSFO Bismarck, ND.



Donald E. Olson is pictured with his 20-year Length-of-Service award. Mr. and Mrs. Olson take observations at Montpelier, ND. The Olsons can always be counted on to get that special report to the National Weather Service. Picture and presentation by Vernon Roller.

## CENTRAL REGION



Floyd F. Gray, observer, Scottsburg, IN, was presented a Special Service award for 45 years of faithful and outstanding service to the Cooperative Program. Mr. Gray received the John Campanius Holm Award in 1987 and continues to be one of the most valuable assets to the Indiana Coop Program. Mr. Gray took his own personal weather observations from 1931 to 1946 before becoming the official observer. The award was presented by John T. Curran, Area Manager for IN.



Jewell Sears, observer, English 4 S, IN, was presented a 20-year Length-of-Service award. Mrs. Sears founded and operates the English, IN, library and has been a 4-H leader for 40 years. Presenting the award is Roger Kenyon, CPM for IN.



The National Weather Service presented a Special Service award to James Watkin of Wanatah, IN. The award commemorated 25 years of excellent weather observations taken at the Pinney Purdue Farm northwest of Wanatah. The award was presented by Jim McIntyre, Meteorologist in Charge of the Midwest Agricultural Weather Service Center at Purdue (pictured), and Roger Kenyon, Cooperative Program Manager, National Weather Service, Indianapolis, IN.



Orville H. Alverson, cooperative observer, Popejoy 1 NE, IA, was presented a pin, a 40-year Length-of-Service award, and a letter from the NWS Director by Bill Newman, CPM/DSM.



The Army Corps of Engineers at Monroe Reservoir was honored with a 25-year Institutional award. John T. Curran, Area Manager for Indiana (on left), presented the award to Joe Tucker. Also present were Albert P. Shipe, Service Hydrologist, and Roger Kenyon, CPM/IND.



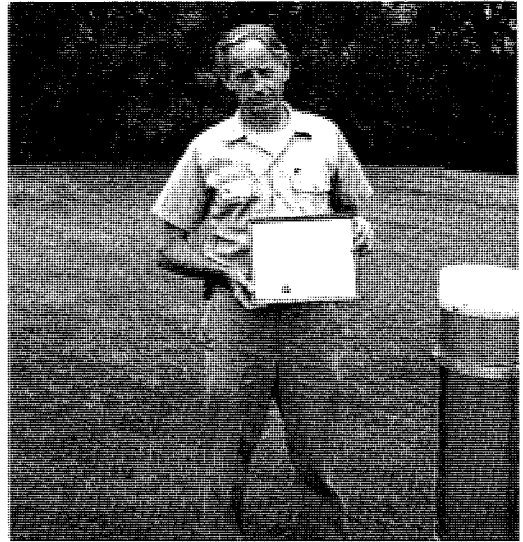
Thelma J. Hansen, Turin, IA, was presented a pin and a 30-year Length-of-Service award by Bill Newman.



## CENTRAL REGION



Mr. and Mrs. John A. Lund, cooperative observers, Zearing, IA, were presented a pin and a 20-year Length-of-Service award by Bill Newman.



Ed Davidson accepted a 25-year Institutional award for Mercy Hospital, Corning, IA. The award was presented by Bill Newman.



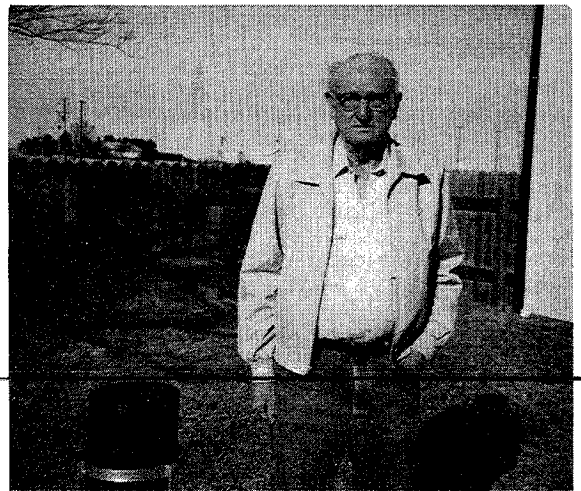
Irene G. Ingram, cooperative observer, Promise City 6 NW, IA, was presented a pin and a 10-year Length-of-Service award by Bill Newman.



Roger Jones, Big Bow 2 S, KS, was presented a 40-year Length-of-Service award by Mike Elias, CPM/GLD.



Warren W. Wilson, cooperative observer, Randolph, IA, was presented a pin and a 10-year Length-of-Service award by Bill Newman.



Edwin Schulte, observer, Rexford, KS, was presented a 20-year Length-of-Service award by Mike Elias.

## CENTRAL REGION



FATHER AND DAUGHTER A WEATHER-WATCHING TEAM IN NATIONAL VOLUNTEER PROGRAM

by Joyce Hersh  
NWS Public Affairs Specialist, Denver, CO

SEDGWICK -- On the dry, fertile plains of northeastern Colorado in the South Platte River Valley, the town of Sedgwick nurtures a hardy population of 258. The Nebraska border lies 5 miles north of this windswept corner of the state, and with few exceptions, the folks who live here rely on agriculture for a livelihood.

Retired farmer Layton Munson has spent most of his life coaxing a living from the soil at his 1,000-acre farm at the outer edge of town on Highway 59. A modest and thoughtful man, he has always known his destiny and has no regrets for his choices. "By farming," he says, "I was the master of my direction in life."

At 73, he takes his pacemaker in stride and still is very much in charge, overseeing his property with the help of wife, Sallie. He also communicates with cities around the world on his ham radio, plays a little golf -- and for 44 years has operated a cooperative weather observing station as a volunteer for the National Weather Service.

Seventy miles southeast, in Wray, daughter Janet McGaughey is also a dedicated weather observer, recruited four years ago by her father and Mike Elias, cooperative program manager for eastern Colorado. McGaughey (pronounced "McGay") finds time to make the observations while working full time as a nurse's aid, raising three children with husband Chuck, and performing other volunteer work in her community. Asked if she and her father often compare notes on the weather, she laughs and says, "Oh, yes -- he always wants to know what (readings) I've got, and we often check each other's log books."

As cooperative weather observers, Munson and McGaughey join a cadre of over 10,500 volunteers across the nation who record daily weather observations to maintain the country's climate history. With occupations as diverse as teaching, engineering, ranching, and homemaking, these citizens exemplify President Bush's "thousand points of light" concept of volunteerism in America.

More than 200 volunteers operate 240 Colorado weather stations. A typical site includes instruments for determining maximum and minimum daily temperature, precipitation and snow depth, and some stations have devices for measuring river level, depending upon location. Observers forward their readings monthly to the Weather Service in Denver and use an 800 telephone number to report precipitation whenever it occurs. When received in Denver, the information becomes part of the recorded climate history of the state and is consolidated into a national database of critical importance to agriculture, transportation, construction, water supply, and energy planning.

If Munson seems to blend perfectly into his lifestyle, perhaps it is because he was born into it, on his parents' ranch just a half-mile away, along with six brothers and a sister.

Munson's father, Swain, was a Sedgwick pioneer and trail boss for cattle drives along the Chisholm Trail, who hired and rode with Billy the Kid "before he turned bad," Munson says. Swain was a quite man who spoke little of his experiences, according to Munson. But the Sedgwick County History recounts his adventures on the cattle drives from Fort Worth, TX, to Ogallala, NE, including one incident in which he was captured by indians.

Munson graduated from high school during the depression years and was unable to attend college. But he studied for his amateur radio operator's license, receiving it in 1938. Though he eventually decided against a broadcasting career, his radio is still an important part of his life. Under ham name "Tarz" and call sign W0FPG, he exchanges weather information with operators all over the world, from Afghanistan to Sweden, Turkey, and the Arctic Circle.

## CENTRAL REGION

Munson says that with the outbreak of World War II in 1941, he enlisted in the U.S. Army and went to Fort Sill, OK, as a "buck private." By 1943 he had completed Officers Candidate School at Fort Monmouth, NJ, and was commissioned a second lieutenant. In November 1944, he wed Sallie Murphy of El Dorado, AR, shortly before shipping out for Europe as a first lieutenant and supply officer with the Army Signal Corps. "I got there just in time for the Battle of the Bulge," he says, recalling the last major German counteroffensive in Belgium, stopped by Allied forces two weeks later. Munson's unit would win two major battle stars, one for the "Bulge," and a second for the Central European campaign. But Munson remembers the war as a difficult time of death, destruction, and personal hardship and prefers not to discuss it. "Suffice to say it was cold and wet everywhere, and we couldn't have fires, because we didn't want to divulge our location. Living conditions were horrendous most of the time," he says. The war ended in August 1945, and Munson returned to his family in Sedgwick that fall, receiving his discharge on January 25, 1946. By 1947, he and Sallie had welcomed twin daughters, Shirley and Sharon, and eventually there would be five children, with the births of Joan, Janet, and son, Swain.

For several years after his return, Munson worked as the town clerk and part-time farmer. In 1958 he began farming full time, raising oats, alfalfa, corn, and forage crops, along with 50 to 60 head of brood cows and calves per year. Although retired in 1982, Munson continued farming on a limited basis for another two years. Known for his dry sense of humor, Munson acknowledges that yes, he once had a private pilot's license, obtained around 1950, and that he had a few misadventures. "Once I was flying from Imperial (NE) to Ogallala, into a head wind, and a Volkswagen beetle passed me on the ground. It was such rough flying I had to put the plane down close to the ground so I could outrun the beetle," he says.

Queried about his golf game, played frequently with an 82-year-old friend at the course in Brush, CO, he smiles wryly and says, "I shot a 47 the other day and was real proud of it."

All of the Munson children are college graduates, an accomplishment both parents regard with pride. Shirley is a medical technologist in Sheridan, WY; Sharon, a high school guidance counselor in Powell, WY; Joan, a homemaker in nearby Haxtun, CO; and Swain, a civil engineer in Baton Rouge, LA. "It was a struggle to raise and educate five on a farm income," says Sallie. "You couldn't do it today," Munson adds.

When Munson took over operation of the Sedgwick weather station in 1947, it was the second oldest in Colorado, but with several interruptions in service. Now located on his property, it includes a standard 8-inch rain gage that he uses for measuring precipitation and snowfall, and a maximum/minimum temperature system for recording each day's highs and lows.

In the 44 years since Munson became a volunteer, he has forwarded more than 10,000 weather messages to the National Weather Service via amateur radio. In 1987, he received the John Campanius Holm award for 40 years of distinguished service. McGaughey says her father has been observing and recording the weather for as long as she can remember, although it was not until 1987 that she joined the corps of volunteers and developed a special rapport with her father, based on their mutual hobby. McGaughey, who holds a degree in biological sciences, is a warm and appealing woman described by family members as very caring and socially conscious. Life in Wray, a town of 2100, suits her perfectly, she says.

"But my parents' place in Sedgwick is my true home, where my roots are," she adds. "You'd have to be a farm person to appreciate it, but there's nothing like being close to the land where you grew up. And the sunrises and sunsets there are spectacular, with no mountains or buildings to obscure them." In her backyard, McGaughey maintains instruments similar to those her father uses to monitor the weather, and like her father, she records the daily temperature and precipitation onto a form for the Weather Service. She also provides data to the Wray Gazette, explaining that she and son Sean, 6, "walk the temperatures to town" every Tuesday as a part of their exercise regimen.

Asked if she enjoys being a weather observer, she says: "Yes, I do. I've always kept track of the rain and the temperature, just out of curiosity. But I never kept records before 1987."

McGaughey says her other two children are typical teenagers. Michael, 16, wants to be a farmer like his grandfather. Jennifer, at 13, likes animals, flowers, and "awful music." Husband Chuck is a mechanic and manages John's 66 Service Station in Wray. He is mechanically inclined, artistic, and a voracious reader, preferring history and nonfiction.

To honor Colorado's cooperative weather stations and the volunteers who operate them, the National Weather Service and Colorado State University hosted a centennial celebration on June 8 in Fort Collins. Special recognition was given to 11 Colorado stations that have been in continuous operation for 100 years or longer: Fort Collins, Las Animas, Montrose, Rocky Ford, Cheyenne Wells, Durango, Lamar, Greeley, Canon City, Delta, and Gunnison. The Weather Service is also embarking on a sweeping modernization program that will make it one of the most technologically advanced weather systems in the world. Over the next decade, the \$2 billion upgrade will deploy a national network of Doppler weather radars, automated surface observing systems, new weather satellites, and an advanced processing and communications system linking weather forecast offices across the county. "The modernization, however, will in no way diminish the value of the data stream provided by Layton Munson, Janet McGaughey, and thousands of other volunteer observers," said E. W. Friday, director of the Weather Service. "Their work will continue to be important in the day-to-day decisions Americans make about business, travel, and recreation. It will also form the basis for the study of global climate change, providing climatologists and other scientists a perspective for evaluating changing weather patterns and trends," Friday said.

# CENTRAL REGION

## CENTRAL REGION -- OTHER AWARDS

	<u>Years</u>		<u>Years</u>
U.S. Bureau of Reclamation Alcova, WY	50	Vernon Gilbert Mitchell, IN	10
Mrs. Junior Gallagher Holly Spring 1 S, IA	30	James Gregory Lonetree No. 1, WY	10
Walter J. Hauber Weston 1 E, WY	30	Burton Hass Limon Hass Ranch, CO	10
William M. Jackson Heart Mountain, WY	30	Ida Higgins Winton, IA	10
Robert P. Bircher Cody, WY	20	John W. Irving Columbia, WY	10
David L. Smith Cody 21 SW, WY	20	Robert Sunman Bruns, IN	10

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