



The National Cooperative Observer

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Willis Family Earns 125 Family Heritage Award



From left, NWS Seattle, WA, Meteorologist in Charge (MIC) **Logan Johnson** presents a Family Heritage Award for an amazing 125 years of service to Honoree **John S. Willis**. Photo by Observing Program Leader (OPL) **Art Gaebel**.

NWS Seattle, WA, is proud to present the esteemed Family Heritage Award to long-term volunteer **John S. Willis**. John is the youngest generation of the Willis family, which has faithfully served the National Weather Service for more than 125 years in the Cooperative Program.

The legacy of the Willis Family began in 1886 when **Richard Willis**, the original Willis homesteader, first saw the San Juan Islands while on a trip in these parts before the Civil War.

He liked the water, the tall trees and “wild look” of the country and decided to move from his native England to the Orcas Island. He arrived in 1888 with his family and laid out his homestead near the present town of Olga.

Richard established the cooperative weather station in January 1890. **Cecil S. Willis** took over the observations in January 1908 and after a

dedicated tenure of 19 years, handed the baton to **Culver Willis** in June 1927.

For 58 years, Culver took daily observations until his passing in July 1985. At this point, our honoree and his sister, **May Willis Fox**, continued this noteworthy tradition.

As might be expected in a small community, the Willes’ have become the weather experts for Orcas Island. The data they collect is published in the local paper and over the years they have done other things to increase local awareness of the Weather Service. John recalls one such time in 1976 when the Orcas Island Historical Society had a bigger than usual parade for the bicentennial. The Willis family entered a “weather service” float they built themselves.

It is with gratitude and admiration that we present this award in recognition of outstanding day-to-day commitment for 125 years.

NWS History

The following article is excerpted from "An NWS History of the Signal Corps," the predecessor of the National Weather Service. Wilford M. Wilson was one of the country's weather pioneers.

Personal View of Wilford M. Wilson

I was enlisted in the Signal Corps, U.S.A. with rank of Second Class Private on September 25, 1885. During the 4 years previous I had attended Allegheny College at Meadville, PA, between intervals teaching school, working on a farm, in a mill, cutting timber, black smithing, painting and other things to obtain the necessary funds.

But in the summer of 1885, having despaired of obtaining my degree at the slow rate I was progressing, I decided to turn to teaching, in which I had been fairly successful, as offering the best opportunity within reach. Accordingly, I made application for the position of principal of the village schools of Hydetown, PA, and, having been assured by each member of the board, for I saw them all, that he would support my application, I felt that matters were settled for the year at least.

But in early September, much to my surprise and chagrin, I received formal notice that another candidate had been chosen for the place. This was a hard blow. By this time all the schools were about to open. Besides, I was without money or prospect of employment.

In the spring of 1885, General Hazen, then Chief Signal Officer, circularized the colleges of the country, setting forth the advantages of the Signal Corps as a career. As a result, some 30 or 40 young college men. I wrote for information and advice on enlisting.

The salary was \$76 a month! Why, that was a fortune! A munificent salary! I could hardly believe my eyes, but there it was in black and white. That anyone could earn \$76 per month, honestly I mean, was outside the range of my experience. I had taught school for \$18 per month and boarded around.

Immediately I made my application. I spent the whole day on it. I neglected nothing. It was

not too long, not too short, every word in its place, every punctuation just as set down by Quackinbush in his rhetoric. And the spelling, I was and am yet a notoriously bad speller. But I maintain that if there is a misspelled word in that letter, the mistake was Noah Webster's, not mine. And for the writing of it, I was at home.

On receipt of my letter at the Chief Office, examination papers were promptly forwarded, a list of questions for me to answer and then to make oath before a notary public that I had not "cribbed" the answers. In due time, I was directed to report to the Chief Signal Officer, Washington, D.C., on September 25, for a final examination, mental and physical.

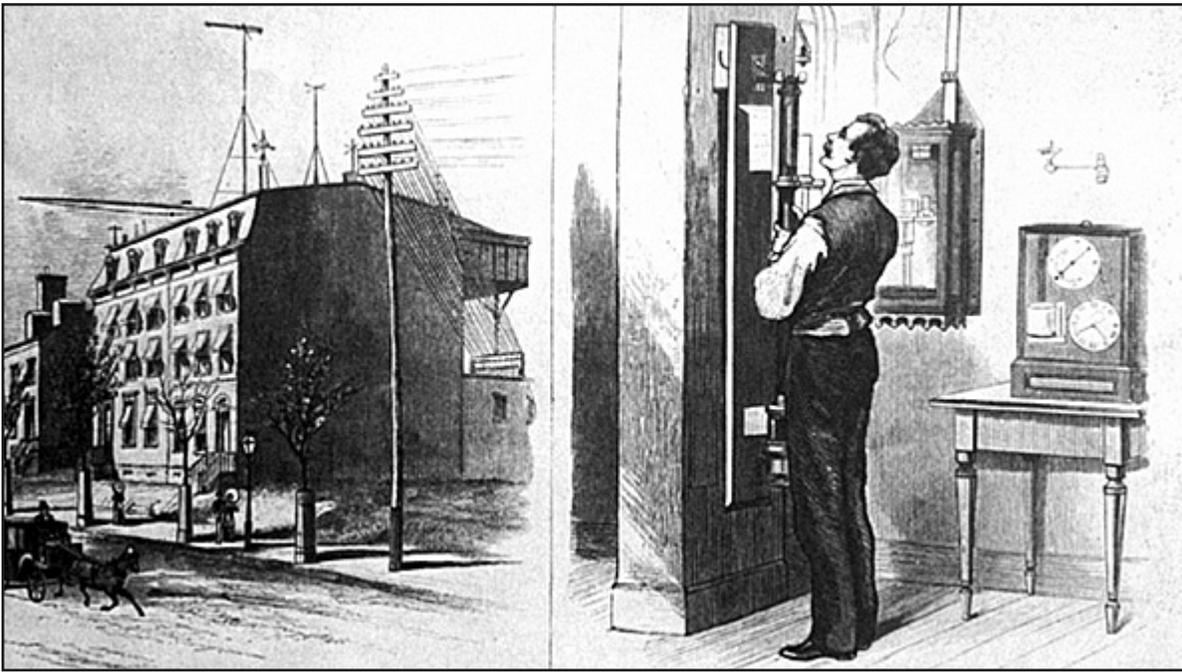
In the Signal Service, I was assigned to the Fact Room of the Review Division under Sergeant James Berry. It was a small dingy room in the G Street Annex, with one dusty window. The sides of the room, from floor to ceiling, were lined with books in which were pasted the monthly meteorological records of all the stations in the world, on land, and of all the ships, keeping records, that sailed the seas. I was soon to make their acquaintance.

My job, the purpose of which I knew nothing, was simple but of deadly monotony. I was given books, containing 30 or 31 pages, according to the number of the days in the month. The pages were about 30 inches long and 12 inches wide, fastened together at the top and ruled lengthwise in columns. The columns were headed: latitude, longitude, time of observation; barometer, temperature, wind direction; force of wind; state of weather. The appropriate data to fill these columns were taken from the records that lined the room.

The procedure was as follows: The first name at the top of each page was Alpena, and on the line opposite was entered the data appropriate to the several headings for the first day of the month. Then the page was turned and similar entries made on the second page for the second day of the month, and so on, turning a page after each day's entry until the month was completed. The same process was followed for each station and for each ship.

In this way, all observations made on the first day of the month appeared on the first page of the book, and those made on the second day, appeared on the second page, and so on throughout the book, thus bringing the observations made each day, both on land and on sea, together on a single page.

The salary was \$76 a month! Why, that was a fortune! A munificent salary! I could hardly believe my eyes, but there it was in black and white.



*Signal Service Headquarters and weatherman at work, G Street, Washington, D.C.,
from Frank Leslie Illustrated newspaper, May 1, 1881*

When I had finished one book, I immediately began another. In time, I was able to do two books a month. We were then about 5 years behind, and I figured that we would catch up in about 10 years.

Early in March, orders were received to go to Fort Myer, but a few days before the date specified, I was taken ill with tonsillitis for 3 weeks. I was glad to go to the Fort, and I presume that frame of mind was reflected in my experiences there. For I may as well say that I look back on the months spent at the Fort as among the most profitable and pleasant of my life. There were a few disagreeable experiences of course, but there were many pleasant ones; and there were friendships formed which the years have not dimmed.

At that time, there were two classes or sections at the Fort: the Meteorological Section of which I was a member, consisting of 14 men, and the Military Signal Corps Section, in which there were some 30 or 35 men.

I arrived at the Fort one afternoon in March 1886 and was assigned quarters. The barracks at that time consisted of a two story building, the gable end fronting the parade ground, and two wings extending outward perhaps 75 feet. The wings were fronted with wide porches. The right hand wing, facing the parade ground, was partitioned into rooms, each accommodating four men. The Meteorological Section occupied this

wing while the other wing was occupied by the Military Signal section.

The room was furnished with four iron cots, each cot with blankets, a straw tick, and pillow. A study table stood in the center of the room, and there were shelves for books on one side. There was also a small mirror on the wall.

There was work aplenty. For the Meteorological Section, it consisted of drill, guard duty, signal practice with flags and heliograph, telegraph practice, observation work and recitations. But there was also time for pranks, baseball, and for leave of an evening in Washington. The Military Signal Section was exempt from observation work and recitations, but enjoyed the distinction of cultivating the post garden. It was a brave sight indeed to see it march to its work, armed with pick, shovel, rake, and hoe.

Fort Myer was regarded as a regular station, telegraphing, at least for the purpose of instruction, three observations daily at 7 a.m., 3 p.m., and 9 p.m. In addition, if my memory serves me, there were two local observations made at 11 a.m. and 7 p.m. The routine was intended to be the same as that of the field stations. In the interval between taking observations and working them up, we studied the "Bible," Instructions to Observers, the ultimate authority of the Signal Corps, which no one, be he officer or private, might question with impunity.

There was work aplenty. For the Meteorological Section, it consisted of drill, guard duty, signal practice with flags and heliograph, telegraph practice, observation work and recitations.

Congress having failed to provide the fund for the maintenance of the school of instruction at Fort Myer, the members of both sections were distributed among the various stations.

Congress having failed to provide the fund for the maintenance of the school of instruction at Fort Myer, the members of both sections were distributed among the various stations. My original assignment was to Milwaukee, but I later was sent to Cleveland; however, I was retained for a time at the Chief Office.

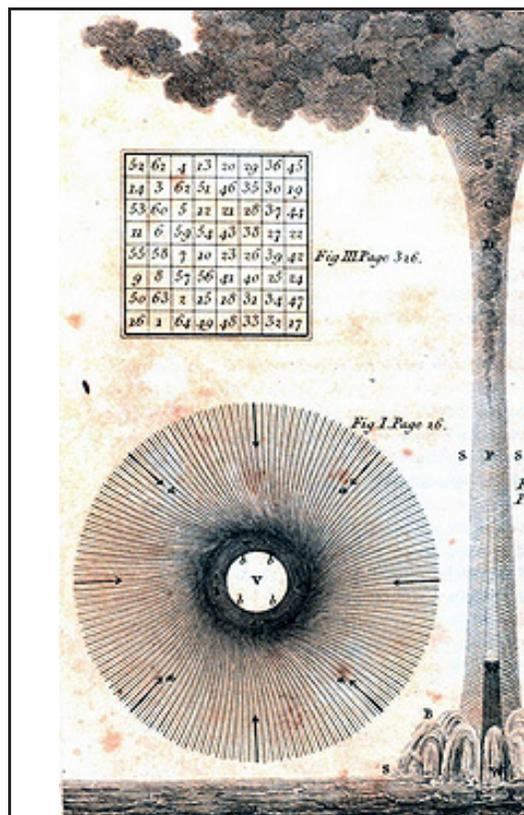
My work was to copy letter "briefs" into books provided for that purpose. It was only a degree less monotonous than the work I had done in the Fact Room.

At that time, there were few typewriters at the Chief Office and none on station. When a letter was written on station it was folded in three folds. At the top of the first fold was placed its number. Letters for each year were numbered consecutively, beginning with January. Following the number, was the name of the station, the date, name and rank of writer, and a brief statement of the contents. This was called the "brief," and was copied in the "Letters Sent" book. No copy of the letter was kept, only the brief. Letters received were also briefed, and the briefs were copied in the "Letters Received" book. Later on someone made the discovery that it was unnecessary to copy the briefs of the letters received, since the letters themselves were placed on file.

The observation work at the Fort was exceedingly interesting to me, but the copying of briefs was not. Besides, there was about this room the same, ancient, musty odor that had sent me from the Fact Room to the Fort.

I had been there about 2 weeks when one day Zappone came to my desk and said that he was in need of a man permanently and, if I so desired, he would recommend me for the place. At the time, my salary at the Chief Office was \$18 per month more than I would receive on station. But, since I had been at the Fort on \$12.50 per month, and had not suffered, the \$58 per month on station appeared to be ample for my needs. I therefore replied that while I appreciated his offer, I would prefer a station assignment.

He appeared to be surprised, but made no comment. Of course, on account of the difference in pay, a Chief Office assignment at that time was regarded as very desirable, and, when it became noised about the room that there was one of their number who actually preferred to go on station, it was looked upon as indicating a mental twist of some kind. I am not sure that they were wrong, for,



Representation of water spout accompanying "Water-spouts and Whirlwinds" by Benjamin Franklin. This paper was republished in "The complete works in philosophy, politics and morals, of the late Dr. Benjamin Franklin", 1806. Volume II, p. 26. Photo from NOAA Photo library, Historic NWS Collection

in this instance also, I exercised neither foresight nor judgment, but simply followed an inclination. I was assigned to Cleveland, OH.

I arrived at Cleveland in August, 1886, and reported to Sergeant William Line, and there began a station service which, for better or for worse, has continued unbroken to the present time.

My service at Cleveland was the beginning of my meteorological education. For the first time I began to find out something of what it was all about. I had served at the Chief Office and at Fort Myer; had seen the forecasts and the weather maps, but upon what the forecasts were based, or what was the significance of the lines and figures on the weather map, I had no knowledge whatever.

Look for more insights into early weather service history in the next National Observer.

Thomas Jefferson Award

NWS Grey, ME, honored **Harold Souther** with the prestigious Thomas Jefferson Award, the highest award bestowed on an NWS Cooperative Observer. Harold was recognized for faithfully taking high quality observations for the last 44 years in Livermore Falls, NH. He also was presented with a letter of recognition from his State Representative, who is also his nephew by marriage.

Harold still actively farms and dries hay on more than 80 acres of land that has been in his family for generations.



From left, Russell Black, Maine State Representative of Wilton; Andrew Buckland, Maine State Representative of Farmington; honoree **Harold Souther**; NWS Grey, ME, Science and Operations Officer **Justin Arnott**; Service Hydrologist (SH) **Thomas Hawley**; and OPL **Nikki Becker**. Photo by Pam Harnden, staff writer of *Livermore Falls Advertiser*.

John Campanius Holm Award



Dr. Douglas Bell and **Srirach Kral** were presented the John Campanius Holm Award for more than 20 years of outstanding cooperative weather reports from East Oahu, HI.

From left, NWS Pacific Region Director **Ray Tanabe**, NWS Honolulu OPL **Mark Farnsworth**, Honorees Dr. **Douglas Bell** and **Srirach Kral**, Acting NWS MIC **Tom Evans**, Regional Coop Program Manager (CPM) **Derek Leeloy**, and Senior SH **Kevin Kodama**. Photo by Forecaster **Henry Lau**.

John Campanius Holm Awards



From left, MIC **Steve Eddy**, Honoree **Roger Bodtke**, **Joyce Bodtke**, Roger's wife; and **Mike Reed**, NWS Hydrometeorological Technician (HMT), Marla Doxey, Data Acquisition Program Manager (DAPM)

18 inches. Roger has also measured 612 inches of snow, 51 feet, in his career. His snowiest season was the winter of 2009-2010, with 62 inches of snow. The snowiest month was December 2009, with 28.7 inches; the least snow during his tenure was in the winter of 1999-2000, with just 16 inches.

Roger Bodtke, Observer for Shelby, NE, proudly shows his Holm Award presented at the Ridgeview Heights Assisted Living Center, in Osceola, NE. In addition to the award, Roger received letters of recognition from Nebraska Gov. Pete Ricketts and Nebraska Senators Deb Fischer and Mark Kolterman. The ceremony was attended by Roger's wife, **Joyce**, and numerous family members and friends.

Every morning, Roger records any rain, snowfall and snow depth and electronically submits his report to NWS. Roger started as the Observer for Shelby on June 1, 1994, and has taken almost 8,000 observations. He has actually taken observations for over 40 years, when including his personal records and his time with the FAA.

Roger has measured over 550 inches of rain, more than 46 feet. His wettest year was 2008, with almost 36 inches of rain. June 2010 was the wettest month, with over 10 inches of rain, compared to the driest year in 2002, with just over

From left, **John Gatti** of Bath, ME, is honored with a John Campanius Holm Award for his exceptionally high quality observations and dedication to service.

Pictured from left are Honoree **John Gatti** and MIC **Hendricus Lulofs**, NWS Gray, ME. Photo by NWS OPL **Nikki Becker**.



John Campanius Holm Awards



From left, MIC Gaylord, MI, **Bruce Smith** and Honoree **Bill Carson**.
Photo by OPL **Keith Berger** and Cooperative Program Manager
(CPM) **Scott Rozanski**.

NWS Gaylord, MI, presented **William "Bill" Carson** with a prestigious John Campanius Holm award. Bill has been taking observations at his residence in Boyne Falls for more than 20 years. Bill's fascination with weather began four decades ago, watching his neighbor Herb De Nise, who was the official Observer for Boyne Falls at the time. In the fall 1994, Herb asked Bill to take over.

Bill informed the NWS State Forecast Office that he was ready to assume the duties; however, due to a staffing shortage and with winter looming, the state CPM regrettably said they wouldn't be able to move the equipment until spring. Having just experienced the historically cold winter of 1993-94, the idea of a Boyne Falls winter going uncaptured in the climate records just didn't sit well with Bill. So after some thought and with instruction from the state CPM, he moved the equipment himself. Bill completed the daily weather observation the next day and the historical climate record never skipped a beat.

From left, NWS Bismarck, ND, OPL **Rick Krolak** presents the John Campanius Holm Award to Honoree **Christopher Simmons** of Landsford, ND, with MIC **Jeff Savadel**, right, offering appreciation to Rick as well. Rick has been an exceptional observer of precipitation and snowfall at his residence since 1978.
Photo by Meteorologist Intern (Met Intern) **Zachary Hargrove**.



75 Year Family Heritage Awards



From left, NWS Medford, OR, Forecaster **Brian Nieuwenhuis**, SH **Spencer Higginson**, NWS Western Region Director **Dr. Grant Cooper**, Honorees **Susie and Laurel Lorenzen**, MIC **John Lovegrove** and WCM **Ryan Sandler**.

In 1940, **Herman Lorenzen**, a World War I veteran, was asked by the Weather Bureau to take weather observations in the small town of Day, CA. Feeling it was his patriotic duty, he accepted. In doing so, Herman entered his family into a partnership that has earned the Lorenzen family the 75 Year Family Heritage Award for their service.

Four members of the Lorenzen family have followed Herman as observers and others have helped in an unofficial capacity. Following Herman's death in 1978, his wife **Phoebe** became the official Observer. In 1981, Phoebe received the John Campanius Holm Award for her dedication. Upon Phoebe's passing in 1984, their son **Pete** picked up where his parents left off. Pete's daughter-in-law **Susie** took observations for several years before returning the duties to Pete. Pete passed away in 2013, at which time his wife **Laurel** took over the responsibility. Laurel continues to take observations and says she sees no end in sight.

The award was presented to Laurel and Susie Lorenzen. Laurel's son Pete Jr. was also present along with media from as far as Redding, CA.

Upon receiving the award Laurel said, "I'm a little taken aback. I think it's wonderful." Laurel was surprised that such a big deal was being made about their accomplishment. For her, taking the observations is just a part of their lives. Laurel is a wonderful woman and she and her family have provided a great service to our country.

125 and 75 Year Honored Institution Awards



From left, NWS Gray, ME, MIC **Hendricus Lulofs** presents a 125 Year Honored Institution Award to **James LaBelle**, Chairman of the **Dartmouth College** Department of Physics and Astronomy and Dartmouth College Observer **Alan Goldblatt**. Photo by Robert Gill of the *Dartmouth News*.

Gary Eslinger of the **J. Clark Salyer National Wildlife Refuge** displays the Refuge's 75 Year Honored Institution Award. Photo by Met Intern **Zachary Hargrove**, NWS Bismarck, ND.

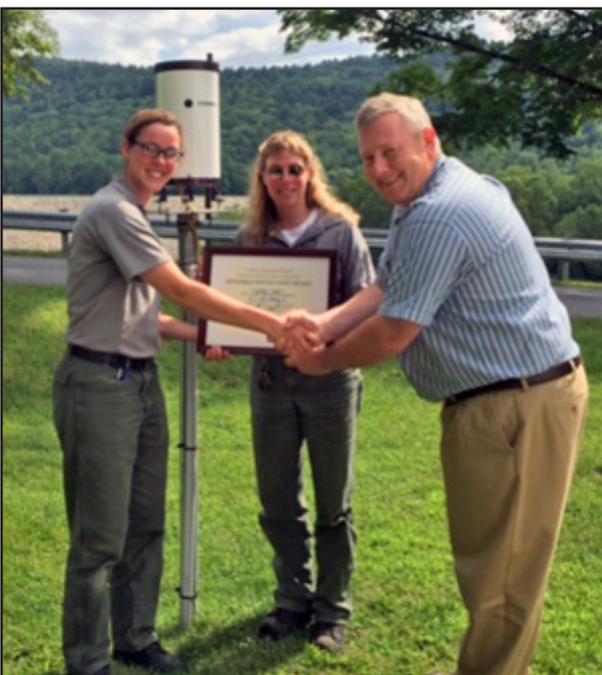


75 Year Honored Institution Awards



From left, NWS Gray, ME, OPL **Nikki Becker**, MIC **Hendricus Lulofs** present a 75 Year Honored Institution Award to **Manchester Water Works Massabesic Lake Facility** Foreman **Michael Pinard, Sr.**, and Director **Philip Croasdale**. The award was presented at the facility in Manchester, NH, during the Water Commissioners Board Meeting. Michael has been taking observations for 30 years. Photo by Kimberley Griswold of Manchester Water Works.

From left, **Arlene Jackson** and **Lindsay Compton** show a 75 Year Honored Institution Award presented to the National Park Service's **Colorado National Monument**. The staff at the Monument has been taking daily weather reports since March 1, 1940. NWS Grand Junction, CO, DAPM **John Kyle** presented the award.



From left, **Alicia LaCrosse**, Park Ranger, US Army Corps of Engineers; and **Christie Baker**, Park Ranger, **US Army Corps of Engineers**, accept a 75 Year Honored Institution Award from NWS Gray, ME, MIC **Hendricus Lulofs**. The award was for observations at **Surry Mountain Lake** in Surry, NH. Photo by OPL **Nikki Becker**, NWS Gray, ME.

50 Year Family Heritage and Honored Institution Awards

From left, **Arlene Cole** accepted a 50 Year Length of Service Award from MIC **Hendricus Lulofs**, NWS Gray, ME, for her daily observations taken in Newcastle, ME. Photo by OPL **Nikki Becker**, NWS Gray, ME.



Recognizing 50 years of service to America, NWS Spokane, WA, presented a Family Heritage Award to **Greg Galbreath**, center, the third generation Observer from the Galbreath Family of Ritzville, WA. The Galbreath Family has taken an unbroken string of daily weather observations since November of 1965. The award was presented by Meteorologists **Joey Clevenger** and **Ellie Kelcht**, NWS Spokane, WA. Photo by OPL **Mark Turner**.

Dan Lund, right, accepted a 50 Year Honored Institution Award for the **Sacramento Metropolitan Utility District** (SMUD). The award was present at the NWS Sacramento, CA, office by MIC **Dan Keeton**. Photo by OPL **Johnnie Powell**. SMUD's weather station is at an elevation of 5120 feet near Robbs Peak in the Sierra Nevada Mountains. SMUD opened the station on December 6, 1965. Robbs Peak can average over 60 inches of rain and over 200 inches of snow a year. Utility companies like SMUD are a vital part of the Observer Program.



50 Year Honored Institution Award

Bruce Nulle, left accepted a 50 Year Honored Institution Award for **McHenry Lock and Dam** in McHenry, IL, from NWS Chicago, IL, OPL **Bill Nelson**. The precipitation record began in McHenry at the home of **Alex Justin** in December 1939. In October 1943, **Nicholas Justin** became the Observer. **Fred Feltz** took over observations at his home in January 1944 and continued on until his death in July 1952. He was followed by **Henry Antholz** and then **Louis Althoff** in June 1954. In June 1962, the equipment was moved to the McHenry Lock and Dam, maintained by the Illinois Department of Natural Resources. Temperature was added in March of 1987.

Photo by HMT **Amy Seeley**, NWS Chicago, IL.



Plant Forman **Brandon Foraker**, center, and Plant Supervisor **Ken Bradshaw**, right, of the **Girard, KS, Power Plant** receive the 50 Year Honored Institution Award from Meteorologist **Doug Cramer**, NWS Springfield, MO. Photo by OPL **Thomas Olsen**.

45 Year Dick Hagemeyer Service Award



David E. Ball and his wife **Wendy** of Battle Creek, MI, were honored with the Dick Hagemeyer Award for 45 years of service as NWS Observers. David started observing as a young boy and continues to faithfully report the weather conditions. He helped organize the SKYWARN Spotter program for Calhoun County. He also provides weather support to the annual Battle Creek Field of Flight Air Show and Balloon Festival. One of his responsibilities involves monitoring the radar for thunderstorm development. David is such a weather expert he has been asked to provide his weather observations in a court case. They have been observing for so long, their dog knows when 7 pm comes and will wait at the door. David and Wendy ensure that neighbors or family fill in for them when they are gone to keep their records consistent. NWS Grand Rapids, MI, WCM **Jim Maczko** presented the award.

Photo by OPL **Brandon Hoving**.

40 and 35 Year Length of Service Awards



Martha Metsch of Cheviot, OH, was presented her 40 Year Length of Service Award by NWS Wilmington, OH, MIC **Kenneth Haydu**. Martha has been providing temperature and precipitation data to the NWS Wilmington, OH, for more than 40 years. Thank you Martha for your dedication and service! In 2011 Martha recorded the new Ohio state record for precipitation during a calendar year. Photo by NWS SH **Julie Dian-Reed**.

Herbert Arnold, center, of Ashley, ND, received his 40 Year Length of Service Award from OPL **Rick Krolak**, left, NWS Bismarck, ND, and MIC **Jeff Savadel**, right. Herbert has taken daily observations since November 1975. Photo by **Zachary Hargrove**, Met Intern.



Richard Leavitt of Frankestown, NH, accepted his 35 Year Length of Service Award from NWS Grey, ME. Richard is retiring as an Observer with sincere thanks from the NWS for his years of service.



Laraine Johnston, loyal Cooperative Observer in Wellington, UT, was presented with a 35 Year Length of Service Award. Laraine reliably calls her daily observation to the NWS Salt Lake City every evening for inclusion into the Regional Temperature and Precipitation bulletin. Award presentation and photo by OPL **Steve Summy**, NWS Salt Lake City.

35 and 30 Year Length of Service Awards



Frank Wachowski shows his 35 Year Length of Service Award presented by OPL **Bill Nelson**, NWS Chicago, IL. Frank provides reports for southwest of Chicago Midway Airport. Frank, a retired NWS employee, started keeping personal weather records at his home near Midway in 1951 when he was 14 years old. He is the sole source of Midway sunshine data. Frank is also a past recipient of the prestigious Thomas Jefferson Award.

Photo by NWS HMT **Amy Seeley**.



Spencer and Judy Legaard of Fortuna, ND, received their 35 Year Length of Service Award from NWS Bismarck, ND.

Photo by HMT **Jim Assid**.



David D. Einspahr, Observer, at **Wheat Ridge, CO**, shows his 35 Year Length of Service Award. David has been one of NWS's most trusted Observers over the years.

We very much appreciate his service and dedication. Photo and presentation by OPL **James Kalina**, NWS Boulder, CO.



Layne Blood, Observer in Angle, UT, was presented with a 30 Years Length of Service Award. Layne is an outstanding Observer in this remote area of Utah. Award presentation and photo by OPL **Steve Summy**, NWS Salt Lake City, UT.

30 Year Length of Service Awards



Merrilee Hohnholz of Hohnholz Ranch, CO, shows her 30 Year Length of Service Award for continued dedicated service. The Hohnholz Family has faithfully taken daily observations from this remote Colorado location since 1985. Photo and presentation by OPL **Jim Kalina**, NWS Boulder, CO.



Sally Sawyer of Bethel, ME, accepted her 30 Year Length of Service Award. Photo and presentation by HMT James F. Brown, NWS, Gray, ME.



From left, NWS Wilmington, OH, MIC **Kenneth Haydu** presents a 30 Year Length of Service Award to **John Stephenson** of Kings Mills, OH. John not only provides precipitation data, but also regularly reads the manual river gage at Kings Mills along the Little Miami River. John's river observations have directly assisted with river forecasts and warnings for the Kings Mills and South Lebanon areas of Warren County. Photo by SH **Julie Dian-Reed**.



Doug Webster of Hudson, NH, accepted a 30 Year Length of Service award. Photo and presentation by OPL **Nikki Becker**, NWS Gray, ME.

25 Year Length of Service Awards



From left, HMT **James F. Brown**, NWS Gray, ME, presents a 25 Year Length of Service Award to Observer **David Haas** of Lancaster, NH.

Charles Buttrick of Greenville, NH, was presented a 25 Year Length of Service Award by NWS Grey, ME.



Kerry and **Annie Lambert**, Observers in Kamas, UT, were presented with a 25 Year Length of Service Award. The Lamberts are outstanding Observers and weather spotters. Presentation and photo by OPL **Steve Summy**, NWS Salt Lake City, UT.



Mr. and Mrs. Skalicky of McGregor, ND, received their 25 Year Length of Service Award from the NWS office in Bismarck, ND. Photo by HMT **Jim Assid**, NWS Bismarck.



Monica White of Colebrook, NH, was presented a 25 Year Length of Service Award by NWS Grey, ME. Photo by **Mr. White**.

25 Year Honored Institution and 20 Year Service Awards



The **Marion, IN, Municipal Utilities** accepted a 25 Year Honored Institution Award. From left are Observers **Jeff Mast, Kenny Ewing, Dan Fanning** and **Marc Freeman**. Award presentation and photo by OPL **Brentley Lothamer**, NWS Northern Indiana.



Sarah Scott and **Cory Scoles** accept a 25 Year Honored Institution Award for the **Village of Dwight, IL**, and the **Water Works Department** from NWS Chicago, IL.

The **Wauseon, OH, Water Treatment Plant** accepted a 25 Year Honored Institution Award from OPL **Brentley Lothamer**, NWS Northern Indiana.



Larry Acker of Polo, IL, received a 20 Year Length of Service Award from NWS Chicago, IL. Larry's great grandfather, **William Edward Acker**, started keeping weather records in 1883. Larry took over the observations from his grandfather in 1949; however, his observations did not become official until 1995.



Lana Henry and **Jim Heaney** of the **George Washington Carver National Monument** in Diamond, MO, show the Monument's 25 Year Honored Institution Award presented by Observation Focal Point **Chris Reed**. The bust represents botanist and inventor George Washington Carver who was a volunteer weather observer at the Tuskegee Institute in Alabama from November 1899-May 1900, and from July 1900-January 1932, almost 33 years. [More information about his weather observations is online.](#)

Photo by OPL **Thomas Olsen**.

20 Year Length of Service Awards



Dan Gropper of Fairfax, VA, shows his 20 Year Length of Service Award, presented by MIC **Jim Lee**, NWS Sterling, VA, and WCM **Chris Strong**. Dan is not only an Observer but an active spotter and community leader with his own weather company, Thunder Eagle, Inc. He is an invaluable resource in the National Capitol area.



Dan Fanning, of the **Marion Municipal Utilities** in Indiana, accepted a 20 Year Length of Service Award. The award was presented and photo taken by OPL **Brentley Lothamer**, NWS Northern Indiana.



Sharron Higgins, the Observer at Ridgeway, MT, received a 20 Year Length of Service Award. The award were presented by NWS Billings, MT, OPL **Larry Dooley**.



Howard Hamilton, left, Observer in Crook, CO, was presented a 20 Year Length of Service Award. OPL **James Kalina**, NWS Boulder, CO, made the presentation.

20 Year Length of Service Awards



Paul Holle of New Salem, ND, was presented with a 20 Year Length of Service Award from NWS Bismarck, ND. The award was presented by Met Intern **Michael Mathews**.



Mike Meier, of Monett, MO, accepts a 20 year Length of Service Award. OPL **Thomas Olsen**, NWS Springfield, MO, presented the award.



Veta Mitchell, Observer in Virginia Dale, CO, shows her 20 Year Length of Service Award. Veta has been a trusted observer for NWS Boulder, CO. We very much appreciate her service and dedication. Photo by OPL **James Kalina**, NWS Boulder, CO.



From left, NWS Chicago, IL, HMT **Charles Mott** presents a 20 Year Length of Service Award to **Bruce Sanders** for his service at Chatsworth, IL. Bruce and his father, **Vendell**, have taken precipitation observations at their home since July 1995. Sadly, Vendell passed away on November 3, 2012. Photo by OPL **Bill Nelson**, NWS Chicago, IL.

Jon Leuck of the **Pinney Purdue Agricultural Center** accepted a 20 Year Individual Length of Service Award. The award was given by NWS Northern Indiana OPL **Brentley Lothamer**.

Keith Larochelle of Hartford, ME, was presented a 20 Year Length of Service Award by NWS Grey ME.

Bradley Zellers of Winamac, IN, accepted a 20 Year Length of Service Award. The award was given by NWS Northern Indiana OPL **Brentley Lothamer**.

15 and 10 Year Length of Service Awards



Beth and Rex Bourland, right, of Comfort, TX, were presented with a 15 Year Length of Service Award by Austin/San Antonio, TX, OPL **Steve Smart**. Rainfall reporting has been in the Knoepfli-Bourland family since January 1961. In 2006, the family received the Dick Hagemeyer Award for 45 Years of Family Service.



Burke Goebel of Hodgeman County, KS, shows his 15 Year award presented by OPL **Jesse Lee**, NWS Dodge City, KS. The site was started in 1949 by **Sam Pitts**, who was tragically killed in an automobile accident in 1950, at which point **Emil Schneider** took over. There have been several other Observers since then. In 2000, Burke took over the station from **Mickey MacNair**.



James Howells, Observer in Cedar City, UT, was presented with a 15 Year Length of Service Award. Jim is an outstanding Observer and weather spotter. Presentation and photo by OPL **Steve Summy**, NWS Salt Lake City, UT.



From left, NWS Chicago, IL, HMT **Charles Mott** presents a 10 Year Length of Service Award to Observer **Mike Anderson**, Lansing, IL. Photo by OPL Bill Nelson.



Dr. William L. Culp, Jr. at Winthrop University, SC, was presented a 10 Year Length of Service Award by OPL **Chris Horne**, NWS Greenville-Spartanburg, SC. William's father, **William L. Culp, Sr.**, was the Observer from 1952 until 2004 and was a Jefferson Award recipient in 2002.

15 and 10 Year Length of Service Awards



Jim Burton, left, of Columbus, KS, received the 10 Year Length of Service Award from OPL **Thomas Olsen**, NWS Springfield, MO.



Mr. and Mrs. Dukart of Dunn Center, ND, received their 10 Year Length of Service Award from NWS Bismarck, ND. The presentation and photo were by OPL **Rick Krolak**.



Roberta Fletcher, of Flemington, MO, received the 10 Year Length of Service Award from OPL **Thomas Olsen**, NWS Springfield, MO. Thank you for your outstanding support Roberta.

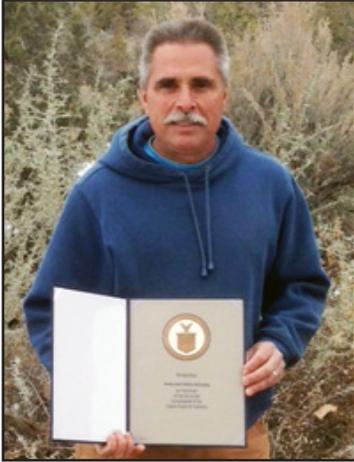


Frank McPherson, right, received a 10 Length of Service Award for his observations at the **Fairbury Waterworks Treatment Plant** in Fairbury, IL. The presentation was made by NWS Chicago, IL, HMT **Charles Mott**. Rainfall records have been maintained at the Fairbury Waterworks since April of 1941. Photo by OPL **Bill Nelson**.



From left, **Guy Mills**, **Tony Astbury**, and **Jenn Mills** of Pittston Farm, ME, show their 10 Year Length of Service Award presented by staff from NWS Grey, ME.

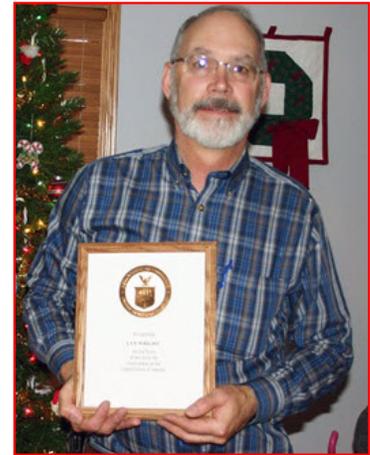
10 Year Length of Service Awards



Andy Nicholas of Paradox, CO, receives his 10 Year Length of Service Award. DAPM **John Kyle**, NWS Grand Junction, CO, presented the award.



Jean and Woodrow Miles received their 10 Year Length Service Awards. Jean and Woodrow observe from one of the NWS Columbia, SC "cold spots," Cedar Creek, SC. Photo and presentation by HMT **Doug Anderson**, NWS Columbia, SC.



Lyn Wright of Cimarron, KS, was presented with a 10 Year Length of Service Award by OPL **Jesse Lee**, Dodge City, KS. Lyn has recorded temperature and precipitation data, including snowfall, since 2005. Also in attendance was Meteorologist **Matt Gerard**. The Cimarron station was established in 1911 by **C. C. Isely**. There have been many observers since. Lyn took over from **Mark McPhail** in 2005.

Steve Burger, of the **Niles, MI, Wastewater Treatment Plant**, accepted a 10 Year Length of Service Award. The award was presented by Northern Indiana OPL **Brentley Lothamer**.

Roger Torman and his wife **Cindy**, received recognition from NWS Chicago, IL, for more than 10 years of service as an Observer in Earlville, IL.

Gary Gruhkle and his son **Kevin Gruhkle** received 10 Year Length of Service Award for their service in Yorkville, IL. Weather records for the city of Yorkville go back to October 1996 when **Randy Scott** began keeping the precipitation totals at his residence 3 miles southwest of Yorkville; however, weather records were discontinued in December 1997. In April 2004, Gary and Kevin restarted precipitation records at their Yorkville residence 2 miles southeast of the city. Gary is a valuable resource during weather events, calling NWS Chicago with significant rainfall reports.



Allen Zerr of Harvey, ND, was presented with a 10 Year Length of Service Award from NWS Bismarck, ND. The award was presented by OPL **Rick Krolak**.

**The National
Cooperative
Observer**

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Winter 2016



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March, April, May Temperature and Precipitation Outlooks From the Climate Prediction Center

