



The National Cooperative Observer

NOAA's National Weather Service

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John Campanius Holm Awards



David Connor was awarded a John Campanius Holm Award for his dedication and exceptional quality observations for more than 22 years from his observing station at Meredith, NH.

From left are Awardee **David Connor** and NWS Gray, ME, Meteorologist in Charge (MIC) Hendricus Luloofs. Photo by Observation Program leader (OPL) **Nikki Becker**, NWS Gray, ME.



LaRaine Johnston was presented with a John Companius Holm Award. LaRaine is the original observer at this rural eastern Utah site. She asked to open the station 37 years ago. She phones in her observations to NWS Salt Lake City, UT, every evening for use in the Regional Temperature and Precipitation product.

Observer **LaRaine Johnston**, center, of Wellington, UT, proudly displays her John Companius Holm Award and jacket. NWS Salt Lake City MIC **Randy Graham**, right, presented the award with Wellington Mayor Joan Powell. Husband **Von** and several family members were present.

The mountaineers pointed out the several dangers to be encountered such as mountain lions, hidden trails, difficult stream crossings, narrow ledges, deep snow of a hundred feet or more...

NWS History

The following article is excerpted from "An NWS History of the Signal Corps," the Signal Corps was the predecessor of the National Weather Service. This edition is Part 2 of the story told by John P. Finney. See the [Winter edition](#) of the National Cooperative Observer for Part 1.

Personal View of John P. Finley cont.

In April 1876, I was assigned the task of inspecting the Mountain Meteorological Station on Pikes Peak, CO, and the Base Station at Colorado Springs, CO. This was the first full inspection since the opening of the station with new buildings in 1876. No reports from the Observer in Charge at the Summit had been received for several months because telegraph lines and trails had been destroyed by fierce storms and heavy snow slides.

There was much excitement throughout the country as a result of press reports that the entire station force of six men had perished from cold and starvation. The Observer at the Base Station had continually reported that it was impossible to reach the Summit. None of the hardy mountaineers could be hired to make the attempt.

I was stopping at the Antlers Hotel in Colorado Springs. The hotel was so located that from the porch of this famous hostelry an excellent view of the upper portion of the peak could be obtained in fair weather, but at the time I was there the Summit was enshrouded in swirling masses of snow. The men who stood with me viewing the impressive scene said that this condition had prevailed for weeks, and in their opinion, the men on duty at the summit station had perished. In clear weather, the station building could be easily distinguished from the Antlers Hotel and that was considered an attractive feature for guests.

Notwithstanding all of the arguments presented by the mountaineers, I firmly informed them that, as an Army Officer,

I was under positive military orders to make an inspection of the station at the Peak and ascertain the condition of the Observer in Charge and his assistants. Also I was to take important meteorological observations at the summit and test out the station instruments. It was plainly to be seen that the Observer at Colorado Springs was hoping that I could be induced not to venture to the summit as I had informed him that he must accompany me.

My first work was to complete the inspection at the base, where there was a large amount of government property to be examined and disposed of. I recall the destruction by fire, on a vacant lot, of a huge pile of unserviceable property that had been accumulating at the base for years. As fast as it was inspected, I had it removed from storage and piled there. Then the mass was soaked with kerosene and a match applied. The property was guarded until the destruction was complete.

Having cleaned up the base, I made ready for the trip to the summit. The mountaineers pointed out the several dangers to be encountered such as mountain lions, hidden trails, difficult stream crossings, narrow ledges, deep snow of a hundred feet or more, the crossing of "Windy Point" where the most destructive snow-slides occurred that swept away all obstacles, even the rocks and trees; the scarcity of oxygen above the 12,000-foot level that made walking next to impossible, the blinding storms at the summit that would impede progress and hasten exhaustion and might so hide the trail as to carry the weary wayfarer over a precipice to instant death. When they found that I was deaf to all of these warnings, the mountaineers gave every assistance to preparing myself and the Observer for the perilous journey.

We were completely sewed up in several layers of gunny sacks, provided with alpine pikes, hunting knives and small revolvers, as well as the instruments I was to use for comparison work at the summit. The mercurial barometer was fastened to my back after being covered in its wooden case with gunny sacking; the thermometers, likewise protected, were carried by the Observer.

We were then helped upon the two white government mules, which had been saddled and equipped for the journey. These animals were thoroughly



John P. Finley

trained and knew the trails after years of service over them. It was advisable to give them their head at all perilous passages, whether on ledges or at stream crossings. I learned to deeply appreciate the wonderful knowledge of these faithful animals when narrow passages were taken. The mules would test the security of the pathway by the pressure of one foot at a time and gradually settling the weight upon it. If found firm and unyielding, the mule carefully put forward the other foot. On the broader trail increased speed was taken up without any urging by the rider, and perfectly free reins were given.

The first night was spent at the "Half-Way House" occupied by a mountaineer who lived there with his train of burros. During the open season, the mountaineer supplied the summit station with fire wood at \$50 a cord. The whole season was required to make the delivery. During the winter, the wood was collected at the shack for summer delivery. The load for a burro was usually two, four-foot sticks slung to the back.

Our night at the "Half-Way House" was made hideous by the wild antics of huge flying rats, searching for food. They threw down from the shelves and overturned every article of kitchen equipment again and again. The racket of the tins and kettles was deafening, if not altogether terrifying. The Observer and myself occupied a bed together covered with buffalo robes and other skins. We were cautioned to cover our heads and hands for

protection against the flying rats. Sleep was out of the question while these devils were performing. Between 1 am and 2 am they left the shack, having ransacked every quarter in a vain search for more food after having devoured the waste from the kitchen and table placed where they could easily obtain it.

We obtained a little rest, had a fair breakfast and a chance to examine two dead rats, killed by the mountaineer. After, we resumed arranging our equipment.

Near "Windy Point" the mules were reluctantly abandoned and turned over to our guide, who took them back to the shack to care for until our return trip. We now entered deep snow in which we sank to our arm pits, extending the arms to prevent further descent and treading the snow to rise sufficiently to move forward. We were on the alert constantly for signs of a snow slide, by pressure against the body from the uphill side, in which direction we anxiously scanned the seemingly endless sweep of 3,000 feet. In the direction of the summit, the area was covered with a smooth layer of snow estimated at a depth of 125 feet.

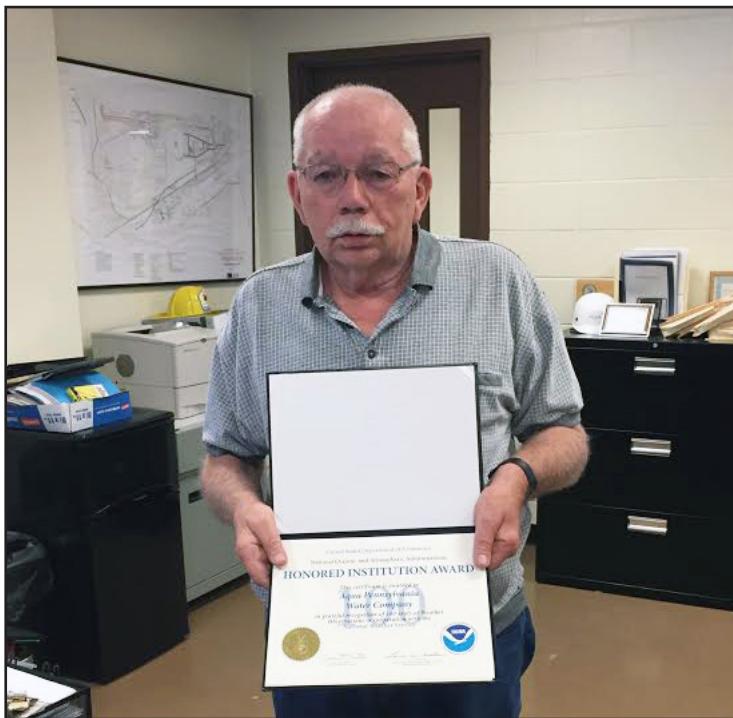
We were completely exhausted on crossing the slide area and there rested on open ground swept of snow by the fierce winds. The remainder of the ascent was made with great exertions and very slow pace because of the lack of oxygen.

When necessary to rest, we had to lean on our sharply-shod alpine pikes and avoid sitting down because it took too much exertion to rise, and we were too exhausted to help one another. The winds grew fiercer and the air was filled with pellets of snow, bits of ice and hail that cut our faces and covered them with blood that froze and blinded our sight. The Observer led the way and his last words to me as we neared the crest in a snow swirl of huge flakes: "For God's sake keep on your feet. If you fall, you will be quickly covered with snow and cannot be distinguished from the rocks. You will be lost and freeze to death." I did fall at the crest and the Observer staggered on a few yards to the station, and fell against the door more dead than alive.

Read more about John Finley in the summer edition of the National Cooperative Observer.

When necessary to rest, we had to lean on our sharply-shod alpine pikes and avoid sitting down because it took too much exertion to rise, and we were too exhausted to help one another.

100 and 75 Year Honored Institution Awards



Tom Walton has been the observer at the **Aqua Pennsylvania Inc.** water company for 45 years. This station has provided outstanding community and climate based services that have benefited the local and meteorological community over the past 100 years.

The award was presented by Meteorologist **Mitchell Gaines**, NWS Philadelphia, PA. Our sincere thanks to Tom and to Aqua Pennsylvania.

Duke Energy's Bridgewater Hydro Station, in North Carolina received an Honored Institution Award for 75 years of service. Receiving this award was technician **Dennis Keller**. The award was presented by OPL **Chris Horne**, NWS Greenville-Spartanburg, SC.



75 Year Honored Institution Awards

The [Lima, OH, Waste Water Treatment Plant](#) accepted a 75 Year Honored Institution Award. From left, plant staff members [Debbie Caprella](#), [Eric Markley](#), and [Robert Anderson](#) accepted the award. The Lima plant began taking observations in November 1941. The award was presented and photo taken by OPL [Brentley Lothamer](#), NWS Northern Indiana.



The city of [New Britain Board of Water Commissioners](#) in Connecticut received a 75 Year Honored Institution Award. Accepting the award was Observer [Mike Ziegenhagen](#), Caretaker 2 at the Shuttle Meadow Reservoir in New Britain. Besides his regular duties as Caretaker at the reservoir, Mike takes daily weather observations, thus has contributed to the long weather history at Shuttle Meadow Reservoir that dates back to 1941! Presenting this award was NWS Taunton, MA, Cooperative Program Manager (CPM) [Kimberly Buttrick](#).

55 Year Benjamin Franklin Award



Robert Lautzenheiser of Reading, MA, and **Robert Skilling** of Hingham, MA.

Robert Lautzenheiser of Reading, MA, and **Robert Skilling** of Hingham, MA, two venerable veterans of climate and weather were presented the Benjamin Franklin Award for serving 55 years as Cooperative Weather Observers. Between these two Bobs they have reported more than 110 years of climate data!

On this cool, rainy day in Hull, MA, with a stiff northeast wind blowing in across the Atlantic Ocean, a small group gathered at The Red Parrot, a Nantucket Beach Restaurant, to celebrate. We also celebrated Bob Lautzenheiser's 100th birthday! The awards were presented by NWS Taunton, MA, MIC **Robert M. Thompson**, CPM **Kimberly A. Buttrick**, and NWS Regional Climate Services Director **Ellen L. Mecray**.

Edward R. Stoll 50 Year Awards

Janet Zieg was presented with an Edward R. Stoll 50 Year Length of Service Award from NWS Great Falls, MT, MIC **Don Britton**. For more than 50 years, Janet has been recording and reporting daily maximum, minimum and at observation time temperatures, daily rainfall or snow melt, daily snowfall and snow depth. During all kinds of weather, from extreme heat to blizzards, Janet takes these vital observations.

Janet's great grandfather started taking weather observations for the Weather Bureau in 1910 and continued until 1929 when Janet's grandmother took over the station. Janet's mother next took over the observations before passing the tradition on to her daughter. Janet's brother takes observations near Martinsdale, MT.



From left are NWS Great Falls, MT, MIC **Don Britton** and honoree **Janet Zieg**. Photo by OPL **Matt Moorman**.

Edward R. Stoll 50 Year Awards



Arnold Kotthoff, center, was presented with a 50 Year Edward H. Stoll Award and **Renee Kotthoff** received a 45 Year Dick Hagemeyer Award from NWS Great Falls, MT, Science and Operations Officer (SOO) **Dave Bernhardt**.

Arnold and Renee record and report daily high and low temperatures along with rain, snowfall and snow depth near Shonkin, MT. The Shonkin weather station has been in the family near the same location since May of 1953.

Dennis C. Pike, center, of Farmington, ME, accepted a 50 Year Edward R. Stoll Length of Service Award from NWS Gray, ME, MIC **Hendricus Lulofs** and Senior Service Hydrologist **Thomas Hawley**. Photo by OPL **Nikki Becker**, NWS Gray, ME.



50 Year Honored Institution Awards



The **U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Hartwell Project Office** received an Honored Institution Award for 50 years of service. Receiving this award was Ranger **Nathan Dinehart**. The award was presented by **OPL Chris Horne**, NWS Greenville-Spartanburg, SC.

45 Year Dick Hagemeyer Service Award

Harold W. Souther of Livermore Falls, ME, accepted a Dick Hagemeyer 45 Year Length of Service Award from NWS Gray, ME, MIC **Hendricus Lulofs** and Senior Service Hydrologist **Thomas Hawley**. Photo by OPL **Nikki Becker**, NWS Gray, ME.



45 Year Dick Hagemeyer Service Award



Sheriff **Mike Volek** of the **South Dakota State University Research Farm** accepted a Dick Hagemeyer Award on behalf of his family for 45 years of dedicated service. Through the years, several members of Mike's family have taken part in the observing duties. The award was presented and photo taken by **Tim Kearns**, Data Acquisition Program Manager (DAPM), NWS Aberdeen SD.

40 Year Length of Service Award

John J. Bagdon, Jr. of Sunderland, MA, shows his a 40 Year Length of Service Award. John is a farmer on a family farm started in 1917 by his grandfather. John raises tomatoes, yellow and green squash, Napa cabbage, bok choi and baby bok choi. The produce is sold through the Pioneer Valley Growers' Association. Before becoming a farmer, John was drafted into the Army and served a tour in Vietnam at Bien Hoa with the 1st of the 7th Cavalry.

We thank John for serving our nation on many fronts: our country while patrolling as a uniformed soldier overseas, our community by farming delectable home grown produce, and our climate record by recording daily weather observations! The award was presented by NWS Taunton, MA, CPM **Kimberly Buttrick**.



40 and 35 Year Length of Service Awards



William and Janet Ross of Grover Hill, OH, accepted 40 Year Length of Service Awards for their contributions to the Ohio weather record. The awards were presented at photo taken by OPL **Brentley Lothamer**, NWS Northern Indiana.

Don Berry, Administrator of the **San Gabriel River Water Committee** in Azusa, CA, was presented his 35 Year Length of Service Award by OPL **Bonnie Bartling**, NWS Oxnard/Los Angeles, CA. Don has been instrumental in providing accurate weather observations consistently to NWS.



Jeffrey McCulla of St. Paris, OH, has been providing precipitation data to NWS for 35 years. Thank you Jeffrey for your dedication and service! Pictured from left are Meteorologist **Ashley Novak**, NWS Wilmington, OH; Observer **Jeffrey McCulla** and his wife **Leta McCulla**. Photo taken by Hydrometeorological Technician (HMT) **James Gibson**, NWS Wilmington, OH.

35 and 30 Year Length of Service Awards



Jack Kanack of North Tonawanda, NY, was presented with a 35 Year Length of Service Award by NWS Buffalo OPL **Dan Kelly**. Jack has been a dedicated Cooperative Observer over the past 35 years and is quite active in the local meteorological community. One of his many accomplishments was to create a weekly weather show on the radio station at Buff State.

NWS Great Falls, MT, presented a 35 Year Length of Service Award to **John Stoner**, right, for taking and reporting daily weather observations at his official weather station near Townsend, MT. In 2004, John was awarded the prestigious John Campanius Holm Award for his commitment and service. The daily observations consist of maximum and minimum temperatures, precipitation, snowfall and snow depth. The weather station dates back to 1901. The award was presented by OPL **Matt Moorman**.



Megan Syner, Warning Coordination Meteorologist (WCM) at NWS Great Falls, MT, presented **Gary Gollehon** with a 30 Year Length of Service Award for taking and reporting daily weather observations at his official weather station east of Brady, MT, near The Knees. Gary's observations consist of maximum and minimum temperatures, precipitation, snowfall and snow depth.

30 Year Length of Service Awards



Bob Gavin, of the **Decatur, IN, Sewage Treatment Plant**, accepts a 30 Year Length of Service Award. Bob has often gone above and beyond to complete observations. Once he had to get into a small boat to row out to the rain gage to take the rainfall measurement due to a flood. Photo taken and award presented by OPL **Brentley Lothamer**, NWS Northern Indiana.



Johnny Hoyle of Lincolnton, NC, was presented a 30 Year Length of Service Award by OPL **Chris Horne**, NWS Greenville-Spartanburg, SC. Johnny was a Holm Award recipient in 2008.



Dan Massee, right, was presented a 30 Year Length of Service Award for his observations near Ovando. MT. Presenting the award was **MIC Bruce Bauck**, NWS Missoula, MT.

25 Year Length of Service Awards



Dave Bordner has been providing temperature and precipitation data at the **Marysville Water Treatment Plant** for 25 years. The Plant has been providing observations for over 75 years. The award was presented by Meteorologist **Ashley Novak**, NWS Wilmington, OH. Also present was Dave's wife **Ellajean**. Photo by HMT **James Gibson**, NWS Wilmington, OH.



Mark Rose of the **Laporte, IN Waterworks**, accepts a 25 Year Length of Service Award. Photo taken and award presented by OPL **Brentley Lothamer**, NWS Northern Indiana.



Laura Kiehl of Winnett, MT, was presented with a 25 Year Length of Service Award by OPL **Brian Burleson**, NWS Glasgow, MT. Laura records hourly precipitation data at her site southeast of Winnett.



From left, **Bill Patera**, Turner Port Director accepts a 25 Year Length of Service Award from OPL **Matt Moorman**, NWS Great Falls, MT. Bill reports daily from the **Turner Port Station**. The weather station was established in 1985 near its current location.

25 Year Honored Institution Awards; 20 Year Length of Service Awards



From left, **Noelle Oldfield** accepts a 25 Year Honored Institution Award from OPL **Lisa Verzella**, NWS Salt Lake City, UT, for the **Soldier Summit**, UT, station. The station is on a mountain pass along US Route 6 at the site of an old ghost town. Observers **Joyce and Don Christensen** and granddaughter Noelle have taken weather observations as a team for over two decades in this data-sparse area.



Gary Betcher, right, was presented with a 20 Year Length of Service Award by OPL **Matt Moorman**, NWS Great Falls, MT. The Choteau station was established near its present location in 1893!



Wayne Cotterly of Poland, ME, accepted a 20 Year Length of Service Award. Photo and presentation by OPL **Nikki Becker**, NWS Grey, ME.



Gilbert Philippus, left, of Gonzales, TX, received a 20 Year Length of Service Award from NWS Austin/San Antonio, TX, OPL **Steve Smart**. Gilbert measures, records and reports daily precipitation amounts. Gilbert also reports severe weather phenomenon, flooding or flash flooding, rain and weather related damage. Photo by HMT **Cory Van Pelt**.

20 and 15 Year Length of Service Awards



Joseph Madaras, right, accepts a 20 Year Length of Service Award for the **Three Rivers, MI, Wastewater Treatment Plant** from OPL **Brentley Lothamer**, NWS Northern Indiana.



Joe Torres, Pacoima Dam Operator, was presented his 20 Year Length of Service Award by OPL **Bonnie Bartling**, NWS Oxnard/Los Angeles, CA. Joe is a dedicated observer collecting daily rainfall at the Dam in the foothills of the San Gabriel Mountains.



Anne Wiens was presented with a 20 Year Length of Service Award by NWS Great Falls, MT. Anne takes and reports daily weather observations at her station in Shelby, MT. The station dates back to 1948. The award was presented by OPL **Matthew Moorman**.



Dave Ries of Cut Bank, MT, was presented with a 20 Year Length of Service Award from NWS Great Falls, MT, for reporting precipitation and snow depth. The records from this station date back to 1952.

15 Year Length of Service Awards



A 15 Year Length of Service Award was presented to [Mary McKeone](#), left, for [Glenda McKeone](#) of Conrad, MT, by WCM [Megan Syner](#), NWS Great Falls, MT. Glenda's husband and mother help out with the weather reporting when Glenda is out of town. The weather station dates to 1911.



[Mary Bartkoske](#) of Swift Dam, MT, was presented with a 15 Year Length of Service Award from NWS Great Falls, MT. The weather station dates to 1965. The award was presented by OPL [Matthew Moorman](#).



[Fintan P. Moore, Jr.](#), of Keene, NH, accepted a 15 Year Length of Service Award. Photo and presentation by OPL [Nikki Becker](#).



[Ross Henry](#), of Mesa, AZ, was presented with a 15 Year Length of Service Award from NWS Phoenix, AZ, Acting OPL [Marvin Percha](#).

15, 10 Year Length of Service Awards, Special Service Award



Mary Ellen Rische of Redfield, SD, was presented with a 15 Year Service Award from NWS Aberdeen, SD, DAPM **Tim Kearns**. Photo by Mary Ellen's Husband, **Richard**.



From left, **Bob Furnas** accepts a 15 Year Individual Length of Service Award and **Rick Kreischer** accepts a 10 Year Award. Both are observers at the **Columbia City Indiana Water Pollution Control Facility**. Photo taken and awards given by NWS Northern Indiana OPL **Brentley Lothamer**.



NWS Huntsville, AL, OPL **Michelle Amin** presented Anderson, AL, observer **Darryl White** with a Special Service Award for his 12 years of observations sent daily to the NWS Huntsville office. Darryl is moving but plans to continue to support NWS observations.



Brad Dues of the **Portland, IN, Sewage Plant**, accepted a 10 Year Length of Service Award. for his contributions as an observer. Photo and award presented by OPL **Brentley Lothamer**, NWS Northern Indiana.



Eldon and Beverly Johns were presented with a 10 Year Length of Service Award. The couple report daily temperature, precipitation, and snowfall for Long Creek, OR. Presentation and photo by Meteorological Technician **Robert Brooks**, NWS Pendleton, OR.

10 Year Length of Service Awards



Ronnie Polston of Runge, TX, received a 10 Length of Service Award. Ronnie has been measuring, recording and reporting daily precipitation and weather data for Runge since 2007. Photo taken by OPL **Steve Smart**, NWS Austin/San Antonio, TX.



Joe Scherer of Timber Lake, SD, was presented with a 10 Year Service Award from DAPM **Tim Kearns**, NWS Aberdeen, SD.



Ryan Yackee of the **Wauseon, OH, Water Treatment Plant**, accepted a 10 Year Length of Service Award. Photo taken and award presented by OPL **Brentley Lothamer**, NWS Northern Indiana.



Paul Bergstrom for **Gibson Dam** accepts a 10 Year Length of Service Award from NWS Great Falls, MT. The weather station has had continuous observations since 1911. The award was presented by OPL **Matt Moorman**.



Dawn Chretien, Office Manager, and District Manager Jim Simon of the **Gallatin County Waste Management District** at the **Logan Landfill** were presented with a 10 Year Length of Service Award from NWS Great Falls, MT.

Spring 2017



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June, July, August Temperature and Precipitation Outlooks From the Climate Prediction Center

