

The National Cooperative Observer

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Winter 2011-12

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Weather, Cherry Spitting, Rent-an-Apple Tree and Much More from Jefferson Award Winner



Herbert Teichman, center, is joined by family and friends to celebrate his receiving a Thomas Jefferson Award.

Recognizing 43 years of exceptional service, NWS named Eau Claire, MI, resident **Herbert Teichman** as a 2011 recipient of the agency's Thomas Jefferson Award for outstanding service in the Cooperative Weather Observer Program. The award is the agency's most prestigious and only 5 are presented each year.

"Cooperative observers are the bedrock of weather data collection and analysis," said Dr. Jack Hayes, Director of NOAA's National Weather Service. "Satellites, highspeed computers, mathematical models and other technological breakthroughs have brought great benefits to the nation in terms of better forecasts and warnings, but without the century-long accumulation of accurate weather observations taken by volunteer Observers, scientists could not begin to adequately describe the climate of the United States. We cannot thank Mr. Teichman enough for his years of service to America."

In addition to his passion for weather, Herbert owns and operates the <u>Tree-Mendus</u> <u>Fruit Farm</u> where he hosts many neighborhood activities, including the International Cherry Pit Spit contest (see story next page).

Herbert also provides his weather data to the media and local government. He always expresses his concern about making sure his weather observations are correct and that they get to the NWS on time.

"The fruit business is highly governed by the weather," he comments. "Rainfall, drought, heat and frost are just some of the factors that affect our many fruit trees." His fruit tree business includes apples, apricots, cherries, nectarines, peaches, pears and plums.

His diligent weather observations are neat and accurate. He has all of his weather records back to the beginning. Herbert became an Observer at the Eau Claire site in 1968, taking over from his father, **William**, another Jefferson Award winner. Looks like the apple did not fall far from the tree in this case.

His dad founded the site in 1923, recording daily temperature, precipitation, snowfall, snow depth and snowfall water equivalent for the Weather Bureau. Herbert has fond childhood memories of helping his father take weather observations and then discussing the observations and the weather over supper. He has stuck to his volunteer duties through 30-inch snow days, temperatures well below zero and sweltering heat. His weather observations are also of great importance to his business, Tree-Mendus Fruit.

Herbert's weather records retain their importance as time goes by. His long and continuous records provide an accurate picture of a locale's normal weather and give climatologists and others a basis for predicting future trends.

The data Herbert collects is invaluable for scientists studying floods, droughts, and heat waves and extreme cold.

NWS was glad to add another note to Herbert's records, a beautiful sunny day to receive his Jefferson Award. *

The top spit of the day sailed 66 feet 1 1/2 inches and put Young Gun back on the throne as International Champion, his 9th win

38th International Cherry Pit Spitting Championship

Courtesy of the <u>Tree-Mendous website</u>. EAU CLAIRE, MI (July 2, 2011). Cherry pits took center court at the 38th International Cherry Pit

Spitting Championship at Tree-Mendus Fruit Farm.

The top spit of the day sailed 66 feet 1 1/2 inches and put Young Gun back on the throne as International Champion, his 9th win. Rick "Pellet Gun" Krause, 15-time winner from Yuba City, AZ, and son Brian "Young Gun" Krause, Jackson, MI, have reigned over cherry pit spitting in the 38 years of the competition. "Young Gun" Krause is the holder of the world's record at 93 feet 6-1/2 inches.

The pressure was on for both Krauses because

a spit from Kevin Bartz of Niles, MI, rolled to a stop at the 64 feet 11 inch mark, giving him second place. Kevin was a youth winner in 1979 and his father, Richard Bartz, was the International Champion in 1977.

Matt "BB Gun" Krause, brother to Brian, took third place, just edging out his dad at

62 feet. Matt B. Gun and Brian "Young Gun" were also youth winners back in the 1990s.

Pellet Gun Krause

spat an impressive

60 foot 6 inch

distance. In 2010,

his temporary win

with a 48 foot half-

inch spit from his

knees in 2010 was

disqualified after a

complaint was filed to

the official committee.

In review of the rules,

Rule #10, spitters

must stand flat on the

ground to spit, the

title was given to the

2nd place winner. And

thus, Young Gun took

his 8th title and Pellet

Gun forfeited his 16th.

"Gentleman Joe"



Cherry spitting champions run in families out here with several strong dynasties.

Lessard, Sr., of Blenheim, Ontario, Canada, a three-time International Champion, spat 32 feet 3 inches. He and his son, Joe Lessard, Jr., have dominated the Canadian Championship.

In the Women's Division, Tracy Miner, a banker from Valparaso, IN, spat a cherry pit

39 feet 6 inches for the win. Reid Gillis, 5, of Granger, IN, won the Youth 5 and Under Division. Chloe and Zach Bartz, 9 and 6, respectively, sister and brother of Niles, took top honors among the 9-12 and 6-8 year olds.

The strong performance of the Bartz family has raised much interest in pit-spitting circles as a strong rival to the Krause Family dynasty. The dignitary winner was Diana Bernstein, representing Israel. Berrien County Trial Court Judge Sterling Schroch and Mayor Dave Kurtz served as Official Line and Measurement Judges, respectively.

The 39th International Cherry Pit Spitting Championship will be July 7, 2012 at Tree-Mendus Fruit Farm, Eau Claire, MI. *

KIWA Radio Sheldon, IA, Passes 110 Year Mark

The sounds of celebration were on the air in Sheldon, IA, as NWS Sioux Falls, SD, Meteorologist in Charge (MIC) **Lisa Schmit** and Data Acquisition Program Manager (DAPM) **Donald Morin** presented the John Campanius Holm Award to Observer

Frank Luepke. Frank is a long time resident of Sheldon and was formerly an engineer, announcer, sales person and the general manager at KIWA Radio in Sheldon.

Frank has played a key role in shaping Sheldon as a community. With the help of his friends at KIWA Radio, he has kept a string of weather records that not only span his 25 years in our program but also dates back to the 1899.

Those meticulously hand written reports, proudly displayed for the contingent visiting from NWS, remain in his custody.

Frank generously shares his weather knowledge with anyone who asks. He has

been a featured speaker through the years at gatherings of all kinds, serving as the local weather expert.

Frank was once a guardian of public safety and took part in SKYWARN[®] activities during severe weather, working closely with KIWA and NWS to keep the community informed of impending weather events.

On this special day, NWS was honored to kick off KIWA's 50th anniversary celebration with a special presentation.

Walt Pruiksma, General Manager of KIWA and Sheldon's Emergency Management Agency Director, invited NWS to make an award presentation on-air at the KIWA studios in downtown Sheldon. It was quite fitting to present the award at KIWA, where Frank works



From left, MIC Lisa Schmit, Observer Frank Luepke, DAPM Donald Morin, and KIWA General Manager Walt Pruiksma

and where the whole community could listen in on the presentation.

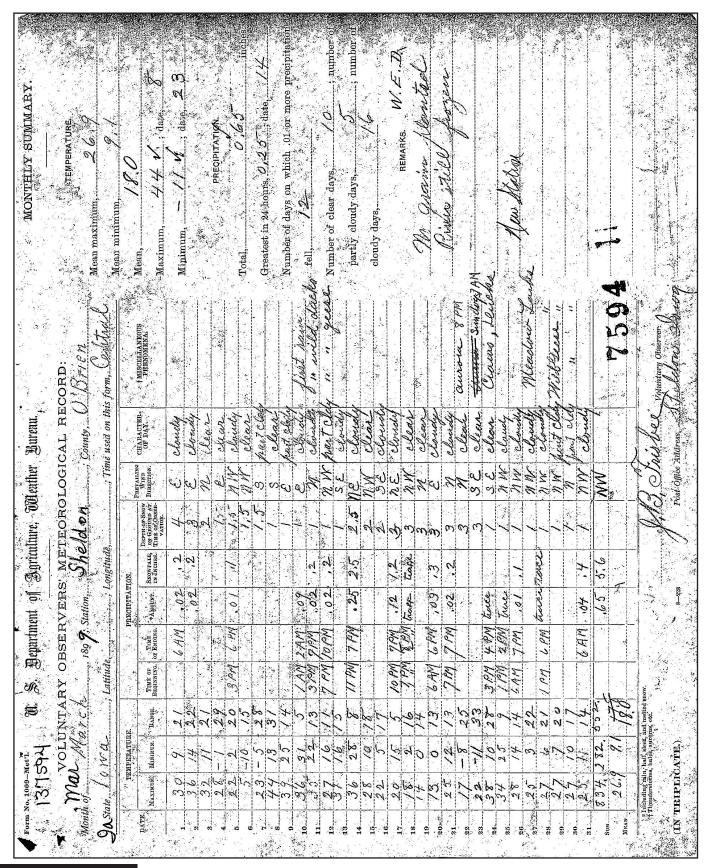
KIWA was holding an open house as well so the many visitors to the station had an opportunity to say "Hi" and thank Frank personally.

Frank's wife and two of their daughters were present during the ceremony.

We had a grand time presenting the Holm Award to Frank and visiting with his family and friends. Frank told DAPM Don Morin

Frank has played a key role in shaping Sheldon as a community. With the help of his friends at KIWA Radio, he has kept a string of weather records that not only span his 25 years in our program but also dates back to the 1899.

he intended to remain our Observer for a long time to come. Given his high level of dedication, we have no doubt we'll be visiting Sheldon again in the near future. * Pictured below is one or the first weather reports submitted from Frank's site.



Thomas Jefferson Award

NWS Grand Junction, CO, was honored to present **Robert Lund**, center, with the Thomas Jefferson Award. Robert has taken weather observations at his farm in Paonia, CO, since 1973 and is a life long member of the community these past 89 years.

The award was presented with family and friends present, at the Delta County Farm Bureau annual meeting in Hotchkiss, CO.



Cooperative Program Manager (CPM) **Becky Klenk** (left) and MIC **Doug Crowley** (right) presented a Thomas Jefferson Award to **Robert Lund**. Photo by DAPM **John Kyle**.

John Campanius Holm Award

The John Campanius Holm Award was posthumously presented to Harry Ellis of Evergreen, AL, a Coop Observer since July 1988. The award ceremony was included as part of the regular Wednesday evening supper at the Evergreen 1st United Methodist Church and was attended by nearly 100 of Harry's friends and family members. The award was presented by Gene Jacobi, Observing Program Leader (OPL), NWS Mobile, AL. Gene also presented a letter from NWS Southern Region Director Bill Proenza, which was read to the audience by Hydrometeorological Technician (HMT) Keith Williams, NWS Mobile. Photo by Shelly H. Hyde.



From left, **Rachel Golson**, daughter; Honoree wife, **Betty Ellis**; and **John Hart Ellis**, son, of Observer **Harry Ellis**.

John Campanius Holm Awards

Charlene Fischer of Fischer's Store, in Fischer, TX, shows her Holm Award and 35 Year Length of Service Award. In attendance at the ceremony were many friends and family. The Fischer family has been taking and recording weather information in the town since 1853. The Holm Award is the second highest award given to an Observer. The award is named after a Lutheran minister who is known to have taken the first weather observations in America from 1644 to 1645.



Pictured from left are Systems Operations Division Chief John Duxbury; HMT Patrick McDonald; Honoree Charlene Fischer; MIC Joe Arellano; Regional Coop Manager Mike Asmus and OPL Steve Smart.



From left are Reverend Jerry Dalton; Sherlyn York, Chamber of Commerce Executive Director; Larry Kimsey; Honoree Cindy Kimsey; NWS MIC Larry Gabric; and DAPM Terry Benthall.

Cindy Kimsey, of Calhoun Falls, SC, was presented a Holm Award by Larry Gabric, MIC, and DAPM Terry Benthall, NWS Greenville-Spartanburg, SC. The mayor of Calhoun Falls, members of the Chamber of Commerce, and her church pastor were on-hand to take part in the presentation of the award. Cindy has been active in the Chamber of Commerce and in other community groups over the years. Besides daily temperature and precipitation reports, she maintains a Fischer & Porter weighing gauge that provides a record of hourly precipitation. Her husband, Larry Kimsey, assists with observations and helps make equipment repairs with instructions provided from the NWS office. He has helped restore data recording when NWS staff weren't able to go to the site right away.

John Campanius Holm Awards



NWS Central Region Director Lynn Maximuk and NWS Topeka OPL Michael Couch, and Honoree Don Whitebread. Photo by Bill Newman, retired NWS DAPM.

Donald Whitebread of Junction City, KS, proudly accepts the Holm Award, recognizing his outstanding contributions to the NWS Observer program. Don also received the Edward H. Stoll Award at the luncheon, recognizing his 50 years of service. Don takes river readings for Clark's Creek using a wire weight gauge. For most of his 50 years of service, Don has also been providing daily precipitation measurements.

A large group was in attendance at a local restaurant, including Don's wife **Florence**, and their three children, **Donnie**, **Cleion** and **Crystal**. State Rep. Jim Fawcett also was on hand to honor Don.

 E. McKay Willis of Laketown, UT, was a 2011 recipient of the agency's John Campanius Holm Award for outstanding service.
 Rick Dittmann, MIC at NWS
 Pocatello, ID, presented the award during a ceremony at the city offices in Laketown before nearly 50 family and neighbors.

The Willis family has been taking observations since 1921, 11 years after the station originally opened. McKay assumed this responsibility from his cousin, **Montry Kearl**. During his tenure, McKay provided uninterrupted weather observations and recorded daily precipitation and temperature data as well as critical storm spotter reports.



From left, OPL **Steve Summy**; NWS Pocatello, ID, MIC **Rick Dittmann**; **Honoree E. McKay Willis**; and OPL **Gary Wicklund**. Photo by Peggy Robinson.

100 Year Honored Institution Award

Pondera County Canal & Reservoir Company received the distinguished 100 Year Honored Institution Award. Pictured from left is Great Falls, MT, OPL Jerome Saucier, Fay Stokes, Bill Stokes, Stan Wangseng, and NWS MIC Michael Mercer.



Helmut E. Landsburg 60 Year Award



Arnold Hellie, Observer at Whitewater, MT, was presented with a 60 Year Helmut E. Landsburg Award. Arnold takes and records daily precipitation, snowfall and snow depth readings at his station. The award was presented by MIC Ben Moyer and OPL Matt Moorman from the NWS Glasgow, MT.

Pictured from left are NWS Glasgow, MT, MIC **Ben Moyer** and Honoree **Arnold Hellie**.

Edward R. Stoll 50 Year Award and 50 Year Honored Institution Awards

Edna Lovell accepted the Edward R. Stoll Award for 50 years of service on behalf of her late husband,
Carl Lovell, who recently passed away. The award was presented by MIC
Scott Mentzer, center, NWS Goodland, KS. Carl developed an interest in weather as a young child growing up on the family farm in Nebraska. He recorded temperature, precipitation, and snowfall data at Cheyenne Wells, CO. The Cheyenne Wells station has been in existence since 1889. Photo taken by Administrative Support Assistant (ASA) Joy Hayden.





From left, Fire Chief Bill Paskle, of the Alpine Fire District, Alpine, CA, accepts a 50 Year Honored Institution Award. The award was presented by MIC Roger V. Pierce, NWS San Diego, CA. Photo by NWS OPL Noel Isla.

The **Proctor Lake Reservoir** in Comanche County, TX, was presented with a 50 Year Honored Institution Award by MIC **Bill Bunting** of the NWS office in Ft. Worth, TX. From left are Rangers **Reagan Haynes** and **James Thompson**, Chief Ranger **Mike McBride**, Lake Manager **Brett Delk**, and Ft. Worth MIC **Bill Bunting**. A luncheon was held in honor of the event. Also attending the award presentation, but not pictured, were NWS Hydrologist **Bob Carl** and Jerry Cotter and Lynne Rednour from the Corps of Engineers in Ft. Worth.



50 Year Honored Institution Awards



Pamela Konen and Rick Sellers accept the Honored Institution Award for 50 years of weather observations at Council Grove Lake in Kansas. Rick and Pam were proud to accept the award on behalf of all the men and women who have worked at the project office over the years. Authorized by Congress under the Flood Control Act of 1950, the Council Grove Lake Project began construction in 1960 and was placed in full flood control operation in October 1964. The award was presented by OPL Michael Couch, NWS Topeka, KS.

The rangers at The U.S. Forrest Service District Ranger Office are the Cooperative Observers at Salem, MO. They received an Honored Institutional Award for 50 years of service. The award presented by OPL Larry Dooley, NWS Springfield, MO





From left, James Shears, Jim Baker, and Joseph Madaras accept a 50 Year Institution Award for the Three Rivers, MI, Wastewater Treatment Plant from OPL Brentley Lothamer, NWS Northern Indiana. James also received a 20 Year Length of Service Award. Joseph accepted a 15 Year Length of Service Award.

45 Year Dick Hagemeyer Service Award; Public Service Award

Axel Larsen, right, Observer at Bredette, MT, was presented the Dick Hagemeyer Award for 45 years of weather observations. The award was presented by NWS Glasgow, MT, Cooperative Program Leader (CPL) Brian Burleson, left. Axel is also a previous John Campanius Holm Award winner. Photo by NWS OPL Matt Moorman.





During a Commissioner's meeting at the San Juan County courthouse in Monticello, UT, employees from the Utah Department of Transportation, Port of Entry, were presented with a Public Service Award. Until the recent expansion of the Port, the Cooperative Observer site for Monticello, UT, had been at Monticello since August of 1969. Accepting the award are Rick Clark (center) and Janae Briggs. Presenting the award is DAPM John Kyle, left, NWS Grand Junction, CO.

40 Year Length of Service Award

Jack Bush, of Wasilla, AK, accepts a 40 Year Length of Service Award. The award was presented by Anchorage Forecast Office MIC **Bob Hopkins**. Jack has been a bush pilot in Alaska for over 40 years and taking daily weather observations has helped him as a pilot. Photo by HMT **Dave Stricklan**.





Cevil Daulton, right, of Cashton, WI, accepts a 40 Year Length of Service Award from DAPM
 Randy Breeser, NWS La Crosse WI. The photo was taken at Jack's Tackle Shop, a business that Cevil has owned and operated for more than 40 years. Prior to 1970, Cevil also was an operator for the local phone switching service, which was located in a corner of her home until automation finally took over. Photo by HMT Tom Stangeland.

Joseph Kennedy of Circleville, KS, was presented with his 40 Year Length of Service Award at a luncheon in his honor. Joseph is a very humble man and was too camera shy to have his photo taken. The award was presented by OPL Michael Couch, NWS Topeka KS.

Walt and Dorothy Kaszynski, left, receive a 40 Year Length of Service Award from OPL Pat Hein, NWS Green Bay, WI. Walt, the station manager of WOCO radio at Oconto, WI, hosted a radio talk show featuring MIC Gary Austin and OPL Pat Hein. The show discussed the effects of El Nino, the Cooperative program and upcoming winter forecasts.



From left are NWS OPL **Michael Lammers**, **Shirley** and **Clement Mitchell**, and MIC **Scott Mentzer**, NWS Goodland, KS. Clement, the Observer at Arapahoe, CO, received his 40 Year Length of Service Award. Clement has recorded precipitation and snowfall data since 1971. An informal luncheon was held in his honor. Photo by ASA **Joy Hayden**.





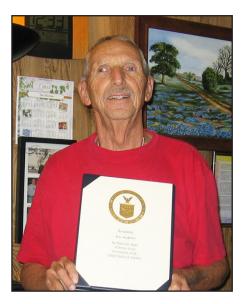
Paul and Della McCallister, the Observers at Houston, MO, proudly show their 40 Year Length of Service Award. The award was presented by OPL Larry Dooley, NWS Springfield, MO. The McCallisters also took 8-inch rain gauge and wire weight gauge readings on a temporary basis when the previous Observer was ill.

From left, **Glenna L. Picard** of Palo Pinto, TX, and her husband, Jim, show Glenna's 40 Year Length of Service Award presented by MIC **Bill Bunting**, NWS Fort Worth, TX. A luncheon was held at the Mesquite Grill in Mineral Wells, TX, in honor of Glenna. Photo HMT **Troy Marshall**.





Rose Hudson, from Spring Branch, TX, receives a 35 Year Length of Service
 Award from NWS HMT Patrick McDonald, left, MIC Joe Arellano and OPL Steve
 Smart, right. Rose is a retired high school teacher. She is also an environmentalist.



B.G. Martin of Wills Point, TX, received a 35 Year Length of Service Award from HMT Troy Marshall, NWS Fort Worth, TX.



James Jansky of Towner, ND, shows his 35 Year Length of Service Award. The award and pin were presented by CPM Sandra Wiche, NWS Bismarck, ND. Not only does James report temperatures, precipitation and snow data, he also reports frost depth/frost thawed data and maintains a Ficsher & Porter gauge, making sure the tape is sent to the NWS on time every month. When his work calls him away from home, his wife Sharon serves as backup.



William and Janet Ross, of Grover Hill, OH, accept a 35 Year Length of Service Award. The award and photo courtesy of OPL Brentley Lothamer, NWS Northern Indiana.



W.E. Boyd Jr. of Iredell, TX, shows his 30 Year Length of Service Award with help from his wife Lamona. The award was presented by HMT Troy Marshall, NWS, Fort Worth, TX.



Anton Haner, left, was presented with a 30 Year Length of Service Award by MIC Joe Arellano, NWS Austin/San Antonio, TX. Anton received the Holm Award in 2007. In addition to serving NWS, he was the Chief of the Tarpley Volunteer Fire Department, a member of the Texas Farm Bureau and a past president of the Bandera Resource Conservation and Development Council. Photo taken by HMT Patrick McDonald.



Randy Grossman of Denison, IA, receives his 30 Year Length of Service Award. HMT Brad Fillbach, NWS Des Moines, IA, presented the award. Randy also received the John Campanius Holm Award in 2000.



Maurice Heiman of Baileyville, KS, proudly accepts his 30 Year Length of Service award. The award was presented by OPL Michael Couch, NWS Topeka, KS.



Daniel Nicholson, of Charles City, IA, accepts a 30 Year Length of Service Award. The award was presented by HMT **Brad Adams**, of the La Crosse, WI, NWS office.



Ted Norcross, of Robbinsville, NC, was presented a 30 Year Length of Service Award by Meteorologist Chris Horne, NWS Greenville-Spartanburg, SC. Ted's weather station in the Stecoah Valley was formerly a N.C. State University Agricultural Weather Station. Ted is the owner of the 7.5 inch backyard Stecoah Valley Central Railroad.



Gary Gollehon received a 25 Year Length of Service Award for his outstanding dedication to the Cooperative Program. Presenting the award was NWS Great Falls MIC Michael Mercer and OPL Jerome Saucier.



Max Northington of Boerne, TX, was presented with a 25 Year Length of Service Award by HMT/Coop Patrick McDonald of NWS Austin/San Antonio, TX.

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



Steve Watts, center, of Sac City, IA, receives his 25 Year Length of Service Award from Hydrologist Jeff Zogg, left, NWS Des Moines, IA, and Forecaster Frank Boksa.



The staff at **Radio Station KNEU**, Roosevelt, UT, were presented with a 25 Year Honored Institution Award. From left are **Vicki Hawkins**, Office Manager; **Joe Evans**, Owner; MIC **Doug Crowley**, NWS Grand Junction, CO; and **Earl Hawkins**, Operations Manager. Photo taken by CPM/HMT **Becky Klenk**.



Gail Lawrence, the Cooperative Observer at Jerico Springs, MO, shows his 20 Year Length of Service Award. Photo by OPL Larry Dooley, NWS Springfield, MO.



OPL Gary Wicklund, left, of NWS Pocatello, ID, presents a 20 Year Length of Service Award to Observer Wes Tingey.

20 and 15 Year Length of Service Awards



Bruce Wentz, Observer for Napoleon, ND, recently received his 20 Year Length of Service Award. The certificate and pin were presented by CPM Sandra Wiche of NWS Bismarck, ND. Bruce took over observing duties from his father, Warren, in 1992. The Wentz family has been observing the weather for Napoleon since 1968.



Bill Bell, right, of Fredericksburg, TX, shows his 15 Year Length of Service Award. This award was presented by HMT/Coop Patrick McDonald, NWS Austin/San Antonio, TX.



Elaine Carr received a 15 Year Length of Service Award posthumously for her husband, Clayton, who died suddenly this summer. Clayton observed at Washburn, ND. The award was presented by CPM Sandra Wiche, NWS Bismarck, NC.



Larry Dennis, right, the Cooperative Observer at Mansfield, MO, displays his 15 Year Length of Service Award presented by OPL Larry Dooley, NWS Springfield, MO.



Betty Carr of Paduach, TX, pictured with her husband Charles, receives a 15 Year Length of Service Award from John Lipe of NWS Lubbock, TX. Betty, sometimes assisted by her daughter, Tammy Harrison, has provided rainfall data for the past 10 years. Others in attendance included her horse, Chick, her cow, 89, and most of her 25 cats. Photo by OPL Mike Turner.



Ernest Hill the Observer at Pleasant Hope, MO, receives a 15 Year Length of Service Award from OPL Larry Dooley, NWS Springfield, MO. The Hill family has been taking the observations since the station opened in 1962.

15 and 10 Year Length of Service Awards



Henry McNeese accepted a 15 Year Length of Service Award for his generous service from OPL Latrice Maxie, NWS Jackson, MS.

George Maxfield was presented with a 15 Year Length of Service Award by Patrick McDonald from the NWS Austin/San Antonio, TX, office. No photo available.



Mark Smith, Observer for Webster, NY, was presented with a 15 Year Length of Service Award. In addition to being an NWS Observer, Mark is also a dedicated weather Observer for the Rochester, NY, Contract Weather Observer Office. The award was presented by NWS Buffalo OPL Dan Kelly.



Dan and Colleen Kluck were presented with a 10 Year Length of Service Award from NWS Glasgow, MT. Dan and Colleen take and record daily precipitation, snowfall and snow depth readings at their station near Harb, MT. The award was presented by OPL Matthew Moorman.



OPL **Gary Wicklund** of NWS Pocatello, ID, right, presents a 10 Year Length of Service Award to **Carl Jones** of Rockland, ID, at the school where he teaches. He had a large audience of students.



Observer Stanton Neufeld shows his 10 Year Length of Service Award for providing precipitation readings for the Inman, KS, area. Presenting the award was OPL Leon Wasinger, NWS Wichita, KS.



Thomas Ryan of Valley Falls, KS, was presented with a 10 Year Length of Service Award. During his tenure, Tom has been providing quality temperature and precipitation measurements. Tom is also a great storm spotter. The award was presented by OPL Michael Couch, NWS Topeka, KS.

The National Cooperative Observer

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February, March, April Temperature and Precipitation Outlooks

