

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
WEATHER BUREAU  
WASHINGTON

April 2, 1958

IN REPLY, PLEASE ADDRESS  
CHIEF, U. S. WEATHER BUREAU  
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.  
AND REFER TO

C-3.1

FILE: 922 MEMO

(Climatological Services Memorandum No. 64)

MEMORANDUM

TO: : Area and State Climatologists, Substation Inspectors, Field Aides, WRPCs, River Forecasts Centers, River District Offices and Area Engineers (with copies to Regional Offices for information)

FROM: : Office of Climatology

SUBJECT: Climatological Services Memorandum No. 64

GENERAL

1. NARATIVE WEATHER STORY IN CD: Reference: C.O. Memo of Oct. 2, 1957 to all First Order Stations. We have been questioned on the content of the summaries. In our memo of October 2nd, the State Climatologist was delegated the responsibility for furnishing this narrative or a statement that a story is not necessary. Purposely, much was left to his professional judgement as to whether or not a story should be written and what should be included. We believe he is in the best position to know what is outstanding for his state and its activities and also to obtain the most information.

It was our intention that the narrative summary be a supplement to the tabular data. Information presented in the tables should not be repeated unless it is particularly desired to stress the point or is needed to clarify the discussion. Exceptionally good weather might be mentioned as well as disasters. The effect of the weather is information which could well be included if it is outstanding. On the other hand, normal weather conditions should usually not be included even if bad.

Damage should be expressed in qualitative terms rather than in dollars.

Some examples follow:

(a) Santa Ana winds in Southern California are fairly common and would not be mentioned unless unusually strong or of long duration or unless some significant result was noted.

(b) A tornado series in California would be definitely included while only an exceptionally damaging one would merit mention in an Arkansas summary.

(c) Flooding of farmland such as along the Kootenai or Wabash Rivers is

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so common that it would not be included unless unusually severe, prolonged or at an uncommon time of year. In other areas they might warrant mention.

(d) A snowfall such as that experienced in Feb. in the New York - Washington area ordinarily might or might not be included. In this case, the accompanying winds and drifting made it an outstanding weather event.

(e) Two inches of snow would be unusual along the Gulf Coast, but two feet would be common in parts of Western New York.

(f) WRPC, Chattanooga suggests that freeze damage should be interpreted cautiously. "Freezes can be, and often are, disastrous. It occasionally happens, however, that freeze damage is confined to beneficial thinning of the crop, with the result that increased quality more than offsets the quantity losses that were anticipated. It is sometimes difficult to match up a "disastrous" spring freeze with fall reports of bountiful crop yields."

In case the WRPC feels that a State Climatologist has failed to recognize a significant event or has made too much of trivial material, they should take this matter up directly with the State Climatologist with a copy to the Office of Climatology.

2. PROGRESS REPORTS: Periodically, it is well for us to lean back in our chairs and consider where we have been and where we are going. Therefore, each State Climatologist who has not sent in a report within the past 6 months, should submit one as soon as possible covering his activities since his last report. He should also include an outline of his plans for the future. In the future, these reports should continue to be sent in irregularly.

3. PREPARATION OF CLIMATIC SUMMARIES: The following is from our reply to a State Climatologist who raised the question of preparation of county climatic summaries in connection with SCS Soil Survey Reports:

"We feel that the Soil Survey Reports which you describe will be worth while and we hope that you can contribute the climatic section to these reports.

"Central Office policy on clearance of such material is as follows:

"If credit in the publication is merely given to the Weather Bureau for cooperation, without mentioning the name of an individual, Central Office clearance of the item is not required. In such cases a credit line similar to 'Prepared by (or in cooperation with) the U. S. Weather State Climatologist for Nebraska' could well be used. We would prefer this type of acknowledgment for the county climatic summaries.

"However, if an individual of the Bureau is credited as author by name, prior Central Office clearance is required."

4. CLIMATOLOGICAL PUBLICATIONS FURNISHED BY OFFICE OF CLIMATOLOGY: The following publications have been furnished to all State and Area Climatologists and should be in their library. Additional publications have been sent to selected stations:

March 1955

"Climatological Analysis of Snowfall Thresholds" by H.C.S. Thom (Presented to Eastern Snow Conference, February 1955.)

"Summary of Weather Conditions at South Haven, Mich. from 1926 to 1952" by W. Baten and A. H. Eichmeier.

"Arctic Research Laboratory" by the Arctic Institute developed by the Bureau of Yards and Docks of the Navy.

April 1956

"Wheat-Climate Relationships and the Use of Phenology in Ascertaining the Thermal and Photo-Thermal Requirements of Wheat". M. Y. Nuttinson.

"Tornadoes in Illinois" by State Climatologist, Illinois.

August 1956

"Average Monthly Variation of Summer Discomfort Index at Sky Harbor Airport, Phoenix, Arizona (1940-1955)" by Paul C. Kangieser.

*sent* →

"The Jersey Farmer" by Representative Hand.

"International Geophysical Year" National Academy of Science-Special Report. (Senate Document No. 124).

October 1956

"Principal Federal Sources of Hydrologic Data - July 1956" Parts 1 and 2.

*sent* →

"Agricultural Drought in North Carolina" North Carolina Agricultural Experimental Station, Tech. Bulletin No. 122.

"Is Michigan Getting Warmer" by W. D. Baten and A. H. Eichmeier.

November 1956

"Agricultural Meteorology Bibliography" by G. C. Barger.

January 1957

"Frequency Distribution of Daily Maximum and Minimum Temperatures, Jefferson City, Mo."

SP-1 "Special Problems in Arid Zone Climatology" N. Rosenan.

SP-2 "The Dynamic Aspects of Climatology" F. Kenneth Hare.

SP-3 "Heat Balance of the Surface of the Earth" M. I. Budyko.

Sent  
→

SP-4 "Preparing Climatic Data for the User" H. E. Landsberg.

SP-5 "Some problems associated with Modern Requirements for Data Processing" W. C. Jacobs.

SP-6 "Evaporation in the Netherlands" L. J. L. Deij.

U. S. Report to the President of the Commission for Climatology on the Progress in Climatology.

February 1957

"Statistician Attacks Extreme Values in Technical Problems". E. J. Gumble. - Reprint from Industrial Laboratories, Volume 7, No. 12, 1956.

"Program for the Great Plains" USDA Miscellaneous Publication #709.

"Revised Winter Outside Design Temperatures" by H. C. S. Thom (Reprint: Heating, Piping & Air Conditioning, November 1956).

"Standard Deviation from Normal Temperatures" H. C. S. Thom - 12 Maps from U. S. National Atlas.

"Monthly Precipitation" Climatological Atlas of Missouri, No. 1.

"Late Spring and Early Fall Killing Freezes" in Climatological Atlas of Missouri, No. 2.

Annual Report, Arizona Coop Punched Card Project.

Climate of North Carolina.

Dr. Landsberg's statement for the Banking and Currency Committee (House)

Reprint of "Storms" Section of Senate Banking and Currency Committee.

Reprint of "Floods" Section of Senate Banking and Currency Committee.

Spring and Fall Freeze dates for Louisiana (2 maps).

First Report Joint Research Committee on Weather and Agriculture in the Great Plains.

Page from "The Jersey Farmer"

"Are Dust-Devils A Forecast Problem?"

→ "Farming and Ranching Risk as Influenced by Rainfall" Texas A&M.

Mimeographed handout "Average Monthly Variation of Summer Discomfort Index at Sky Harbor Airport, Phoenix, Arizona (1940-1955)".

"Total Monthly Precipitation Expectancy Curves, Phoenix, Arizona

"Measuring the Need for Air Conditioning" by Earl C. Thom.

April 1957

"Analysis of the Relationship Between Weather and the Frequency of Traffic Casualties in Seattle, Washington", by Dan Julian and Carolyn Arwine.

May 1957

California Agriculture, April and May, 1957 issues.

"First Annual Progress Report" Indiana Cooperative Project in Climatology.

"Generalized Types of Farming in the United States" - National Atlas of the United States Sheet.

Technical News Bulletin of the National Bureau of Standards, Volume 41, #5. A story on FOSDIC.

June 1957

"Number of Times Measurable Precipitation has Occurred on Each Day of the Year During the 64-Year Period ending with 1956 for Seattle, Washington" by John B. Lightfoot.

September 1957

"Ninth Annual Progress Report" Mississippi Climatological Research Project.

"Frequency of Hail Occurrence" by H.C.S. Thom.

"Climatological Analysis of Snowfall Thresholds" by H.C.S. Thom.

October 1957

"Climatic Data for Air Conditioning" by Purvis and Kronberg.

"Late Spring and Early Fall Freezes in Georgia" by H.S. Carter. (Except to San Juan and Honolulu).

November 1957

"Interaction of Soil and Weather" by H. E. Landsberg and M.L. Blanc.

December 1957

Department of Commerce Handbook on Publication and Printing - Sections on: Covers, Style, Preparing the Manuscript, Proofreading and Author's Alterations,

Preparing copy for Reproduction, Selecting the Printing Process, Writing and Editing, and Guide for Secretaries.

January 1958

"Looking Ahead at the Weather" by H. E. Landsberg.

"Corn Weather - Michigan and Iowa" by Eichmeier and Baten. Reprint from Quarterly Bulletin of the Michigan Agricultural Experiment Station, November 1957.

February 1958

"Barley - Climate Relationships and the Use of Phenology in Ascertaining the Thermal and Photo-Thermal Requirements of Barley" by M. Y. Nuttonson 1957.

"Rye - Climate Relationships and the Use of Phenology in Ascertaining the Thermal and Photo-Thermal Requirements of Rye" by M. Y. Nuttonson 1958.

March 1958

"Air Pollution Meteorology - Air Pollution Training Course Manual." by the Robert A. Taft Sanitary Engineering Center, Cincinnati, Ohio.

"Agricultural Drought in Georgia" by C.H.M. van Bavel and John R. Carreker. Georgia Agricultural Experiment Stations, Technical Bulletin N.S. 15, December 1957.

"Climatological Analysis of Freeze Data for Iowa" by H.C.S. Thom and R.H. Shaw.

"Computation of Evaporation and Evapotranspiration from Meteorological Observations" by Max A. Kohler.

5. CUT-DOWN IN NEW STATION ESTABLISHMENTS: Reference: CSM 63 Item 1. When the 'a', 'b', and 'c' network maps were approved, authority to establish 'a' stations approved on those maps was delegated to specified stations. It was not our intention, in writing the referenced item, to cancel that authorization. Stations approved for the 'a' network should continue to be established as in the past few years.

6. STATUS OF CLIMATOLOGICAL BENCH-MARK PROGRAM: Reference Item 1, CSM #55; Item 2, CSM, #48. Progress made on this program has admittedly been much slower than we had anticipated when the first referenced item above, was written. Testing the records of the tentative selections and those of a number of surrounding stations for determination of homogeneity is an exacting and tedious chore and therefore slow. The program is still quite active, however, despite the fact that no station has been definitely selected to date. Reports will be made in future issues of CSMs as final choices are made.

7. USE OF 30-DAY OUTLOOK AND WATER SUPPLY FORECAST IN WEEKLY WEATHER AND CROP BULLETINS: The 30-day outlook may be used in the Weekly Weather and Crop Bulletins if it is expressed in highly general terms, i.e. with reference to the state as a whole or broken up into 2 or 3 broad areas in the case of the larger states. A note saying that it is designed for such broad scale usage and a statement like that in the National Weather and Crop Bulletin giving the source should be made. In no case should the 30-day outlook be applied locally.

In Arizona, where much of the agriculture is dependent on irrigation, the water supply forecast will be carried once a month in the Weekly Weather and Crop Bulletin.

8. COPIES OF WEATHER STORIES PREPARED FOR PRESS OR OTHER RELEASE: It will be of assistance to this office if a copy of any climatological material prepared for release, such as an account of the preceding month's weather, be furnished us.

9. WB FORM 614-3: A copy of this form need no longer go to the WRPC, since that office is no longer responsible for the narrative weather story in Climatological Data.

10. EXPERIMENT STATION BULLETINS: All State Climatologists should be alert to obtain and forward to the Office of Climatology copies of Experiment Station Bulletins and reprints of journal articles on climatological subjects. Often older material is not available in this office either.

11. COPIES OF WEEKLY WEATHER AND CROP BULLETIN FOR CENTRAL OFFICE LIBRARY: This is to remind all State Climatologists that the Central Office Library should be listed to receive regularly two copies of each issue of the local Weekly Weather and Crop Bulletin.

12. WEATHER BUREAU MANUAL: All State Climatologists should have access to the Weather Bureau Manual. Any office that does not have such access should report this to the RAO.

FOR WRPCs

13. AMENDMENT TO PROCEDURES: Par 1009.694 of procedures should be changed by adding the following to the first paragraph:

"When 6° intervals are used for an entire state, the isotherms selected need not be divisible by 6, but should be divisible by 3."

*R. W. Schloemer*  
for H. E. Landsberg  
Director, Office of Climatology

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