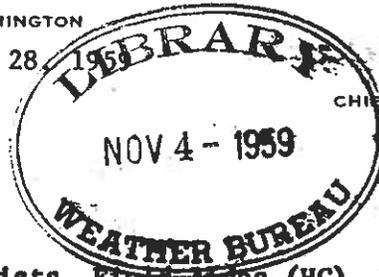


UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
WEATHER BUREAU
WASHINGTON

October 28, 1959



IN REPLY, PLEASE ADDRESS
CHIEF, U. S. WEATHER BUREAU
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.
AND REFER TO
C-3.1

MEMORANDUM

TO : Area and State Climatologists, ~~Field Aides~~ (HC), Field Aides, WRPCs, River Forecast Centers, River District Offices, and Area Engineers (with copies to Regional Offices for information)

FROM : Office of Climatology

SUBJECT : Climatological Services Memorandum No. 77

GENERAL

1. QUALITY OF PAPERS: Recurrent problems arise in the Central Office in connection with papers submitted for clearance and review. In many cases bibliographies are incomplete, contents poorly organized, and even misstatements are made. Finished, or near finished, products should be the aim of all authors before presentation at a large national meeting or submission for publication.

One method of improving a paper is to present it at a local group, seminar, or meeting of small size and obtain frank comments on logical developments or even accuracy of statements. In addition, the paper should be reviewed critically by a person well qualified in the same general field.

It is believed that such procedures, followed by review by the Area Climatologist, will result in improved quality of materials presented with the endorsement of the Office of Climatology.

2. COORDINATION WITH (FIELD) CLIMATOLOGISTS: State and Area Climatologists have probably noticed that they are receiving more information about services rendered by the NWRC and data tabulations that are available there. This is part of a plan to effect better coordination between the NWRC and the climatological field service.

The NWRC has microfilmed the complete file of its job description cards through January 1959, and a copy of the portion for each State has been forwarded to the appropriate State Climatologist. A copy of the "Guide to Standard Weather Summaries" has also been distributed to all State and Area Climatologists and the WRPC's. The NWRC has developed a new punch card file describing unpublished tabulations, and a key to this file will be forwarded to all State and Area Climatologists along with pertinent portions of the machine listing of the cards.

Reference manuals for most of the punched card decks filed at the NWRC are available on request; such requests should be supported by adequate justification, and should be routed to the NWRC through the appropriate Area Clima-

FILE: 922

MEMO

(Climatological Services Memorandum No. 77)

WASHINGTON, D. C.
10-28-59

tologist, with carbon copy to the Office of Climatology.

Procedures have been adopted at the NWRC to ensure that State and/or Area Climatologists will receive copies of most correspondence dealing with tabulations related to their areas. In many cases, such correspondence will describe briefly the contents of newly prepared tabulations.

Suggestions for ways to continue to improve the coordination between the NWRC and the State, Territorial and Area Climatologists will be welcome.

3. LETTER TO A COOPERATIVE OBSERVER: The following letter by the Kansas State Climatologist is an excellent example of a letter to a cooperative observer.

We realize that lack of ready access to background data usually precludes the writing of such letters.

"Dear Mr.

"I note from our records that you became the official weather observer at Healy, Kansas on July 1, 1944. No doubt you had taken the observations many times prior to your assuming the responsibilities of the daily readings and recording the temperature, precipitation, snowfall and miscellaneous notes about the weather and its vagaries as the 'weather' for Lane County had been in the care of the Jennison family since April 1, 1901.

"But for these 15 years of your personal attention to the preservation of your climatic details it is my privilege to present you on behalf of the Secretary of the Department of Commerce and the Chief of the Weather Bureau the accompanying award. (A lapel button indicating 15 years of service.)

"Of course taking a few minutes a day to read thermometers and a few times a month to measure some rain, or in the winter gauge the blown snow would appear to be no great detail. But to sum up what the Jennison family has found out and preserved for their fellow men and coming generations a few items may serve to show what a task has been performed:

"The highest temperature 116 degrees on July 13, 1913.

"The lowest temperature -31 degrees on Jan. 11, 1918.

"The record shows that summers in your area without a temperature of 100 degrees are quite rare, as 1915 is the only such occurrence from 1902 through 1959.

"Temperatures below zero should be counted on each winter as zero or lower readings are more certain than the 100 degrees each summer. All but 2 years have had colder than zero, and in those 2, 1931 and 1940, readings of only zero were recorded.

"The precipitation over this period of family record totals 91.14 feet through 1958 and your snowfall in that time would make quite a drift as its total is 102.7 feet. Strangely enough your record also brings to light the fact that the grandchildren had more snow to ride through last year with a total of 84.6 inches than their grandfather ever had to walk through in his day.

"We must recognize that such choice items are not the result merely of occasional observations but the gleaning from years of the daily details of observing and recording. I have a very high regard for the work you and your family have done over these years for your fellow men.

"Very truly yours"

4. ESTABLISHING NEW CLIMATOLOGICAL STATIONS: A memo of September 15, 1959, from the Assistant Chief for Administration points out that the establishment of new climatological stations must be deferred until funds are available. This comes about because of a financial situation which severely limits the purchase of instruments and equipment. This means that authority to establish approved "a" network stations has been withdrawn from the WRPC's until the present financial emergency is passed.

5. PUBLICATION OF CORRECTIONS IN CD: Instruction No. 1009.6622 provides that only those corrections considered significant by the Supervising Climatologist of the WRPC need be published. The purpose of that instruction is to eliminate or reduce trivial corrections which do not significantly affect the record.

An undesirable situation results, however, when minor corrections are reported to the WRPC. Since corrected cards are punched, such cards do not agree with the incorrectly published record. This could lead to problems later on when punched cards are compared with published data.

State Climatologists are urged, therefore, to give careful consideration to the significance of all corrections. Minor corrections which are well within the range of accuracy of the instruments should be ignored.

6. EXPOSURE OF SOIL THERMOMETERS: The WMO, under Res. 14 (EC-XI), has recommended that we expand our documentation of soil temperature data to include the degree and direction of the slope of the ground at each site.

All State Climatologists are requested to obtain this information for each soil temperature station basing it on the following criteria:

1. The degree of the slope of the ground should be reported to the nearest 5% with an accuracy of \pm 5%.
2. The direction of the slope of the ground should be expressed as the direction towards which the slope faces, using the eight point compass.

All State Climatologists should forward these data to the appropriate WRPC

for inclusion in the monthly CD Bulletins.

7. USE OF WB FORM 612-14A: Reference our memo, C-3.3, dated May 21, 1959. To date we have received replies from 25 offices. We would appreciate an early reply from the rest of the WRPC's, State and Area Climatologists addressed in the reference.

8. TEMPERATURE THRESHOLDS: An improvement that we would like to encourage in temperature threshold studies is the use of thresholds above 32°F. The NE-35 group is planning to include the 40°F threshold and to publish 30-year means and the standard deviations of the first autumn and last spring dates. We would like to see both 36° and 40° thresholds included in future studies whenever possible.

9. THE FOLLOWING PUBLICATIONS HAVE BEEN FURNISHED STATE AND AREA CLIMATOLOGISTS AND WRPC'S SINCE CSM #75:

Occurrence of High Ozone Concentrations in the Air Near Metropolitan Washington, by Wanta and Heggstad. Reprinted from Science, July 10, 1959, Vol. 130, No. 3367, pages 103 and 104.

A Time Interval Distribution for Excessive Rainfall - H. C. S. Thom. Paper 2083 of the Journal of the Hydraulics Division, Proceedings of the American Society of Civil Engineers.

Guide to Standard Weather Summaries - NAVAER, 50-1C-534 by Department of the Navy.

Spring and Fall Freezing Temperatures in New York State.

A Rational Method of Determining Summer Weather Design Data - H. C. S. Thom.

The Agricultural Weather Station - Bulletin 537 of the University of Wisconsin, Madison, Wisconsin.

Seasonal Variations of Soil Moisture in South Dakota - Agricultural Experiment Station, Brookings.

Introduction to Physical Microclimatology. F. A. Brooks, Chapters 4-7, 1959.

Sixth Progress Report South Dakota Cooperative Project in Climatology. South Dakota State College of Agriculture and U. S. Weather Bureau.

Weather. Reprints of 8 articles from Iowa Farm Science - R. H. Shaw and C. R. Elford.

Any State Climatologist who has not received the above publications should advise the Office of Climatology accordingly.

10. CHANGES IN STATE CLIMATOLOGISTS: Mr. Richard E. Myers of the Denver WBAS has been selected as State Climatologist for Nebraska, and has entered on duty at Lincoln. Dr. A. Boyd Pack, Connecticut-Rhode Island State Climatologist,

has been selected as South Dakota State Climatologist and entered on duty at Huron early in October, replacing Mr. William T. Hodge who has transferred to the NWRC. The Connecticut-Rhode Island job has been advertised, but not yet filled.

11. MOTION PICTURE FILM CATALOG: This bulletin, issued by the Weather Bureau in July 1959, lists and describes films that are available from the Weather Bureau Film Library.

FOR WRPCs

12. AMENDMENTS TO PROCEDURES: The following instructions have been issued to WRPC's:

Paragraph 1009.652, change the explanation for the dash to read:

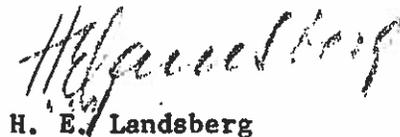
"- No record in the 'Supplemental Data' Table; 'Daily Precipitation' Table; 'Evaporation and Wind' Table; 'Snowfall and Snow on Ground' Table; and the Station Index."

This change need not be made until the Reference Notes are next retyped.

Paragraph 1111.161, change the reference note in paragraph 1111.161 about precipitation values to read:

"Precipitation values in this bulletin are in inches. Amounts too small to measure, traces, are not included."

This change is made to explain why hourly amounts in LCD and in HPD for the same station may differ.



H. E. Landsberg
Director, Office of Climatology

