

U. S. CLIMATE IN 'DRY PHASE,' SAYS WEATHER BUREAU CHIEF; WEST HARD HIT BY DROUGHT

No Fundamental Change in Conditions, Federal Expert Declares.

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It has been said that the usual weather is unusual; and the only trouble with our recent weather is that it has been more unusual than it usually is unusual.

The unusual happenings in recent years include these:

1. Extremely high summer temperatures.

2. Many warm winters, to be followed by an extremely severe one in 1935-1936.

3. Recent, unprecedented floods in the East.

4. Disastrous tornadoes in the South.

5. Two drought years, 1930 and 1934, establishing new records for dryness over large areas, both of which were of tremendous national significance.

Because of these things, many people have grown alarmed and express fear for the future.

Going Through Dry Phase

We have weather records for more than 5000 different localities in the United States, but unfortunately a very few are for periods as long as 100 years. Our longest records indicate that there has been no permanent change in climate. Rather, we are going through a dry phase of our normal climate.

Climate is the general run, or sum total, of weather, and that sum total does not seem to be undergoing any fundamental changes. Weather is the phase of climate that we experience from day to day, from week to week, or even year to year. Therefore, as every one knows from reading the Weather Bureau forecasts, as published in every daily news paper in the country, weather varies, often markedly, from day to day, due to vast changes in air mass movements.

When the run of weather conforms to the general climate of a region, that is, when it is about normal, it receives very little attention or discussion. But when it varies greatly from the normal in heat, cold, destructive floods, drought, and the like, it at once becomes of popular interest, and in some cases of national concern.

Termed Weather Trends

Now we readily observe that different weather phases—warm, then cool; cloudy and rainy; then sunny and dry—follow one another at intervals usually counted in days or weeks; that is, at short intervals. This we call weather trends.

There are climatic trends of a similar nature, the yardstick being years instead of days. In recent years, we have been going through a dry, warm phase of climate and unusually frequent drought is the result.

The up and down trends in rainfall may, when the record is smoothed, a wave-like pattern, but the length of the periods appears to be too irregular to justify a definite long-range forecast as to what will happen in the future. If records were available for a thousand years instead of from 50 to 100, we possibly could discover a definite law of succession.

Bible Has Reference

The Bible, in the story of Joseph and the dreams of Pharaoh, gives us the first historical reference to this important characteristic of rainfall—the tendency of a number of successive years having comparatively heavy rains to be followed by a series of harmfully dry years, especially in regions with normally scanty moisture.

In the United States, local droughts may be expected practically every year, but they are seldom of nation-wide importance. Prior to 1934, three wide-spread droughts are worthy of mention and seriously affecting production of staple farm crops in the United States. These droughts of national importance occurred in 1894, 1901, and 1930. The fourth and latest, in 1934, broke all records.

Chemical Firm Moves

The Clark Chemical Co. today was doing business at 1249 Roosevelt in quarters twice as large as it formerly occupied at 31 E. Georgia-st. Increased business and bright prospects prompted the move, Vernon L. Clark, president and general manager, said.

OFFICIAL WEATHER

United States Weather Bureau
Sunrise 4:32 | Sunset 7:17

TEMPERATURE
July 6, 1936
7 a. m. 76 | 1 p. m. 91

BAROMETER
7 a. m. 30.13 | 1 p. m. 30.10

Precipitation 24 hrs. ending 7 a. m. 0.00
Total precipitation since Jan. 1. 14.94
Deficiency since Jan. 1. 6.51

WESTERN WEATHER

Indiana: Generally fair tonight and tomorrow; warmer north and to-morrow; warmer north and to-morrow.

Illinois: Generally fair tonight and tomorrow; warmer extreme northeast and to-morrow; warmer tomorrow.

Lower Michigan: Fair tonight and tomorrow; warmer tomorrow.

Ohio: Generally fair tonight and tomorrow; warmer tomorrow in north and central portions.

Kentucky: Generally fair tonight and tomorrow; little change in temperature.

W. Va. and in OTHER CITIES AT 7 A. M.

Station Weather Temp. Pct. of Day

Amarillo, Tex. Clear 30.04 76

Bismarck, N. D. Clear 30.12 76

Boise, Idaho Clear 30.14 68

Chicago Clear 30.12 76

Cincinnati Clear 30.22 70

Cleveland, O. Clear 30.20 70

Denver Clear 30.12 70

Des Moines, Iowa Pct. of Day

Helena, Mont. Clear 29.88 70

Jackson, Miss. Pct. of Day

Kansas City, Mo. Clear 30.16 80

Little Rock, Ark. Cloudy 30.14 80

Los Angeles Clear 30.12 80

Miami, Fla. Pct. of Day

Minneapolis Clear 30.10 84

Mobile, Ala. Pct. of Day

New Orleans Clear 30.16 80

New York Pct. of Day

Oklahoma City, Okla. Cloudy 30.06 74

Omaha, Neb. Pct. of Day

Pittsburgh Clear 30.18 70

Portland, Ore. Clear 30.18 70

San Antonio, Tex. Pct. of Day

San Francisco Pct. of Day

Tampa, Fla. Clear 30.14 78

Washington, D. C. Clear 30.12 72

FIREMAN IS KILLED



(Story on Page One)

WASHINGTON, July 6.—Drought is doubly cruel to grain and stock farmers, review of trend shows.

By Science Service

WASHINGTON, July 6.—Drought is doubly cruel to grain and stock farmers and stockmen of Midwest and Northwest, because this year began with fair promises of returning abundance. During the past few years, dry fields had to be seeded in a spirit of grim chance-taking. But this spring it was different. The earth was moist at planting-time, and everything looked good. The young wheat sprouted bravely and the hopes of the farmers went up with the green blades.

And now—

Even while the wheat grew so hopefully, betrayal was at hand. From the first of March onward, the rains began to fail. At first the shortage was not severe; spring wheat was sown, and winter wheat took its fresh start, from the reserves of moisture in the soil. But the shortages became even fewer and moisture in the soil, laid by for rainless days, was all gone. The crop was bankrupt. And Harry Hopkins had to buy a ticket to St. Paul, to face anew the menace of the blight of the Northwest at the southern end of the Great Plains.

Early Promise Bright.

The promise of the early year was so fair that it is hard to believe in the reality of the disaster that has been brought to a sudden head by a few weeks of furnace-hot weather. After the terrible drought of 1934 ended, with sweeping rains in September of that year, precipitation continued nearly normal or even above normal for the whole affected area, excepting only the blight of the Northwest at the southern end of the Great Plains.

The winter of 1935 especially set out to be helpful. True, it was very cold and full of howling blizzards, but by the same token it brought plenty of snow. The northern Great Plains had a better snow cover than they had had for years. A summary study by the United States Weather Bureau showed that the period of unusually normal precipitation moisture in the Northwest lasted for 18 months, from September of 1934 until the late winter of 1936.

Then the snow thawed, the farmers eagerly worked the unyielding moist soil—and the drought began to creep up on them, betraying their optimism again.

Situation Is Terrible

The situation in the Northwestern wheat country is the really terrible thing, though it may presently find itself competing for front-page notice with a second center of drought with it, centering on Kentucky and Tennessee, in the rest of the Middle West.

The Southeast, robust of its market vegetable crop by an early drought, has been relieved by recent rains, so that things now look more hopeful for the later crops—cotton, grain and pastures. The one-time Dust Bowl, converted into a Mud Bowl by torrential rains some weeks ago, is out of the drought picture for the present, though it may come back into it again.

The country's greatest single crop, corn, is not as yet in such severe danger, at least in the parts of the Corn Belt that were covered with last winter's mountainous snow-banks. Those banks of snow held more wealth than many pretentious banks of brick in the towns, for they replenished the depleted subsoil moisture and got the crop off to a good start. The drought has been over the Corn Belt, too; but corn is a deep-rooted crop, and now has its feeders well down into the ground. So unless the heat becomes even worse than that of the purgatorial summer of 1934, the corn will come through.

DROUGHT PREDICTED IN SOUTHERN STATES

Tennessee, Kentucky to Be Affected, Observers Believe.

By Science Service

WASHINGTON, July 6.—Watch Tennessee, Kentucky for the next big drought-distress story, is the word of the weather-wise who have been for some time watching a dry area centered in those two usually well-watered states. Since the end of April they have received only about a quarter of their normal quota of rain, and unless rain comes soon and abundantly there is soon to be bad trouble there.

Fortunately, the winter wheat crop is "over the hump," though the harvest is coming in rather short-strawed and not up to the mark in weight of grain. But pastures in bad shape, so that sale or moving of livestock is imperative in some sections. Clover and lespedeza are dying of drought, which means short allowance of hay.

Corn is in unsatisfactory shape, for much of it had to be planted late, and its soil too dry to permit good germination. Tobacco, important in both states, is extremely disappointing.

Morgan Improving, EMPLOYEES REPORT

Bishop Offers Prayer for Health of Wealthy Banker.

By United Press

GLEN COVE, N. Y., July 6.—Employees at the estate of J. P. Morgan said today that they understood the multimillionaire banker is recovering rapidly from an attack of neuritis that crippled him last week.

Bishop Frank Du Moulin offered a special prayer for Mr. Morgan's health yesterday at the Episcopal Church in Lattingtown where, on every Sunday on which he is at home and not ill, he passes the collection plate.

445 KILLED IN U. S. ACCIDENTS; 118 DROWNINGS

Only Seven Lose Lives in Fireworks Mishaps, Reports Show.

(Continued from Page One)

Guardsmen were called to patrol the streets of the town of 1000 residents to prevent looting. Another fire, in the little hamlet of Oyens, four miles from Remsen, caused \$75,000 damage. Its origin was not known.

In Wayne, Mich., a passenger train crashed through an open switch, smashed into a freight train, and killed the engineer. A man who had been "riding the rods" of the train was electrocuted when he stepped on a charged wire near the wreck.

KILLED BY ROLLER COASTER

One person was killed in a roller coaster accident in Toledo, O., another died when he fell from a "giant racer" at a Salt Lake City (Utah) amusement park.

The persons died in airplane crashes in California, Illinois and Nebraska.

Scores of persons attending a convention of Jehovah's Witnesses, religious organization, in Manchester, N. H., were reported stricken with ptomaine poisoning.

Among the drowning victims was a South Carolina youth struck by lightning while he was swimming.

Eight thousand persons saw a Milwaukee WIS. motorcycle racer killed during a race, and 4000 saw an automobile racer die.

Four men drowned when their speedster automobile slipped from a Florida Keys highway into an eight-foot canal and trapped its occupants. Four other motorists died when their automobile careened when their automobile careened into a tree near Dade Key, Fla.

STATE HOLIDAY TOLL IS PLACED AT 25

Auto Accidents Take Lives of 18 in Indiana.

(Continued from Page One)

Miss Horner and Fosso were riding in the coupe.

The four deaths brought the traffic toll in Marion County this year to 85.

George Hoover, 75, of Eagle Village, was arrested early today in connection with the hit-run accident last night in which three cars were wrecked and three persons injured at Keystone-av and 52d-st.

Three Negroes riding with Fowler Hickman, 31, Negro, 2745 N. Oxford-st, were cut, when the hit-run car swerved, a car driven by Thomas Spencer, 22, of 1833 1/2 W. 52d-st, turned into the Hickman auto.

The Hickman car then struck the parked auto of Earl E. Kinzie, 48, of 411 E. St. Joseph-st.

Worst hit was Robert O'Connell, 21, of 2180 S. East-st. He is at City Hospital with a bandage over his eyes and physicians declined to predict whether he will ever again see. A toy cannon, home-made for the celebration, exploded at the home of Edward Muffler, neighbor, 2129 E. East-st, yesterday. The explosion burst full in young O'Connell's face.

Four Others Hurt

Four other persons were slightly injured in the accident. They were Margaret O'Connell, 13-year-old sister of the seriously injured boy; Muriel, the host, Robert Eichner, 12, and his brother, Frederick, 12, of 2126 Shadeland-st.

Bernard Lynch, fire prevention chief, said that he can not remember any other year when firecrackers caused as many as 53 fires. The drought-parched grass ignited readily from the crackers, creating unusual hazard.

Among others who received minor injuries from firecrackers and were treated at the hospital were Mary Jane Dothridge, 10, of 140 W. 19th-st; Sam Bird, 11, of 2432 Arsenal-av; Dorothy Gilley, 12, of 241 S. Temple-av; Barbara Cox, 10, of 234 N. Traub-av; Lois Gray, 25, Negro, 817 Kinney-st.

Dirigible Sets Record

FRANKFURT, Germany, July 6.—The dirigible Hindenburg landed at 1:00 a. m. today, establishing a record of 45 hours and 36 minutes for the homeward flight from the United States Naval Air Station, Lakehurst, N. J.

Injuries suffered when he was thrown from a horse and kicked in the face were fatal to Lowell Franklin Lantz, 6, of Monticello. John C. Hornung, 58, Greensburg, died from injuries suffered in an automobile accident, not firecrackers.

Paul Walker, 25, Greenpoint, died from injuries suffered when his motorcycle was struck by a train at Columbia City.

Injuries suffered in an automobile accident near Carbon were fatal to Arthur Walton, 35, Carbon.

Dwight F. Morgan, Jr., 6-month-old son of Mr. and Mrs. Dwight F. Morgan, died in Methodist Hospital here after suffering a head wound in an automobile collision.