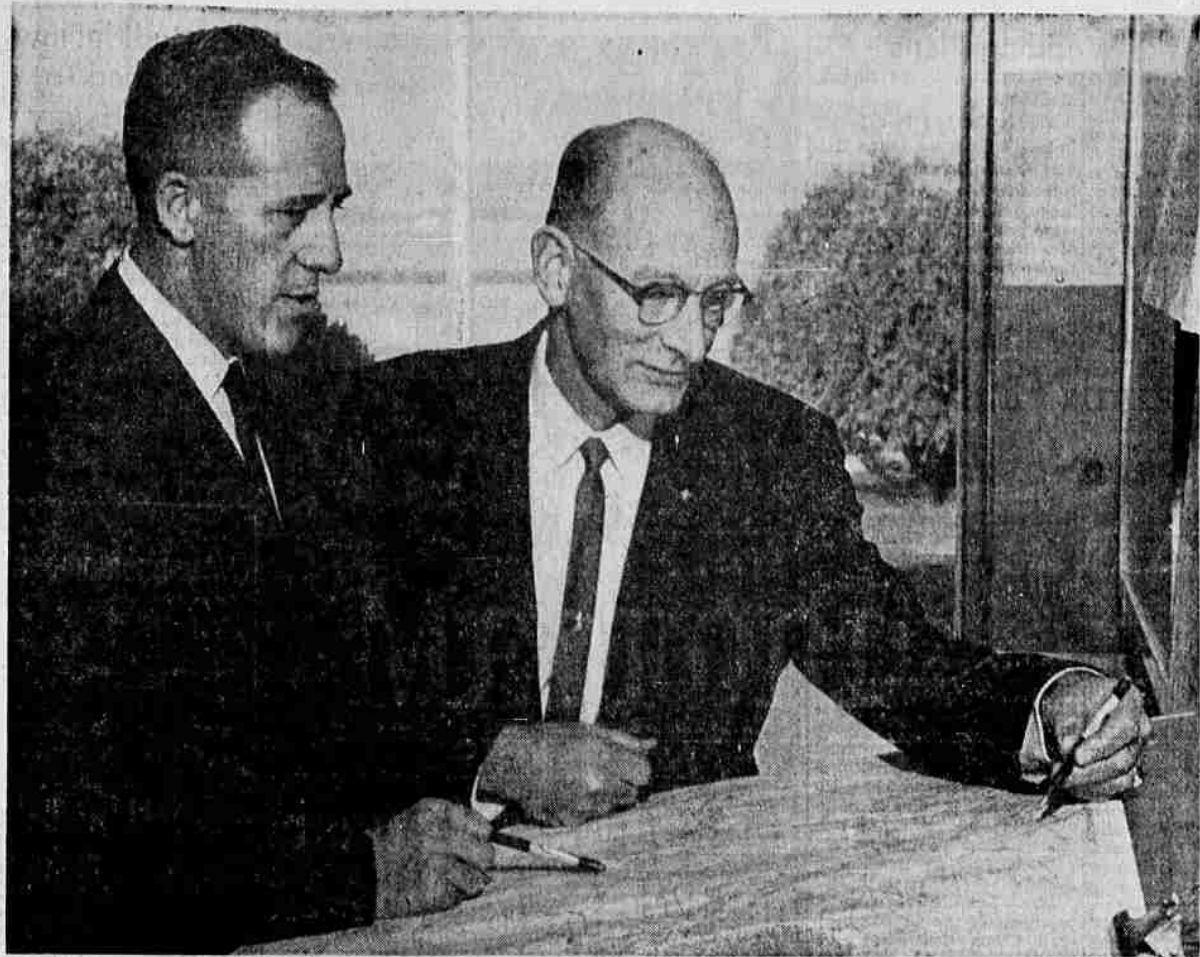


The Weather Man

The "weather man" is a most important man. He warns of dangerous storms, tornadoes, floods, and heat waves. Millions of United States citizens depend upon his forecasts to tell them when to plant crops, whether to take the plane or travel on the ground, when to advertise umbrellas and snow suits, whether to plan a picnic and a trip to the beach, and what to wear for the day's business. Today we salute the weather men.



Bill Acord is the supervising meteorological technician for the Medford station. He is shown here working with rawinsonde equipment, a complicated and delicate system which measures and records air pressure, temperature, humidity, wind direction and velocity above the earth's surface. This information is picked up outdoors by a radio theodolite which is the receiving and tracking machine.



Robert Church (at right) is meteorologist in charge of the Medford unit of the United States Weather Bureau, located at the Municipal Airport building. Shown with Mr. Church is his principal assistant, Stanley Lacy. The two men are shown studying a surface weather map, the first tool the weather experts use in analyzing air masses and determining what sort of weather these masses will bring.

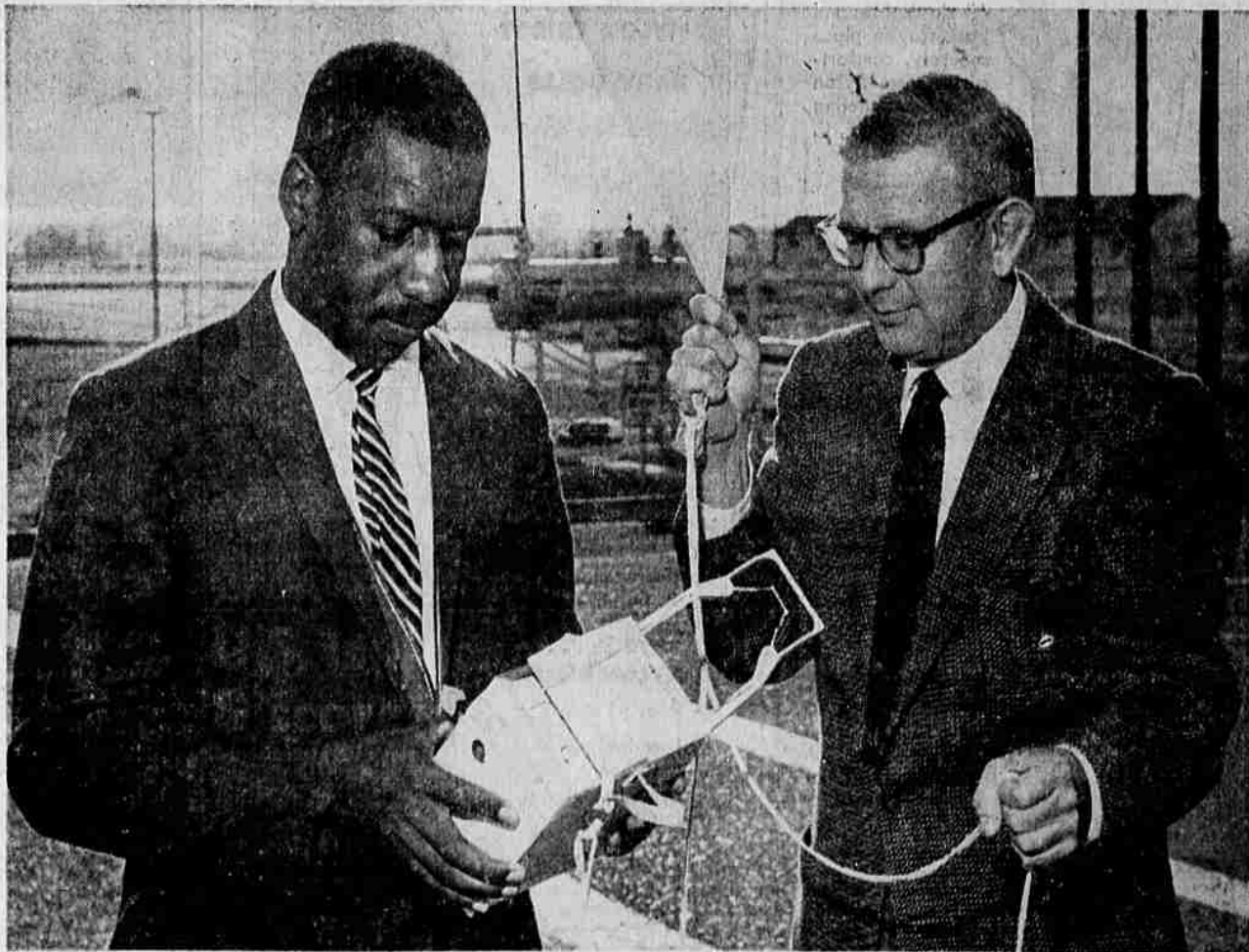
Meteorological Aide Phillip Larch (below) is shown at the microphone making a weather report for a Medford radio station. The reports, three direct and a fourth taped, are broadcast by the valley stations each day. Bill Koepke, meteorologist, is shown typing one of the reports. The microphone and typewriter are located in a small room which the men refer to as "the broom closet." Men of the staff take turns at the microphone.



A battery of Teletype writers at the weather bureau is constantly chattering away as information is sent out and received. Pictured with the machines are (left to right) Ward Lampkin, Bob Bauman and Art Fritz, whose voices are often heard as they give the weather reports. All three are meteorologists with the bureau. About 1000 stations, of varying sizes and located throughout the United States, gather and exchange information. Sequence reports are received hourly.



The device shown here is known as a solar radiation recorder. Pictured checking the machine is Herb Hove, a rawinsonde specialist. Twelve men are on the staff of the station, and they rotate shifts in order that each man takes his turn at night work. Eleven were at the station Tuesday and the twelfth, Robert Pentney, is on vacation. Ted Wiley, an electronic technician, is assigned to the station to keep the equipment in good order.



At 3 a.m. and 3 p.m. in every 24 hours a balloon is released by the men at the weather station, and it carries aloft a radiosonde. Pictured Tuesday afternoon as they prepared to release the helium-filled balloon are Harold Smith (at left), meteorologist, and Ed House, a meteorological technician and rawinsonde specialist. The equipment in the small box which Mr. Smith holds, sounds the atmosphere and sends back to earth information about temperature, humidity and air pressure. These are picked up by other machines, recorded and evaluated by the experts at the station.