

Biography of the Storms

# High Pressure Area Over Atlantic Blamed For Storms on Two Continents

Editor's note: Europe and the eastern United States still are suffering from some of the worst winter storms of the century. To investigate their causes and effects, UPI assigned a team of reporters: Daniel F. Gilmore, for London and Europe; James W. Ryan and Jack O'Brien, for Maine and the East Coast; Norman Runyon, for the weather bureau meteorological experts in Washington.

survived a great many storms in the 65 years of his life, died when the car in which he was riding was involved in an accident caused by blowing snow.

Arthur Barber and his wife, Daisy, of Robert's Place, Dorchester, England, froze to death on the back seat of a Vauxhall sedan which was stalled in a giant snowdrift on the A353 road three miles north of Weymouth, England.

## Conference Slated At Phoenix Church

Phoenix - First Baptist church, Phoenix, will be host for a conference on evangelism Friday, Jan. 4, sponsored by the Siskiyou Southern Baptist association.

The Rev. Lewis S. Sneed, Portland, director of evangelism for the Oregon-Washington Southern Baptist convention, will speak at the clinic.

Sessions will begin at 2 p.m. and 7:15 p.m. An evening meal will be served at 6:30 p.m.

Among those taking part in the program will be the Rev. A. L. Craig, Phoenix; the Rev. Kenneth Hollinshead, Crescent City; the Rev. James Brockus, Grants Pass, and the Rev. Gilbert Skaar, Medford.

Spring arrives variously from March 19 to March 21.

London, which has fogs, found itself covered in snow. At times it was too cold to ski in the famed winter sports grounds of the Austrian Alps.

Fourteen inches of snow fell on Marseilles, on the Mediterranean coast of normally sunny southern France. It was the most in 61 years.

Spawmed by a combination of weather factors around the globe, timed almost with the precision of a rocket countdown, the great winter storms that blew out 1962 and slid in 1963 were among the most severe of the century.

They were still around today, and the "blocking high" that helped cause them still is hovering above the Atlantic at latitude 64 north and longitude 31 west.

This huge pressure area that was born before Christmas week end pulled in Arctic blasts from Siberia that now have swept across Europe. But at the same time it disturbed wind patterns in the Western Hemisphere and caused the big East Coast storm to crumple up the Atlantic seaboard and bury parts of New England.

Europe took the first blow.

"It's been the worst cold wave since 1947," said Gordon H. Robbins, deputy senior meteorological officer in the British Air Ministry. "The worst snow blizzards, according to our records, since 1927."

The high pressure area that had built up between Greenland and Iceland blocked off comparatively warm winds from the Atlantic. These winds, and the Gulf stream, provide England with its usual damp but temperate winters.

But with the "blocking high" in place, there was nothing to stop the windy invasion from Siberia.

While Europe moaned, and Rome newspapers reported "the coldest Christmas of the century," while snow coated the crater of Mt. Etna in Sicily and avalanches cut off millionaires and the young set in ski resorts throughout Switzerland, a storm began moving up the eastern seaboard of the United States.

At weather bureau headquarters in Suitland, Md., outside of Washington, the experts consulted the prevailing patterns, examined data from the computers, made their own calculations, and agreed that an onslaught was en route.

Last Saturday, at Suitland, experts such as Harlan Saylor, chief of the analysis and forecast branch of the National Meteorological Center, decided to alert weather bureaus around the coast that a big storm, then located near Cape Hatteras, N.C., was building up. Their notice moved about 1:30 p.m. (EST).

By then it was snowing,

## 17 Injured in Ordnance Blast

Riverside, Calif. - (UPI) - Seventeen workers were injured, two seriously, in an explosion Wednesday at a munitions building at a classified Aerojet General Ordnance installation west of here.

Explosive primers for missiles and "destruct devices" which automatically explode a missile when it goes off course are manufactured in the building.

A company spokesman said there was little structural damage caused to the building which is isolated for safety purposes.

Two workmen reported in serious condition at Riverside Community hospital were identified as Carl Brown, project supervisor, Arlington, Calif., and Roy Hill, a stock handler, also of Arlington. Brown suffered extensive burns and Hill was severely cut by flying debris.

The other workers were treated for shock and minor burns.

A police officer seeking to enter the plant to investigate reports of the explosion was not permitted to enter because of security regulations.

**GIANT RADISH**  
St. Genevieve, Mo. - (UPI) - Andre Oberle grew a radish weighing over nine pounds.

## Can Hardly Wait

# Nugget or Two of Information Found in Weekly Magazine Feature

By DICK WEST

Washington - (UPI) - Just about my favorite feature in the periodical field is a question - and answer column appearing in one of the weekly magazines.

Readers who "want to know the truth about prominent personalities" are invited to write in and ask about it and the magazine will undertake to straighten them out.

The answers invariably supply a nugget or two of information that I find gratifying. In a recent issue, for instance, I learned that there is no law against Zsa Zsa Gabor giving her age as 37 when she gets married.

What mainly intrigues me, however, are not the answers but the questions. I find myself simply dying to know what caused them to come up in the first place.

The same issue that absolved Miss Gabor of felonious conduct in the listing of her age contained this question submitted by

a man living in Washington:

"Is it true that Harry Truman is the only non-millionaire to have occupied the White House in the last 40 years?"

I couldn't help but wonder what sparked his curiosity on that point and why he specified 40 years rather than, say, 50 years. My guess is that it stemmed from an argument with his wife.

Another question was "who is richer - Lucille Ball or Loretta Young?" For the record, Loretta is, but neither ever occupied the White House.

The question that really tied me in knots came from a person in Northridge, Calif., identified only by the initials "F.T."

"Three years ago Alan Jay Lerner, who wrote the lyrics for 'My Fair Lady,' wrote a situation comedy series for TV called 'Harry's Girls,'" he observed. "What happened to it?"

I'd give a pretty penny to know who "F. T." is. Why should he or she be concerned about a TV show that has been gathering dust for three years?

The only conclusion I can



West

reach is that "F.T." is Lerner's manager, or his press agent, or maybe his wife or mother.

The magazine answered the question thusly: "MGM was unable to sell it for years. Recently, however, there's been talk that Colgate has bought the series for airing next year."

That could mean that "F.T." is an MGM president who is sending up a trial balloon. Or it could mean that he is a member of the advertising agency handling the Colgate account.

At any rate, as I'm sure you'll agree, Q&A of this type is stimulating reading. I can hardly wait for the next issue to come out.

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