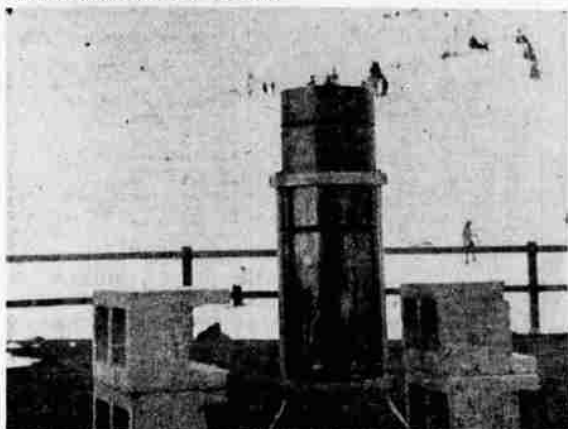




WEATHER RECORDING is their business. Here Wade English, left, and Frank Asbell are pictured in front of some of the delicate and complicated weather recording instruments at the Mount Shasta station.



THIS DRUMLIKE OBJECT is in reality a precipitation gauge located at the Mount Shasta Ski Bowl. It is but a small part of the complex machinery involved in making weather forecasts for the Northern California area.

Weather Forecasting

(Continued From Page 5)

cool dry air following the passage of the front and radiational cooling during the night frequently brings temperatures to below freezing. These frosts are notoriously "spotty." At a calm spot in the lee of a ridge or knoll the temperature may drop to the mid 20s while a location where a light breeze prevents the formation of a stagnant pool of cold air, may escape frost entirely.

The most puzzling thing to many people is the abrupt change in climate within a short distance in the Mt. Shasta area. For example: When a south wind is blowing up the Sacramento Canyon, wind speeds at Mt. Shasta may be 15 miles per hour, while at Weed, eight miles to the north, the speed will be near 45 miles per hour. That is why the Weed residents have been known to say: "We don't have much snow here, but a lot of snow goes through here." On a north wind, it works the opposite way. Wind speeds in Mount Shasta City are double those in Weed. The valley is shaped like an hourglass with the narrow portion lying between Mount Shasta City and Weed. This creates a jet-like flow as it passes through the narrow portion.

McCloud, eight miles southeast of Mt. Shasta, lies in the lee of the mountain during north wind conditions and as a result the winds are calm, afternoon temperatures are about 10 degrees warmer and nighttime temperatures about 10 degrees cooler than Mount Shasta City. During a wintertime storm it would not be at all unusual to encounter light rain at Redding, heavy rain from Shasta Lake northward to Dunsmuir, heavy snow from there to Mount Shasta City, an abrupt decrease in snow and a sharp increase in wind at Weed and 15 miles north of Weed, clear blue skies.

People everywhere are subject to "surprise attacks" from the elements. The weathermen occasionally "drop one." These surprises are something less than pleasant to everyone, but trying to prevent them is a titanic and often impossible task. Here in the far west, forecasters must watch developments in the eastern Pacific very closely. The trouble is that upper-air reports are few and far between and it is from these reports that we determine the temperature and moisture content of the air mass. Merchant ships transmit weather reports at six-hour intervals and they are of great value, but they do not give us the necessary information on conditions at upper levels. It is not uncommon to have ocean areas as large as the western United States, from the Pacific to the Rocky Mountains, from which no reports are received. It is not difficult to see how storms can sneak in from the Pacific either undetected or their intensity greatly underestimated.

A major breakthrough in the science of weather forecasting is expected in the future when television cameras on space platforms will be able to furnish us with maps of the world every few hours, showing cloudy areas and the movement of these areas. It will not mean that forecasting will suddenly attain 100 per cent accuracy, but it should greatly reduce or eliminate the "unpleasant surprises" that the elements have been giving us since the beginning of time. Of course we will always have the problems created by terrain and the extreme variability of air masses. It will take time to learn how to use the information obtained from space platforms. New instruments for electronically measuring the density, temperature, moisture content and velocity of the air or wind will have to be developed.

Old Remedies Rediscovered

Centuries-old remedies have been rediscovered by science to be used in the battle against disease.

The most spectacular example, says the Medical and Science Communications Bulletin, is the rediscovered medicinal which comes from Rauwolfia serpentina, a plant that grows wild in India. It is a relaxant and can be used in a wide range from insomnia to insanity.

Another idea coming from Biblical times, is the application of sour wine, or in essence, acetic acid for skin conditions. Scientists have learned to harness the acid in such a way as to evolve a gentle enzymatic preparation called Fungacetin, which slowly penetrates an area infected by fungus. It destroys and inhibits the fungus and can be used also in the treatment of athlete's foot and ringworm of the scalp and body.

Curare, a poison used by natives in the South American jungles, is now being used to block muscle action, and thus control spasms in polio, tetanus and certain types of surgery.

The bark from the cinchona tree has been used for centuries by the Collahuays Indians for fevers. Now scientists have isolated quinine from it for treatment of malaria.

Today we speak of the "antibiotic age," but molds were used by the Chinese thousands of years ago to treat wounds and combat infections. North American Indians, also, used soil and rotting wood for the same purposes. Thus, this "age" is an old, old story, the bulletin reports.

PENNIES SAVED

MILWAUKEE (UPI) — Buying less popular cuts of meat such as short ribs, ham shanks, shoulder cuts and beef chuck will help the budget. Also select baking apples which are lower grade than eating apples.

TASTING PARTY

NEW YORK (UPI) — To introduce a new vegetable to the young child, try a "tasting party." Offer a small portion of the new vegetable at about two week intervals. The child will enjoy this game of "developing a taste" for the unfamiliar offering.

ILLUMINATING

EAST LANSING, Mich (UPI) — Lamps in your living room should be good to look at, but they should be good to "look with," too. It's not difficult to select the right lamp for the right job—reading, sewing or watching television.

GETTING TOGETHER

HOLLYWOOD (UPI)—Guy Williams, Tom Tryon and Robert Loggia, each of whom has won fame on the Walt Disney television shows, will be together on Disney

Studio's new high-budget epic, "Gold."

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