

PROGRAM..... RELEASE.....

Chats by the Weather Man.

Wed. Dec. 22, 1926

ANNOUNCEMENT: Speaking of Christmas presents reminds me of the services of the U.S. Weather Bureau. Of course the forecasts, and other services, aren't exactly free. They cost each person in the United States the price of a 2-cent stamp a year. Here's a year-round Santa Claus that many folks call in every day. In his chat tonight, the Weather Man is going to tell you how many American communities use these day-by-day Weather Bureau services. Mr. Weather Man...

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A weather man employed in the weather office of a Florida city a few years ago, tells this amusing yarn. ---

"In the old days our weather office was located on the same floor with the U.S. Court. It was a busy morning we were having. The hall adjoining our office was crowded with witnesses and jurors called in on a case.

"My chief and I were working on the weather map -- translating the code reports as they came in. The crowd was all eyes and ears.

"Pretty soon I came to a misspelled word in the Kansas City report. I had had enough experience to know that it was not a good code word, but I didn't know exactly what the word might mean, either. So I turned to the chief and asked, 'What will we do with Kansas City?' In other words, I wanted to know what the word meant -- what was Kansas City reporting to us in its code telegram? The chief answered, 'Make it rain'.

"That was the signal for the boys out in the hall to perk up their ears. One of them turned to a companion and whispered, with a lot of respect in his voice, 'They're going to make it rain in Kansas City today!'"

I suppose they actually thought we could.

Some folks somehow still believe that we can make it rain. They seem to think that our forecasts are built up in our offices. Of course, the predictions are based on hundreds of accurate observations made right out-of-doors all over the United States.

Some people seem to think we can pick a rainy day for Kansas City out of a plug hat -- just as a magician takes out a rabbit.

But the men who are making daily use of Weather Bureau observations know

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what the observations mean, how they're made, and how to use them. For example: ---

A canning company, in order to avoid having a stock of cans on hand during the tomato canning season, consults the Weather Bureau as to the weather chances for the next few days during the canning season. If weather favorable for ripening tomatoes is expected, the company puts in an order for more cans. But if low temperature threatens freezing of the tomato crop, no more cans are ordered.

That's what might be called vision in business, it seems to me.

In rating a western city for fire insurance, the following information was secured from the Weather Bureau: Number of days a year with wind velocity of 25 miles an hour or more -- average number of months a year with snowfall of more than 10 inches -- and the average number of months a year having ten days or more with a maximum temperature of 32 degrees or lower. Then the insurance company had something to work on.

Even though it usually seems to rain on days set for picnics, it's often possible to avoid this by getting weather information a day or two in advance and then choosing a day billed as "fair". If you don't give the weather much advance notice, it will be mighty hard for it to brew up a brisk rain storm on such short notice.

When the weather office forecasts snow, officials out in a large western city get ready to remove the snow from the streets before it comes. The power street flushers are filled with warm water from mountain springs which is dashed on the streets to melt the snow.

Many housewives set the family washday and picnic dates by weather office calculations.

Managers of out-door skating rinks in many American cities, use the weather forecasts as a guide in flooding their rinks.

Society women use the weather forecasts in planning afternoon teas, receptions, lawn parties, and other social entertainments.

Red Cross district managers receive warnings of coming storms, cold waves, floods, tornadoes, and other weather disturbances, which might result in disasters great enough to require relief by the Red Cross.

One day a hydroplane ran out of fuel and was forced to land on the waters of the Gulf of Mexico, eighteen miles from Burwood, Louisiana. Naval officers consulted the Weather Bureau and were told that northeast winds of 12 miles an hour on Sunday, and 12 to 24 miles an hour on Monday, would drive the plane toward the southwest. But, said the weather officials, swells from a hurricane in the eastern Gulf, would tend to carry the plane toward the west. The two forces would drive the aircraft toward the west-

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south-west. Well, the plane was found Tuesday afternoon, in latitude 28 degrees 26 minutes, longitude 91 -- which is certainly west-southwest of where it landed and very close to where the Weather Bureau Official calculated it would be. Another illustration of the services of the Weather Bureau in saving lives and preventing loss of property.

A city engineer in a Wyoming city was faced with the job of installing sewer mains in that Far West community. Did he trust to luck? He did not. He went to the weather records to find out the maximum rainfall in the city over a period of years. Then he proposed mains sufficiently large to handle a rainfall of 2 inches coming in an hour.

A large brickyard in Georgia doesn't take any chances of wet bricks freezing. When the weather office predicts falling temperature, the brickyard men take proper precautions to protect the wet bricks. That's just plain good business.

Many city commissioners employ laborers on the city streets only in good weather -- due to limited finances. The men report for duty each morning. If bad weather prevails-- and if the forecast and weather map indicate that the whole day would be stormy, -- the commissioners lay the boys off for the day.

Now I could go on until time to hang the stockings up next Saturday night, telling you how the weather man comes to the American public in the white whiskers, red cap, and fur coat of Santa Claus, every day in the year. But time will not permit such a long story. I merely wanted to tell you that there are ways of making use of weather reports not ordinarily listed in the books.

Before I say good night, I want to wish you all a merry Christmas and a happy New Year from -- the Weather Man.

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ANNOUNCEMENT: And with that last wish ringing in your ears, the Weather Man makes his bow and exit. He will be back next Wednesday evening with another talk direct from the Weather Bureau, U.S. Department of Agriculture.

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

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