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# Radio Service

Chats by the Weatherman

RELEASE Wed. Oct. 6

PROGRAM.....

ANNOUNCEMENT: Starting tonight this station will present regularly, each Wednesday, a "chat with the weatherman". Tonight he gives you some inside information on just how Uncle Sam manages to guess right most of the time. 26/

Tonight I want to introduce you to the Weather Man. You already know him in a way through his forecasts which you read in the papers. You've also seen his weather maps and cards that are posted about town. The weather man is over fifty years old now. His career has been a varied one, but what you want to know most likely is just how forecasts are made.

Every morning and evening at 8 o'clock, eastern time, work speeds up at 200 weather stations in the United States. Observations are made of wind and weather -- air pressure and temperature -- clouds -- humidity -- and rainfall during the preceding 12 hours. The 200 stations promptly telegraph this data to a District Center where it is sent to all Weather Bureau stations where forecasts are issued.

As a sample, I will give you a typical code message for a morning observation in the Springtime at Davenport, Iowa. It reads: DAVENPORT TENOR BENAUL BANDIT KICKOFF WESTERN CENSOR. When translated, that code message tells the Weather Man at each of the Weather Bureau Offices receiving it that the weather at Davenport is cloudy, the wind is blowing from the north at a velocity of 12 miles an hour; the temperature is 68 degrees Fahrenheit; the barometer reading, reduced to sea level, is 29.94 inches; the barometer is falling rapidly; the sky is covered with altostratus clouds, which are moving from the northwest; the lowest temperature last night was 52 degrees Fahrenheit; the rainfall during the night amounted to .26 of an inch, and it fell during the middle of the night in connection with a thunderstorm.

Trained men take the telegrams as fast as they come in and chart the information on outline maps of the United States. By the time the last message is received the forecaster has a complete picture of the weather over the entire country. Reports are received also from the territories and from several foreign countries. With these data and with maps made beforehand, the forecaster can trace the movements of storms -- cold or hot waves -- and fair weather areas as they move across the country.

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On a bright, sunny morning, just why is the Weather Man led to say: "Increasing cloudiness and warmer tonight; Friday, unsettled with probably rain"? Why not? He has before him every day a picture of the weather in all parts of the United States. These pictures show where the barometer is lowest -- or in other words where the air is lightest, (often because of the presence of a large amount of water vapor.) As you may know, water, when in the vapor form, is a gas -- only a little more than half as heavy as dry air. Where the barometer is highest, or where there is a small amount of water vapor present, there is not much likelihood of rain.

Easy, isn't it? Maps also show where the barometer is falling rapidly, or where moisture is being carried in by the winds; where the barometer is rising rapidly; where it is raining or snowing; where the sun is shining; where it is getting colder, and where it is warming up; where the wind is blowing strong, and from which direction it is blowing; where the skies are clouded, and the kinds of clouds which prevail. In fact, from his pictures he can tell you what the weather is in New York or San Francisco almost as well as he can in his home town.

Having then a picture of today's weather, on a base-map of the United States, the Weather Man can determine how far he is from the center of the fair or foul-weather area -- calculate its probable rate of movement eastward, observe the kind of weather which its presence caused in other places during the last 12 and 24 hours, and thus foretell, with a fair degree of accuracy, what the weather is going to be in his vicinity during the next 24 to 48 hours.

Radio, by the way, plays an important part in the gathering of this weather information from foreign countries and from ships at sea.

Definite frost warnings and temperature forecasts are made from 24 to 48 hours ahead of the drop. They are widely spread by radio, telegraph, telephone, mail, and flag signals. Farmers, the fruit growers, transportation companies, and stock raisers make practical use of the forecasts.

Next week we'll tell you of some interesting discoveries the Weather Bureau has made about the air and the weather.

**ANNOUNCEMENT:** Weather men in all parts of the country have many amusing and entertaining experiences which will be told in this series of "chats with the weather man" which will be heard through this station each Wednesday through the courtesy of the U. S. Department of Agriculture.

# **National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration**

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