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? WHY THE WEATHER ?

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WEATHER HASH OF 1924

1924 has had its share of extraordinary weather. As usual, in almost every month some sort of record was broken over considerable areas.

January was marked by an unusual cold period in the South, during which numerous stations experienced the highest pressures they had ever recorded.

In February a persistent "high" in the Mississippi Valley caused south winds on its west side that broke February high temperature records in parts of the United States and Canada.

March was noted for a severe storm in the north central states, with tornadoes in Oklahoma, Illinois and Missouri.

April produced still more tornadoes, a series of 21 extending from Arkansas to Virginia.

The exceptionally cold and rainy weather of May retarded agriculture in the northeast and north central United States and adjacent Canada. In some places it was the coldest May known. Floods in the Shenandoah and Potomac rivers were the worst since 1899. But the far west was hot and dry.

June continued the storminess and other peculiarities of spring: floods and tornadoes in the East, forest fires in the West. In July the Pacific coast drought became record breaking. There was a notable cool spell in the interior and South, and extraordinary local storms, with large hail and even tornadoes occurred from the upper Mississippi Valley eastward to New England.

August had more of such storms, the total damage from local storms, including tornadoes, reaching unprecedented figures for the year. A tropical hurricane brushing the Atlantic coast gave Block Islanders and Cape Codders a new date to start reckoning from. September was unusually cool and wet in the East, while October was noted for remarkably fine, mild sunny weather - a prolonged Indian Summer, except for deluges and storms on the Pacific coast and maritime Canada.

November for two or three weeks continued October's warmth and rainlessness to unprecedented limits. December weather began in mid-November but then lost hold temporarily, fall overlapping into winter as if in retaliation. But the blizzards and cold waves conquered.

(Tomorrow: January Extremes)
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