

For release                    By Major A.H. Thiessen  
Aug. 26, 1940      Science Service Meteorologist

The weathervane! Everyone associates changing weather with changing wind direction, and certainly, that is the chief cause. The weathervane used to indicate wind directions was the first weather instrument. There is no end of variety in weathervane designs. The weathercock, in which an image of the barnyard rooster is used, dates from the ninth century. It is a symbol of watchfulness, and refers also to St. Peter's sad experience. Other designs figure keys, gridirons, insects, ships, etc. Almost any motif may be used as a basis for the design of a windvane, the only provision being that the wind surface on one side of the spindle must be greater than that on the other side.

-----