

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

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WEATHER BUREAU

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# STORM DATA

DECEMBER 1962

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# STORM DATA AND UNUSUAL WEATHER PHENOMENA

DECEMBER 1962

| PLACE                          | DATE   | TIME      | LENGTH OF PATH (MILES) | WIDTH OF PATH (YARDS) | NO. OF PERSONS |         | ESTIMATED DAMAGE |       | CHARACTER OF STORM  | PLACE   | DATE  | TIME                  | LENGTH OF PATH (MILES) | WIDTH OF PATH (YARDS) | NO. OF PERSONS |         | ESTIMATED DAMAGE |              | CHARACTER OF STORM |  |  |                |
|--------------------------------|--|-----------|------------------------|-----------------------|----------------|---------|------------------|-------|---------------------|---|---|-----------------------|------------------------|-----------------------|----------------|---------|------------------|--------------|--------------------|--|--|----------------|
|                                |  |           |                        |                       | KILLED         | INJURED | PROPERTY         | CROPS |                     |   |   |                       |                        |                       | KILLED         | INJURED | PROPERTY         | CROPS        |                    |  |  |                |
| <b>ALABAMA</b>                 |  |           |                        |                       |                |         |                  |       |                     | INDIANA   |   |                       |                        |                       |                |         |                  |              |                    |  |  |                |
| Statewide                      | 11-14  |           |                        |                       | 3              | 0       | 6                | 6     | Cold wave           | South Bend and LaPorte  | 10  |                       |                        |                       | 0              | 3       |                  |              | Snow               |  |  |                |
|                                | A record breaking cold wave moved in on 11th and ended on the 14th. Temperatures were the lowest of record for December and for much of the State the lowest since February 1899. Temperatures as low as 6 below zero reported and at Mobile the lowest was 10°. Principal crop damage was to winter grazing and cover crops. Property damage due mainly to freezing of water pipes, water systems and automotive equipment.   |           |                        |                       |                |         |                  |       |                     | Snow began to accumulate on the 5th and continued until the 15th resulting in a total fall of 35 inches at South Bend. The heavy snow and strong gusty winds repeatedly blocked roads after plows had passed. South Bend declared a snow emergency and many schools were closed. Auto accidents were numerous and deaths from exertion fighting the snow were reported. To a lesser extent other northern Indiana counties experienced hardships. |   |                       |                        |                       |                |         |                  |              |                    |  |  |                |
| <b>ALASKA</b>                  | See data at end of table.  |           |                        |                       |                |         |                  |       |                     | <b>IOWA</b>   | None reported   |                       |                        |                       |                |         |                  |              |                    |  |  |                |
| <b>ARIZONA</b>                 | None reported  |           |                        |                       |                |         |                  |       |                     | <b>KANSAS</b>   | All of the state  |                       |                        |                       |                |         |                  |              |                    |  |  |                |
| <b>ARKANSAS</b>                | None reported  |           |                        |                       |                |         |                  |       |                     |   | 24  | Afternoon and evening |                        |                       |                |         |                  |              |                    |  |  | Snow and glaze |
| <b>CALIFORNIA</b>              |  |           |                        |                       |                |         |                  |       |                     |   |   |                       |                        |                       |                |         |                  |              |                    |  |  |                |
| Crescent City                  | 2  |           |                        |                       | 0              | 0       | 4                | 0     | Heavy rain          |   |   |                       |                        |                       |                |         |                  |              |                    |  |  |                |
|                                | Mountain cloudburst brought Smith River out of its banks flooding school and damaging roads and highways.  |           |                        |                       |                |         |                  |       |                     |   | Light snow that packed readily on highways and streets fell over most of Kansas. Sleet and freezing drizzle were reported from parts of the west. Traffic became hazardous in many localities resulting in a number of serious accidents.   |                       |                        |                       |                |         |                  |              |                    |  |  |                |
| Southern California Coast      | 16   |           |                        |                       | 0              | 2       | 5                | 0     | Wind and heavy seas | <b>KENTUCKY</b>   | None reported   |                       |                        |                       |                |         |                  |              |                    |  |  |                |
|                                | Strong winds and heavy seas beached a number of boats, sinking some and damaging some piers. A few power lines were downed.  |           |                        |                       |                |         |                  |       |                     | <b>LOUISIANA</b>  | 3   | 3:00 p.-3:45 p.       |                        |                       | 0              | 0       | 4                | 0            | Hail, wind         |  |  |                |
| <b>COLORADO</b>                | None reported  |           |                        |                       |                |         |                  |       |                     |   | South Baton Rouge, S of Desham Springs, and E through Port Vincent. Sporadic falls of hail, whipped by winds with estimated gusts to 40 m.p.h., damaged some roofs, chipped stone and gravel on composition roofs hammered off. Hail usually fell 5-10 minutes, averaged 2 in. deep in places, and to near 4 in. in Goodwin area. Varied from 1/4 in. - 1-1/4 in. balls, and some 3 in. - 4 in. disc shaped 1/2 in. thick.  |                       |                        |                       |                |         |                  |              |                    |  |  |                |
| <b>CONNECTICUT</b>             | 9  | Evening   |                        |                       | 0              | 0       | 0                | 0     | Thunderstorm        | <b>State</b>  | 11-14   | Several days          |                        |                       | ?              | ?       |                  | Unusual cold |                    |  |  |                |
|                                | Occurring in the midst of a snowstorm and unusual for December, thunderstorms accompanied by sleet and some reports of hail moved gradually northeastward across the northern half of Connecticut. Thunderstorms were reported in Hartford, Windsor Locks, Nathan Hale State Forest, Putnam and Brooklyn.  |           |                        |                       |                |         |                  |       |                     |   | Prolonged period sub-freezing temperatures brought state-wide property and some vegetative damage. Over 200,000 tons sugar cane estimated lost principally in Lower Tche, Bayou Lafourche and Mississippi River areas. USDA reports some lost acreage may be eligible for Sugar Act payment. In each Division, stations approached or broke temperature records for December, with minimums ranging from 7° F. at a number of stations to 29° F. at Burrwood on 18th. Some locations reported: fires due to thawing pipes; outdoor activities partially suspended; schools closed; automobile radiators and gas meters froze, etc.  |                       |                        |                       |                |         |                  |              |                    |  |  |                |
| Statewide                      | 30-31  | Both days |                        |                       | 0              | 2       | 5                | 0     | Wind and Cold       | <b>MAINE</b>  | 5-6   | Coastal               |                        |                       | 0              | 0       | 5                | 0            | Tidal, wind        |  |  |                |
|                                | Sustained strong northwesterly winds with strong gusts accompanied by plummeting temperatures caused one of the longest periods of bitter cold in Connecticut during this Century. Frozen pipes, power failures, communication interruptions, and roof and plate glass damage were common. Some minor frost bite injuries were reported. Many trees felled statewide where wind gusts reached 65 mph in places on December 30 but in vicinity of Norfolk over 1000 softwood trees representing about 350,000 board feet of lumber were uprooted by winds with estimated gust velocities between 75 and 90 mph. |           |                        |                       |                |         |                  |       |                     |   | Gale force winds and the pounding surf of 2 to 4 feet above normal tides caused widespread moderate to heavy damage. Beach erosion was noted at several sections. Lowlands were flooded, sections of roads were washed out, sea-walls were damaged, and some cottages were battered and undermined. Sand, seaweed and rocks were washed ashore and onto roads and lawns. Wind damage consisted mostly of downed signs and TV antennas and broken windows. In Bath, a chimney toppled by the wind wrecked a parked, unoccupied car. Heavy rains accompanying the storm winds did not contribute importantly to the total damage.   |                       |                        |                       |                |         |                  |              |                    |  |  |                |
| <b>DELAWARE</b>                | None reported  |           |                        |                       |                |         |                  |       |                     |   | 8-9   | Castine               |                        |                       | 0              | 0       | 3                | 0            | Wind               |  |  |                |
| <b>FLORIDA</b>                 |  |           |                        |                       |                |         |                  |       |                     |   |   |                       |                        |                       |                |         |                  |              |                    |  |  |                |
| Miami Dade Co.                 | 20   | 3:35 pm   |                        |                       | 0              | 0       |                  |       | Funnel Cloud        |   | 22  | Daylong               |                        |                       | 0              | 0       | 4                | 0            | Snow               |  |  |                |
| West Palm Beach Palm Beach Co. | 21   | Afternoon |                        |                       | 0              | 0       |                  |       | Funnel Cloud        |   | Storm yielded from 8 to nearly 20 inches generally except around 4 to 8 inches in the extreme northern section and along the southeast coast. Maximum yields were in Fenobogot County. Air flights were grounded and transportation was slowed. Numerous highway accidents occurred.  |                       |                        |                       |                |         |                  |              |                    |  |  |                |
| West Palm Beach Palm Beach Co. | 28   | Afternoon |                        |                       | 0              | 0       |                  |       | Funnel Cloud (2)    |   | 29-31   | Statewide             |                        |                       | 0              |         | 6                | 0            | Blizzard           |  |  |                |
| <b>GEORGIA</b>                 |  |           |                        |                       |                |         |                  |       |                     |   | A wild blizzard, striking with nearly unprecedented severity, left the state reeling under the impact. Many communities became isolated. Huge drifts, up to 20 ft. high in the Bangor area, choked roads and highways. Power and communications were widely disrupted. The combination of whole gale winds and subzero temperatures produced a bone-chilling cold that sifted through cracks and crevices of buildings freezing thousands of water pipes in all parts of the state and making it difficult to maintain adequate warmth indoors. Four persons died as a result of over-exertion or exposure. Central, northern and eastern counties bore the brunt of the storm especially in the snowfall fields. In those areas the storm was described as the worst blizzard of this century. A new all-time state record fall of 46.0 inches for a single storm was established at Ripogonus Dam in central Cataquitis County. Also, a new state record for 24 hours was set at Orono with 40.0 inches on the 29-30th. The old records for a single storm and 24 hours were 40.0 inches and 35.0 inches respectively. At Bangor, the daily morning newspaper was unable to publish on December 30th for the first time in 128 years of operation, since 1834, after successfully weathering such previous trials as the Bangor fire of 1911 and the great flood of 1936. Some building roofs collapsed under weight of snow. Flooding from burst frozen water pipes added to the damage. Main roads were not all opened until three days after the storm. Meanwhile, emergency evacuation or provisioning of marooned blizzard victims was accomplished by helicopter, snow- |                       |                        |                       |                |         |                  |              |                    |  |  |                |
| Statewide                      | 12-13  |           |                        |                       |                |         | 5                | 3     | Cold wave           |   | New December low temperature records were established throughout the State on the morning of the 13th. Most readings were zero or below in the north, 5 degrees and below in central, and under 10 degrees in the south. Temperatures this low have been experienced only three or four times during Georgia's weather history. Extensive damage to water pipes, automobile and tractor radiators and vegetation. Several deaths from fire and exposure indirectly attributed to severe cold.   |                       |                        |                       |                |         |                  |              |                    |  |  |                |
| Northeast                      | 25   |           |                        |                       |                |         | 5                |       | Ice storm           |   | Extremely heavy damage to utility lines, trees and shrubs in a ten county area centered around Gainesville and Hall County. Lesser damage in several other counties surrounding this area. Thousands of homes were without electric and telephone service for from one to thirty hours. Heaviest losses suffered by utility companies.  |                       |                        |                       |                |         |                  |              |                    |  |  |                |
| <b>HAWAII</b>                  | None reported  |           |                        |                       |                |         |                  |       |                     |   |   |                       |                        |                       |                |         |                  |              |                    |  |  |                |
| <b>IDAHO</b>                   | 8-13   |           |                        |                       | 4              | 14      |                  | 0     | Fog, rime ice       |   | Dense fog occurred somewhere in the State nearly every day, but during the two periods cited the condition was particularly widespread and persistent. Surface and air transportation suffered many delays; numerous traffic accidents resulted from reduced visibility and slippery surfaces as fog droplets froze on pavements; heavy rime deposits caused extensive damage to telephone and power lines in south-central and southeastern Idaho 9th to 13th. Four persons were killed in two accidents on fog-shrouded streets and highways the evening of the 21st at Orofino and Meridian.   |                       |                        |                       |                |         |                  |              |                    |  |  |                |
| <b>ILLINOIS</b>                | None reported  |           |                        |                       |                |         |                  |       |                     |   |   |                       |                        |                       |                |         |                  |              |                    |  |  |                |

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# STORM DATA AND UNUSUAL WEATHER PHENOMENA

DECEMBER 1962

| PLACE  | DATE  | TIME                         | LENGTH OF PATH (MILES) | WIDTH OF PATH (YARDS) | NO. OF PERSONS |         | ESTIMATED DAMAGE |       | CHARACTER OF STORM  |
|--|-------|------------------------------|------------------------|-----------------------|----------------|---------|------------------|-------|---|
|  |       |                              |                        |                       | KILLED         | INJURED | PROPERTY         | CROPS |   |
| MAINE (Cont'd)<br>Statewide (Cont'd)                                 |       |                              |                        |                       |                |         |                  |       | mobile, and snowshoe. Numerous poultry industry lost 40,000 or more birds due to inability to move feed and freezing. The storm caused the school holiday to be extended.   |
| MARYLAND<br>MASSACHUSETTS<br>Eastern and south-central sections      | 5-6   |                              | None reported          |                       | 0              | 0       | 5                | 0     | Tidal, wind, rain   |
| Central and western sections   | 9     |                              |                        |                       | 0              | 0       | 3                | 0     | A raging surf damaged coastal installations and flooded lowlands. At Plum Island the sea claimed 3 summer cottages and partially wrecked 5 other buildings. The single road connecting the island to the mainland was under a foot of water at one time. Small boats along Cape Cod were swamped at their moorings and larger vessels experienced difficulties in maneuvering against the wind and tide. Gale force winds downed trees in the Springfield area and littered other sections with branches, causing some outages in power and phone services. Other wind damage included downed signs and TV antennas. Heavy rains flooded streets and cellars in some communities; Chelsea was especially hard-hit. Numerous highway accidents were attributed to the effect of the storm. Provincetown was peppered briefly by a flurry of marble-sized hailstones.   |
| Statewide  | 22    |                              |                        |                       | 0              | 0       | 4                | 0     | Mixture of snow and sleet which accumulated up to 4 inches in the Berkshires and with some rain forced a slippery coating on streets and highways. Driving conditions became exceptionally hazardous as highway accidents claimed six lives. A brief thunderstorm occurred in the evening. Lightning knocked out the transmitter of TV Station WHTM atop Mt. Tom in Holyoke.  |
| Statewide  | 29-31 |                              |                        |                       | 1              | 6       | 0                | 0     | Storm yielded from 4 inches to around a foot of snow before changing to rain in most sections and to sleet or freezing rain in the higher elevations late in the morning or afternoon. Maximum yields were in the north-central and northwestern parts of the state. An unusual casualty of the storm were the Christmas lights and decorations which canopied Essex Street in Lawrence. Heavy accumulations of snow and ice broke the guy wires and twisted the ornaments before they fell, unusable, to the street. Driving conditions became extremely hazardous in all parts of the state. Highway accidents claimed 13 lives with many more injured.   |
| MICHIGAN<br>Lower Michigan   | 6-7   | 1:00 p.m. to 6th morning 7th |                        |                       |                |         | 4                |       | Wind, cold, snow  |
| Southwestern and west central Lower Michigan                         | 9th   | Day 11th afternoon           |                        |                       |                |         | 4                |       | Heavy snow and high winds.  |
|  |       |                              |                        |                       |                |         |                  |       | Heavy snowfall from 5 to 21 inches accompanied by high winds slowed and stalled traffic due to hazardous driving conditions with many accidents reported. Drifts from 7 to 8 feet were reported. Numerous secondary roads were blocked resulting in the closing of many schools throughout the area. A few roofs on buildings collapsed due to heavy weight of snow as well as numerous metal store awnings collapsed under the weight of accumulated snow with serious damage and in some instances breaking the plate glass windows of store fronts.  |
| MINNESOTA<br>Northwestern corner                                     | 22    | Morning and Afternoon        |                        |                       |                |         | 2                |       | Wind, snow  |
| MISSISSIPPI<br>Cotah-Hinds Counties<br>10 NW Crystal Springs         | 3     | 6:30 p.-6:35 p.              | 1 1/2                  | 200-300               | 0              | 0       | 3                | ?     | One to six inches of new snow moved about by winds gusting to 50 mph and accompanied by rapidly falling temperature engulfed northwestern Minnesota along Red River Valley. Worst storm area near Crookston, central Polk County, where mother and daughter lost their direction and froze to death trying to walk from their stalled car to their farm home a short distance away.   |
| Smith County   | 3     | 7:30 p.                      |                        |                       | 0              | 0       | ?                | 0     | Tornado, hail   |
| State  | 11-14 | Several days                 |                        |                       | 1              |         | ?                | ?     | On Highway 27 at Cotah-Hinds Counties line, loud roar accompanying very dark cloud approached from SE. Funnel 30-yardswide touched ground, mostly damaged area 1/2 mile by 200 yards, moved NW. Rain and hail followed, then heavy fog. Hail and heavy rain throughout area 15 NW Crystal Springs to Jackson. Most hail near Crystal Springs, covering about 1 mile by several miles, greatest depth 8-10 inches stones averaged 1/4 - 1/2 inch, some 3/4 inch. Tornado twisted off pine trees, diameters to near 14 inches, 10-30 feet above ground, none uprooted; pecan and oak limbs twisted off. Carport demolished, front porch and living room roof ripped off, furniture damaged by hail and rain. Hail, 6 inches deep on porch floor, marked some utility poles like blasts from shot gun, was still in evidence next day. On Highway 51, between Jackson and Crystal Springs, windshield reported broken by hail.   |
| MISSOURI<br>MONTANA<br>North-Central                                 | 21-22 | Afternoon - early AM         | 225                    | 150                   | 3              | 0       | 0                | 0     | Hail, pieces size of golf balls, reported at Raleigh, where wind damaged some roofs.  |
| NEBRASKA<br>NEVADA<br>NEW HAMPSHIRE<br>Southern and central sections | 5-6   |                              |                        |                       | 0              | 0       | 4                | 0     | Unusual cold  |
| Statewide  | 29-31 |                              |                        |                       |                |         | 6                | 0     | Prolonged period subfreezing temperatures brought state-wide property and crop damage. Growth winter grains and grazing crops retarded; some oat fields killed back to ground, wheat not damaged as severely. In each Division, most stations broke temperature records for December, with minimums ranging from -2° to 12° F. on 13th. Coroner's jury reported 1 death due exposure. Some locations reported: building and residence fires due to thawing pipes; commercial activities suspended; schools closed; automobile radiators and gas meters froze, etc.  |
| NEW JERSEY<br>Trenton  | 6     | 11:40 am                     |                        |                       | 0              | 0       | 2                | 0     | None reported   |
|  |       |                              |                        |                       |                |         |                  |       | None reported   |
|  |       |                              |                        |                       |                |         |                  |       | Strong winds, frequently gusting to gale force, caused widespread mostly minor damage. Signs and TV antennas were the major casualties. Downed trees and wires in a few instances caused loss of power and phone services.  |
|  |       |                              |                        |                       |                |         |                  |       | Blizzard  |
|  |       |                              |                        |                       |                |         |                  |       | This was described as one of the worst storms of this century in New Hampshire. A howling northwest wind with subzero temperatures, riding the tail of a storm that dumped 2 to 12 inches of snow over the state, piled drifts reportedly up to 15 feet in highways smothering air, rail and surface transportation, toppled trees, broke branches and wires, tipped shingles from roofs and sidings, froze water pipes, twisted and downed TV antennas and smashed windows. Felling of timber was especially heavy in the Conway area. The cold seeped through cracks and crevices of buildings making it difficult to maintain sufficient heat for comfort. Homes that were without heat because of power failures had to be vacated. No one reportedly froze to death but those who abandoned their cars in snow drifts had to seek shelter in private homes or public shelters. Many cases of frostbite occurred. Wind speeds exceeded 60 m.p.h. in many parts of the state while temperatures were below zero in all sections with lowest in the 15 to 20° below zero range. |
|  |       |                              |                        |                       |                |         |                  |       | Electrical lightning struck commercial radio transmitter, located in Bucks County, Pennsylvania, putting a Trenton radio station off the air for 25 minutes.  |

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|---|------------|------|------------------------|-----------------------|--|---------------------|----------|------------------------------------|---|--|-----------------|------------|------------------------|-----------------------|---------------------------------|---------|----------|------------|---|--|--|--|
|   |            |      |                        |                       | KILLED   | INJURED             | PROPERTY | CROPS                              |   |  |                 |            |                        |                       | KILLED                          | INJURED | PROPERTY | CROPS      |   |  |  |  |
| NEW JERSEY (Cont)<br>Statewide                                  | d<br>30-31 |      |                        |                       | 0  | 1                   | 5        | 0                                  | Wind and Cold Wave                            | OHIO<br>Northeastern Ohio                | 5-12            |            |                        |                       | 7                               | 7       | 6        | Heavy snow |   |  |  |  |
|   |            |      |                        |                       | Cold wave dropped temperatures from the 20's on morning of the 30th to between 7 above zero and 10° below zero on the morning of the 31st. Winds from 40 to 55 miles per hour were general throughout the state both days, with gusts up to 81 mph at Newark Airport on the 30th. Power lines were blown down, billboards were blown over, store windows were smashed, and automobile engines frozen. One man in Trenton was treated for frostbite of hands and feet.  |                     |          |                                    |   |  |                 |            |                        |                       |                                 |         |          |            | Heavy snow fell in a broad band in northeastern Ohio during the period Dec. 5-14. This area, sometimes called the Ohio "snow belt" extends roughly along the ridge of hills which parallels the lake shore from Oberlin and Cleveland eastward. This area customarily receives far more snow than other parts of the state, and each winter brings its heavy snow. However, this one was of unusual proportions. Excessive accumulations came during two separate periods, the first extending from the 5th through 7th, the other from the 10th to 14th. Both were accompanied by strong westerly winds which formed large drifts and added to difficulties of living and snow removal. Utility lines were brought down by the combined weight of snow and wind, thus isolating several communities. By the evening of December 7 there was a foot or more snow on the ground from Huron County northeastward to western Ashtabula County with 16" at Cleveland and 20-24" in Geauga County. The second storm consisted of heavy snow squalls and was confined mainly to the "snow belt". Up to 2 feet of new snow was added, bringing the total accumulation to near 3 feet along the crest of the ridge. A total of 56 inches fell during the 10-day period at Chardon, but due to settling the maximum depth measurement was 34" on the 12th. However, drifts of 4-10 feet were common throughout the area. |  |  |  |
| NEW MEXICO<br>NEW YORK<br>Statewide                             |            |      | None reported          |                       |  | 5                   |          | Heavy snow, high winds, heavy rain |   |  |                 |            |                        |                       |                                 |         |          |            |   |  |  |  |
|   |            |      |                        |                       | Unusually stormy conditions throughout much of the State reaching peak conditions the night of the 6th through much of the 7th. Rainy and mild weather preceded the sudden turn to much colder with gale winds. Heavy rain over coastal sections with heavy snows throughout the Catskills, Adirondacks and near the Great Lakes. Weather was unusually severe in the following areas of the State: Southwestern counties lee of Lake Erie - heavy lake effect snows with depths to 2 feet or more over limited areas followed by gale winds and heavy drifting snow and cold. Many highways temporarily blocked. South of Lake Ontario - heavy localized lake effect snows blocked highways. Adirondacks and Catskills - heavy snows and disruption of travel. New York City-Long Island area - gale winds, unusually high seas and high tides flooding many inland areas and causing heavy damage to some sea barriers on Long Island. High tides pushed northward to Albany with river levels unusually high to near record high due to tides and considerable low level flooding from Hudson to New York City. |                     |          |                                    |   |  |                 |            |                        |                       |                                 |         |          |            |   |  |  |  |
| East of Lakes Ontario and Erie                                  | 8-14       |      |                        |                       |  | 5                   |          | Heavy snow                         | OKLAHOMA<br>Most of State                     | 24-26                                    |                 |            |                        |                       | 0                               | 0       | ?        | 0          | Snow and cold   |  |  |  |
|   |            |      |                        |                       | Heavy lake effect snows mainly east of Lakes Ontario and Erie and especially in the Buffalo-Tonawanda (Niagara Frontier) area, the far southwestern counties and Oswego, Jefferson and Lewis counties. Snow belts were shifting and intermittent throughout the period with depths of 2 to 4 feet during the period and heavy drifting due to high winds. Unusual cold also made the weather quite severe with near blizzard conditions at times. Many highways blocked and at times east of Lake Ontario all northward traffic at a standstill. Schools closed and many motorists marooned in western New York.   |                     |          |                                    |   |  |                 |            |                        |                       |                                 |         |          |            |   | A push of cold air across the State was followed during the early morning of the 24th by snow and provided up to one inch of snow cover by early evening except for traces in the southeast quarter. Partial melting and continued snow through late afternoon of the 25th limited only the northern third of the State to a White Christmas. Snow cover measured three to five inches over the north-central division with heaviest at Ponca City. Coldest morning was on the 26th with first subzero readings of the season recorded in the northwest quarter and Panhandle. Ponca City was lowest with minus 4 degrees. Numerous "feeder-bender" accidents occurred during the period from icy road conditions. |  |  |
| Syracuse northward through Oswego, Jefferson and Lewis counties | 21-23      |      |                        |                       |  | 4                   |          | Heavy snow                         | OREGON<br>Middle and Upper Rogue River Valley | 2  | Most of the day |            |                        | 0                     | 0                               | 5       | 3        | Rain       |   |  |  |  |
|   |            |      |                        |                       | Heavy lake effect snows reached peak severity on the 23rd east of Lake Ontario into the Adirondacks. Northward holiday traffic blocked for more than 7 hours. More than 500 persons were stranded due to blocked highways. High winds caused severe drifting.  |                     |          |                                    |   |  |                 |            |                        |                       |                                 |         |          |            | Heaviest rains to be experienced in this area since 1955 caused severe flooding along the main stem of the Rogue River in the Medford area and in several of its major tributaries. Eighty-four families had to be evacuated, a number of basements were flooded, some branch line railroad track was washed out, and severe erosion was suffered by considerable acreage of very valuable farm land.   |  |  |  |
| Statewide   | 30-31      |      |                        |                       |  | 5                   |          | High winds, low temperatures       | PENNSYLVANIA<br>Central & Western Portion     | 6  | All Day         |            |                        |                       |                                 | 5       |          | Snow, Wind |   |  |  |  |
|   |            |      |                        |                       | High winds and bitter cold over most of the State and unusually severe over southeastern counties and the Long Island area. Winds were reported up to 90 mph in Westchester County, 65 mph over Long Island and in excess of 50 mph in the Hudson Valley region and scattered areas of the State. During high winds temperatures were near zero or lower in many sections. Considerable blow down occurred with some severe damages in the Hudson Valley region where some high transmission towers were blown down.   |                     |          |                                    |   |  |                 |            |                        |                       |                                 |         |          |            | Storm yielded up to 15 inches of snow in portions of area. Strong winds accompanying storm resulted in extensive drifting, which closed many roads for a time, including 160 miles of the Pennsylvania Turnpike.  |  |  |  |
| NORTH CAROLINA<br>Coast   | 1-5        |      |                        |                       |  | See November Report |          | Wind, high seas and tides          | Northwestern Pa.                              | 10                                       | All Day         |            |                        |                       |                                 | 4       |          | Snow       |   |  |  |  |
|   |            |      |                        |                       | Severe and persistent offshore low pressure storm which began November 26 has been described in November Storm Data.   |                     |          |                                    |   |  |                 |            |                        |                       |                                 |         |          |            | The 1 to 2-foot snowfall closed a number of roads. Traffic was disrupted and schools closed for several days.   |  |  |  |
| State   | 12-13      |      |                        |                       | 4  | Unk                 | 5        | 0                                  | Cold  | State-wide                               | 29-31           | Throughout |                        |                       |                                 | 6       |          | Snow, Wind |   |  |  |  |
|   |            |      |                        |                       | Coldest weather of record for so early in the season caused widespread damage to water systems, transmission lines, and automobile radiators, and many failures of heating systems. Fire resulting from the latter cause killed at least three people, while one person was frozen. Temperatures dropped as low as twenty below zero in the higher mountains and to within a few degrees of zero over much of the State.   |                     |          |                                    |   |  |                 |            |                        |                       |                                 |         |          |            | Strong winds followed the snowstorm of the 29th with up to 60 mph gusts to whip snow into high drifts, which closed many rural, secondary, and even some primary roads throughout the State, despite around-the-clock, road-clearing efforts. A number of schools were closed and some business establishments curtailed operations for several days. High winds howled a number of utility lines, outdoor signs, Christmas decorations and trees. Several plate glass windows were blown in and minor but extensive roof damage was reported. Cost of snow removal has been placed at \$1,500,000.   |  |  |  |
| Northwestern half of State                                      | 21         |      |                        |                       | 5  | Unk                 | 4        | 0                                  | Snow, Sleet, Glaze                            | PUERTO RICO<br>RHODE ISLAND<br>Statewide | 30-31           | Both days  |                        |                       | 0                               | 4       | 5        | 0          | Wind and Cold   |  |  |  |
|   |            |      |                        |                       | Snow, sleet and freezing rain affected a large part of the State, causing damage to power and telephone lines and setting off numerous traffic accidents. Five persons died in four of these accidents attributed to icy highways.   |                     |          |                                    |   |  |                 |            |                        |                       |                                 |         |          |            | No report received by printing deadline.  |  |  |  |
| Northwestern half of State                                      | 25         |      |                        |                       | 1  | Unk                 | 4        | 0                                  | Snow, Sleet, Glaze                            |  |                 |            |                        |                       |                                 |         |          |            | Sustained strong northwesterly winds with peak gusts reaching 75 mph at Point Judith, 80 mph at Westerly and 95 mph at Block Island late on the 30th and accompanied by near to 15 degrees below zero temperatures beginning during the afternoon of the 30th and continuing on the 31st caused one of the lengthiest periods of bitter cold in Rhode Island during this Century. Power and communication failures, frozen pipes, fires fanned out of control by extreme winds, and roof and plate glass damage were common. Some boats were damaged in Bristol and a 25 foot boat was sunk in Newport. Several cases of minor frost bite injuries were reported.   |  |  |  |
| NORTH DAKOTA  |            |      | None reported          |                       |  |                     |          |                                    |   |  |                 |            |                        |                       |                                 |         |          |            |   |  |  |  |

See reference notes at end of table.

# STORM DATA AND UNUSUAL WEATHER PHENOMENA

DECEMBER 1962

| PLACE   | DATE  | TIME                   | LENGTH OF PATH (MILES)   | WIDTH OF PATH (YARDS) | NO. OF PERSONS |         | ESTIMATED DAMAGE |       | CHARACTER OF STORM                       |
|---|-------|------------------------|--|-----------------------|----------------|---------|------------------|-------|--|
|   |       |                        |  |                       | KILLED         | INJURED | PROPERTY         | CROPS |  |
| SOUTH CAROLINA  |       |                        | None reported  |                       |                |         |                  |       |  |
| SOUTH DAKOTA  |       |                        | None reported  |                       |                |         |                  |       |  |
| Statewide   | 11-13 |                        |  |                       | 2              | ?       | *6               | 0     | Cold spell                               |
|   |       |                        | A cold Arctic air mass moved across the State bringing record low temperatures for December to many areas. Maximum temperatures on the 12th were generally lowest of record for December. Minima on the 13th were lowest for the month since 1917 ranging from slightly above 0 in a few locations to -24 degrees at Mountain City, Johnson County. Chattanooga and Knoxville reported one death each from freezing. Snow and ice slowed traffic and many schools were closed. Telephones and power service were disrupted in many areas. Chief freeze damage was to water lines and pipes, roads, and shrubbery.  |                       |                |         |                  |       |  |
| TEXAS   |       |                        |  |                       |                |         |                  |       |  |
| Rio Grande County                                       | 1     | afternoon              | ?  | ?                     | 0              | 0       | 0                | ?     | Rain, hail                               |
|   |       |                        | Heavy rains and golf ball-sized hail resulted in extensive damage to cotton in the Trans-Pecos farming area. The Alamo district, about 20 miles south of Pecos was hardest hit. Hail falling in this area caused damage on the farms of Eddie Carpenter, Dale Toome, Bill Ramsey, Leonard Davis, J. G. Pfluger, and some on the Garlin and Tommy Pasmore farms. One farmer estimated damage on his farm at between \$7,000 and \$10,000. Other damage was not reported.  |                       |                |         |                  |       |  |
| Seguin  | 2     | 7:15 a-                | **   | narrow                | 0              | 0       | 3                | 0     | Tornado                                  |
| Guadalupe County  |       | 7:18 a                 | 1000   |                       |                |         |                  |       |  |
|   |       |                        | A small tornado caused \$3,000 to \$4,000 damage at Guadalupe County Airport, and destroyed a small barn on an adjoining farm. At the airport, six doors were twisted off a hanger, and a 1961 Cessna 210 was damaged. Also, a strip of sheet iron was blown off the Seguin Cattle Company auction barn a short distance down the highway. A witness reported the tornado "sounded like a freight train." The tornado moved from northwest toward the southeast.   |                       |                |         |                  |       |  |
| UTAH  |       |                        |  |                       |                |         |                  |       |  |
| VERMONT   |       |                        |  |                       |                |         |                  |       |  |
| Rutland and vicinity                                    | 6     |                        |  |                       | 0              | 0       | 4                | 0     | Wind                                     |
|   |       |                        | Gale force winds with gusts reaching to around 55 m.p.h. caused considerable damage in this area. The northeast corner of the city took the brunt of the blasts. At least three roofs were damaged and shingles and television antennas were blown from a number of homes. Some loss of power was reported in several outlying communities.  |                       |                |         |                  |       |  |
| South Starksboro  | 9     | 7:45 P.M.              |  |                       | 0              | 0       | 4                | 0     | Wind                                     |
|   |       |                        | Eighteen Holstein cows were electrocuted in a freak accident resulting indirectly from wind effect. A plank of wood, blown from a barn roof, knocked a 110-volt wire across two cleaning gutters leading into a cattle barn. As each of the doomed cows came in contact with a gutter, it got the full impact of the current running through the wire.   |                       |                |         |                  |       |  |
| Statewide   | 22    |                        |  |                       | 0              | 0       | 4                | 0     | Snow                                     |
|   |       |                        | Storm yielded 8 to 14 inches of snow. Traffic was slowed on hazardous roads and numerous accidents were reported.  |                       |                |         |                  |       |  |
| Statewide   | 29-31 |                        |  |                       | 0              |         | 6                | 0     | Blizzard                                 |
|   |       |                        | Storm was described as one of the worst blizzards in the state's history. Clouds of the gale-whipped 2 to 10 inch snowfall swirled across the state for more than 36 hours clogging highway systems with huge drifts, smothering air, rail and surface transportation and causing one death. The fatality occurred in Walpolefield when a snow loader rolled over on top of the operator. Though no one froze to death, the combination of wind and day-long subzero temperatures was hardly bearable and caused many cases of frostbite. All sections of the state reported trees and wires downed with loss of power and phone services, windows smashed, TV antennas broken and shingles rapped from roofs and sidings. The piercing cold sifted through cracks and crevices of buildings and froze water pipes. Stores and offices in many communities remained closed. Schools remained closed all week due to hazardous travel conditions. Residents in remote areas were marooned for many hours, and travelers were stranded overnight. Ski operations were closed or curtailed. |                       |                |         |                  |       |  |
| U.S. VIRGIN IS.   |       |                        |  |                       |                |         |                  |       | No report received by printing deadline. |
| VIRGINIA  |       |                        |  |                       |                |         |                  |       | No report received by printing deadline. |
| WASHINGTON  |       |                        |  |                       |                |         |                  |       | None reported                            |
| WEST VIRGINIA   |       |                        |  |                       |                |         |                  |       | None reported                            |
| Northwestern and North Central Climatological Divisions | 5-6   | Evening 5<br>Morning 6 |  |                       | ?              |         | *5               | 0     | Accretion from freezing snow             |
|   |       |                        | Freezing snow accumulation caused heavy damage to tree limbs and overhead wires resulting in power and telephone failures for several days.  |                       |                |         |                  |       |  |
| WISCONSIN   |       |                        |  |                       |                |         |                  |       | None reported                            |
| WYOMING   |       |                        |  |                       |                |         |                  |       | None reported                            |

| PLACE                                | DATE         | TIME                         | LENGTH OF PATH (MILES)   | WIDTH OF PATH (YARDS) | NO. OF PERSONS |         | ESTIMATED DAMAGE |       | CHARACTER OF STORM |
|--------------------------------------|--------------|------------------------------|--|-----------------------|----------------|---------|------------------|-------|--------------------|
|                                      |              |                              |  |                       | KILLED         | INJURED | PROPERTY         | CROPS |                    |
| ALASKA<br>NORTHERN PANHANDLE SECTION | 8-9          | BEGAN THE MORNING OF THE 8TH | 130  |                       | 0              | 0       | UNK              | 0     | SNOW STORM         |
|                                      |              |                              | A large cold air mass in the upper Yukon basin and a severe and extensive storm system drifted north from deep in the Pacific toward Bristol Bay caused one of the most severe snow storms on record in the northern sections of the Alaska Panhandle. Communities known to have been seriously affected were Haines, Skagway, the Juneau-Douglas area and Gustavus. A cold air mass moved out of Siberia into the Bering Sea the morning of December 6th, as it moved steadily eastward over the Alaskan mainland it grew progressively colder, the mass grew larger and central pressures climbed steadily. By the time the center reached the Canadian Northwest, pressures exceeded 1054 mb. Meanwhile a series of waves on the Polar Front deep in the Pacific built up a deep east-west trough 40 miles south of the Aleutian Chain and consolidated into a complex storm center south of the Alaskan Peninsula the morning of December 8. The combination of these systems caused a very deep pressure gradient throughout the Alaskan Panhandle. Cold air pouring out of Canada through Valleys, Channels and Bays caused winds up to 60 knots locally and formed a quasi-stationary arctic front running diagonally from Petersburg area to just north of Sitka. At this time, a partially occluded front moved up from the south, its warm air sector taking several hours to pass over the cold air. It was this mass of warm, moist air being lifted by the mountains and the cold air dome that brought the severe snow storm to the inner channels of the Alaska Panhandle. The snow intensity increased from light, intermittent snowfall to steady moderate to heavy by late the morning of the 8th. The fall continued to intensify until midnight, diminishing rapidly by early morning of the 9th. By mid day of the 10th there was a total snow depth of 40 inches at Juneau, few records were set for December and records since 1917 had been seriously challenged. The snow began accumulating in the Juneau area with a storm on December 5th, which lifted 4 inches on the ground. Intermittent snowfall subsequently increased the cover on the ground to 10 inches by morning of the 8th. The moderate to heavy snowfall continued to give the following 6-hourly record. |                       |                |         |                  |       |                    |
|                                      |              |                              |  |                       |                |         |                  |       |                    |
|                                      | December 8th | Time (PST)                   |  |                       |                |         | Fall             | Depth |                    |
|                                      |              | 10 AM - 4 PM                 |  |                       |                |         | 5.2              | 15    |                    |
|                                      |              | 4 PM - 10 PM                 |  |                       |                |         | 6.6              | 22    |                    |
|                                      |              | 10 PM - 12 AM                |  |                       |                |         | 7.0              | 29    |                    |
|                                      | December 9th | 12 AM - 4 AM                 |  |                       |                |         | 5.0              | 34    |                    |
|                                      |              | 4 AM - 10 AM                 |  |                       |                |         | 1.8              | 36    |                    |
|                                      |              |                              | Intermittent light snow during the following 24 hours added an additional 4 inches to bring the total depth on the ground to 40 inches. This was a record for December both in depth of 40 inches and 24 hour fall of 25.6 occurring between 10 A.M. on the 8th to 10 A.M. on the 9th, since records began at Juneau municipal airport in July 1943. In view of the greater population and increased complexity of economic activity in the area, the snow storm of December 8-9th could probably be considered the worst on record. Activities throughout the area were seriously curtailed or halted altogether. The initial problem was further complicated by rising temperatures and snow turning to rain late on the 9th. The rain filled the snow layer with water and made removal very difficult. Although there is no direct comparison between the City and Airport there are no indications to dispute this storm as approaching the worse intensity on record.  |                       |                |         |                  |       |                    |

- ° Includes crop damage.
- C Crop damage.
- M Miles instead of yards.
- \*\* Yards instead of miles.
- + Storm damages are placed in categories varying from 1 to 9 as follows:
  - 1 Less than \$50
  - 2 \$50 to \$500
  - 3 \$500 to \$5,000
  - 4 \$5,000 to \$50,000
  - 5 \$50,000 to \$500,000
  - 6 \$500,000 to \$5,000,000
  - 7 \$5,000,000 to \$50,000,000
  - 8 \$50,000,000 to \$500,000,000
  - 9 \$500,000,000 to \$5,000,000,000.

Note: This publication contains our best information on storms but, due to the difficulties inherent in collection of this type of data, it is not all-inclusive. Delayed data and corrections will be carried in the June and December issues of this publication.

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# STORM DATA AND UNUSUAL WEATHER PHENOMENA

DELAYED DATA

| PLACE   | DATE    | TIME                | LENGTH OF PATH (MILES)   | WIDTH OF PATH (YARDS) | NO. OF PERSONS |         | ESTIMATED DAMAGE |       | CHARACTER OF STORM                        |
|---|---------|---------------------|--|-----------------------|----------------|---------|------------------|-------|---|
|   |         |                     |  |                       | KILLED         | INJURED | PROPERTY         | CROPS |   |
| COLORADO  |         |                     |  |                       |                |         |                  |       |   |
| Yuma County                                       | June 20 | 8:00PM              | 2-5  |                       | 0              | 0       | *3               | C     | Tornado                                   |
|   |         |                     | A small tornado damaged trees and farm structures about 8 miles north of Yuma.   |                       |                |         |                  |       |   |
| Bent County                                       | June 30 | Afternoon           |  |                       | 0              | 0       | 3                | 0     | Lightning                                 |
|   |         |                     | A group of 6 cattle were killed by lightning on a ranch near Las Animas.   |                       |                |         |                  |       |   |
| LOUISIANA   |         |                     |  |                       |                |         |                  |       |   |
| Vermilion Bay<br>30 S Lafayette                   | June 18 | 7:45 a.             |  |                       |                |         |                  |       | Waterspouts                               |
| MONTANA   |         |                     |  |                       |                |         |                  |       |   |
| Jackson, Beaverhead County                        | June 14 | 2:45 pm             | ?  | ?                     | 0              | 0       | 0                | 0     | Tornado                                   |
|   |         |                     | The funnel cloud moved from the northwest to the southeast over the Halpin Ranch in the south portion of the Big Hole Valley. The funnel was in sight for about 30 minutes. A fence and some grass were damaged where the funnel touched the ground.   |                       |                |         |                  |       |   |
| Fairview (4 miles NE)<br>Richland County          | June 22 | 5:30 pm             | ?  | ?                     | 0              | 0       | 3                | 0     | Tornado                                   |
|   |         |                     | The tornado destroyed 3 granaries in a farmyard, but did not damage other nearby farm buildings. A cottonwood tree 3/4 mile away from the buildings was twisted off 15 feet above the ground.  |                       |                |         |                  |       |   |
| Wolf Point<br>Roosevelt County                    | June 30 | Afternoon           | 50   | ?                     | 0              | 0       | 2                | 4     | Heavy rain and hail                       |
|   |         |                     | The storm covered an area from Wolf Point (Roosevelt County) to Vida (McCone County) and Richey (Dawson County). There was considerable flooding from heavy rains and some hail damage. A farmer near Vida reported heaviest runoff in the area in 46 years. Hailstones were up to 3/4 inch in diameter.   |                       |                |         |                  |       |   |
| NEBRASKA  |         |                     |  |                       |                |         |                  |       |   |
| Southwestern to north-eastern Nebraska            | June 4  | 8:00-p.<br>1:00 a.  | 250  | narrow                | 0              | 0       | 4                | 0     | Damaging winds                            |
|   |         |                     | Damaging wind storms were reported in Perkins and Keith Counties about 8:00 p. A series of wind storms were then reported in a northeasterly direction, reaching Holt, Stanton and Dodge Counties about midnight to 1:00 a. Only a little hail fell along the route and lightning damage was minor. Rate of movement northeastward was about 60-70 miles per hour. Trees, roofs, barns and power lines were damaged in isolated areas along the path.  |                       |                |         |                  |       |   |
| Southeast of Polk                                 | June 6  | 6:15 p.             | short  | narrow                | 0              | 0       | 2                | 0     | Tornado                                   |
|   |         |                     | Touched ground briefly in open area. Tore up trees and power lines.  |                       |                |         |                  |       |   |
| Near Staplehurst                                  | June 6  | 8:10 p.             | short  | narrow                | 0              | 0       | 0                | 0     | Tornado                                   |
|   |         |                     | Touched down briefly in open area.   |                       |                |         |                  |       |   |
| 16 miles southeast of Harrison                    | June 6  | Afternoon           | spot   | spot                  | 1              | 0       | 0                | 0     | Lightning                                 |
|   |         |                     | Man killed while working in pasture.   |                       |                |         |                  |       |   |
| Southern Panhandle                                | June 6  | Afternoon           | 60   | * 4                   | 0              | 0       | 0                | 6     | Hail                                      |
|   |         |                     | A strip from west-central Kimball County to southeastern Morrill County. Stones varied in size up to 1-3/4" in diameter. Wheat complete loss in some areas.  |                       |                |         |                  |       |   |
| South-central Nebraska                            | June 7  | 11:59 a.<br>6:50 p. |  |                       | 0              | 0       | 0                | 0     | Funnel clouds                             |
|   |         |                     | Funnel clouds repeatedly formed and dissipated during the afternoon and evening. Frequently several were visible at the same time but apparently none reached the ground. Funnels were reported in Adams, Hall, Buffalo and Phelps Counties. They were reported in the eastern portion of the area first and gradually formed farther and farther to the west.   |                       |                |         |                  |       |   |
| Southeast of Glenvil                              | June 8  | 6:30 p.-<br>7:30 p. | 8  | * 4                   | 0              | 0       | 0                | 4     | Hail                                      |
|   |         |                     | 1/2" stones partially covered the ground. Storm moved from northwest to southeast.   |                       |                |         |                  |       |   |
| Southeastern Knox County                          | June 9  | 6:00 p.<br>6:15 p.  | 25   | * 1                   | 0              | 0       | 4                | 4     | Hail                                      |
|   |         |                     | Storm moved from southwest to northeast. Stones ranged from 3/4" to 1-1/2" diameter.   |                       |                |         |                  |       |   |
| Near Sidney                                       | June 14 | 9:15 p.             |  |                       | 0              | 0       | 0                | 0     | Funnel clouds                             |
|   |         |                     | Several funnel clouds sighted, did not touch ground.   |                       |                |         |                  |       |   |
| South of Gordon                                   | June 15 | 5:00 p.             | short  | narrow                | 0              | 0       | 0                | 0     | Tornado                                   |
|   |         |                     | Touched ground briefly, moved northward.   |                       |                |         |                  |       |   |
| South of Alliance to north of Antioch             | June 15 | 4:50 p.             | 20   | narrow                | 0              | 0       | 4                | 0     | Tornado                                   |
|   |         |                     | Moved northeasterly from 15 miles south of Alliance to north of Antioch. Touched ground in open areas uprooting trees and downing power lines.   |                       |                |         |                  |       |   |
| NEBRASKA (Cont'd)                                 |         |                     |  |                       |                |         |                  |       |   |
| Alliance  | June 15 | 5:00 p.             | short  | narrow                | 0              | 0       | 3                | 3     | Hail                                      |
|   |         |                     | Hail up to 2" diameter fell for short time in vicinity of airport.   |                       |                |         |                  |       |   |
| Near Whitman                                      | June 15 | Evening             |  |                       | 0              | 0       | 0                | 0     | Funnel clouds                             |
|   |         |                     | Eight separate funnel clouds sighted near Whitman; none touched the ground.  |                       |                |         |                  |       |   |
| Wensel  | June 15 | 6:00 p.             | ?  | ?                     | 0              | 6       | 5                | 0     | Tornado                                   |
|   |         |                     | Every building in town damaged or destroyed. More than nine ranch sites severely damaged. Injuries were from flying debris. Some livestock killed.   |                       |                |         |                  |       |   |
| 23 miles north of Whitman                         | June 15 | 6:25 p.             | ?  | ?                     | 0              | 0       | 0                | 0     | Tornado                                   |
|   |         |                     | Large tornado observed moving over open area; no damage.   |                       |                |         |                  |       |   |
| Southwestern to north-eastern Nebraska            | June 16 | noon to midnight    | 300  | *20-50                | 0              | 7       | 6                | 6     | Tornado, damaging winds, hail, heavy rain |
|   |         |                     | An area, 20 miles wide in the south to 50 miles wide in the north, extending from the southwestern corner of the State to the north-eastern corner, was subjected to repeated severe thunderstorms, hail, excessive rain and damaging winds during the afternoon and evening. Numerous strips of hail ranging from 1 to 5 miles wide and 3 to 30 miles long. Stones ranged from 1/2" to 3" in diameter. In many places the ground was covered 2 to 3 inches deep. High winds increased the damage. Windows and roofs were severely damaged, automobiles were battered. Crop loss ranged up to 100%. Heavy rains caused field erosion, bridge washout, and local flooding. Farm buildings, power lines and trees were demolished throughout the area but only a few houses were lost. There were rumors of "twisters" and tornadoes in many localities but investigation indicated most of the damage resulted from gusting winds. Several funnels were sighted that did not touch the ground. One particularly severe cell developed in western Red Willow County about 2:00 p.m. and moved northeastward 30 to 35 miles per hour. A tornado touched ground beneath this cloud at a number of places, including the vicinities of Perry, Stockville, Farnam, Cozad and Ansley. Greatest damage to crops was from hail and excessive rain, while most of the property damage was from the tornado and strong gusting winds. |                       |                |         |                  |       |   |
| Southern Panhandle                                | June 16 | 3 p.-<br>4:30 p.    | 50   | *30                   | 0              | 0       | 5                | 5     | Hail, damaging winds                      |
|   |         |                     | Several strips of hail 1 to 3 miles wide and 7 to 20 miles in length in Kimball, Banner and Cheyenne Counties. Stones ranged from 1-1/2" to 2-1/2" in diameter. Ground covered to a depth of five inches at some places. Roofs, windows and automobiles suffered severe damage from the hail; some farm buildings were destroyed by the strong winds.  |                       |                |         |                  |       |   |
| Ralston-South Omaha                               | June 17 | 6:15 p.-<br>6:30 p. | 6  | narrow                | 0              | 0       | 5                | 0     | Hail                                      |
|   |         |                     | Stones ranging from 1-1/2" to over 3" diameter fell during a 15 minute period over urban area with extensive damage to buildings and automobiles.  |                       |                |         |                  |       |   |
| Southern Panhandle                                | June 20 | 4:00 p.-<br>6:00 p. | 50   | * 2                   | 0              | 0       | 0                | 5     | Hail                                      |
|   |         |                     | Stones 1" in diameter covered ground to a depth of 3 inches in some areas. Main strip ran from Pine Bluffs to Sidney. Local areas outside of the strip as far north as Scottsbluff County and as far east as Garden County.  |                       |                |         |                  |       |   |
| South of Kimball to north of Lisco                | June 20 | Formed<br>5:15 p.   | 50   | narrow                | 0              | 0       | 0                | 0     | Tornado                                   |
|   |         |                     | Formed 1 mile south of Kimball and moved northeastward, occasionally touching the ground in open areas.  |                       |                |         |                  |       |   |
| North-Central Nebraska to southeast Nebraska      | June 22 | 1:00 p.-<br>7:00 p. | 250  | * 50                  | 0              | 0       | 5                | 6     | Hail                                      |
|   |         |                     | A series of hail storms broke out on either side of a line from Blaine to Jefferson Counties during the afternoon and evening. No time sequence was evidenced. However, the individual storms moved slowly southeastward. Individual strips ranged from one to seven miles in width and up to 20 or more miles in length. Hail fell continuously for over 30 minutes at some points. Many specific points experienced two separate hail storms; several had three hail storms several hours apart. Stones ranged from 1/2" to over 3" in diameter and covered the ground to a depth of 2 to 3 inches many places. Crop loss was 100% in the storm centers, buildings and automobiles were severely damaged. Strong winds and severe lightning were the exceptions rather than the rule with only widely scattered areas of damage from these elements.   |                       |                |         |                  |       |   |
| Central Nebraska                                  | June 22 | Evening             |  |                       | 0              | 0       | 0                | 0     | Funnel clouds                             |
|   |         |                     | Funnel clouds were sighted northeast of Broken Bow about 5:15 p. and southwest of Grand Island at 6:15 p. Did not touch ground.  |                       |                |         |                  |       |   |
| Southeastern Furnas south-western Harlan Counties | June 23 | About<br>7:00 p.    | 10   | * 5                   | 0              | 0       | 0                | 4     | Hail                                      |
|   |         |                     | Several small areas. Crop damage from 20 to 90%.   |                       |                |         |                  |       |   |

# STORM DATA AND UNUSUAL WEATHER PHENOMENA

DELAYED DATA

| PLACE   | DATE      | TIME                | LENGTH OF PATH (MILES)  | WIDTH OF PATH (YARDS) | NO. OF PERSONS |         | ESTIMATED DAMAGE |       | CHARACTER OF STORM                                   |
|---|-----------|---------------------|---|-----------------------|----------------|---------|------------------|-------|--|
|   |           |                     |   |                       | KILLED         | INJURED | PROPERTY         | CROPS |  |
| NEBRASKA (Cont'd)   | June 1962 | (Cont'd)            |   |                       |                |         |                  |       |  |
| Phelps County   | 23        | About 7:00 p.       |   |                       | 0              | 0       | 0                | 0     | Funnel clouds  |
|   |           |                     | Funnel clouds were observed south of Loomis and east of Bertrand. Neither touched ground.   |                       |                |         |                  |       |  |
| South of Hensel   | 30        | Mid p.              | ?   | ?                     | 0              | 0       | 0                | 0     | Tornado  |
|   |           |                     | Sighted south of Hensel moving rapidly northeastward over open area.  |                       |                |         |                  |       |  |
| North-central Nebraska                                    | 30        | Night               |   |                       | 0              | 0       | ?                | ?     | Heavy rain-hail                                      |
|   |           |                     | Excessive rains with unofficial reports of over 10 inches caused washouts of bridges, bridge approaches, etc. Hail was mainly over pasture land.  |                       |                |         |                  |       |  |
| ALASKA  | Aug. 1962 |                     |   |                       |                |         |                  |       |  |
| Kotzebue Area   | 29-30     |                     |   |                       | 0              | 0       | 5                | 0     | Strong windstorm accompanied by violent wave action. |
|   |           |                     | On August 29 a well developed storm center moved from the Arctic Ocean area north of Siberia to the Kotzebue Sound area. Increasing south to southwest winds began to affect the Sound area shortly after midnight of that date. As the storm center shifted slightly to the north these winds became west to northwest, occasionally backing to west-southwest during the afternoon. Gusts before midnight reached in excess of 50 mph and during the following day strong west to northwest winds continued with gusts occasionally reaching slightly in excess of 55 mph. The strongest winds occurred around noon of that date under conditions of rapidly rising pressure, as the storm center penetrated the mainland.  |                       |                |         |                  |       |  |
|   |           |                     | The direction of the strong winds was major contributing factor in the heavy property damages resulting from this storm. These occurred during a period of extremely high tide conditions and the violent wave action which resulted was, perhaps, the greatest single contributing factor to the extensive damage which resulted. All structures along the shoreline were badly damaged and the heavy wave erosion extended across roadway facilities and reached residential areas which normally remain well outside of the areas affected by rough sea conditions. Considerable quantities of fill are being hauled in to replace eroded roadway and other facilities. Considerable quantities of food and supplies were lost by the native population residing or storing supplies in the coastal areas. Also, many boats were severely damaged, including several motors which were flooded by the sea water. |                       |                |         |                  |       |  |
|   |           |                     | Preliminary estimates of damages are around the \$100,000 mark. No loss of life or injuries were reported.  |                       |                |         |                  |       |  |
| MINNESOTA   | Aug. 1962 |                     |   |                       |                |         |                  |       |  |
| Wayzata, Hennepin County                                  | 30        | 2:00 p.             |   |                       | 0              | 1       |                  |       | Electrical   |
|   |           |                     | An odd traveling lightning bolt struck a tree near a small building seriously injuring a man sitting at a desk inside the building.   |                       |                |         |                  |       |  |
| PENNSYLVANIA  | Aug. 1962 |                     |   |                       |                |         |                  |       |  |
| Hazleton and Phoenixville Areas                           | 27        | Night               |   |                       |                |         | 5                |       | Thunderstorm   |
|   |           |                     | Lightning fired and destroyed a barn in each of the respective areas. Combined loss totaled over \$100,000.   |                       |                |         |                  |       |  |
| ARKANSAS  | Sep. 1962 |                     |   |                       |                |         |                  |       |  |
| Near Oil Trough, Independence County                      | 8         | 2:00 p.             | 1 1/2   | 40                    | 0              | 0       | 0                | 3     | Tornado  |
|   |           |                     | Small tornado touched down in peach orchard heavily damaging several trees.   |                       |                |         |                  |       |  |
| ALASKA  | Oct. 1962 |                     |   |                       |                |         |                  |       |  |
| Western Gulf of Alaska area                               | 12        | Through-out the day | 500+  | * 100                 | 0              | 0       | 5                | 0     | Windstorm  |
|   |           |                     | A low pressure system which crossed the Gulf of Alaska was followed by strong north to northwesterly winds. There appears to have been a rather pronounced wind shift line extending from the low center to the north-northwest. Ship reports from the general area indicated northwesterly winds around 60 mph with definite indications of a sharp wind shift line. The abrupt change of wind direction along this line was a major contributing factor in the reported storm damage.   |                       |                |         |                  |       |  |
|   |           |                     | Although the strong wind conditions evidently extended from the Kodiak Island area to the south-southeast beyond the 75° latitude reports of marine damage received were confined to a barge loss experienced in the Shelikof Strait between Kodiak and the Alaskan Peninsula. The barge was being towed from Cold Bay to Anchorage with a load of heavy construction equipment. Strong winds, shifting from an easterly to a northwesterly direction caused the barge to roll over and sink, resulting in a complete loss of the barge and its cargo. Loss estimates have been placed at \$200,000. None of the four-man crew suffered injury or loss of life.   |                       |                |         |                  |       |  |
| ALASKA (Cont'd)   | Oct. 1962 | (Cont'd)            |   |                       |                |         |                  |       |  |
| Entire Gulf of Alaska coastal area from Kodiak to Annette | 22-27     |                     |   |                       | 0              | 0       | 5                | 0     | Windstorm associated with complex low                |
|   |           |                     | A complex low pressure system with two main storm centers, entered the Gulf of Alaska on Oct. 22 -- one storm center crossing the Alaska Peninsula into the western Gulf with another from the northern Pacific penetrating the central Gulf area. The pressure distribution pattern shifted considerably on that date and during the 5-day period period following resulting in strong winds over the widespread area indicated.   |                       |                |         |                  |       |  |
|   |           |                     | Cape St. Elias reported southeasterly winds near 70 mph, with gusts peaking near 90, during the late afternoon of Oct. 22. On the 23rd winds around 60 mph were reported along the Alaskan Peninsula from Umak to King Salmon and similar speeds were reported along the north Gulf Coast to Yakutat. Damaging winds were reported in the vicinity of Lazy Bay, at the southern end of Kodiak Island, on Oct. 24, but specific damages were not indicated. The pattern of strong shifting winds remained quite general through Oct. 28 when wind speeds of around 70 mph were reported from such widespread points as Cape Hinchinbrook, Cape St. Elias, Cordova and Annette. A lumber-laden barge was driven ashore in the Yakutat area and lumber was strewn along the beach for miles. No estimates of this loss are available.  |                       |                |         |                  |       |  |
|   |           |                     | During this period, however, influences of local terrain contributed to damaging wind intensities. Auke Bay, in the Gastineau Channel near Juneau, experienced winds in excess of 50 mph which ripped loose floats and drove at least 26 small pontoons aground. Some of these were a total loss while others suffered little or no damage. Total damages in the Auke Bay area were placed at more than \$50,000. The development of more violent winds associated with the general storm condition probably resulted in unreported damages in less populous areas elsewhere.   |                       |                |         |                  |       |  |
| DELAWARE  | Nov. 1962 |                     |   |                       |                |         |                  |       |  |
| Atlantic Coast Areas                                      | 3         | Day                 |   |                       | 0              | 0       | 5                | 3     | Wind, waves and high tides                           |
|   |           |                     | A low center moved northward off the coast. The northeast ahead of the center caused above normal tides which combined with wave action to cause minor flooding and to remove as much as half of the loose sand hauled in after the destructive March storm. Worst hit was the Bethany Beach area.  |                       |                |         |                  |       |  |
| Atlantic Coast Areas                                      | 27-30     |                     |   |                       | 0              | 0       | 5                | 3     | Wind, waves and high tides                           |
|   |           |                     | A semi-stationary low center off the Florida-South Carolina Coast combined with a high pressure area over northeastern United States to bring fresh northeasterly winds, high tides, and pounding waves to remove more of the man-deposited sand from the beaches and flatten man-made dunes. Rehoboth Beach was the worst hit, losing much of its sand and undermining parts of its rebuilt boardwalk. Highway 14 was closed at many points between Dewey Beach and Fenwick Island by drifting sand several feet deep.   |                       |                |         |                  |       |  |
| MARYLAND  | Nov. 1962 |                     |   |                       |                |         |                  |       |  |
| Atlantic Coast Areas                                      | 3         | Day                 |   |                       | 0              | 0       | 4                | 3     | Wind, waves and high tide                            |
|   |           |                     | A low center moved northward off the coast. The northeast ahead of the center caused above normal tides and wave action causing minor flooding and some movement of loose sand. Damage was considerably less than along the Delaware Coast.   |                       |                |         |                  |       |  |
| Central and South-eastern                                 | 9-10      | Night               |   |                       | 0              | 0       | 4                | 2     | Wind and possible tornado                            |
|   |           |                     | A low pressure center followed a rare path along the ridge of the Appalachian Mountains bringing quite strong winds and heavy driving rain to the area east of the mountains. Minor damage due to wind and flooding, and water damage due to the driving rain was widespread. At West Ocean City a possible tornado destroyed an "old chicken plant", a small apartment house, and a garage.  |                       |                |         |                  |       |  |
| Atlantic Coastal Areas                                    | 27-30     |                     |   |                       | 0              | 0       | 4                | 3     | Wind, waves and high tide                            |
|   |           |                     | A semi-stationary low center off the Florida-South Carolina Coast combined with a high pressure area over the northeastern United States to bring fresh northeasterly winds, high tides, and pounding waves to move the loose sand layed down since the March storm. At Ocean City there was minor flooding and several breaks were caused in the pipeline carrying sand from the lagoon onto the beach. Sand was blown from the beach onto the streets but not enough to stop traffic.   |                       |                |         |                  |       |  |

# STORM DATA AND UNUSUAL WEATHER PHENOMENA

DELAYED DATA

CORRECTIONS

| PLACE  | DATE      | TIME  | LENGTH OF PATH<br>(MILES) | WIDTH OF PATH<br>(YARDS) | NO. OF PERSONS |         | ESTIMATED DAMAGE |       | CHARACTER OF STORM |         |
|--|-----------|-------|---------------------------|--------------------------|----------------|---------|------------------|-------|--------------------|---------|
|  |           |       |                           |                          | KILLED         | INJURED | PROPERTY         | CROPS |                    |         |
| Territory of Guam,<br>Pacific  | Nov. 1962 | night |                           |                          | 11             | ?       | 0                | 8     | C                  | Typhoon |
| <p>Typhoon KAREN, the most severe storm of record on Guam, moved across the island from east to west during the night of November 11-12 leaving death and destruction in its wake. The eye of the storm entered the coast 0.6 of a mile south of Talofofo Bay and moved out to sea again 1.2 mile north of Uataac. Maximum winds reached 150 knots with gusts to 180. Eleven people were killed, hundreds injured, and property damage was estimated at more than \$200 million. Of a total population of 76,000, there were 9,000 left homeless. Seventy per cent of the construction was destroyed; and power, water, telephone, and communication facilities were knocked out. Guam was declared a disaster area by the President of the United States because of the damaging effects of the severe storm.</p> <p>NOTE: A more complete and detailed description of this typhoon will be found in the <u>Mariners Weather Log</u> for May 1963, and in <u>Climatological Data, National Summary Annual 1962</u>.</p> |           |       |                           |                          |                |         |                  |       |                    |         |
| WISCONSIN  | Nov. 1962 |       | None reported             |                          |                |         |                  |       |                    |         |

| PLACE   | DATE      | TIME | LENGTH OF PATH<br>(MILES) | WIDTH OF PATH<br>(YARDS) | NO. OF PERSONS |         | ESTIMATED DAMAGE |       | CHARACTER OF STORM |  |
|---|-----------|------|---------------------------|--------------------------|----------------|---------|------------------|-------|--------------------|--|
|   |           |      |                           |                          | KILLED         | INJURED | PROPERTY         | CROPS |                    |  |
|   | JUNE 1962 |      |                           |                          |                |         |                  |       |                    |  |
| <p>Page 58:<br/>ILLINOIS, 7NNE Peru should be 7NNW Peru.</p>  |           |      |                           |                          |                |         |                  |       |                    |  |
|   | JULY 1962 |      |                           |                          |                |         |                  |       |                    |  |
| <p>Page 83:<br/>MONTANA the last three storms, 14th, 22nd, and 30th are storms having occurred in June, same dates. See page 126.</p> |           |      |                           |                          |                |         |                  |       |                    |  |

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