

Weather

# US Climatological Reports Proves What SC Knows

Santa Cruz is an area of clear skies, moderate temperatures and humidity, fairly heavy rainfall, and persistent, if mild, winds.

If you have been here any time at all, you know that.

But the United States weather bureau has spelled this out in a climatological summary covering the period from 1931 to 1960.

This was prepared in conjunction with the Greater Santa Cruz Chamber of Commerce, which likes to have this kind of information on record, and local weatherman Robert Burton.

The climatological summary is being mailed to all chamber members, according to Manager Jim Hammond, and will be made available to industrial concerns and other businesses having a particular interest in specific weather information.

Like there being a 50-50 chance there will be no freezing temperatures before October 24 or after March 1.

Or that the possibility of days being sunny ranges from 55 per cent in winter to 65 per cent the remainder of the year.

These figures apply, of course, to Burton's Prospect Heights residence, where he has braved snow, sleet and hail (on rare appearances) to take daily readings these 29 years.

If you have had different experience, you must live in one of "those spots."

The summary is in terms of monthly averages and extremes over the past 30 years, unless otherwise noted.

**TEMPERATURES** — The average of daily peak temperatures ranged from 77.2 degrees in September to 59.5 in January. The temperature reached 70 degrees on the average day from May through October. The average high reading over 30 years was 69.1.

January was the coldest month, with an average of 38.2 for low-point readings. Low temperatures in July averaged 50.7 degrees.

Record single-day extremes were 106 (September) and 22 (February). There were an average of six 90-plus and 15 32-minus readings annually.

"Prolonged hot weather is unknown. Typically, the hot spells are accompanied by low humidity," reported C. Robert Elford,

weather bureau climatologist, in his summary text.

Probabilities of freezing temperatures:

April 8-August 8, 10 per cent; March 29-September 4, 20 per cent; March 21-September 20, 30 per cent; March 11-October 8, 40 per cent; March 1-October 24, 50 per cent; February 17-November 8, 60 per cent; January 31-November 26, 70 per cent.

One year in five there were no freezing temperatures after January 1. One year in eight there were none before December 31.

**RAINFALL**—Rainfall average of 31.72 inches per year, 91 per cent of this falling in six months from November through April. One year in 10, the total was less than 19 inches or more than 45 inches.

Over the 29 years, averages for months ranged from 6.62 inches in December and 6.94 inches in January to .03 inches in July. Single-day record was 5.06 inches one November.

More than a trace of snow, sleet or hail was recorded only in January, with the average for 30 years being one-tenth inch. Maximum for a single month or day was 2 inches.

**HUMIDITY**—Relative humidity, based on figures from the P. K. Wrigley plant the past three years, averaged from 70 to 85 per cent at night, dropping into the 50's during mid-day in the summer.

Averages for the short period were 75 per cent at 8 a. m. readings, 68 per cent at 4 p. m. readings.

**WINDS**—Persistent west or southwest winds were typical. However, they reached speeds of 30 miles per hour only about every other year and probably would whip up to 80 miles per hour only twice a century.

**SKIES**—Figures for the past 17 years indicate an average of 204 clear, 96 partly cloudy, and 65 cloudy days annually.

Conspicuously absent was mention of fog.

Up to the age of 33, when he began working on the ceiling of the Sistine Chapel in fresco, Michelangelo's energies had been devoted entirely to sculpture.

