

MICROCOPY RESOLUTION TEST CHART  
NATIONAL BUREAU OF STANDARDS-1963-A

# Internal Report 618

January 1980



## AD-A152 157

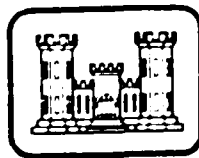
### A REVIEW OF SNOW CONDITIONS AND WINTER CLIMATE NEAR BURLINGTON AND UNDERHILL, VT

Michael A. Bilello

DTIC FILE COPY

This document has been approved  
for public release and sale in  
distribution is unlimited.

DTIC  
ELECTE  
APR 08 1985  
S D E



UNITED STATES ARMY  
CORPS OF ENGINEERS  
COLD REGIONS RESEARCH AND ENGINEERING LABORATORY  
HANOVER, NEW HAMPSHIRE, U.S.A.



A REVIEW OF SNOW CONDITIONS  
AND WINTER CLIMATE NEAR BURLINGTON  
AND UNDERHILL, VT\*

Michael A. Bilello  
Meteorologist  
USA CRREL  
Hanover, NH

Application For	
Dist. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Dist. <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Dist. <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
By _____	
Distribution/ _____	
Availability Codes	
Dist	Avail and/or Special
A-1	



\* The material included in this review was presented at a "Snow I" briefing held at USA CRREL on 10 October 1979.

## SUMMARY

This review provides information on the winter environment near Camp Ethan Allen in northwestern Vermont. In particular, monthly summaries of the frequency, intensity, and water content of snowfall events are presented. Additional information on air-temperature, wind and snow depth for the region is also provided.

The data for this summary were obtained from: a) daily snow cover and weather observations made at the Proctor Maple Research Farm at Underhill, Vermont, and b) hourly meteorological measurements made at Burlington Airport, Vermont.

The Underhill site is a field research station operated by the Botany Department of the University of Vermont under the direction of Professors M. F. Morselli and F. M. Laing. Twelve years (1967-1979) of snowfall and snow depth data were provided by Lynn Whalen of the Botany Department. The climate summaries for Burlington Airport are published by the U.S. National Weather Service, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Asheville, North Carolina.

This review includes:

Figure 1: A map showing the three main locations under discussion: Burlington Airport, Proctor Maple Research Farm (PMRF), and Camp Ethan Allen Training site (CEAT), the proposed field area for Snow I.

Figures 2-4: Snowfall frequencies and snow cover conditions observed at PMRF.

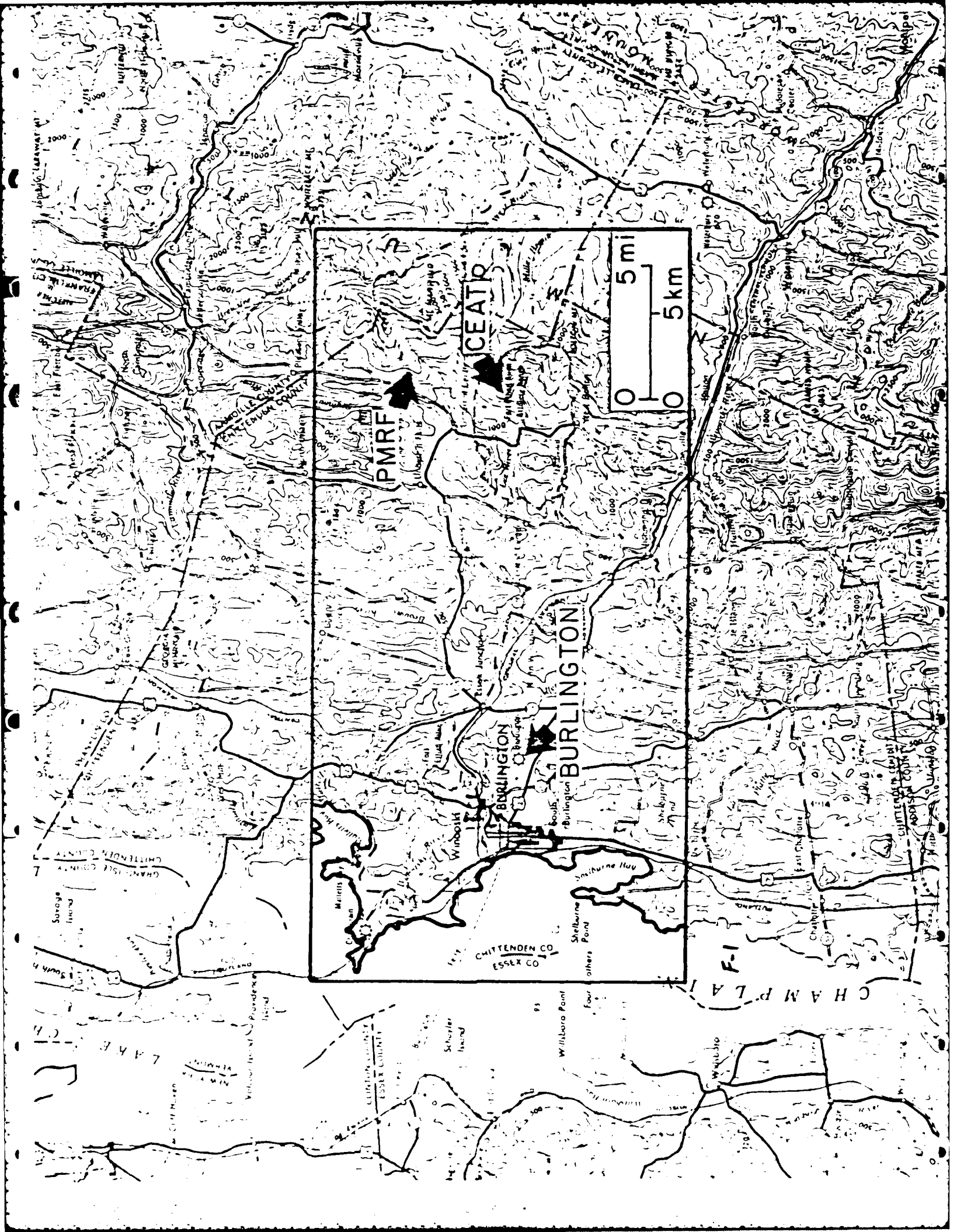
Figures 5-7: Comparisons of weather and snow conditions observed at Burlington Airport and PMRF during January 1979.

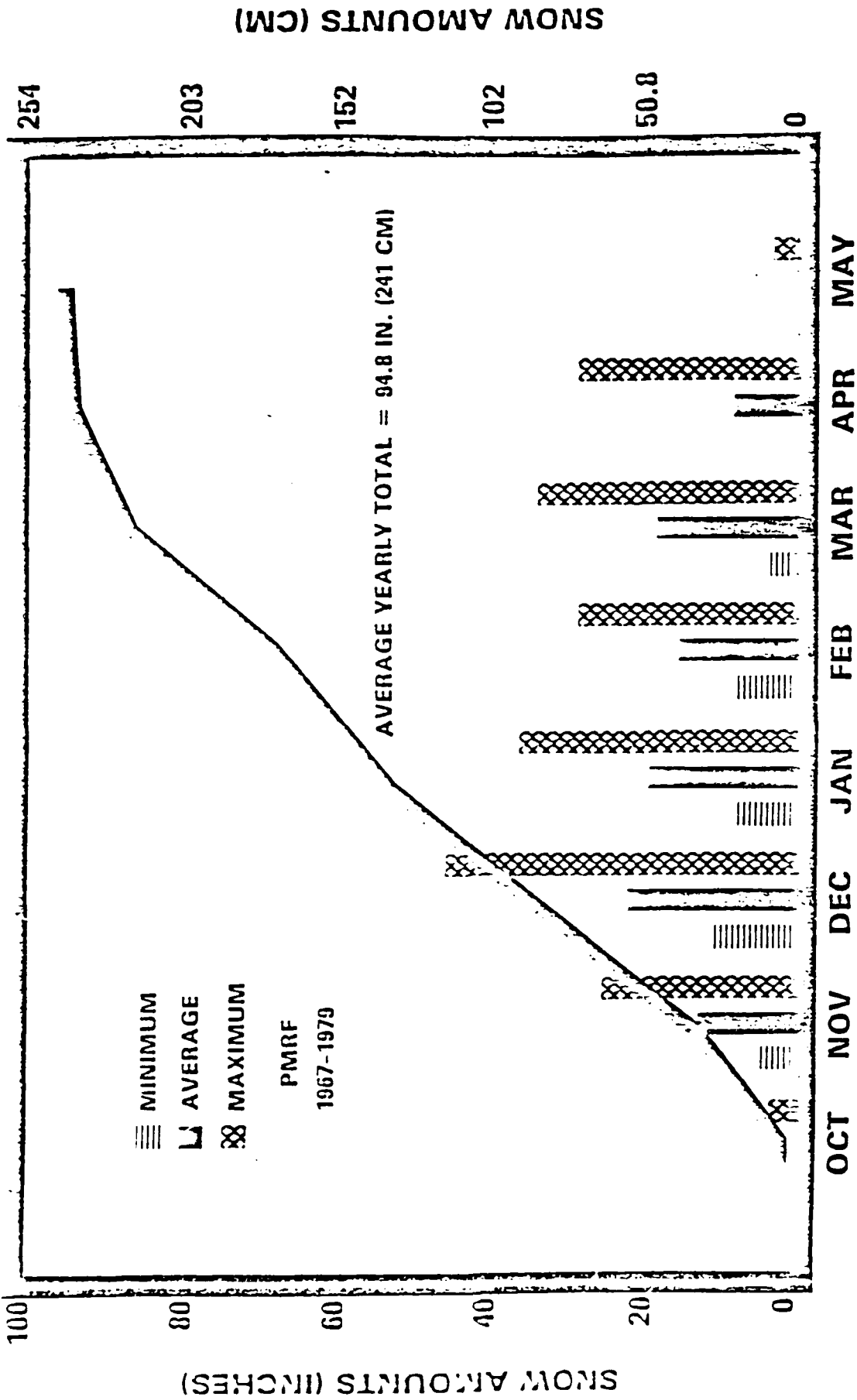
Figure 8 and 9: A summary of snowfall amounts and winter temperatures at Burlington Airport.

Figures 10-13: An analysis of snowfall amounts, corresponding water equivalents and concurrent air-temperatures for snowstorms at Burlington Airport during January 1979.

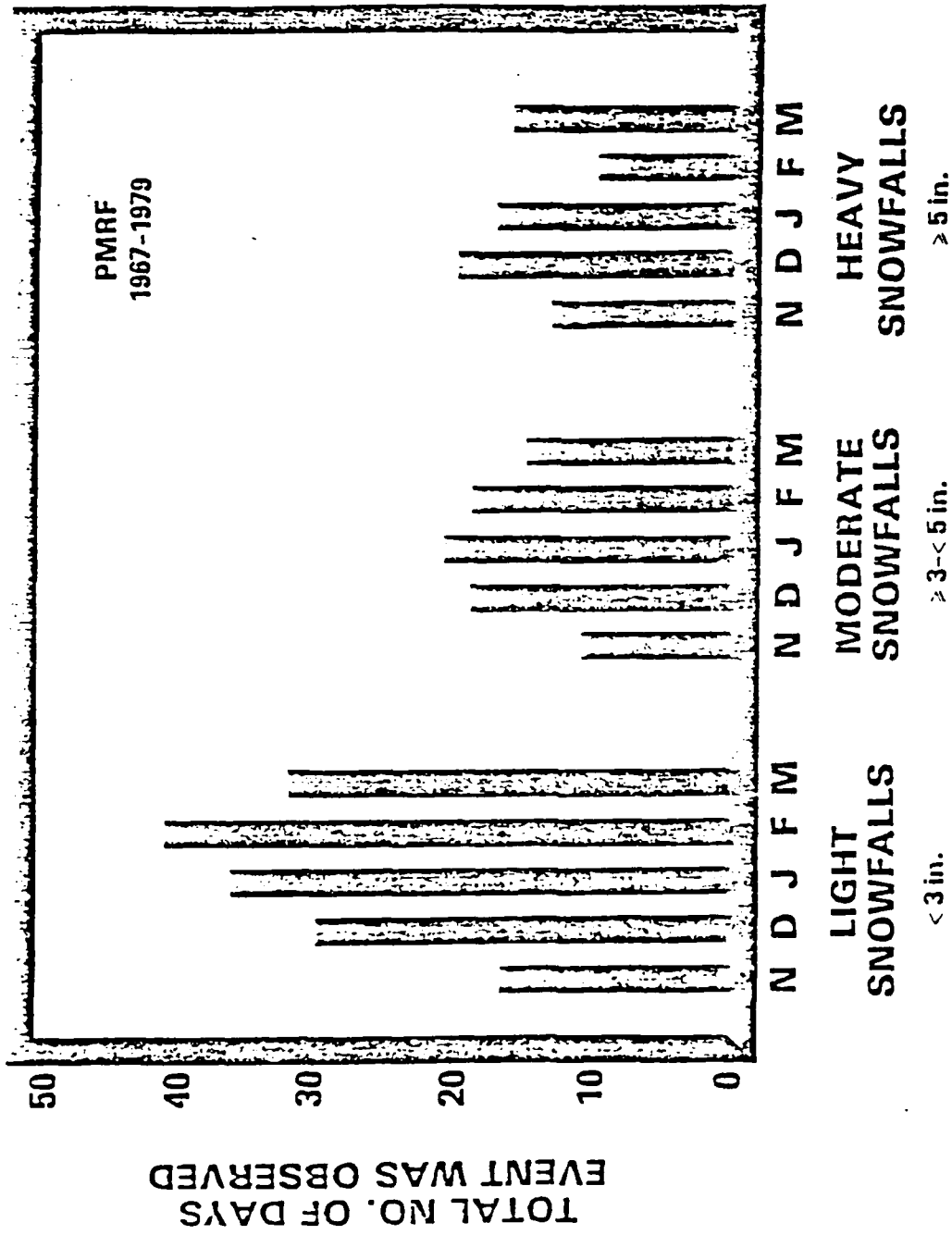
Figures 14a-d: Published Local Climatological Data for Burlington Airport. Some of this information is in the preceding diagrams; these figures provide considerably more detail.

Since the diagrams are mostly self-explanatory, no attempt will be made to discuss them in detail.

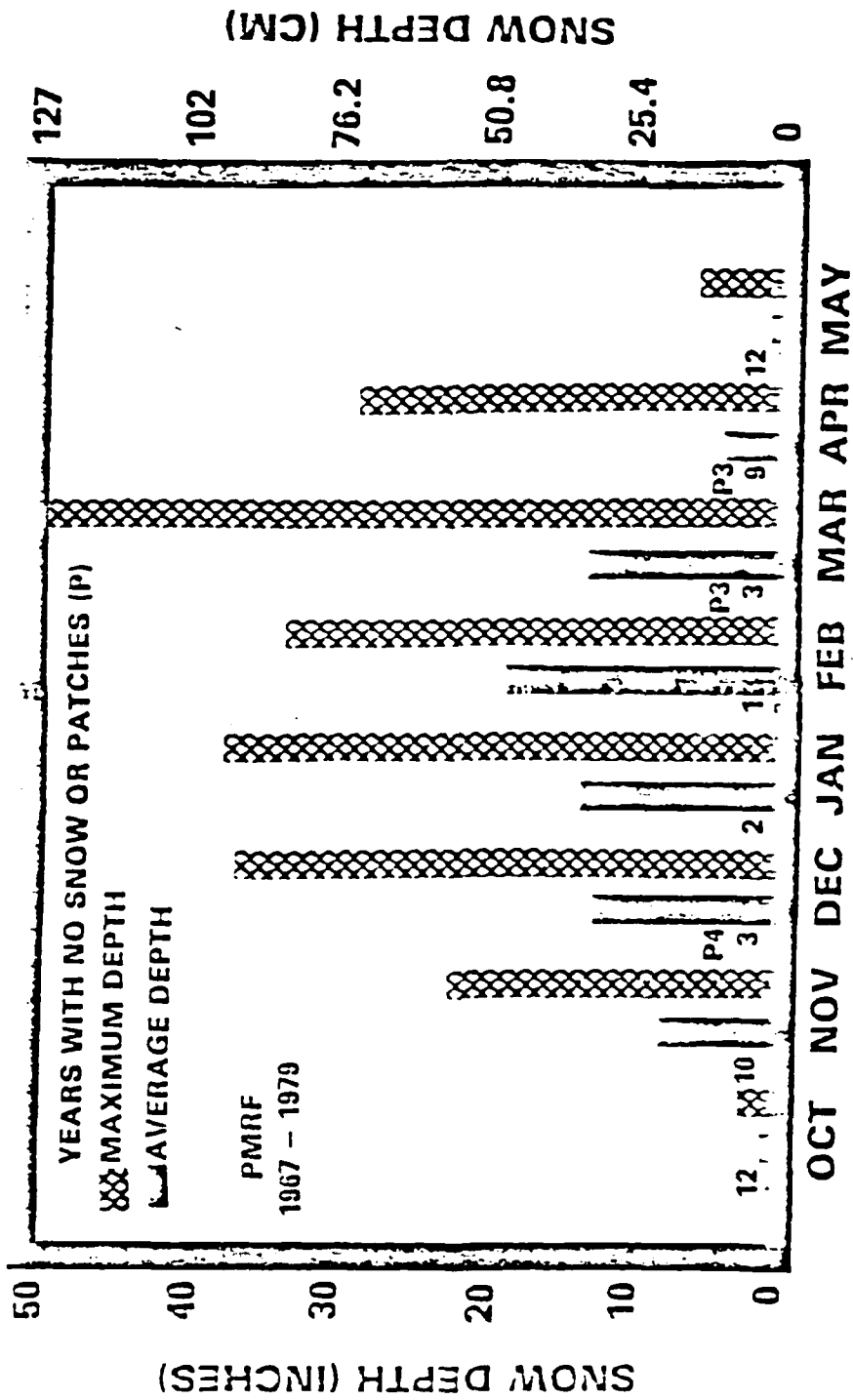




Observed Increases in Monthly Snowfall Amounts  
 Proctor Maple Research Farm; Underhill, Vt.  
 October 1967 through May 1979

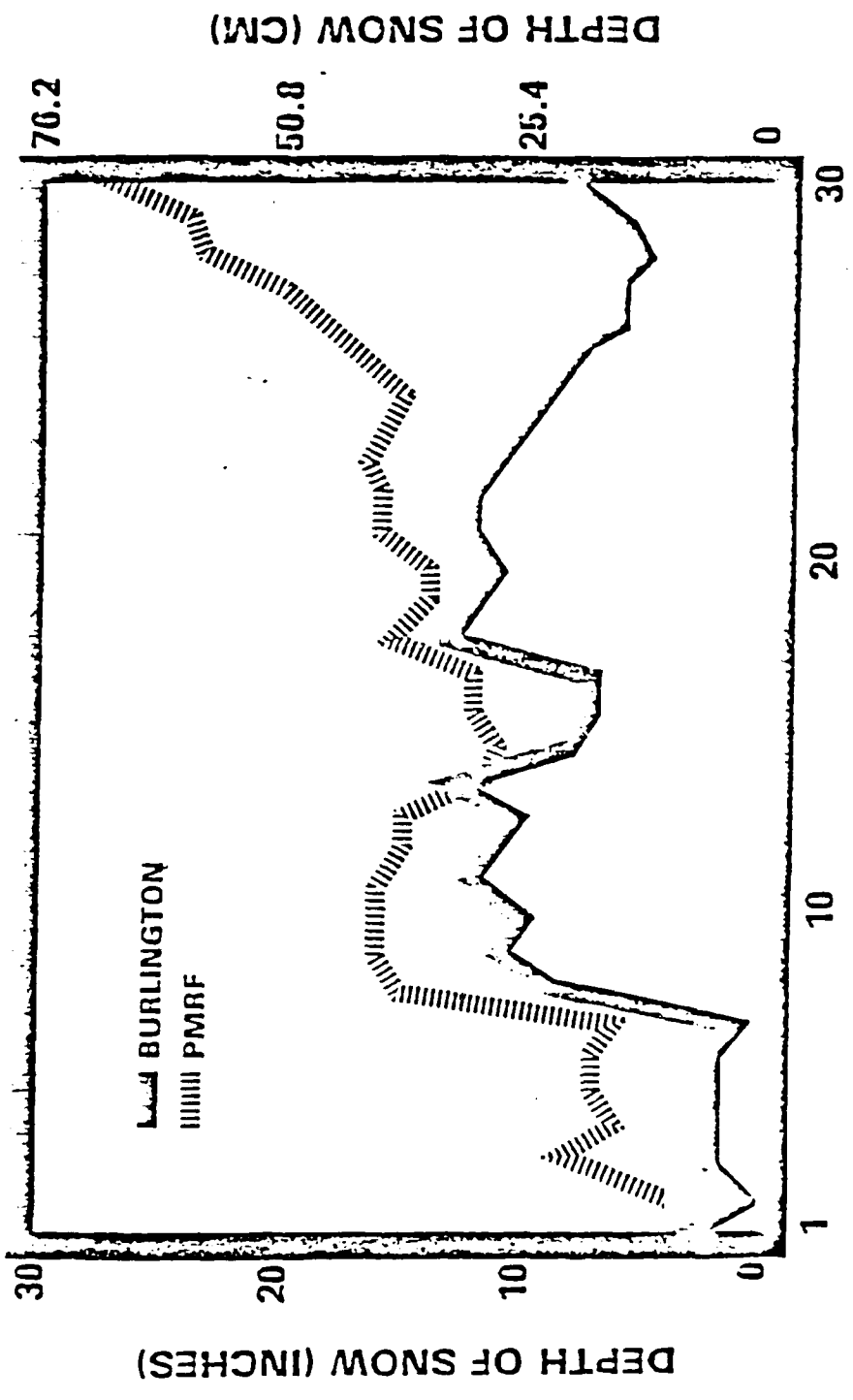


Total Number of Days over a 12 Year  
Record that Light, Moderate and Heavy  
Snowfalls were Observed. PMRF; Anderson Kill, Ut.  
Nov 1967 - March 1979



Observed Depth of Snow on the Ground  
 PMRF ; Hunderhill, UT. Oct. 1967 - May 1979



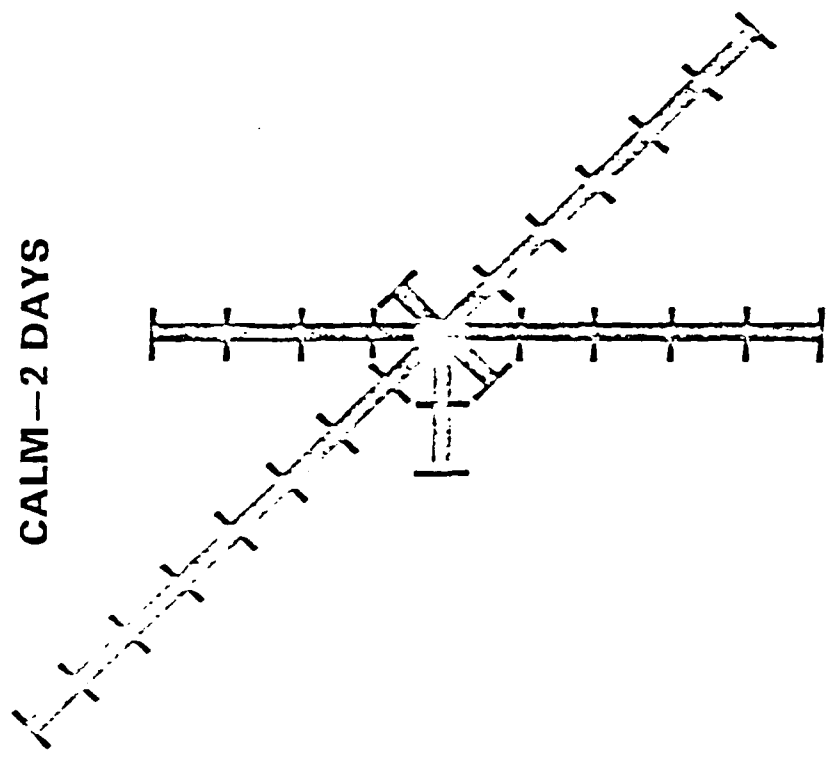


JANUARY 1979

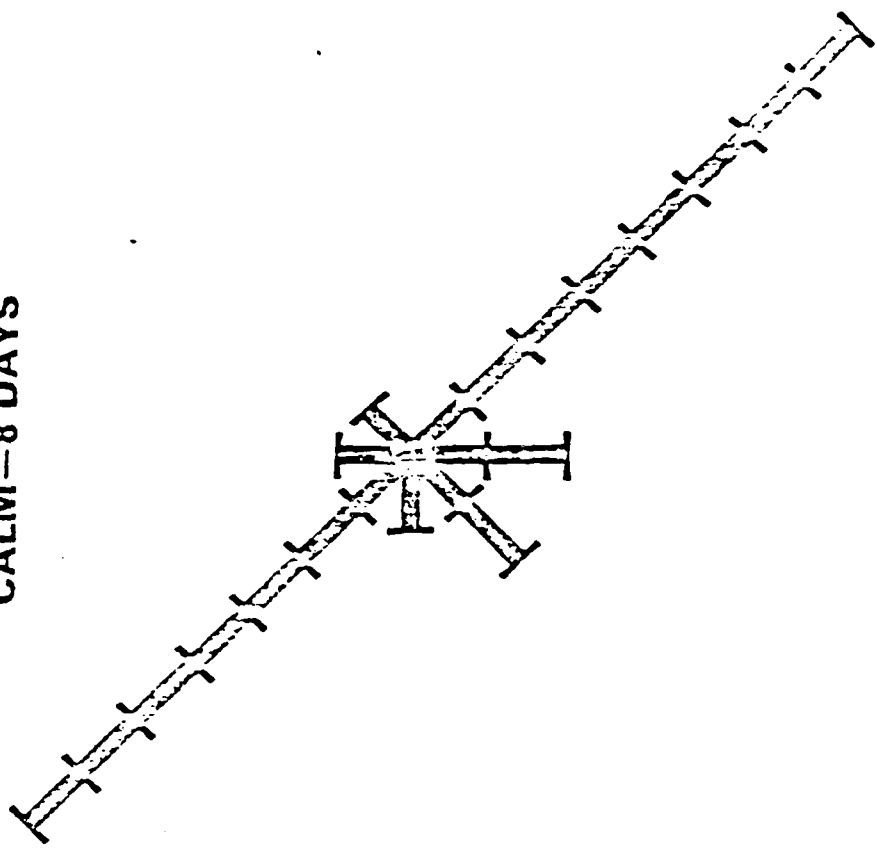
Comparison of Daily Variations in Snow Depth between Burlington and PMRF, Jan. 1979



BURLINGTON, VT.  
CALM - 2 DAYS



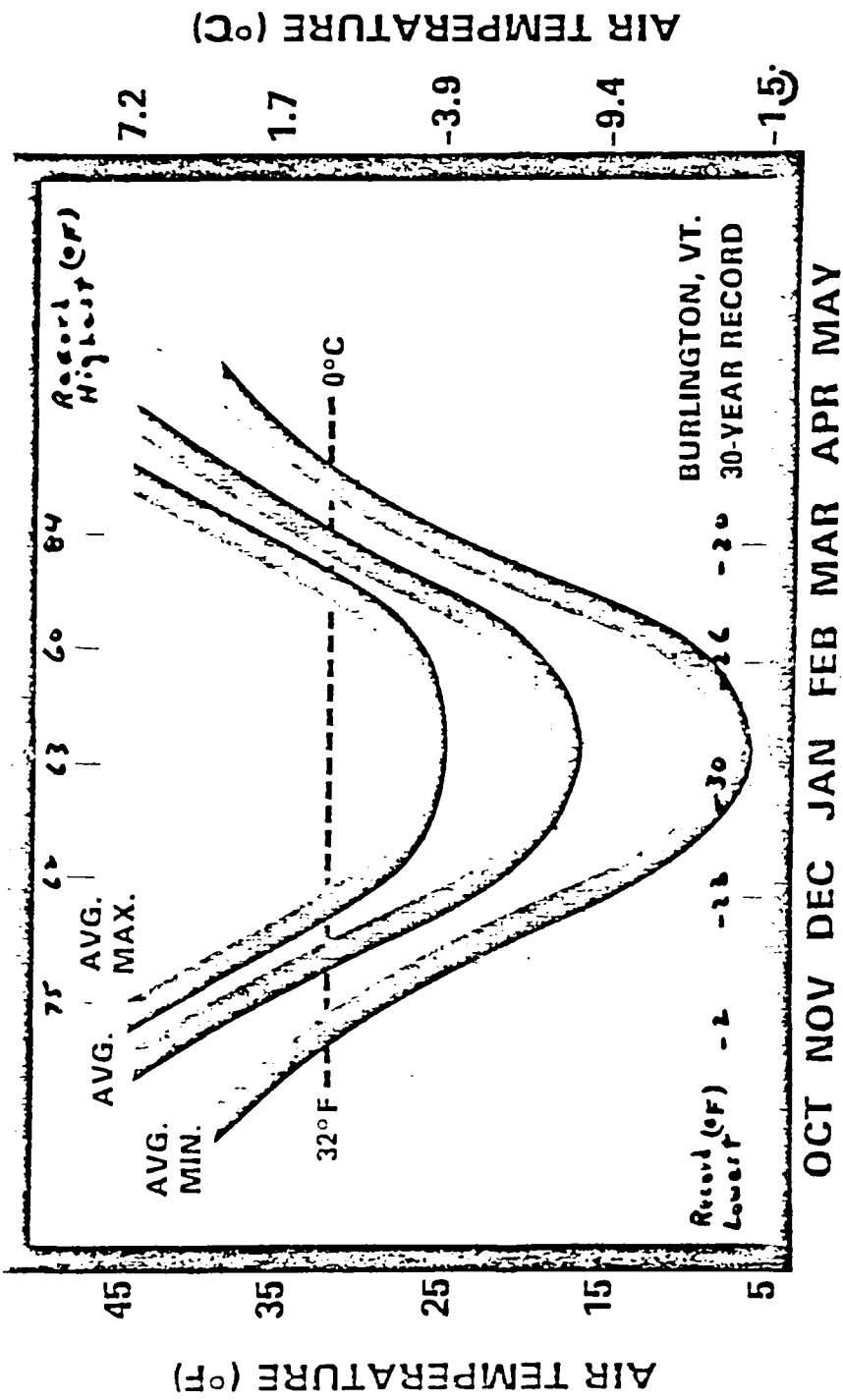
PMRF  
CALM - 8 DAYS



AVG. WIND SPEED: 9.5 MPH (4.25 MPS)

AVG. WIND SPEED: 4.1 MPH (1.83 MPS)

AVG. DAILY WIND DIRECTIONS  
JANUARY 1979



*Average Winter Air Temperatures  
Burlington, VT.*

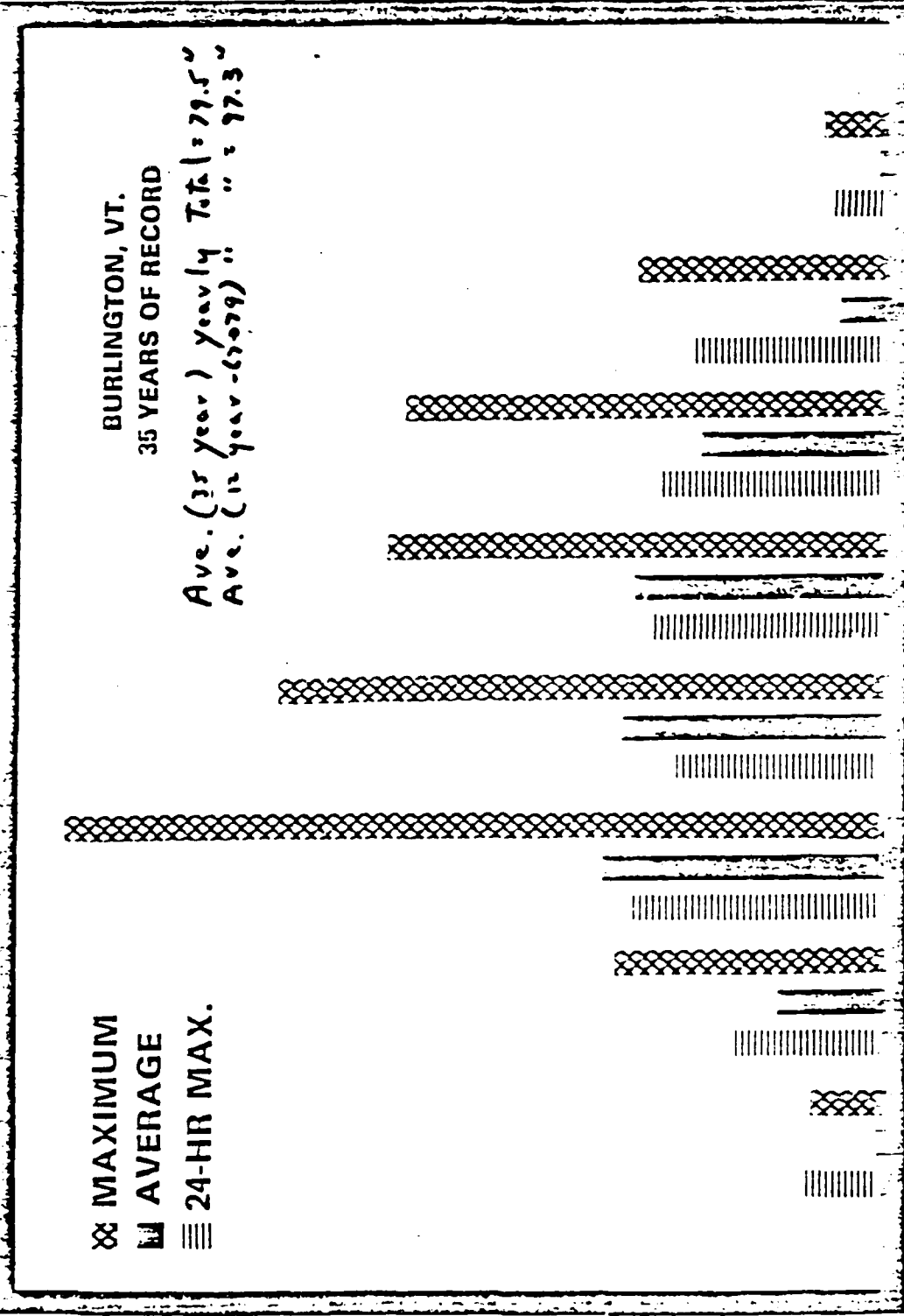
SNOWFALL AMOUNTS (CM)

152

102

50.8

0



BURLINGTON, VT.  
35 YEARS OF RECORD

Ave. (35 year) Yearly Total = 79.5"  
Ave. (12 year - (1979)) " = 77.3"

⊗ MAXIMUM  
■ AVERAGE  
≡ 24-HR MAX.

SNOWFALL AMOUNTS (INCHES)

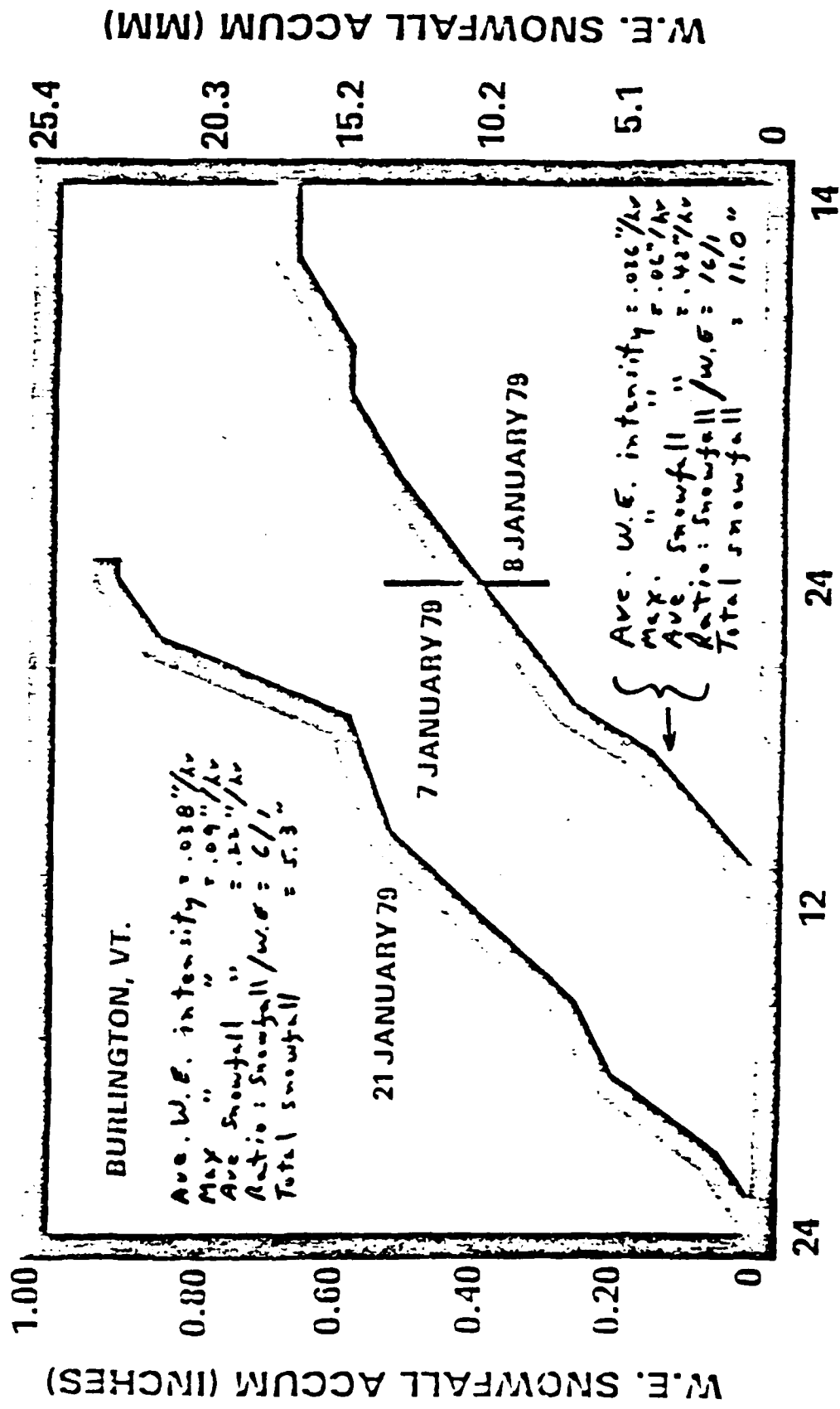
40

20

0

OCT NOV DEC JAN FEB MAR APR MAY

Observed Snowfall Amounts, Burlington, VT.



**HOURLY SNOWFALL TRACE**

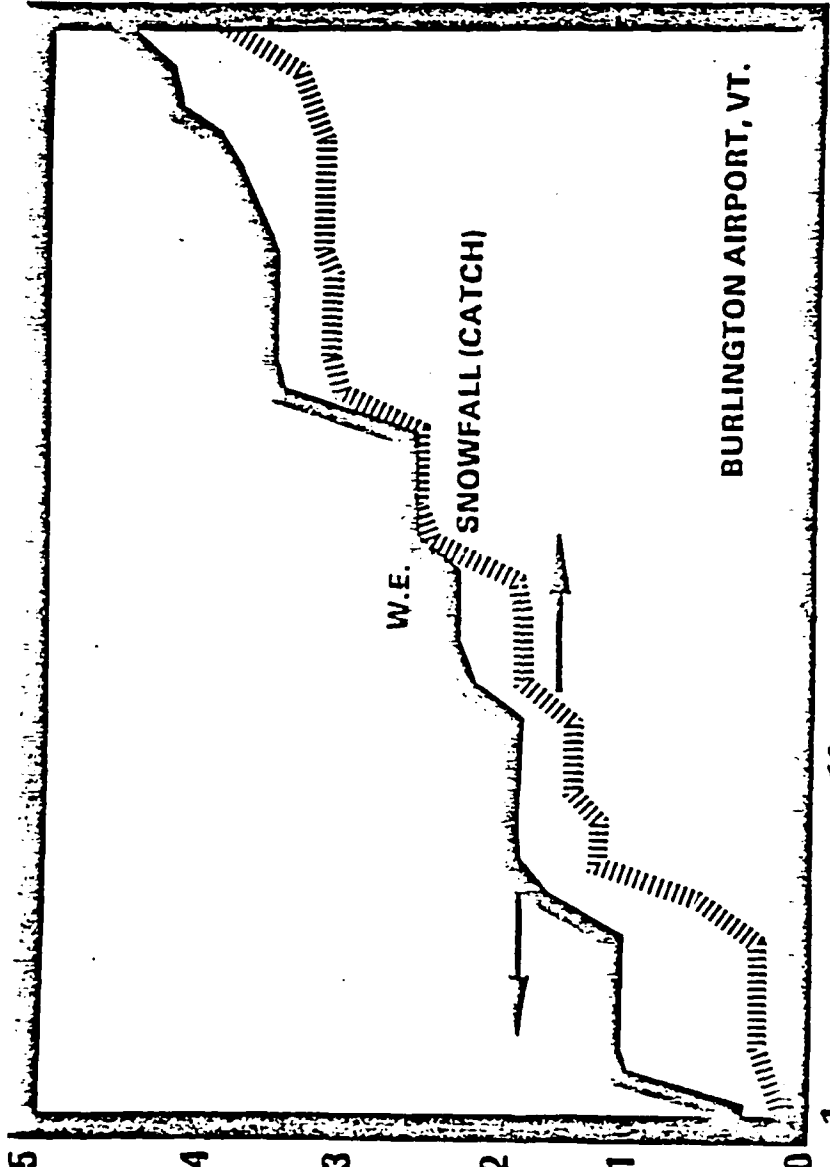
*Analysis of Two Snowstorms at Burlington  
January 1979*

(CM) (INCHES)

ACCUM. PRECIP (WATER EQUIV)  
12.7 5  
10.2 4  
7.6 3  
5.1 2  
2.5 1  
0

(INCHES) (CM)

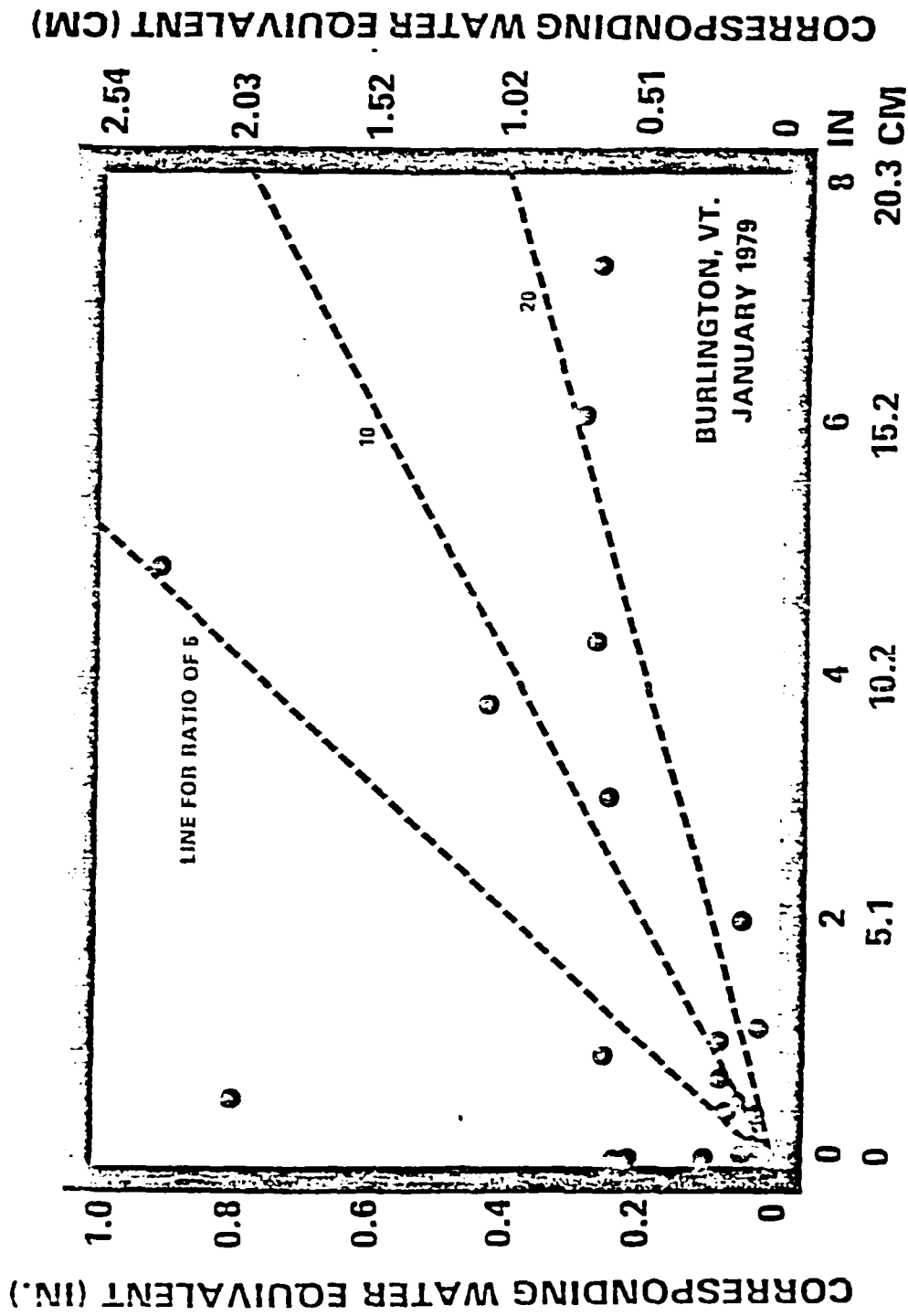
50 127  
40 102  
30 76  
20 51  
10 25  
0



BURLINGTON AIRPORT, VT.

JANUARY 1979

Accumulative Curves for Snowfall (left)  
and Corresponding Water Equivalents  
Burlington, VT. Jan. 1979

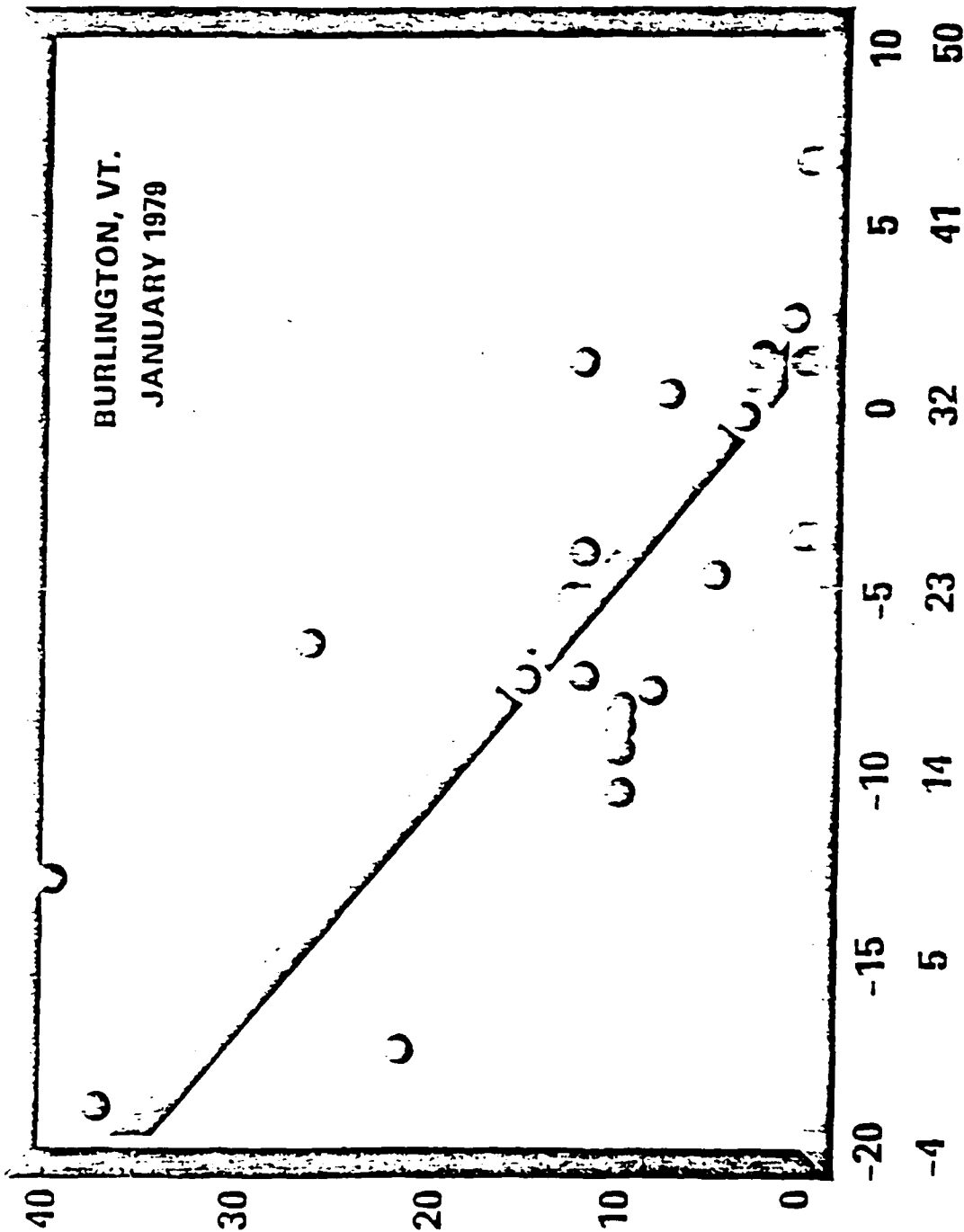


*Comparison of observed 24 hour snowfall amounts vs corresponding water equivalents*

F-12

RATIO OF: SNOWFALL/WATER EQUIV.

BURLINGTON, VT.  
JANUARY 1979



AVERAGE DAILY AIR TEMPERATURE

Relationship Between: a) 24 hour Ratio of Snowfall to Water Equivalent and b) concurrent Average Daily Air Temperature (°C) Burlington - Jan. 1979

# Local Climatological Data

Annual Summary With Comparative Data

1978

BURLINGTON, VERMONT



1978-1979  
100-202  
11/10/79 11:03:55

## Narrative Climatological Summary

APR 30 1979

Burlington is located on the eastern shore of Lake Champlain at the widest part of the lake. About 35 miles to the west lie the highest peaks of the Adirondacks, while the foothills of the Green Mountains begin 10 miles to the east and southeast.

Its northerly latitude assures the variety and vigor of a true New England climate, while thanks to the modifying influence of the Lake, the many rapid and marked weather changes are tempered in severity. Due to its location in the path of the St. Lawrence Valley storm track and the Lake effects, the city is one of the cloudiest in the United States.

Lake Champlain exercises a tempering influence on the local temperature, during the winter months temperatures along the lake shore often run from 5 to 10 degrees warmer than at the airport 3 1/2 miles inland. At the airport the average date of the last freeze in spring is May 10 and that of the first in fall is October 3, giving a mean growing season from freeze to freeze of 145 days. This section is justly proud of its delightful summer weather. On an average there are only four days a year with maxima of 90° or higher. This moderate summer heat gives way to a cooler but none the less pleasant fall period, usually extending well into October. High pressure systems moving down rapidly from Central Canada or Hudson Bay produce the coldest temperatures during the winter months, but extended periods of very cold weather are rare.

Precipitation, although generally plentiful and well distributed throughout the year, is less in the Champlain Valley than in other areas of Vermont due to the shielding effect of the mountain barriers to the east and west. The heaviest rainfall usually occurs during summer thunderstorms but excessively heavy rainfall is quite uncommon. The rainfall during the historic flood of November 1927 was the heaviest on record. Droughts are of infrequent occurrence.

Because of the trend of the Champlain Valley between the Adirondack and Green Mountain ranges, most winds have a northerly or southerly component. The prevailing direction most of the year is from the south. Winds of damaging force are very uncommon, the most destructive occurring during the hurricane of October 1954 and the whole gales of November 1950.

Smoke pollution is nearly non-existent since there is no concentration of heavy industry here; however, haze has been on the increase during the last decade due to the large increase in industry to the north and south. During the spring and fall months, fog occasionally forms along the Winooski River to the north and east and may drift over the airport with favorable winds. In spite of the high percentage of cloudiness, periods of low aircraft ceilings and visibilities are usually of short duration, allowing this area to have one of the highest percentages of flying weather in New England.

noaa

NATIONAL OCEANIC AND  
ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION

ENVIRONMENTAL DATA AND  
INFORMATION SERVICE

NATIONAL CLIMATIC CENTER  
ASHEVILLE, N. C.

F-18a



### Average Temperature

Year	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Annual
1989	16.4	20.7	24.7	28.7	31.7	34.8	37.8	39.8	37.8	32.1	23.4	15.3	27.3
1990	17.4	21.7	25.7	29.7	32.7	35.8	38.8	36.8	31.1	22.4	14.3	16.3	27.3
1991	13.4	20.4	24.4	28.4	31.4	34.4	37.4	39.4	37.4	31.7	23.0	14.9	27.9
1992	17.4	21.4	25.4	29.4	32.4	35.4	38.4	36.4	30.7	22.0	13.9	15.9	27.9
1993	13.2	20.2	24.2	28.2	31.2	34.2	37.2	39.2	37.2	31.5	22.8	14.7	27.7
1994	20.4	24.4	28.4	32.4	35.4	38.4	41.4	39.4	33.7	25.0	16.3	8.6	30.6
1995	19.4	23.4	27.4	31.4	34.4	37.4	40.4	38.4	32.7	24.0	15.3	7.6	29.6
1996	16.4	20.4	24.4	28.4	31.4	34.4	37.4	39.4	37.4	31.7	23.0	14.9	27.9
1997	20.4	24.4	28.4	32.4	35.4	38.4	41.4	39.4	33.7	25.0	16.3	8.6	30.6
1998	17.4	21.4	25.4	29.4	32.4	35.4	38.4	36.4	30.7	22.0	13.9	15.9	27.9
1999	25.4	29.4	33.4	37.4	40.4	43.4	46.4	44.4	38.7	30.0	21.3	12.6	37.6
2000	26.4	30.4	34.4	38.4	41.4	44.4	47.4	45.4	39.7	31.0	22.0	13.0	38.6
2001	16.4	20.4	24.4	28.4	31.4	34.4	37.4	39.4	37.4	31.7	23.0	14.9	27.9
2002	16.4	20.4	24.4	28.4	31.4	34.4	37.4	39.4	37.4	31.7	23.0	14.9	27.9
2003	16.4	20.4	24.4	28.4	31.4	34.4	37.4	39.4	37.4	31.7	23.0	14.9	27.9
2004	16.4	20.4	24.4	28.4	31.4	34.4	37.4	39.4	37.4	31.7	23.0	14.9	27.9
2005	16.4	20.4	24.4	28.4	31.4	34.4	37.4	39.4	37.4	31.7	23.0	14.9	27.9
2006	16.4	20.4	24.4	28.4	31.4	34.4	37.4	39.4	37.4	31.7	23.0	14.9	27.9
2007	16.4	20.4	24.4	28.4	31.4	34.4	37.4	39.4	37.4	31.7	23.0	14.9	27.9
2008	16.4	20.4	24.4	28.4	31.4	34.4	37.4	39.4	37.4	31.7	23.0	14.9	27.9
2009	16.4	20.4	24.4	28.4	31.4	34.4	37.4	39.4	37.4	31.7	23.0	14.9	27.9
2010	16.4	20.4	24.4	28.4	31.4	34.4	37.4	39.4	37.4	31.7	23.0	14.9	27.9
2011	16.4	20.4	24.4	28.4	31.4	34.4	37.4	39.4	37.4	31.7	23.0	14.9	27.9
2012	16.4	20.4	24.4	28.4	31.4	34.4	37.4	39.4	37.4	31.7	23.0	14.9	27.9
2013	16.4	20.4	24.4	28.4	31.4	34.4	37.4	39.4	37.4	31.7	23.0	14.9	27.9
2014	16.4	20.4	24.4	28.4	31.4	34.4	37.4	39.4	37.4	31.7	23.0	14.9	27.9
2015	16.4	20.4	24.4	28.4	31.4	34.4	37.4	39.4	37.4	31.7	23.0	14.9	27.9
2016	16.4	20.4	24.4	28.4	31.4	34.4	37.4	39.4	37.4	31.7	23.0	14.9	27.9
2017	16.4	20.4	24.4	28.4	31.4	34.4	37.4	39.4	37.4	31.7	23.0	14.9	27.9
2018	16.4	20.4	24.4	28.4	31.4	34.4	37.4	39.4	37.4	31.7	23.0	14.9	27.9
2019	16.4	20.4	24.4	28.4	31.4	34.4	37.4	39.4	37.4	31.7	23.0	14.9	27.9
2020	16.4	20.4	24.4	28.4	31.4	34.4	37.4	39.4	37.4	31.7	23.0	14.9	27.9
RECORD	17.4	21.4	25.4	29.4	32.4	35.4	38.4	36.4	30.7	22.0	13.9	15.9	27.9
MEAN	16.4	20.4	24.4	28.4	31.4	34.4	37.4	39.4	37.4	31.7	23.0	14.9	27.9

### Heating Degree Days

Season	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	Total
1989-90	20	21	174	565	810	1003	1278	1430	1103	566	240	97	8197
1990-91	5	14	171	524	809	1200	1497	1400	1267	625	147	81	7569
1991-92	28	35	193	607	947	1389	1728	1807	1107	788	454	91	8500
1992-93	38	47	104	487	809	1266	1529	1438	1108	680	274	73	7624
1993-94	71	54	299	571	897	1388	1491	1514	1204	781	345	86	8784
1994-95	30	118	340	411	735	1009	1377	1380	1046	677	229	124	8020
1995-96	12	172	284	461	872	1234	1593	1536	1139	760	257	136	8766
1996-97	43	80	230	537	856	1123	1331	1313	1049	707	432	91	8141
1997-98	17	26	280	551	725	1050	1264	1200	1225	722	333	29	8137
1998-99	11	35	228	494	697	1216	1751	1561	1089	682	407	140	8447
1999-00	32	134	127	479	679	1031	1498	1298	1236	700	422	107	8466
2000-01	41	41	260	569	894	1036	1070	1042	1208	693	341	103	8779
2001-02	10	34	176	466	773	1047	1710	1567	1263	821	390	83	8474
2002-03	12	48	234	664	818	1256	1357	1287	1230	672	261	113	7677
2003-04	28	88	214	664	873	1107	1364	1410	835	609	345	86	7641
2004-05	10	17	258	487	673	1107	1431	1378	1101	618	400	37	7744
2005-06	2	6	272	684	958	1124	1276	1290	1141	831	152	82	7461
2006-07	0	45	208	664	81	1385	1669	1148	873	543	231	30	7504
2007-08	20	88	256	636	864	1505	1669	1260	862	590	223	89	8101
2008-09	24	53	217	564	740	1314	1339	1347	1202	781	225	90	8284
2009-10	48	39	293	571	897	1227							

### Cooling Degree Days

Year	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total
1989	0	0	0	0	2	86	134	160	38	0	0	0	420
1990	0	0	0	0	11	75	189	130	26	0	0	0	402
1991	0	0	0	0	17	87	138	118	90	4	0	0	434
1992	0	0	0	0	14	64	166	81	30	0	0	0	355
1993	0	0	0	0	0	0	167	263	98	0	0	0	528
1994	0	0	0	0	0	0	140	87	1	0	0	0	308
1995	0	0	0	0	0	73	131	308	181	5	0	0	699
1996	0	0	0	0	24	19	183	139	67	23	0	0	488
1997	0	0	0	0	7	79	86	174	138	27	0	0	509
1998	0	0	0	0	79	84	194	168	6	0	0	0	630

### Precipitation

Year	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Annual
1989	1.29	3.44	4.44	4.22	3.34	3.35	2.83	2.78	3.77	2.19	0.97	2.70	33.79
1990	0.77	3.00	3.27	1.88	4.78	3.34	0.11	2.11	2.56	2.67	2.50	2.70	34.08
1991	1.44	0.68	4.14	0.70	2.16	1.54	0.39	2.11	0.93	1.99	1.35	1.43	27.96
1992	1.44	1.78	1.44	1.14	2.13	0.30	0.21	1.18	4.97	3.21	1.65	2.79	36.36
1993	0.92	3.11	3.25	2.24	4.35	4.12	4.48	4.84	1.71	3.82	3.29	0.21	32.64
1994	0.77	2.03	1.37	1.22	1.74	4.09	3.03	2.76	3.85	2.38	1.94	1.90	30.82
1995	2.89	0.87	1.91	3.84	3.90	2.93	4.37	1.84	8.18	4.35	3.44	1.17	42.13
1996	1.59	1.84	4.28	2.31	4.03	1.37	3.89	4.37	1.43	3.41	3.74	2.13	34.57
1997	3.51	1.97	1.74	3.39	3.25	4.84	4.92	1.85	2.50	0.89	3.27	1.12	37.34
1998	1.41	1.41	4.99	2.96	3.43	2.88	4.54	3.41	0.87	2.71	3.17	1.22	32.29
1999	2.09	2.08	4.57	2.31	1.58	1.09	4.70	4.62	2.84	1.64	2.97	1.80	28.22
2000	2.52	2.14	2.78	3.13	1.58	2.38	2.41	3.97	2.45	1.91	4.66	4.10	30.83
2001	1.72	3.48	1.75	2.53	1.63	3.17	4.44	2.08	4.10	2.25	4.68	2.19	35.87
2002	1.64	2.68	1.73	2.63	3.14	4.02	2.14	3.20	2.20	0.93	4.27	2.99	29.96
2003	1.87	1.48	3.17	3.31	3.43	2.97	1.29	5.81	1.57	2.26	1.38	1.94	29.97
2004	2.21	2.24	4.01	4.27	3.35	2.89	2.18	3.82	4.22	2.83	3.09	3.44	34.79
2005	0.58	2.78	3.27	2.16	4.25	4.03	3.17	11.34	3.15	4.31	3.74	1.17	42.87
2006	1.92	1.48	4.37	2.67	4.74	2.92	4.04	3.00	3.91	1.58	1.67	1.80	31.22
2007	1.47	2.07	4.93	2.11	2.95	7.35	5.34	0.72	3.27	1.25	3.25	2.93	33.34
2008	3.74	2.47	4.24	2.84	2.93	5.77	3.88	3.04	1.89	4.04	0.82	3.44	34.79
2009	2.72	1.98	1.31	1.57	1.49	3.43	1.81	4.38	2.13	4.22	3.25	2.75	34.79
2010	1.24	1.94	1.89	2.84	3.64	3.51	3.37	1.53	4.97	4.04	1.94	0.92	30.83
2011	0.93	1.05	1.36	3.99	2.63	3.71	4.98	3.24	2.89	2.37	2.31	1.75	31.91
2012	1.07	1.04	1.84	2.26	2.69	3.93	3.28	2.27	2.91	1.27	2.91	1.33	31.49
2013	1.14	1.67	4.14	2.52	2.37	1.90	2.79	3.11	1.47	0.56	3.84	0.94	28.23
2014	2.27	2.68	2.04	2.71	4.65	3.05	2.87	4.15	1.48	2.26	2.17	1.88	34.79
2015	0.68	0.99	0.38	2.18	1.65	4.08	2.91	4.27	3.19	3.32	2.65	1.67	28.01
2016	2.2												



**END**

**FILMED**

4-85

**DTIC**

