

1977 Daily Weather Records Key for Western Woodland Hills Weather Station

Observer William Reid, station elevation 980 feet, at 5920 Pat Avenue in Woodland Hills, California, Los Angeles County

Daily max/min temperature observations began around March 1, 1977, with a “dial” type thermometer which registered the max and min temperatures attained since the last time it was reset. This thermometer was about 6 feet above the ground outside of the kitchen window on the north side of the house. This was not the best spot expose-wise, obviously, but it was not bad either. Direct sunlight upon the instrument did not occur. The first page of my weather notebook is for August, 1977, so that is where the daily narratives begin. I think that there were daily narratives for March through July 1977, also, but those pages are missing. Fortunately, the max and min temps for Mar-Jul were written down elsewhere and are preserved!

For 1977, each date provides the daily max and min temp and a little blurb or narrative about the day’s weather at the station. The daily rain amounts are generally buried in the narrative part. One should check the daily rainfall page for 1977 for daily amounts.

There aren’t too many abbreviations to figure out yet. I often describe the visibility as “hazy” or “good visibility” or “very good visibility” or “extremely good visibility.” The station location afforded excellent views to the N and NE (Santa Susanna Mtns) and the E (San Gabriel Mtns). These were about 15 to 30 miles distant. Of course, the source of the haze and smog was largely towards the east, towards the eastern portions of the San Fernando Valley and Los Angeles. It was not unusual during the 1970s and 80s to see a wall of smog and haze shifting across the San Fernando Valley. The station location, on the extreme western edge of the valley, was largely spared the brunt of smoggy weather. The visibility observations were based on the views towards the N, NE, E and SE.

Very generally speaking, “very hazy” would be visibility less than 5 miles, “hazy” would be about 3 to 7 miles visibility, “good” visibility (GV) would be about 10-15 miles or more, “very good” visibility (VGV) would be 25 miles or more, and “extremely good” visibility (EGV) would be 50 miles or more.