

1978 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 temperatures recorded were via the "dial" thermometer outside of the kitchen window through March 12, 1978. Beginning on March 13, 1978, in use was a new "sixes" type max-min thermometer, which was in a rudimentary shelter on a metal fence, about four feet above the ground. Exposure was good with the replacement instrumentation, but the thermometer was about 2 degrees too low on minimums and perhaps 2 degrees too high on maximums on sunny days.

Wind speeds were from an analog Heathkit station (installed around December 1977), with the anemometer very well exposed, about ten feet above the roofline of the one-story house. The peak gust was not saved, so the indoor dial showing the wind speed had to be monitored to catch the strongest gusts. By the end of 1979, a digital Heathkit station was installed which saved peak gust data.

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.

"NE SA" means a Santa Ana wind event, with wind primarily from the NE. Most SA events here had a wind direction from the NE. The station was well protected from NW wind.

Cloud types were mostly abbreviated. Ns=nimbostratus, Cu=cumulus, As=altostratus, etc.

