

1981 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. Observation time usually around 10 p.m. local time.

Thermometers in use were standard NWS maximum and minimum thermometers in a standard CRS. The shelter was on an east-facing slope, just east of the flat grassy backyard, and about 25-30 feet east of the house. Exposure of the thermometer instrumentation should be considered "good" to "very good." Trees were not an issue in 1981, but tree growth caused a bit poorer exposure to wind by the 1990s.

Wind speeds were from a digital Heathkit station which saved peak gust data. The anemometer and wind vane were very well exposed, well above the top of the one-story house, perhaps 25-30 feet above the top.

Occasionally a "roof temperature" is mentioned. This is the reading off of the Heathkit temperature sensor, about 5 feet above the top of the roof.

Hourly rainfall data were from the recording "weighing" 8-inch rain gage.

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. "BU" means "build-up," usually after Cu or Cb, indicating strong convection and probably storms or t-storms.

Cloud types were mostly abbreviated. Ns=nimbostratus, Cu or cum=cumulus, Ci=cirrus, S or St=Stratus, etc. AMS or AM S means morning stratus clouds.

Symbols were often used to show cloud coverage. A circle with a + sign means overcast, a circle with two vertical lines means broken, and a circle with one vertical line means scattered coverage.

In Nov and Dec of 1981, on the "notes" sheets, is a column with max and min temp data for a "cold spot" or "cold air drainage" station (CADS). This was simply a thermometer semi-hidden on a fence with a little tree cover at the "end" of Hatteras Street, just west of Fairhaven. This was a fantastic morning cold spot due to low terrain along a stream which permitted excellent stratification of the air (and inversion development) in the lowest few tens of feet. A quick comparison shows lows here about 6-12 degrees lower than at WWHWS on clear and dry

nights during the cool half of the year. The undeveloped and undisturbed land just to the west of the end of Hatteras was part of Hidden Hills. Unfortunately, homes were built here by the 1990s, the land surface was moved around by bulldozers, and the coldness of this cold spot diminished considerably.