

# Grandfather Weather Station Says April Snowiest Month

It may be balmy where you are today, but last year this time there was snow in the North Carolina Blue Ridge Mountains.

As a matter of fact, the official U. S. Weather Bureau's reporting station atop mile high Grandfather Mountain reported 13 inches of

snow during April of last year. And April led all other months in snow-production.

The Grandfather Mountain Weather Station recently completed its first full year of operation and provided weather information heretofore not available to fore-

casters. The station was installed by Frank Hood, meteorologist in charge of the Asheville bureau near the summit of the 5,964 foot mountain, the highest peak in the Blue Ridge.

How is the weather at that elevation? The warmest day in 1956 was June 26 when temperature rose to 78 degrees.

The coldest day was January 8 when the instruments showed one below zero.

The greatest amount of rainfall in a single day was 3.25 inches on October 22. Total rainfall for a year was 54.40 inches with the greatest amounts in October (10.13 inches) and July 7.96 inches).

April headed the months in snowfall with its 13 inches, followed by January with 10.5 inches, February with 10 inches and March with nine inches.

The last frost in the spring came on June 3 when Grandfather recorded an unseasonable below freezing minimum of 31 degrees. The first frost came on September 10 with a 36 degree temperature.

Although the warmest temperature of the year was the recorded 78 degrees on June 26, August was the warmest month with an average minimum of 13.9 degrees. February followed with 26.6 degrees.

The winds atop Grandfather Mountain in wintertime have long been talked about. Oldtimers have spoken of 100 mile per hour winds, but there was no verification until the Weather Station was put into service.

The record for the year came on February 25 when winds estimated at 100 miles per hour blew across the Mile High Swinging Bridge.

On that date weather observer Joe Lee Hartley, Jr. reported that the wheels of his pickup truck spun in place as he drove his vehicle against the gusts. He was forced to back his truck off the parking area at Grandfather Mountain for fear of being overturned should the winds hit the truck broadside. He reported he was "trapped" in his truck. Each time he tried to get out of the truck, the winds swept him off his feet, and he could not make it to the Weather Station.

Grandfather Mountain's highest

## Baxter Caudill Dies In Denver

Baxter Caudill, 46, formerly of Bluff City, Tenn., died recently in Denver, Col., where he had resided for a number of years.

Mr. Caudill was a son of Ben E. Caudill and Sarah Haynes Caudill, former Wataugans.

Funeral services were held at Chiquapin Grove Baptist Church near Bristol, Tenn. Rev. H. M. Slagle officiated and burial was in Vanover cemetery.

He is survived by his step-mother, Mrs. Lillie Caudill of Bluff City; five brothers, Paul Caudill, Rome, Ga., Spencer Caudill, Wayne, Mich., Herbert Caudill, Greenville, Tenn., and Raymond and Everett Caudill, both of Bluff City.

Six sisters, Mrs. Charlotte Slagle and Mrs. Herbert Watson, both of Bluff City, Mrs. Ed Penley, Kingsport, Tenn., Mrs. Bob Hodge, Johnson City, Tenn., Mrs. Helen Marion, Baltimore, Md., and Mrs. John T. Adams, Marion, N. C., also survive.

## Health Office Closes Friday

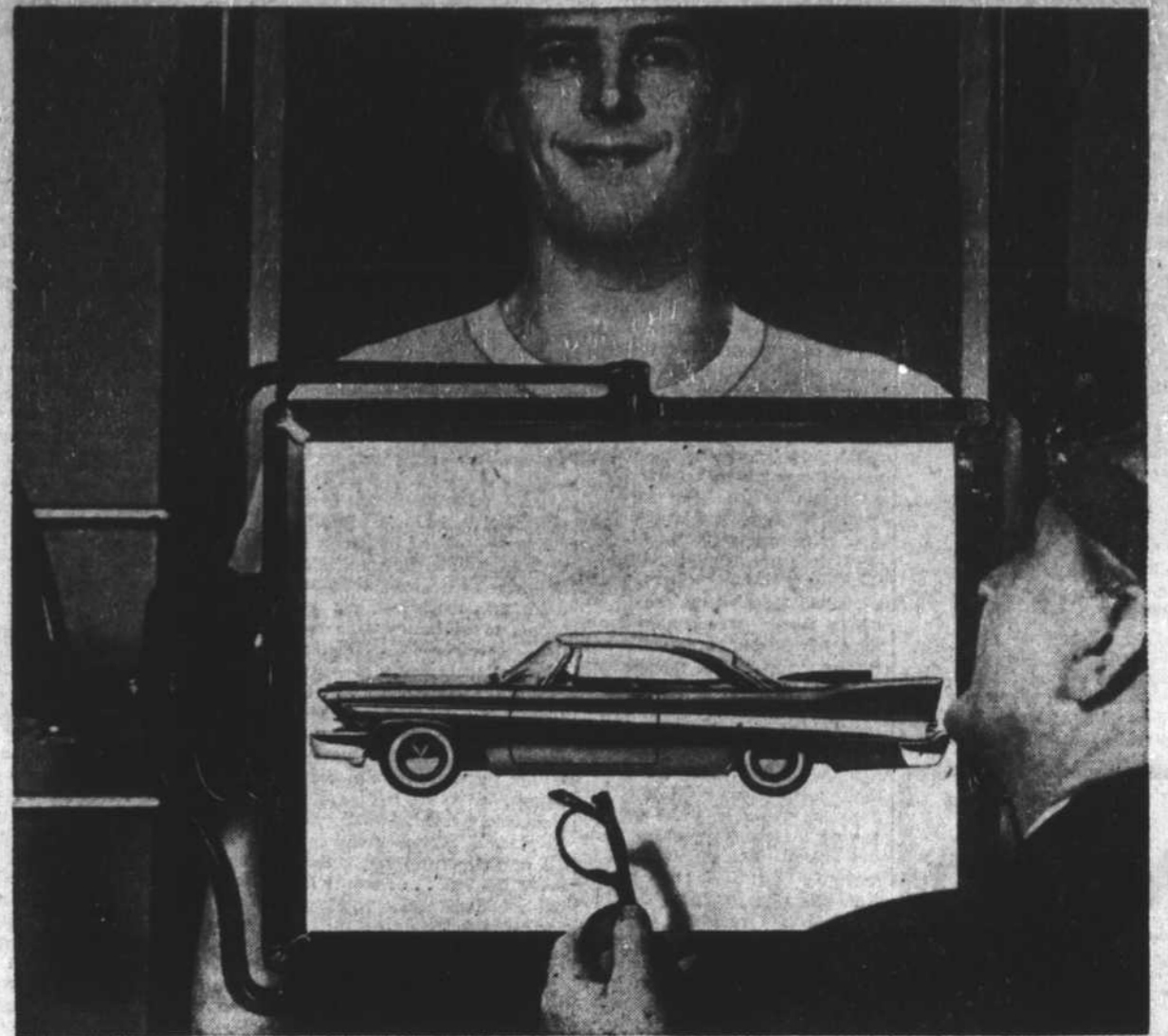
The Health Department office will be closed this Friday, May 10th, in observance of Confederate Memorial Day.

The winds were actually recorded, however, by instruments on January 7 and April 8. Gales of 70 miles per hour were recorded.

On January 17 the weather instruments were blown down and knocked out of commission by the high winds.

Weatherman Hood, who says the station is providing highly valuable information which is distributed throughout the nation, hopes to obtain special equipment for the Grandfather Mountain similar to the equipment now in use on top of Mount Washington in New England. Only then can wind velocity be definitely determined, since Grandfather's anemometer has blown out of commission each time the wind has reached an estimated velocity of 80 miles per hour.

The information gathered at the Grandfather Mountain station is not only available to the U. S. Weather Bureau, but is available to the public over the weather news wires of United Press and Associated Press.



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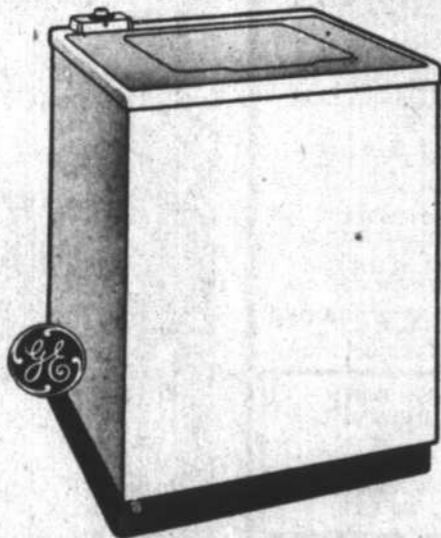
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