Three month old Alisha Richmond, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Altah Richmond of 1807 D. Griers Grove Road, may not have been old enough to understand what it was all about, but she sat quietly with her aunt, Joann Rodgers during the Public Library's Storytelling session held Saturday, July 16 in Freedom Park. Joann Rodgers is one of the storytellers for the library.

For Your Good Vision

By Raleigh W. Bynum, O.D., M.P.H., F.A.A.O.

Many have asked about optometry-let's view the field. Actually there are three kinds of experts in vision care. The ophthalmologist (or oculist), who is a physician dealing in the medical and surgical care of the eyes; the optometrist, and the optician. The last two specialists are described below. Though most vision specialists are men, the fields are extremely well suited to women, and there are good prospects for the physically handicapped as well. Something new: several optical firms employ women as fashion eyewear consultants.

THE OPTOMETRIST: Examines and tests eyes to correct defective sight through the use of lenses and-or vision training. Hecdoes not treat with drugs or surgery in most states. In North Carolina, however, some use of drugs is permitted by Doctors of Optometry. Not less than six years of specialized college education leading to the degree of doctor of optometry, and the passing of a state board examination, are required to practice. In college undergraduate studies, the student should take a pre-medical, pre-optometry, or science course. Physical science (math, physics, etc.) majors tend to do well in optometry school. Also, psychology and other social science majors are acceptable if they have a strong biological science background. Contact the writer of this article if interested.

An optometrist can enter general practice or specialize in such fields as contact lenses, childrén's vision and reading problems, highway safety and motorists' vision, industrial optometry, aids for



Dr. Bynum

the partially sighted, teaching and research. Nine out of 10 of the nation's some 20,000 optometrists are self-employed. About 150 optometrists are black. A survey just comple ted by the American Optometric Association shows the median annual income of its member optometrists was about \$34,000 in 1975.

THE OPTICIAN: Differs from the ophthalmologist or optometrist, in that he is not permitted to examine or prescribe for the eyes. Instead, he fills the prescriptions of the other two by fabricating glasses and contact lenses. He is like the pharmacist.

The dispensing optician makes certain that the glasses follow the prescription and fit properly, determining where the lenses should be placed in relation to the pupils of the eyes. He prepares a work order for the optical mechanic (also called an optical lab technician), who actually makes the glasses. Mechanics may be union member, and some do not grind glasses but lenses and prisms for telescopes, cameras and micro-

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Cold Winter, Hot Summer Not Unusual

By Gale Jones Special To The Post CHAPEL HILL -- The freezing winter and the blistering summer has everyone wondering what is happening to the climate.

Experts don't have any quick answers yet, but Peter Robinson, assistant professor in the geography department at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, does not feel the overall weather picture is changing.

The fact that there have been extremely cold winter days and extremely hot summer days is not unusual in itself, he says. "We've had 100 makes it so noticeable this year is that we've had several days in a row and we remember it. This doesn't mean the overall weather picture is changing.'

Some climatologists claim the earth is getting warmer while others maintain it is getting colder. Robinson says it is too early to predict because changes in climate patterns can only be spotted after years of observation.

"The overall weather picture from 1940 to 1970 was relatively benign," Robinson says, "but since 1970, things have gone haywire and aren't following the expected pattern." In the seven years since know if it'll bring rain. The air 1970, the general weather picture has gotten somewhat colder, but it's too short a time. he explains, to tell if it's the beginning of a new pattern or if it's simply an aberration in the old pattern.

"Actually," he says, "we know what is happening with the weather. The question is

"Most of our rain comes from depressions out of the west that swing down along the Gulf and pick up moisture. We may get rain as this depression moves towards the return to the comfortable pat-

SPECIAL!

flows that normally bring these depressions in from the west aren't blowing the way they should this year, so we haven't had rain.

The current water crises in many areas. he says. are not just a climatology problem of too little rainfall, since any water used is returned to the whether or not it will continue. atmosphere. It is a problem of an increased population making increased demands on the water supply

Robinson says it's foolish to assume the weather is going to northeast. But even when we tern we're used to. "The at-

but it seems to have settled climate for our well-being. into a pattern of intrequent rainfall in small amounts, and we can't sit back and expect things to be easy

We have to get away from the assumption that the climate will always permit a good crop yield. Some areas of the western United States that depend on irrigation are already marginal and may not survive another year of drou-

In the 1960s we blithely trusted technology to solve any problems, but the experience of the last two or three

mosphere is unpredictable, we depend on a tavorable Robinson doesn't put the

blame for the unusual weather pattern on man's activities. Man is probably having little impact on the climate." he says, "especially in the Southeast where there are few cities or industries. And it's entirely unlikely that anything manmade accounts for the atmospheric changes since 1970.

Scientists don't agree yet about the effect man could have on the earth's climate. Pollution sends carbon dioxide and dust into the air that could have two possible effects on years demonstrates how much the earth. Robinson explains



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