

Tom Gene West

Weekly Weatherman

By J. A. C. DUNN

There is something about weather that fascinates Tom Gene West.

Tom is now the Weekly's weatherman, responsible for the climatological statistics, analyses, and predictions that appear on our front pages. At the moment (9th grade), Tom is not sure whether his life will be spent in politics or weather-watching.

Say Rain! or Snow! or Cold front! to Tom and a light comes to his eye. He darts to a window and peers out, checking. Sometimes he can spot an approaching cold front without a thermometer, although he has three.

Tom started taking weather readings last March, noting temperature, rainfall, and other facts on a chart of his own making. By November he had become so interested in weather that he started subscribing to the U. S. Weather Bureau's daily weather map service.

"I just got more and more interested in it," he said, and now his corner room in his family's house on Christopher Road is cluttered with instruments, charts, maps, and a small filing box for documents, all concerned with weather. He takes readings at 6:30 a.m. and 9 p.m. every day. In addition to a thermometer,

Tom has an aneroid barometer, the function of which he will explain to you in clear, rapid textbook terms, rattling off the intricacies of high and low pressure areas with practiced ease. He has a hydrometer, a wind gauge, a maximum-minimum thermometer which records daily high and low temperatures, a rain gauge, a weathervane, and a sheet of glass for measuring the depth and consistency of snowfalls. Inside and out, the windowsill of his room is cluttered with these instruments. A special light has been rigged so the thermometer can be read through the window pane at night.

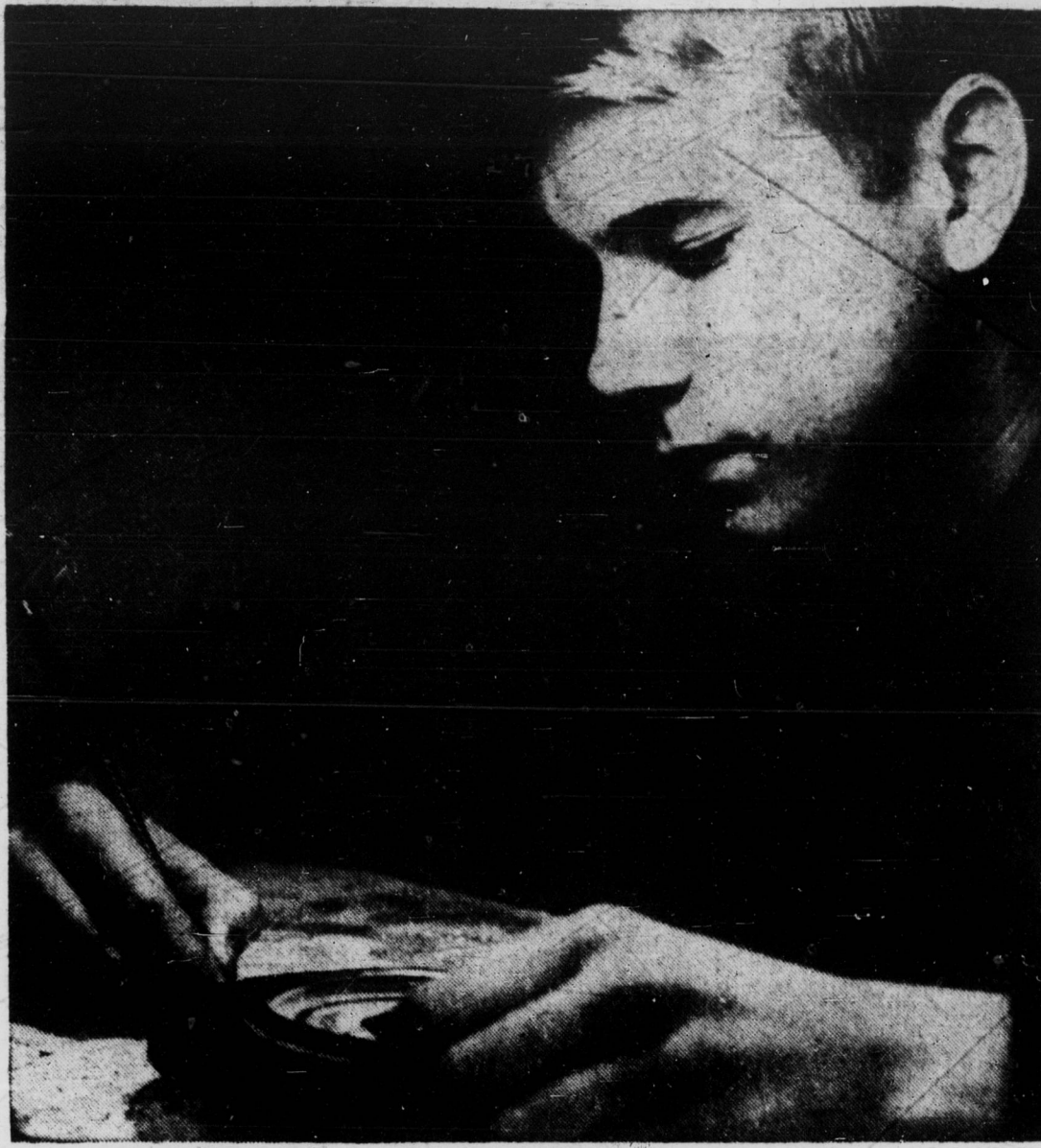
Tom plans to buy a thermograph, which records temperatures at any given time during the day; a barograph, which does the same for barometric pressure; and an anemometer, which measures windspeed more accurately than his present pocket wind gauge. This equipment will cost Tom about \$150. Weather is that important to him.

Tom can read the little clusters of figures and squiggles on a weather map, telling you the high and low temperatures, precipitation, visibility, and barometric pressure in millibars in Houston or Boston or Kansas City on any given day.

"Anybody can read the weather map in the newspaper," he said. "They only have to try. The weather map in the newspaper isn't much good, though, because it's about twelve hours late."

Tom can tell you why Chapel Hill sometimes has freezing rain at the bottom of the hill while only plain rain falls at the top: the rain has farther to fall to reach the ground at the bottom of the hill, consequently has more time in which to freeze.

Tom can read Weather Bureau teletype transmissions. For a school project earlier this year he wrote a long paper on weather entitled "Outlook for Today." "Outlook" is quite a few pages long and includes charts, maps,



Tom West Working On A Weather Map

all Tom's weather readings for several months back, and an explanation of coded teletype transmission of weather conditions. Tom can read the codes, which are all numerical. "Amazing!" his teacher wrote in the margin.

Tom can tell you about strato cumulus clouds, alto cumulus clouds, cirrus clouds, and the dewpoint. He knows how visibility is measured and how to translate fahrenheit temperature to centigrade.

"I'd like to go into politics," he said. He is a serious boy. "I'm

sure I'd like to have weather as a hobby all the rest of my life, and if politics doesn't work out, I can work in weather. The fun of it is in compiling all your readings, getting highs and lows, and averages. I'd like to go to the California Institute of Technology. That's in Southern California. There are several schools in the country, but that's the biggest. The University doesn't have anything like it, except the Geography Department.

"I'd like to go to work in Miami, tracking hurricanes. But

the patterns show that most hurricanes now are swinging out to sea. I don't think we'll have too many hurricanes, unless you get a freak. This is a chart of some famous hurricanes."

"We're going to have a very cold March. There's a fifty-fifty chance for snow, but if we do get snow, it won't be much."

"The highest temperature last year was 95. The lowest was five degrees on December 13."

He stepped outside and glanced at the sky.

"Cold front's moving in."

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'Jenzano Museum'  
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Morehead Planetarium Director A. F. Jenzano has been immortalized in someone else's science and space establishment.

The Jenzano's Aircraft and Rocket Museum has been established in Danville, Virginia, by F. Zane Kinn and eleven boys, among them Mr. Kinn's two sons.

Mr. Kinn is a credit investigator. Three years ago he and his two sons began building models of aircraft and rockets, adding charts and diagrams of space information. Their collection of material grew quite imposing quite soon.

Correspondence with Mr. Jenzano resulted in the 58-piece Kinn display of charts and models of aircraft and missile rockets being put on view at the Planetarium here. It was seen by more than 8,000 people during its first month at the Planetarium. The exhibit was also shown at four Danville schools, and Mr. Kinn began lecturing to organizations on rocketry, space travel, aircraft, and related subjects.

The Kinn projects, which expanded to include information on life in the various military services (Mr. Kinn is a World War II and Korea veteran), started in an old workshop. Pretty soon the workshop began to look like a museum; so the Kinn's made it

one and named it for Mr. Jenzano.

Danville police Sergeant A. W. Wiggs cut the ribbon across the door to the museum recently, formally opening it.

The museum now contains over 525 pieces of equipment and over 5,000 pictures and diagrams of rocketry, aircraft, and astronomy.

The Jenzano museum will soon be registered as a full-fledged national science museum, with contents ranging from rocketry to Civil War history, plus models and documentary material on the Marine Corps role in the Pacific in World War II.

HITS THE YOUNG

Rheumatic fever usually strikes first between the ages of 5 and 15. However, when rheumatic fever is followed by rheumatic heart disease, the effects may last throughout adult life, the North Carolina Heart Association says.

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Last Sunday night on Howard K. Smith's television program there were scenes of poverty-stricken areas which, if you hadn't been told by the commentator, you might have guessed were in Latin America, or in certain parts of Europe, or in Africa or Egypt or Asia, or in some of the other more publicized impoverished sections of the world.

But these scenes were not taken in Africa or Europe or Asia or South America. They were filmed right here in the United States—the richest country in the universe, and the nation embracing supposedly the highest standard of living yet attained by man.

These scenes pictured the terrible living conditions and, in some instances, the squalor, in which an estimated 30 to 40 million Americans are existing today.

These unfortunate Americans ranged from unemployed coal miners in the mountains of West Virginia, to the pitiable and homeless migratory agricultural workers of the Eastern Seaboard and the Southwest, and included the tenement-shackled and destitute minority groups festering in ghettos in cities throughout the nation, one of the most sordid of them in Washington, D. C., within a few blocks of the Nation's Capitol.

Many of these impoverished Americans are unemployed, most are on some kind of government supplement, and all of them, and themselves either without the opportunity or the know-how necessary to keep themselves from being a social and financial drag on society. Yet, in interviews with many of these people, it was apparent that their greatest desire was to get off relief and somehow to prepare themselves for jobs which would secure for themselves and their families the material things necessary for decent living and the resulting pride so essential to human dignity.

These Americans are not looking for charity. They are looking for an opportunity to provide for themselves. And they have looked and looked, until they are now losing faith in themselves and in the society into which they were born.

What is to be done about this ironic situation—certainly one of the greatest paradoxes to be found in the march of human endeavors in the twentieth century? There has been much medicine prescribed, but the disease grows more malignant by the hour. Mr. Smith suggested that a great program of public works be begun to eliminate unemployment and at the same time produce institutions which will be of continuing aid in educating future generations of Americans to provide for themselves.

Also, Mr. Smith suggested that we must care for our ever-growing segment of "senior citizens,"

and even went so far as to call for complete medical care for all citizens over 65 years of age.

These seem worthy, if terribly expensive, suggestions to aid an acute social and economic (these people have so little with which to buy) problem.

To Mr. Smith's list of public works could be added such projects as soil conservation and reclamation, fresh water conversion plants, atomic energy electric power plants, decent living quarters for migratory agricultural workers, and all the schools necessary to give each American child the opportunity to prepare himself for a prosperous life.

The projects could, and probably should, be sold later by the government to private industry so that the taxes derived from their operation could be used in similar other projects.

There are those, of course, who will immediately cry "socialism" and "welfare state" to such a program as Howard Smith has suggested. And no doubt they are perfectly sincere in their criticisms. Yet, many of these same people would probably shrug off the fact that the United States gave away over \$2 billion dollars last year alone to foreign countries for military and other aid, as our nationalistic duty.

Already we have by our prolific giving created economies more progressive than ours, in West Germany, Japan and Italy (only recently our mortal enemies!), while at the same time keeping France, England and a number of other nations financially afloat.

Yet our own economy drags, and a large segment of our own society lives in poverty and without the hope and pride which should attach itself to being an American. And they have to import laborers to West Germany!

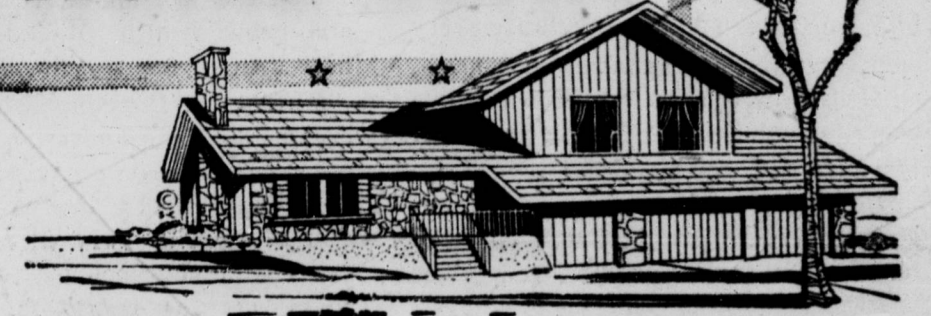
To give is charitable; but charity nurtures, rather than eliminates, poverty. But to afford opportunity is to eliminate depression and to lessen poverty, or, to put it in other words, to boost prosperity. To a fond opportunity for all who would take it must be the highest aim of all benevolent government.

Opportunity must be given all Americans first, then we can look to the other nations after that. Is this socialism or is it nationalism? Is it a dole or is it a sacred trust, and a sound economic arrangement as well, thus providing all our willing citizens with an opportunity to provide for themselves?

But no matter what you call it or what the cost, the sagacity of the old saying "charity begins at home," has never been successfully refuted. Although... we have the poor always with you," it is a poor nation, indeed, which will not succor its own poor before those of other nations.

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