



THE WEATHER AND YOU

by Alson J. Smith

Today's forecast will influence your life tomorrow

WHY CAN'T JOHNNY read? Because of the weather. Why does docile, tail-wagging old Rover suddenly decided to remove the seat of the postman's pants? The weather. Why does Jim become a distinguished scientist and make *Who's Who* while his brother Jack settles for a skid-row flophouse? Again—the weather!

In fact, the climatologists are saying today, the weather is probably the most important nonhereditary factor in our lives. Respiration, pulse rate, blood pressure, the chemical composition of the blood and urine, the concentration of ions, and the general metabolism all pass through rapid changes from day to day according to the weather. The outside temperature at the time of conception may well determine a person's future mental capacity, physical vigor, and

longevity. Continued exposure to high temperatures may make men (and animals) sterile! These are just a few of the sensational recent findings of the climatologists.

To begin with lovable old Rover—when the barometer falls the climatologists say he may become a different dog. He feels depressed, nervous, irritable. Chemical changes he doesn't understand and over which he has no control are taking place inside him. All he knows is that he feels like biting somebody. But when the barometer stops falling, Rover is his old lovable self again.

So it is with humans. For centuries, it has been recognized that a falling barometer presages strange and unpredictable behaviour.

In the face of a falling barometer, climatologists say, important business and personal decisions

should be postponed until the "pressure" (atmospheric) begins to lift. People should realize that they are not "themselves" and allowances should be made for moodiness, short temper, irritability, and a tendency to throw off ordinary restraints, both in men and animals.

HOWEVER, the most important discovery of the climatologists is the relationship between weather, or climate, and *conception*. Army intelligence tests, analyses of *Who's Who* in both the United States and Great Britain, and such studies as Ellsworth Huntington's *Season of Birth*, A. B. Fitt's *Seasonal Influence on Growth, Function and Inheritance*, and C. A. Mills' *Climate Makes the Man*, all show conclusively that at all social levels the highest IQ occurs with late-autumn, winter, and early-spring conceptions, and the lowest with summer and early fall conceptions. The likelihood of a person conceived in winter entering college is *twice* as great as that of one conceived in summer. On an average, the chances of permanent fame are 50-100 per cent greater among Americans born in February than those born in April or May. In the *Who's Who* study, it was found that more of the men and women listed were born in February than in any other month. August (April births) was the lowest month for *Who's Who* conceptions.

At the other end of the scale,

Doctors Benjamin Pesamanick and Hilda Knobloch of Ohio State University found in a recent study of the birth dates of all persons admitted to the Columbus, Ohio, State School between 1860 and 1949, that there was a definite correlation between summer conception and mental deficiency. They found that a hot summer means that more mentally-deficient babies will be born in the winter and early spring. When checked against the number of births and the specific months, February had the highest rate of mentally-deficient children, followed in order by March, November, December, January, April, May, June, September, July and August.

Oddly enough, February leads as a birth month in both mental deficiency and a listing in *Who's Who*. The experts explain this by saying that mental deficiency and exceptional intellectual ability bear a much closer clinical relationship to each other than either does to normality.

Doctors Pesamanick and Knobloch have another explanation. They believe that very hot weather between the eighth and twelfth weeks of pregnancy may cause mental deficiency. Thus the August heat may be responsible for the mental deficiency of the June-conceived child. They suggest that a hot summer reduces the protein intake of the expectant mother, who just doesn't feel like eating, and

urge mothers-to-be to maintain a high protein and vitamin intake in hot weather.

MIDSUMMER is the worst time for conception, the climatologists say, because body-stress is at its height during hot weather. The human "inheritance-level" is higher when stress is lower, and the human organism suffers the least stress during late autumn, winter, and early spring. Mankind is most healthy and vigorous at a temperature of about 65 degrees Fahrenheit. Fertility is highest when the outdoor temperature is between 60 and 65 degrees. Winter temperatures averaging 40 degrees make human beings somewhat less fertile, but children conceived when the outdoor temperature readings are in the 40's are likely to be vigorous, healthy, intelligent, and long-lived.

Studies made by Professors C. A. Mills and David Belding indicate a definite relationship between high temperatures and human reproductive ability. Professor Belding has discovered that there is a seasonal fluctuation in the number of spermatazoa men produce. They are most numerous—and most vigorous—in December, declining to a minimum in number and vigor in March, rising to a second maximum in May, and then falling to a main minimum in August.

Professor Mills discovered in his experiments with white mice that

mice kept at 65 degrees reproduced almost every time they mated. The litters were big and the vitality high. But at 90-degree temperatures, conception was difficult and the litters small and puny.

Professor Mills urges young married couples who live in a year-round warm climate to try to spend several weeks in a cool climate before attempting conception.

To wrap up the case against conceiving children in a warm climate or at high temperatures, Professor Ellsworth Huntington cites the fact that very few great world leaders come from tropical countries, and that when they do (the prophet Mohammed, for instance) they are found to have been born in the cool uplands of their warm countries. "Is it not possible," he says, "that in some unknown way conception at lower temperatures exerts a favorable effect upon the nerves, the brain, the ductless glands, and the other organs that influence the amount and nature of mental activity?"

Not only are children conceived at lower temperatures likely to be stronger and more intelligent, they also tend to outlive those conceived during hot weather. Studying daily deaths in New York City for a six-year period, Professor Huntington found that when the temperature falls the death rate tends to fall on that day and the next. When the temperature rises, so does the death rate. In the eastern United States,

people conceived in late May and early June—before summer stress sets in—live an average of four years longer than those conceived in late August and early September. In Australia, people born in hot Queensland die an average of ten years sooner than those born in cool Victoria!

THE TROUBLE IS, the climatologists say, that although the best inheritance comes from late-autumn, winter, and early-spring conceptions, there are many more late-spring and summer conceptions. The peak for the reproductive act is the first half of summer, when the seasonal organic reorganization of the body and increased emotionality result in a maximum number of reproductive acts. And then, there's the June-honeymoon business. Very bad, they say. Honeymoons should be taken in April or May. Or, better yet, January or February. And *not* in Florida or the sunny Caribbean, either!

On top of all this, there's the undeniable fact that the climate of North America is changing. Doctor William Baxter, in his book *Today's Revolution in Weather*, tells us that the climate of the whole continent is getting progressively warmer. The southern half of the United States will be semi-tropical and life there will slow down to the *poco-tiempo* of Latin America.

So for maximum vigor, creativity, fertility, health, and longevity in the future, "go North young man," says Professor Baxter. He sees the Pacific Northwest, Canada, Alaska, and New England as tomorrow's lands of opportunity weather-wise.

Weather makes the man or woman in more ways than we realize. From before birth until death its winds and temperatures mould us, helping to determine our intelligence, physical vigor, success, fertility, inheritance, and length of life. Of all life's "hidden persuaders," the weather is the greatest.

Complete 1958 Bound Volumes Ready!

Send now for the 1958 Bound Volumes of THE AMERICAN MERCURY
Both the January-June and July-December Volumes are now ready.

Help "To Bear Witness to the Truth" by sending your check, with a list of names to whom you wish Bound Volumes sent. THE AMERICAN MERCURY will mail them for you.

.....Copies of July-December 1958 Bound Volume at \$2.50 each
.....Sets of 1958 Bound Volumes at \$5.00 set
.....Sets of 1957 Bound Volumes at \$5.00 set

Enclosed is.....in payment for Bound Volumes indicated above.

Name

Address..... City..... Zone..... State.....

HA 3/9

REBELLION

by Ewart A. Autry

WHEN I was a small boy I always sat—with my little blouse stiffly starched, and my hair nicely combed—on the front seat at church. I sat there because I was the minister's little boy, and it would have been scandalous for me to sit elsewhere. It is little wonder that many preachers' children are bad. Too much is expected of them.

I wanted to move to the back seat, tousle my hair until I looked like a pint-sized baboon and pull out the drawstring of my blouse. I wanted to stay outside the church until the congregation started singing. Some of the other boys did.

I found myself recklessly wishing I could say “doggone it” just as loud as any of them.

To me, the fellow who said, “doggone it” was a cussing dude. He was a daredevil whom I longed to imitate. It was all right for other youngsters to do those things, but if I had done them, the congregation would have wagged their heads and said, “He's a bad one, isn't he?” My parents would have felt disgraced. I would have been hurt—not inwardly, but outwardly.

I was fenced in by the expectations of the public. I was expected to be a little angel, when my natural tendency was to be a little devil.

Other boys could scratch their backs at church. Mine had to itch. They could wiggle their noses like rabbits, but I didn't dare wiggle mine. They could turn their heads at all angles to squint at late comers while I had to look cross-eyed to do it. In the summertime, they could go to church barefooted and enjoy a long sermon by wiggling their toes. I had to wear shoes.

At school, it was the same thing. Other boys could send paper wads whamming across the room and get no more than a whipping if caught. I didn't dare do such a thing. Folks would say, “The preacher had better pin down on that boy. He's going to the bad.” Nor could I get involved in gambling, playing marbles for keeps.

Another boy caught a girl and kissed her. They dared me do the same. Because I was the preacher's son I backed down, publicly, but I kissed her later, secretly.

Some boys sneaked chewing tobacco to school. I envied them as they cudded their jaws and spit red. If I spit at all, it had to be as colorless as water. A few of the boys would fight. One boy got a front tooth knocked out. After the fight, he calmly spit out the tooth, and created a laugh by saying,