

My name is Keith Heidorn.

If you asked me to describe myself in the context of the Weather Doctor,

I would tell you that I am both an artist and a scientist who is deeply involved with the weather and other atmospheric phenomena on many levels.

I have had a love affair with the weather for about 45 years.

You see, I think that weather is the most sensual aspect of life, stimulating all my senses at one time or another and often several at once.

I was born in Chicago and grew up in northeastern Illinois where I first fell in love with the weather.

The Great Lakes region has its variety of weather extremes generally with a rapid turnover of daily weather events.

<http://www.glenallenweather.com/historylinks/wxdoc/jan.htm> (Ref. Wx.Doctor)

1 December 1896, Kipp, Montana: The air temperature soars 30 F degrees (16.7 C degrees) in just seven minutes, and 80 F degrees (44.4 C deg) in a few hours melting a 20-inch (50 cm) inch snow cover in half a day.

1-6 December 1913, Denver, Colorado: A six-day, front-range snowstorm dumps a record total of 45.7 inches (116 cm) on Denver, the most snow ever recorded in a single Denver snowstorm.

2 December 1896, Southeast States: An early season snow and ice storm strikes the southeastern US. It dumps 11 inches (28 cm) of snow on Charlotte North Carolina, and 6 inches (15 cm) at Atlanta, Georgia

2 December 1950, Southern Illinois: Three tornadoes swirl across Illinois counties of Bond, Macoupin and Madison; three die and 25 are injured. One death occurs in a car tossed 200 yards near Mt Olive.

2 December 1950, St Louis, Missouri: Severe thunderstorm produces extensive hail damage in St Louis, the \$4 million damage price tag was the worst hailstorm on record to that date for the city.

2 December 2007, Seaside, Oregon: A giant Sitka spruce known as the "Klootchey Creek Giant" snaps nearly in half under strong winds. The tree, the largest, in Oregon, stood 200 feet (61 m) tall and was estimated to be 500 to 750 years old, near the end of its life cycle.

3 December 1926, Yuma, Arizona: Yuma records 1.10 inches (27.9 mm) of rain; by month's end it will be the wettest December of record.

3-6 December 1886, Southern Appalachian Mountains: Great snowstorm dumps up to 42 inches (107 cm) in mountains. 33 inches (84 cm) falls on Asheville, North Carolina and 25 inches (64 cm) at Rome, Georgia.

4 December 1786, New England: Huge snowstorm leaves 18 inches (46 cm) of snow at Morristown, New Jersey and 20 inches (50 cm) at New Haven, Connecticut.

5 December 1953, Vicksburg, Mississippi: A devastating tornado rips through Vicksburg causing the most damage since a 47-day shelling during the Civil War. It kills 38 persons, injures 270 others, and causes 25 million dollars in damage.

5 December 2007, Kahului, Hawaii: Kahului, located on Maui receives 1.32 inches (33.5 mm) of rain, breaking the daily maximum precipitation record for the date.

5 December 2007, Grand Forks, North Dakota: The morning temperature at Grand Forks bottoms out at -19°F (-28.3°C) shattering the previous record low set in 1972. It is the third time in five days that Grand Forks has set a low temperature record.

5-7 December 2003, New York and New England: The greatest Nor'easter snowstorm in recent memory strikes New York and New England. In Central Park, New York City, the accumulation reaches 14 inches (35.6 cm). The greatest accumulation buries Pinkham Notch at Mount Washington in New Hampshire: 47 inches (119.4 cm).

5-7 December 2003, Providence, Rhode Island: Providence records its greatest single snowstorm on record with 17 inches (43.2 cm).

6 December 1970, Washington, DC: A windstorm topples the National Christmas Tree at the White House.

7 December 1989, Winfield, Kansas: A winter storm moving out of the Rockies dumps 7.5 inches (19 cm) of snow on Winfield.

7-8 December 2006, Valentine, Nebraska: Valentine residents experience an 80 F degree (44.4 C degree) temperature rise over two days as the recorded low of -14°F (-25.6°C) Thursday morning is followed by a 66°F (18.9°C) high on Friday.

8 December 1938, La Mesa, California: Temperature reaches a high of 100°F (37.7°C).

9 December 1786, Morristown, New Jersey: A second major snowstorm in less than a week brings an additional 15 inches (38 cm) of snow on top of the 8 inches (20 cm) that fell on the previous two days, and the 18 inches (46 cm) which fell on the 4th and 5th. The week's snowfall totaled 41 inches (194 cm).

9-10 December 1879, Chicago, Illinois: Chicago sets record highs for both 9 and 10 December, and they occur but minutes apart. During the late evening of the 9th, southerly winds bring warm air into the city. The thermometer peaks at 62°F (16.7°C) just before midnight and remains there into the wee hours of the 10th before a cold front brings colder temperatures that morning.

10 December 1699, Boston, Massachusetts: A severe ice storm hits the region, causing much damage to local orchards.

10 December 1919, Bend, Oregon: A new 24-hour snowfall record for the state is set when Bend records 28 inches (71.1 cm).

11 December 1989, California: Strong Santa Ana winds blow across southern and parts of central California. In Kern County they gust to 100 mph (160 km/h) near Grapevine. The high winds raise dust that reduces visibilities to near zero in the desert areas closing the major interstate highways east of Ontario.

12 December 1969, Des Moines to Kent, Washington: Forming as a waterspout over Puget Sound, south of Seattle, a tornado — the worst on record for western Washington — races five miles (8 km) from Des Moines to Kent. Reported as 50 to 200 yards (45-182 m) wide, the tornado injures one person and causes half a million dollars damage.

12-20 December 1967, Flagstaff, Arizona: A series of snow storms buries Flagstaff with 86.0 inches (218 cm) of snow.

13 December 1987, New Mexico: A major early winter storm dumps 25 inches (64 cm) of snow at Cedar Crest, New Mexico with up to three feet (90 cm) reported in the higher elevations. Winds of 75 mph, with gusts to 124 mph, buffet the region northeast of Albuquerque.

14 December 2005, Houston, Texas: A string of severe thunderstorms drop 7.28 inches (185 mm) of rain in downtown Houston.

14-15 December 1924, Fairfield and Helena, Montana: Temperature drops an incredible 79 F° (44 C°) in 24 hours from 63 °F to minus 25 °F (17 to minus 32 °) and 88 F° (49 C°) in 34 hours. In Fairfield, it drops from 63 °F to minus 21 °F (17 to minus 29.4 °C), an 84 F degree (46.7 C°) change in 12 hours— the greatest 12 hour temperature change recorded in the United States.

15 December 1839, Gloucester, Massachusetts: The first of eight major storms to hit eastern Massachusetts during the month devastates the harbor at Gloucester. Winds estimated as "whole gales" dismantle, drive ashore or push out to sea at least 50 vessels resulting in a death toll estimated around 50.

14-17 December 1945, Buffalo, New York: A relentless December snowstorm burys Buffalo under 36.6 inches (93 cm) of snow, with unofficial totals south of the city ranging up to 70 inches (178 cm).

16 December 1988, Fairbanks, Alaska: City reports freezing rain and record warm temperatures with the afternoon high of 41 °F (5°C). Maximum temperature was 43 F° (23.9C°) above normal.

17 December 1884, Springfield, Illinois: Two inches of ice cover the ground in the Illinois capitol as a severe ice storm strikes central Illinois. The storm inflicts 21 million dollars damage along with much hardship.

18 December 1919, New York, New York: The Central Park temperature drops to one degree below zero F (minus 18.3C°), the earliest sub-zero temperature in the city on record.

18 December 1981, Valparaiso, Indiana: A heavy lake-effect snow blankets the southern and southeast shores of Lake Michigan leaving up to 22 inches (56 cm) of snow.

19 December 1924, Yellowstone Park, Wyoming: The Riverside Ranger Station reports a low of 59 degrees below zero F (minus 50.6C°), a December record for the US.

20 December 1836, Central Illinois: A famous cold wave sweeps across central Illinois. The cold front with 70 mph (112 km/h) winds passes through at midday dropping the temperature from 40°F (4°C) to near zero (minus 18°C) in a matter of minutes. Many settlers reported frozen to death. Folklore tells of chickens frozen in their tracks and men frozen to saddles. Ice in streams reported six inches (15 cm) thick in a few hours.

21 December 1892, Portland Oregon: A record snowstorm strikes Portland. By the time it ends four days later, the city is buried under 27.5 inches (69.9 cm) of snow.

22 December 1983, Across America: The Winter Solstice brings record low temperatures for the date to 75 cities. Wisdom Montana shivers at 51 F degrees below zero (minus 46°C), and Waco TX set an all-time record low a reading of 12°F above zero (minus 11°C).

22 December 1989, Across America: Another intense pre-Christmas cold wave as 135 cities crack their record low temperature for the date, 35 set record December lows Kansas and

Missouri are especially hit. In Kansas, Concordia and Goodland plummet to minus 26°F (minus 32.2°C) and minus 27°F (minus 32.8°C), respectively. Both establish all time record lows for the community. locations. In Kansas City, Missouri, the morning bottoms at minus 23°F (minus 30.6°C).

22 December 1989, Cutbank, Montana: A rapid temperature rise brought by chinook winds spikes the temperature in Cutbank by 74 F° (41.1 C°). After a shivering morning low of minus 34 the afternoon high is a relatively balmy 40°F above zero (4.4°C).

22 December 2005, Southern Illinois: A fast moving snowstorm across the Midwest and Ohio Valley becomes the most significant snowstorm on record for southern sections of Illinois. Snowfall records are set at Carbondale (12 inches (30 cm)), McLeansboro (14 inches (36 cm)), and Carmi (18 inches (46 cm)).

22 December 2008, Wisconsin: Most of Wisconsin shivers as temperatures fell to below zero Fahrenheit (-18°C) with even colder windchill temperatures. The only parts of the state with above zero readings are in cities along Lake Michigan. The low temperatures hit -13°F (-25°C) in Hayward and -12°F (24.4°C) in La Crosse. .

23 December 1955, Boise, Idaho: The barometric pressure drops to 28.97 inches (981 millibars) at Boise.

24 December 1983, Chicago, Illinois: Even Santa's reindeer needed toques as the daytime high only reached -11°F (-23.9°C) this Christmas Eve. It ties with 18 January 1993 for the coldest high temperature ever experienced in the Windy City. Christmas Day would only reach -5°F (-20.6°C)

24-25 December 1836, Ft Snelling Minnesota: An intense cold wave drives the mercury down nearly 40 F deg (22 C deg) in 10 hours to minus -28 °F (minus 33°C) by Christmas morning, 1 F° (0.55 C°) shy of 1822's record December low.

24-25 December 2004, Victoria, Texas: Victoria residents awake to their first white Christmas in 86 years when south Texas receives a rare blanket of snow that reaches 13 inches (33 cm) deep in the region.

25 December 1988, Las Vegas, Nevada: A massive winter storm produces a white Christmas in Las Vegas for the first time of record.

25 December 2003, San Bernardino, California: Flash flood generates a mudslide that sweeps down Waterman Canyon. The flood sends boulders, trees and 12-foot waves of mud crashing into a Greek Orthodox Church, killing twenty-eight people.

25 December 2004, New Orleans, Louisiana: Residents of the Big Easy are astonished to see snow falling steadily on Christmas Day, the first Christmas snow in half a century and the first snowfall in 15 years in the city. New Orleans' transit system halts all buses and streetcars due to the sleet, icy streets and rail tracks.

25-27 December 1987, Oklahoma: Ice Storm coats a swath of Oklahoma from near Duncan through Norman to Tulsa with up to 2 inches (5 cm) of ice. Many areas are without power for a week or more.

26 December 1947, New York, New York: Late Christmas snowstorm buries Central Park under 26.4 inches (61 cm) of white, 32 inches (81 cm) in suburbs.

26 December 2001, Buffalo, New York: The official snow total for the five-day, lake-effect storm, which struck the Buffalo area beginning Christmas Eve, is officially reported as 81.5

inches (207 cm), according to the US National Weather Service. At least four deaths are blamed on the weather and over \$10 million are needed for clean-up.

27 December 1988, Mississippi: A dozen tornadoes rage across Mississippi between early afternoon and sunrise the following day. One at Harpersville destroys five chicken homes killing thousands of chickens.

28 December 1996, Pacific Northwest: The same storm that buries southern Vancouver Island ruins the holiday period for many in Oregon and Washington as well. Freezing rain and snow across western Washington and Oregon strand travelers and cut power to over 300,000 homes. Parts of western Washington receives over 15 inches (38 cm) of snow while over 2 inches (50 mm) of freezing rain crust 8 inches (20 cm) of snow in Oregon's Columbia River Gorge.

28 December 2004, Los Angeles, California: Los Angeles receives 5.55 inches (141 mm) of rain, the most on record for any December day and the third wettest day since records began in 1877.

29 December 1894, Florida: A severe freeze hits Florida destroying fruit and causing considerable damage to trees.

29 December 2006, Albuquerque, New Mexico: Albuquerque, breaks its all-time 24-hour snowfall record with 10.5 inches (26.7 cm) of snow. The accumulation lifted their monthly total to 14.8 inches (37.6 cm), breaking their all-time monthly snowfall record as well. The record would be short-lived as another 15.6 inches (39.6 cm) of snow would fall there on the 31st.

30 December 2003, Las Vegas, Nevada: For the first time in five years, sections of Las Vegas receive an inch or two (3-5 cm) of snow on cars, roads, sidewalks and trees, while snow flurries fell on downtown and the legendary Strip.

31 December 1929, Death Valley, California: Greenland Ranch in Death Valley finishes the entire calendar year without measurable precipitation.

31 December 1989, Northway, Alaska: Highest pressure ever recorded in United States: 31.85 inches Hg (107.86 kPa)