

composing the forecasts was available and correct at forecast time.

The most significant variable is rainfall (amount, intensity, and distribution). A better scheme is needed for estimating local potential rainfall amount and distribution in a given meteorological situation. The elevated topography of the central Kennebec River basin may have partly contributed to the 50 to 100% increase in the rainfall amount over that which fell over the coastal plain. Perhaps in most any meteorological situation with moderate to strong upslope southeasterly surface winds, the precipitation amount over the slightly elevated terrain is some percentage higher. That value could then be used to enhance the quantitative precipitation forecast.

The precipitation network appears adequate, but all reports need to be received in real time at set intervals. A more complete and timely determination of the snow cover and its water equivalent would be beneficial. From a more complete rainfall and snowmelt estimate, a better runoff determination can be made for the hydrologic model.

In regards to the river gage network on the Kennebec, more real-time observations of river heights or flows available to the NWS are needed. This is especially true for the major tributaries; the Dead, the Carrabassetts, the Sandy, and the Sebasticook. These river gage sites should then become prediction points as well. The April Fools flood of 1987 has left legacy. Hopefully, tools for forecasting another flood on the Kennebec or other rivers in the state will be improved for the next occurrence.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Thanks to Gerry French, National Weather Service, Portland and to Bob Thair, Central Maine Power, Augusta for their assistance.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Bangor Daily News, 1987: The Flood of '87. Supplement, April 14, Bangor, ME.

Chaston, P., Berkowitz, D., Barrett, C., 1985: Fundamentals of Hydrology. National Weather Service Training Center, Kansas City, MO.

Fontaine, R.A., 1987: Flood of April 1987 in Maine, Massachusetts, and New Hampshire. U.S. Geological Survey, Open-File Report 87-460, Augusta, ME.

Kennebec Journal, 1987: The Flood. Supplement, April 4, Augusta, ME.

Maine Sunday Telegram, 1987: The Flood of '87. Supplement, April 12, Portland, ME.

National Weather Service, 1987: Data files. Portland, ME.

National Weather Service, 1987: Kennebec River Peak Annual Hourly Flows 1936-1986 for Skowhegan, Maine. Portland, ME.

New England River Basins Commission, 1979: Kennebec River Basin Overview. December, Boston, MA.

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New England Division, 1987: Hydrology of Floods—Kennebec River Basin—Maine Phase II. November, Waltham, MA.

Folklore

“RED SKIES AT NIGHT, SAILORS DELIGHT”

by Sue Mroz

We are all familiar with the old weatherlore saying, “Red Skies at Night Sailors Delight.” But did you know that it may be familiar because its origins can be traced to ancient Greece? That’s right! This lore, which is generally true, is credited to the ancient Greek Democritus, a student of Aristotle. As we view the sky at sunset, the longer wave lengths

are scattered, producing a pinkish-red hue which is reflected by dust particles and scattered clouds. The fair weather to the west is likely to be with us the next day.

Note: We congratulate Ms. Mroz on her recent graduation from Northern Illinois University with a B.S. in Meteorology.