The equipment was very useful for interpretation of significant weather events although it became evident over time that additional methods of data interpretation other than simple display pattern recognition techniques were needed. Computer enhancement and automatic routines proved to be a partial answer to the problem.

A simplified scheme for dealing with velocity ambiguities was obtainable. Attenuation of the 5 cm intensity data remained a problem under certain circumstances, however there was little or no attenuation in the 5 cm velocity data. Improvements in the 5 cm intensity estimates were possible using computer corrections to the intensity data. Results on the intensity data corrections are not yet conclusive, but the application of such procedures appears promising.

The addition of the velocity data to the overall accumulation of meteorological information must not be misconstrued. Doppler velocity data is only an additional source of useful information and must be utilized in conjunction with all other available meteorological data sources in order that effective public services can be rendered.

7. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

This paper reflects the dedicated efforts of the NWS staff at Montgomery, Alabama. A special thanks to Leo Grenier of the National Severe Storms Forecast Center for his assistance with verification data, special thanks to Bill Johnson for electronic technical assistance and to Walter Snell for proofreading.

NOTES AND REFERENCES

1. Paul E. Pettit is a meteorologist at the National Weather Service Office in Montgomery, AL.

FOLKLORE

DOGS AND CATS EATING GRASS PORTEND A STORM

Sue Mroz

Many animals, including cats and dogs, get upset stomachs prior to a storm because pent-up gas bubbles are released during falling barometric pressure. Eating grass will clean out their system by making them vomit.

SCRIPT SLIDE SATELLITE TRAINING PROGRAM

The training program, prepared by NESDIS, on “polar orbiter imagery interpretation is available. The Script-Slide Training Program, publication 2-88, contains 76 slides and a comprehensive script that addresses many aspects of basic satellite imagery interpretation from a polar orbiter perspective. However, the information can also be used for understanding geostationary satellite imagery, as well.

Worldwide examples show synoptic scale storm systems, jet streams, tropical cyclones, thunderstorms, land and ocean features, and basic cloud identification. One section describes the differences in imagery characteristics among various AVHRR channels. The package concludes with a “test” so viewers can determine how well they understood the material.

The cost of $70.00 for NWA members and $82.00 for non-members includes postage and handling. To order package, send check to: Script-Slide Training Program 2-88, NWA, 4400 Stamp Road, Room 404, Temple Hills, MD 20748.

PRINCIPLES AND METHODS OF EXTENDED PERIOD FORECASTING IN THE U.S.

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