

Morning View Kentucky  
21 December 1955

Mr Tom McCarthy  
WKRC

Hello Mr. McCarthy,

Neither you nor the wire service were suffering from sleepiness on that apparent temperature contradiction in Montana this morning.

They were having a Chinook out there and it had not reached Cut Back. Perhaps, due to terrain, it would not get there at all.

A Chinook (don't know the Weather Bureau name for it) is a strong, warm, very dry wind from the Southwest.

When a storm of sufficient strength strikes the West Coast, its winds spill Eastward over the mountains, but, because of their rapid climb to cross the mountain ridges, they have lost practically all their moisture.

After a blizzard has passed and the plains lie bitter and still, growing ever colder as the heat drains off into space during the long clear nights, these winds come from the Southwest, marked by a dense mass of steely clouds formed by the moisture they have picked up from the snow. They are accompanied by wildly rising temperature.

Frequently the winds are so dry that they absorb the snow on the ground before the accompanying warmth has a time to melt it. It is startling to see a foot of snow vanish in what seems like only minutes, leaving neither puddles nor even dampness. Weather men have a word for this action but I forget it.

It is a fascinating phenomenon, the more so because it is beneficial. Many a herd of cattle, huddled helplessly on the verge of death - their eyes frozen shut by driven snow, standing because to lie down means freezing to the ground, has been rescued by the warm breath of a Chinook

Several times each winter these Chinooks sweep the Northern plains, preventing blizzard loss in stock and human life from running much higher.

Hope this assures you that you and the wire boys were both awake.

Sincerely,

*Berens*