

OIC Brandon Runs One-Man Good News Office

In the last issue of Zephyr we ran a selection of "good news letters" received by various Directorates, most of them praising the work of AES staff in assisting the public. Jack Carpick, superintendent, Standards and Requirements, Central Region has been quick to respond to our request for more good news examples from the regions. He zeroes in on one individual — Eric Stanzeleit, OIC, of the Brandon, Manitoba Weather Office, whom he says frequently receives complimentary letters from residents in surrounding communities. Widely known in Southern Manitoba as "Mr. Weatherman", Carpick adds that Eric lectures to groups at Brandon University, student pilots, and businessmen. His one-man weather office received a remarkable 150,000 calls in 1988.

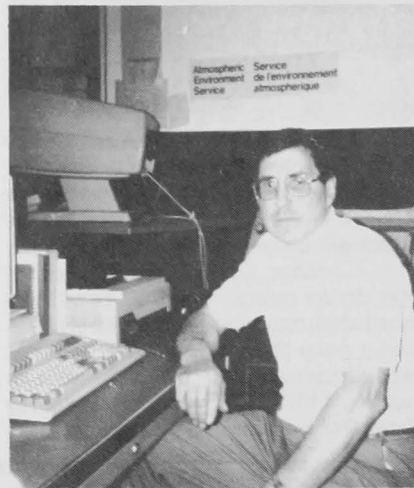
Carpick also encloses a copy of a letter sent to Eric by Ryan Claeys, a prizewinning Science Fair participant. Ryan writes: "... thank you for the precipitation statistics you sent me back in September for my science fair project. I used them in a Numerical Forecasting program, enabling me to call up information and compare forecasts with previous months or years. If it wasn't for the data you gave me my project would not have been possible. It won me a first in my school and I got to go to the Western Manitoba Regional Science Fair. There I won a first place in the computer category, an IBM Award and an all-expense paid trip to the Canada-Wide Science Fair in Saint Johns, Newfoundland. I really appreciate your help in supplying those statistics".

Eric's assistance to students is legendary, and we conclude this good news article by summarizing a Work Experience Report sent to Education Authorities by high school student Rick Lippens after his visit to the Brandon Weather Office:

First he mentioned the thorough tour of the weather office that Eric gave him on arrival. He then recalled how the OIC printed a list of weather statistics for cities within a thousand-mile radius of Brandon, explained the complex weather coding symbols used on weather maps and finally brought one of these maps for Rick to analyze.

Rick wrote that although he didn't find this analysis too difficult, the task took him several hours because he wasn't familiar with the work. He not only had to plot out 50 cities, he had to draw barometric pressure isobars and analyze wind speeds. "After drawing these isobars, we can easily determine where the low and high pressure disturbances lie and their intensity" added the teenager.

Rick went on to describe many other details of this "work shift"; then added a perceptive apology for all weather service personnel: "Making one slight error can throw the entire prediction into a mess. Fortunately for a meteorologist, it can soon be forgotten, and tomorrow he will start with a fresh slate and an entirely different weather scenario. Meteorology is a very complicated and onerous task which requires not only high intelligence, patience and past experience, but also nerves of steel".



Eric Stanzeleit

The high point of Rick's visit was being allowed to read his prepared forecast live on the radio. Rick summed up this broadcast experience as a "once in a lifetime opportunity" and added, "I was shocked and very, very happy to say the actual forecast on the radio."

Needless to say, Rick's report is full of praise for Eric Stanzeleit's help, patience and advice on how to take up meteorology as a career.