

PRESTO

SPECIAL
ISSUE



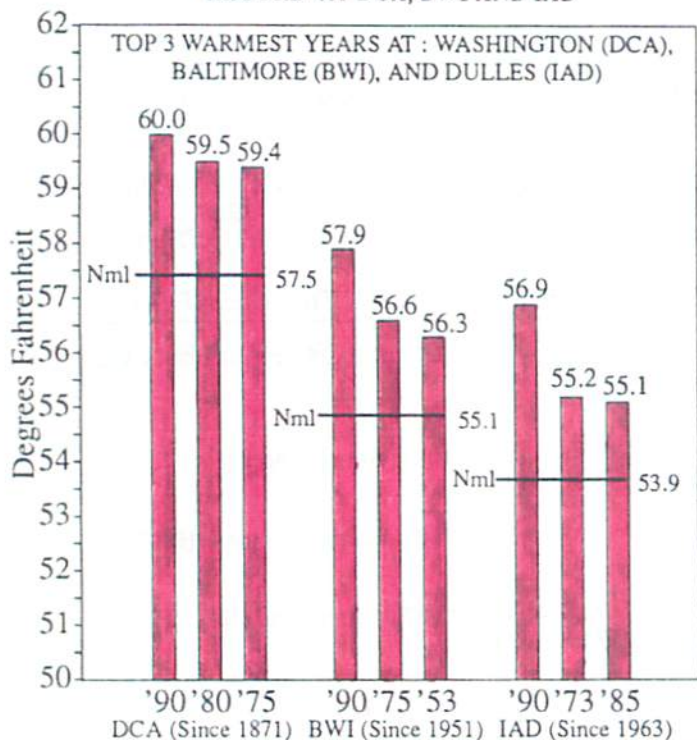
PRECIPITATION SUMMARY AND TEMPERATURE OBSERVATIONS
FOR THE WASHINGTON, DC & BALTIMORE, MD AREA



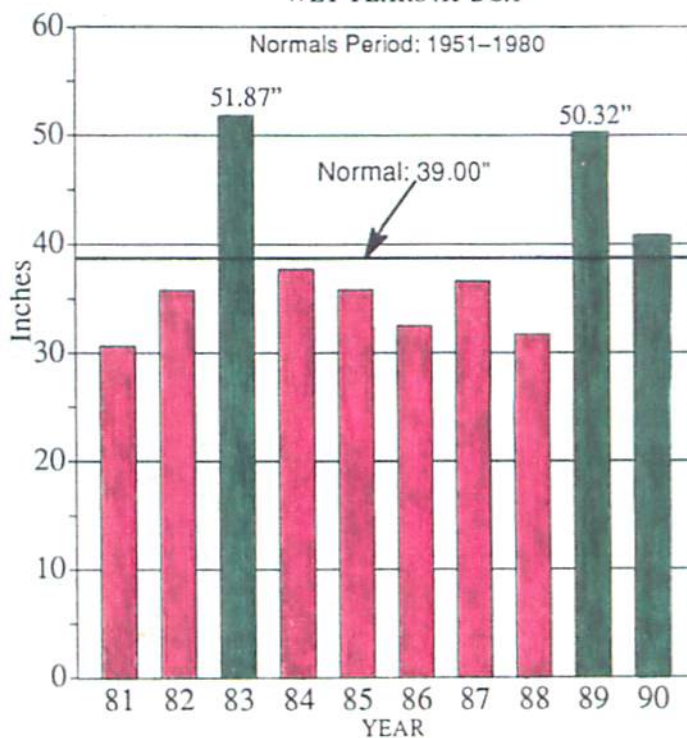
DECADE IN REVIEW (1981-1990)

A DECADE OF EXTREMES:

TEMPERATURE: 1990, THE WARMEST YEAR ON
RECORD AT DCA, BWI AND IAD



PRECIPITATION: 1983 & 1989 TWO EXCESSIVELY
WET YEARS AT DCA



DECADAL & YEARLY HIGHLIGHTS:

- 1981-1990: 2nd warmest and tied for 2nd driest (with the 1920's) decade on record at Washington [12 decades starting with 1871-1880].
- 1990: The warmest year on record at all three airports (DCA, BWI, IAD).
- 1989: The coldest December on record at BWI (25.4°F) and IAD (23.1°F) and second coldest December (tied with 1917) at DCA (27.9°F). Also, the first known occurrence of both a "white" Thanksgiving and Christmas at DCA. In addition, a record 22 consecutive days with snow cover at DCA, and temperatures below freezing for 252 successive hours (11 P.M. Dec. 15 - 11 A.M. Dec. 26).
- Largest temperature departure swing ever recorded between two months at DCA: 19.4°F (December 1989: 11.0°F below normal and January 1990: 8.4°F above normal).
- Two excessively wet years (1983 and 1989) with over 50" of precipitation and two significantly dry years (1981 and 1988) with under 32.5" at both DCA and BWI.
- 1985: Driest April on record at DCA (0.03"), BWI (0.39") and IAD (0.33").
- Significant snowfalls: a) February 11, 1983 16.6" at DCA (4th greatest amount ever recorded) and 23" at IAD; b) November 11, 1987 (Veteran's Day) 11.5" at DCA (greatest November snowfall on record).

Andrew H. Horvitz and Mary B. Hollinger, 763-8402
Satellite Data Services Division, NCDC/NESDIS/NOAA

David Miskus and Joe Harrison, 763-8071
Climate Analysis Center, NMC/NWS/NOAA

(for more details turn over)