

Nation's Weather Goes on Binge; 60 at New York

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(By The Associated Press)

The nation's weather was on a climatic binge Thursday.

Most of nature's elements appeared on the loose, fashioning a crazy-quilt of contrasts across the country.

The late January weather picture: There was bitter cold and mountainous snow over the northern plains.

Cotton was blooming in Orangeburg county, S. C., five months ahead of schedule. At East Point, Ga., an Atlanta suburb, a quince tree was abloom.

The temperature rose to 60.4 degrees in New York at 1 a. m. and the weather bureau said it was the hottest Jan. 26th on record. The previous mark was 58.3 set in 1916.

A new storm struck the Pacific Northwest and the coldest weather in 60 years hit eastern Washington.

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In Virginia, trees were budding and flowers were blooming as January heat records toppled in many communities. The mercury climbed to 78 at Richmond and 78.3 at Norfolk Wednesday, all-time top marks for the date.

Rain pelted wide areas. Freezing rain splashed many sections and travel skidded to a crawl.

Fog blanketed the area of New York City and New Jersey. Air travel and shipping was at a virtual standstill. The big liner Queen Mary was halted at Ambrose light, unable to reach the inner New York harbor because of fog. Three big airports, LaGuardia, Idlewild and Newark, were blanketed by the fog and the ceiling was 100 feet and visibility 1/16th of a mile.

Winds of tornadic intensity ripped through an area near Ironton, Mo., Wednesday night, demolishing one house and partially disrupting communications. Warm winds whipped up the worst dust storm in years in Texas and damaged tomatoes and other crops in the lower Rio Grande valley. Small craft warnings were hoisted from Brownsville, Tex., to St. Marks, Fla.

Weather bureau forecasters predicted a new blast of freezing weather for Southern California.

But it was far below freezing—and below zero—in the northern plains. The icy air moved into the central states and south as far as Little Rock, Ark., and Dallas, Tex.

Temperatures dropped quite rapidly over some of the Midwest areas where they had reached into the 60's and 70's Wednesday. The cold line was expected to extend into the Ohio river valley and into western Pennsylvania.