

**THIS MAN MAKES
WEATHER WHILE
YOU WATCH HIM**

**Has No Regard For Berks' Cher-
ished Ideals of Goose Bone
and Groundhog.**



C. J. DOHERTY.

How' the weather? Ask that question of Cornelius J. Doherty, the forecaster at the United States weather station recently established in the Berks County Trust building, and he could talk to you a whole half a day and mix in the weather from some 100 stations from coast to coast. Mr. Doherty deals in weather, thinks weather and talks weather, but that is mostly during office hours. When not officially engaged with the weather maps and instruments he can talk on many other subjects in a highly interesting and entertaining way.

He has been here nearly six months and it is doubtful whether anyone knows as much about the Berks county brand of weather as he does. He can tell the groundhog to his teeth that he is a fraud and lead goosebone believers from the darkness of their ways to the light of a sunshiny day as recorded by the instruments on the roof of the Trust Company building.

Just how Mr. Doherty knows so much about our weather for the past 20 years and has been able to strike averages which are valuable to the farmer, growers, manufacturers and every inhabitant hereabouts may seem somewhat of a puzzle to many. It puzzled him when he first came here, but there is always a "light" in this weather business and when he formed the acquaintance of E. L. Nuebling, superintendent of the water department, and of the official prognosticator of the Schuylkill Navigation Company, he found something surprising even to a weather man.

The Navigation Company has weather records since 1880 and Mr. Nuebling had the most complete weather records, kept since 1888, that Mr. Doherty has ever seen.

How Reading Excels in a Weather Way.

Forecaster Doherty has been busy transcribing the records and striking averages, with the result that he has found:

That Reading and Berks county form one of the most ideal spots in the country in the matter of weather.

That the average number of growing days in the year is 200.

That the temperature has been below zero on only 21 days during the last 18 years.

That the summer temperature has been above 90 on only 308 days in the last 18 years, an average of 15 days a year.

That there are no extremely high winds, no severe storms and few sudden changes.

Therefore, Mr. Doherty comes to the conclusion that along with its many other resources, Reading is the ideal spot. A slogan could easily be made of its favorable weather conditions.

The equipment of the local weather station is of the very best in the country and there is no doubt that we will have weather up to the minute and far back into the ages as the days roll by. Thermographs, triple registering instruments and other equipment of the office keeps most complete records of all that is happening in the element family.

Native of Boston.

Mr. Doherty was born in Boston, Mass., in 1870, and after being educated in the public schools there and graduating from the English High School, he entered the U. S. Signal Corps in 1888, at the age of 18, being then the youngest man in the corps. Just previous and during his vacation days from High School he worked as a messenger for his uncle, who was superintendent of the Western Union Telegraph Company in Boston and in being sent to the signal station to take signals and reports he gained his first information of the weather and thought he'd like to follow it.

He was detailed to Harvard for a course in 1891 when the signal corps was transferred to the Department of Agriculture, he became identified with the U. S. Weather Bureau stations. He has been in charge of some twenty different stations, serving some on two or three occasions. Here is the list:

Boston; New York; Philadelphia; Chicago; Pittsburgh; Huron, S. D.; Pierre, S. D.; Helena, Montana; Milwaukee, Wis.; New London, Conn.; Nantucket, Mass.; Narragansette Pier, R. I.; Albany, N. Y.; Harrisburg, Pa.; Cape May, N. J.; Jupiter, Fla.; Block Island, R. I.; Wilmington, N. C.; Key West, Fla.; Havana, Cuba; Savannah, Ga., and Reading.

While at Huron, S. D., he married Miss Sarah Cornell, of New London, Conn.

Hurricane Hero.

Mr. Doherty's most trying experience with the weather was at Key West, Florida, during the hurricanes of 1909 and 1910, when he saved hundreds of lives by forbidding vessels to leave the coast just before the gale started and giving out information over a wide territory of the approaching storm. This was in October, 1910, and not a life was lost while in a previous hurricane there had been some 600 killed. He was commended by Congress for his most thorough work in this great storm.

On Oct. 14, 1910, when the storm was at its height, he answered some

5,000 calls for information and stuck to the station through four hours, during which the wind was blowing at the rate of 100 miles per hour. Not a window was left in the station and general destruction was created all along the coast.

Mr. Doherty is certainly a good fellow to have sticking around, and since the weather station has been established here there are many people who just couldn't get along without the information he can give at a minute's notice, forecasting anything that is up in the air.