

## **Marquette Station Opened In 1871:**

# **Nation's Weather 100 Years Old On**

When you read Monday's weather forecast, pause just a moment to consider where and how it all began.

For on that day just 100 years ago, President Ulysses S. Grant signed a joint resolution of Congress authorizing establishment of a national weather service.

Later in 1870, the first systematized, synchronous weather observations ever taken in the United States were made by "observer-sergeants" of the Army Signal Service at 24 stations and telegraphed to Washington.

**Marquette's Weather Bureau** apparently was authorized at the same time, but it wasn't until May, 1871, that the station actually was opened to begin taking daily recordings. Today it is a part of a system of approximately 250 first-order stations linked by a nationwide teletype network.

The exact reason for the delay in setting up the Marquette Weather Bureau station is not known, but apparently the Army Signal Service — the first agency in charge — had to first train personnel before they could staff a station.

The weather service remained under direction of the Army Signal Service until 1891, when on July 1 it was transferred to the control of the Agriculture Department. Since June 30, 1940, it has been a part of the Commerce Department.

### **Three On Local Staff**

Fred Mueller is meteorologist in charge of the Marquette station, with Emil Ellingson and Earl Hoffman employed as other members of the meteorological staff which spends 16 hours a day taking tests and making observations to tell area residents about present conditions and what kind of weather can be expected.

Automatic recording devices keep track of temperatures, wind velocity and precipitation during the eight hours at night when the office is closed.

That's in sharp contrast to early days of the Weather Bureau, when such automatic recordings could not be made. Six daily observations were taken in those days.

Only two Weather Bureau stations are located in the Upper Peninsula, at Marquette and Sault Ste. Marie. Others in Michigan are at Alpena, Flint, Muskegon, Lansing, Detroit, Grand Rapids and Houghton Lake.

### **Special Events Planned**

Special events are scheduled throughout the year in observance of the Weather Bureau's 100th anniversary, according to U. S. Commerce Secretary Maurice H. Stans.

He noted that more than 200 years of weather observation and study in this country preceded the creation in 1870 of "the Division of Telegrams and Reports for the Benefit of Commerce" (the earliest name for the national weather service).

Only 24 years after the Pilgrims landed at Plymouth Rock the Rev. John Campanius Holm, chaplain for a settlement near the present site of Wilmington, Del., began making systematic weather records. His "diaries" for 1644 and 1645 form the first continuous weather records in what is now the United States.

Other men kept "weather diaries" from time to time in many parts of the country. Thomas Jefferson and George Washington both had a more-than-casual interest in weather studies. Benjamin Franklin's kite-flying in a thunderstorm is well known, and he was the first to deduce the progres-

## **Hearings For NMU Black Students To Begin Monday**

Hearings for 22 black students, charged with breaking university regulations during the sit-in in the office of the dean of students on Dec. 17-18, are scheduled to begin at Northern Michigan University Monday.

The university originally had charged 28 of the students, but six have withdrawn from school since the close of last semester and will not be tried by Northern's judicial process.

According to university rules, the hearings will be closed to the public, unless the individual being tried requests an open hearing.

David Meneghel, chairman of the academic senate, stated that "if the hearings are open, a schedule will be followed for the allotment of seats, as space is limited."

This schedule would allow for six individual students, eight members of the Black Students Association, eight members of Northern's Student Government, three members of the academic senate, three members of the Human Rights Commission and three persons from the university's administration.

Initial hearings will be held from 7:30 to 10 p.m. on Monday, Tuesday and Thursday.