

WHO'S A WINDY CITY?

We're not even No. 2.

People often refer to Chicago as the "Windy City" and the title seems to be used from coast to coast, but one thing isn't known to most people: It just isn't so. Somebody took a liberal helping of poetic license when they hung that title on Chicago. Actually there are many cities much windier. Our average wind, from official figures at Midway, is 10.7 miles per hour, and the highest wind we ever had was 87 m.p.h. But several cities have us blown to bits in the matter of wind.

New York and Buffalo are the country's champs, both averaging 14.7 m.p.h., New York's highest wind is 113 m.p.h. which is 26 m.p.h. more than Chicago's top. Next is Cleveland with 12.7 m.p.h., then Miami with 12.3 m.p.h. and a top wind of 132 m.p.h. which was a boost from the 1926 hurricane. Then comes Toledo, Minneapolis, St. Paul and St. Louis which are all ahead of us in Windy Cities.

So the next time someone makes that crack about Chicago being the Windy City just tell them to go fly a kite - and for better results fly it in New York, Miami or Cleveland - where they really have winds.

Chicago probably gained the title of Windy City before World I when the U.S. weather bureau had its office on the top floor of the Board of Trade Building, at that high altitude the wind velocity is always greater than it is at ground level, so each day as Chicago reported its wind velocity it was greater than most other cities, this condition of course changed when the weather bureau office was removed to ground level at Midway Airport. As many people also know this office has been relocated in the last six months at O'Hare Airfield.

Many have also heard it stated that Chicago has a prevailing wind - it just isn't so. Each time a high or low pressure front goes through the Chicago area the direction of the wind changes, those who follow the weather forecast on T.V. will notice that almost everyday a front is going through this area.

The wind chart, compiled from 14 years of weather records, records that the wind blows from all points of the compass; however if there is a prevailing wind it is from the southwest for it blows 20% of the time from that direction, but on the other hand it blows 17% from the opposite direction also.

Charles E. [Scotty] Stewart

Paul N. Voykin, at Briarwood Country Club, has installed the first two-row Rainbird System in the Chicago area. Halloran and Youch, Glenview, IL, did the installation, the new brick pumphouse and the lake fill line. The superintendent of construction was Dick Betterly, who recently finished Sportsman Country Club for Halloran and Youch. The consultation was performed by Paul Bando, who is currently working with Robert Trent Jones at Milwaukee Country Club. The Briarwood installation, which was completed last spring, is in Paul Voykin's opinion one of the best in the country, and has performed beyond his wildest expectations during one of the worst seasons for record hot temperatures, humidity and wilt.

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