

A Guide to the
Warren O. Johnson Collection

CIT 2050

Scope & Contents Note

The materials in this collection reflect the subject's employment with the Florida Agricultural Weather Service. The collection contains correspondence, reports, and reference material created or used by the subject in his work. The collection also contains some ephemeral material and a few photos.

Dates

1890s-1980s

Creator

Warren O. Johnson (person)

Biographical Note

Warren O. Johnson was born on a farm in Benson, Minnesota, in 1906. He was considered one of the outstanding agricultural forecasters in the nation. Earned Bachelor of Arts degree in Science, History, and English in 1928 from Gustavus Adolphus College in St. Peter, Minnesota, Johnson minored in meteorology. Johnson's professors advised him to pursue a career in weather forecasting. He took that advice. He was a forecaster for forty-two years, thirty-five of which were in Florida. He was the meteorologist in charge of the Federal-State Agricultural Weather Service.

Following a brief assignment as U.S. Weather Bureau observer in Huron, South Dakota, Johnson was transferred to the bureau's headquarters in Washington, D.C. to work in the Hurricane Forecasting Center for the Eastern United States from Maine including Florida, the Gulf of Mexico and the western Caribbean. While in Jacksonville, receiving advanced forecasting training a forecasting and hurricane center was established there and Johnson was selected to assist in development.

In 1935 he transferred to Lakeland to take part in and help develop another established weather program in the State of Florida a joint Federal-State Agricultural Weather Service. His value to the hurricane forecasting section of the weather service and to the Federal-State Agricultural Weather Service resulted in him spending three years shuttling between forecasting hurricanes in the summer and freezes in the winter. He was called to hurricane forecasting in 1938, but Johnson returned to Lakeland and the agricultural weather service as meteorologist in charge. But his prowess as "one of the top forecasters" demanded his temporary duty in the Hurricane Tracking Center, by then located in Miami. Like any other thriving and successful business venture, the Federal-State Agricultural Weather Service expanded. It grew into a network of eight field stations and 400 temperature survey stations. Johnson was required to remain in Lakeland year-round to administer the service. His accuracy in forecasting freezes was established during those years, and he is considered one of the outstanding weather forecasters in

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Extent

5 inches

Arrangement

The materials in this collection are arranged alphabetically and by ascending date.

Language of Materials

English

