

Old Records Shriveled As Heat Sears Nation

By United Press International

Temperature records were shattered Tuesday in the summer "heat storm" of '77 but the nation's citizens saw no joy in the new marks.

The mercury in New York rose to 102 degrees, breaking the previous record of 98 set in 1930.

Boston reported 97, eclipsing the mark set by in 1946 by 1 degree. Roanoke, Va., also reported a record 97 degrees and climbing. Providence, R.I., with 96, tied that city's 71 year old mark.

The nation cooked at a low broil from the hot, muggy Midwestern corn belt to the steaming streets of the Eastern cities.

Heat Blamed in Deaths

Authorities said the heat was responsible, at least in part, for seven deaths in the St. Louis area. Four of the victims were elderly residents in an apartment building that had no air conditioning.

The only refuge from the heat in the 48 contiguous states was the Pacific Northwest and northern California. It was actually cool in Washington state, where Olympia had a chilly 39 degrees.

New York Water Commissioner Charles Samowitz reimposed a water shortage

alert. Consolidated Edison urged its customers to conserve power so there would be no replay of last week's 26 hour blackout.

Minneapolis housewives turned on lawn sprinklers before dawn — with morning low temperatures at a record high of 80 — and white collar workers removed jackets before starting to work. Detroit temperatures soared into the 90s, making stench from a garbage strike a potential health threat.

Philadelphia Mayor Frank Rizzo ordered special measures, including the shutdown of problem fire hydrants, to preserve water supplies. Water meter readers in New York turned from checking meters to driving hordes of youngsters from illegally opened hydrants. Providence, R.I., also had an epidemic of opened fireplugs.

Drinkers Get Warning

Dr. Frederick T. Supes, past president of the Academy of Medicine of Cleveland, warned people outdoors to boost their salt and water intake. Another Cleveland physician warned that beer drinkers were particularly likely to become dehydrated. Health officials in many states cautioned against overexertion.

Twenty firemen were

overcome by heat exhaustion as they battled a lumberyard fire in Greenfield, Mass., Monday night. Other firemen at the scene were ordered to munch on salt tablets to keep from keeling over.

At Harrisburg, Pa., Louis Carter, chairman of the Public Utility Commission, warned that the increased demand for electricity to operate air conditioners could trigger a major blackout. Utility companies nationwide reported record or near-record outputs of electricity.

Big Fish Kill

Thousands of fish died in the Neuse River in North Carolina, victims of oxygen depletion after 15 consecutive days of temperatures in the 90s and no rain since May 26.

Bobby Locke, a farmer at Dawson, Ga., burned 2,000 acres of sun-withered corn and said peanut and soybean crops also were in bad shape. In Kansas, corn, soybeans and milo shriveled in heat unbroken since June when a then-unwanted rain deluge cost the state 15 to 16 million bushels of wheat.

Violent storms swept the lower Great Lakes region but brought no more than a temporary dip in temperatures. Two tornados demolished two mobile homes and damaged several others near Monroe, Mich.