

SNOWMELT AS PREDICTED BY  
A SURFACE ENERGY BALANCE

---

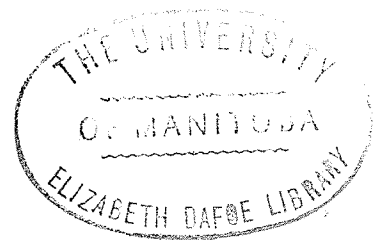
A Thesis  
Presented To  
The Faculty of Graduate Studies  
University of Manitoba

---

In Partial Fulfillment  
Of The Requirements For the Degree  
Master of Science  
Civil Engineering

---

by  
David E. Cass  
August, 1970



## ABSTRACT

From a study of the factors affecting the energy balance of a snow surface it is shown that a simplified form of the energy balance equation involving only the transfers of net radiation, sensible heat, and the latent heat of evaporation is suitable for use in this study. When a mass-transfer type formula ( $Q_e = (A + B \cdot V) \cdot (E_a - E_s)$ ) is used to calculate the latent heat of evaporation it is shown that if "A" is assumed to be zero a suitable value of the evaporative heat transfer coefficient "B" for use in Western Manitoba is 0.18 calories/(cm.<sup>2</sup> · mile · mb). This transfer coefficient is so small that the accumulated transfer of latent and sensible heat was only 6% of the accumulated net radiation. The results of this research on evaporative heat transfer coefficients over a snow surface are compared with those obtained by Gold and Williams and by Barry. Three semi-empirical methods of estimating snowmelt; a degree - day, a regression equation, and the U.S.C.E. equations, are tried and their results compared with the energy balance approach.

### ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

As a preface to my thesis I wish to acknowledge the assistance I have been given in its preparation. In particular I am grateful for the guidance of my advisor Dr. R. W. Newbury and for the assistance of J. E. Thomlinson in the collection of the basic data on which this thesis is based. I am indebted to the Agassiz Centre for its financial assistance and to the Water Survey of Canada, Department of Energy, Mines and Resources for granting me educational leave to attend university. In closing, I acknowledge the patience of my wife Joan without which this research could not have been done.

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

	<u>Page</u>
TITLE PAGE .....	i
ABSTRACT .....	ii
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS .....	iii
TABLE OF CONTENTS .....	iv
LIST OF TABLES .....	vi
LIST OF FIGURES .....	vii
CHAPTER I INTRODUCTION .....	1
CHAPTER II ENERGY BALANCE EQUATION .....	5
The Energy Balance Equation .....	5
Discussion of Individual Terms .....	6
Sign Convention .....	8
Simplified Energy Balance Equation .....	9
Summary .....	10
CHAPTER III INSTRUMENTATION .....	12
CHAPTER IV ANALYSIS OF OBSERVATIONS .....	15
Trail Energy Balance .....	15
Testing of Mass Transfer Equations .....	17
Derivation of Evaporative Heat Transfer Coefficient .....	18
Summary .....	19
CHAPTER V DISCUSSION OF RESULTS .....	26
Comments on the "Derived" Transfer Coefficient	26
Comparison of the "Derived" Transfer Coefficient with Barry's .....	28

	<u>Page</u>
Comparison of the "Derived" Transfer Coefficient with Gold and Williams .....	28
Summary .....	30
CHAPTER VI SEMI-EMPIRICAL METHODS .....	36
CHAPTER VII CONCLUSIONS .....	38
SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY .....	41
APPENDIX A SAMPLE ENERGY BALANCE COMPUTATIONS .....	43
APPENDIX B TABLE OF REPRESENTATIVE EQUATIONS .....	45
APPENDIX C TABLE SHOWING SOURCES FROM WHICH INFORMATION FOR TABLE 1 WAS OBTAINED .....	46
APPENDIX D SEMI-EMPIRICAL METHODS FOR ESTIMATING SNOWMELT .....	48
Degree-Day Method .....	48
Multiple Linear Regression Equation .....	49
U.S.C.E. Equation .....	51
APPENDIX E METEOROLOGICAL DATA .....	58
APPENDIX F MISCELLANEOUS PHOTOGRAPHS .....	60

## LIST OF TABLES

<u>Table</u>		<u>Page</u>
1	Evaporative Transfer Coefficients "A" and "B" For Mass Transfer Equations .....	22
2	Snowmelt at Wilson Creek .....	32
3	Comparison of Meteorological Conditions During Melting Period - Ottawa 1959 vs Wilson Creek 1969 .	35
4	Calculation of Degree Half-Day Factor .....	54
5	Comparison of Snowmelt Computed by Two Methods: Degree-Day and Energy Balance .....	55
6	Comparison of Snowmelt Computed by Three Methods: A Regression Equation, U.S.C.E. Equation, and an Energy Balance .....	56
7	Portion of Snowmelt on April 13, 1969 Attributed to Various Components of the Energy Balance by Three Different Methods .....	57

## LIST OF FIGURES

<u>Figure</u>		<u>Page</u>
1	Location - Wilson Creek Experimental Watershed ....	3
2	Plan of Wilson Creek Watershed .....	4
3	Factors Influencing Energy Balance of a Snowpack ..	11
4	Hydrograph of Wilson Creek .....	21
5	Mass Curves of $Q_e$ .....	23
6	Mass Curves of $Q_h$ .....	24
7	Mass Curves of $Q_e + Q_h$ .....	25
8	Daily Components of the Energy Balance on the Blue Glacier in the State of Washington .....	31
9	Heat Balance at Snow Surface - Kesselwandferner 3240 m • Aug. - Sept. 1958 .....	31
10	Energy Balance Components .....	33
11	Mass Curves of Snowmelt and Runoff .....	34

## CHAPTER I

### INTRODUCTION

The importance of being able to accurately forecast the magnitude and timing of runoff from snowmelt is well recognized. At present most of the approaches to the forecasting of snowmelt are of a semi-empirical nature. In order to see if it is possible to get a realistic estimate of the amount and rate of snowmelt by an energy balance approach, this study was undertaken on the Wilson Creek Basin.

The Wilson Creek Watershed is an International Hydrologic Decade (IHD) Project located in Township 20 Range 16 W.P.M. on the eastern slopes of the Riding Mountain about 150 miles northwest of Winnipeg. The location is indicated in FIGURE 1.

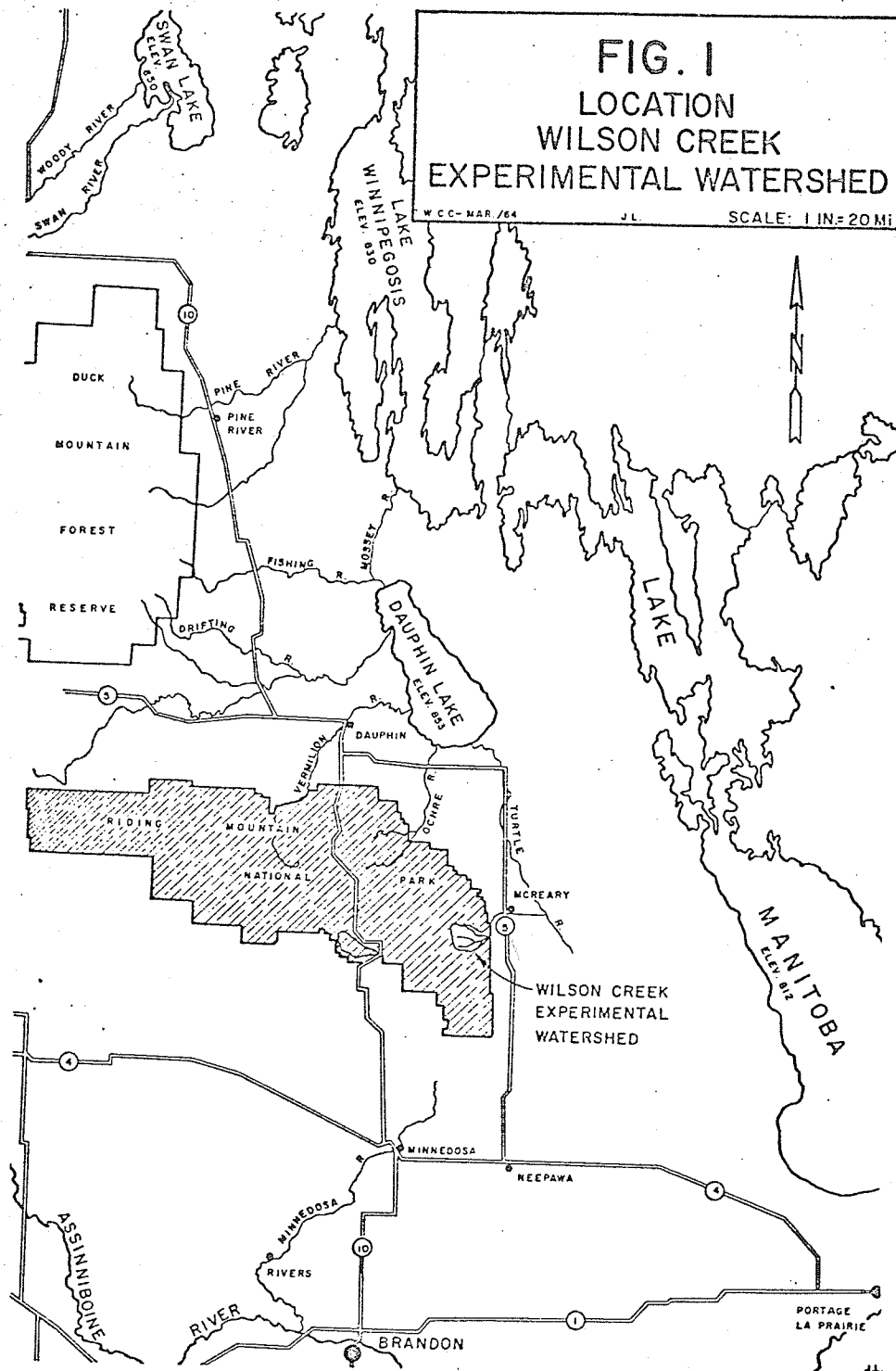
Wilson Creek was ideally suited for such a study as there was an operating weather station equipped to measure relative humidity, air temperature and wind speed. To provide controls for the snowmelt computations, there was a stream gauging station and network of eleven snow courses. The only extra instrumentation needed was a net pyrradiometer to measure all-wave net radiation and pyranometer for measuring total incoming short-wave radiation. These were provided by the Meteorological Branch, Department of Transport. FIGURE 2

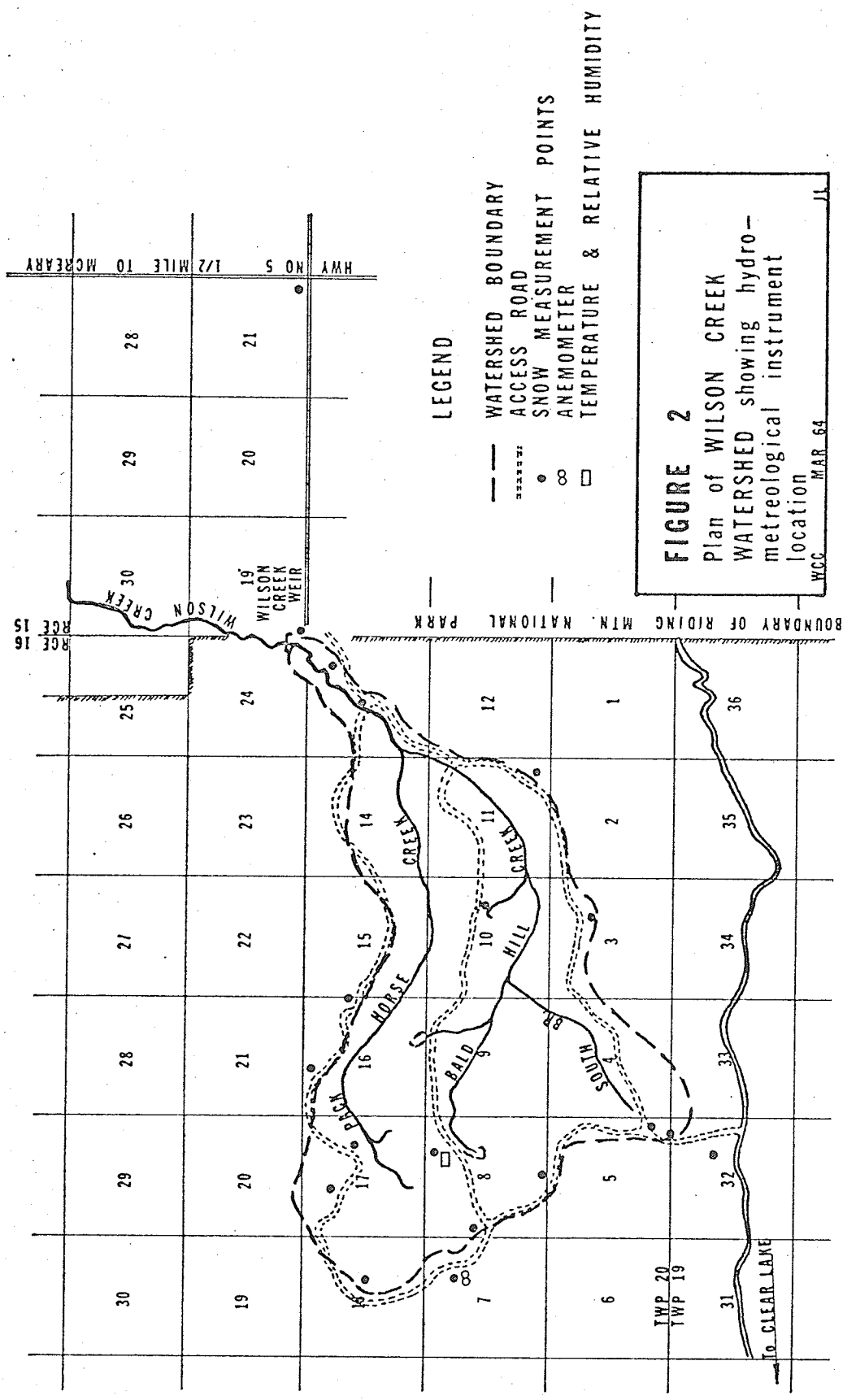


shows the location of the meteorological instruments, snow courses and gauging station.

The watershed is covered by a forest that is greater than 95 percent deciduous and contains large areas covered only by a very open decadent forest. Thus the watershed may be considered to be relatively open. MacKay and Stanton (1964) have provided a detailed description of the watershed.

The snowmelt during the spring of 1969 was concentrated in a very short period. On March 26 the snow cover was equivalent to 5.78 inches of water, on April 9 there was still 4.84 inches; however, by April 14 there was only 0.95 inches water equivalent. From the streamflow records it was apparent that significant melting did not occur until the morning of April 12. This high melting rate resulted in an instantaneous peak flow of 282 cfs on the night of April 14 - the highest snowmelt flood recorded since the installation of the Wilson Creek Weir in 1957. The weather from April 12-15 was warm with average daytime temperatures of 55°F and with average nighttime temperatures dropping only to 43°F (approximate).





## CHAPTER II

### ENERGY BALANCE EQUATION

The amount of snow that melts at any point location is determined by the net exchange of energy between the snow-pack and its surroundings. Before that melt becomes effective as runoff it must travel from the point at which it was created to the stream. The purpose of this section is to present the basic equations for the processes involved in the energy balance along with some simplifying assumptions. The problem of routing the point melt through the snow to the stream and then down the stream channel is not dealt with.

#### The Energy Balance Equation

The main processes that interact to provide an energy balance at the snow surface are shown in FIGURE 3. Anderson (1968) has expressed this inter-relationship in the following equation.

$$Q_e = Q_r + Q_h + Q_e + Q_l + Q_w \text{ ----- (1)}$$

where:

$Q_e$  = change in heat storage of the snow pack

$Q_r$  = net radiation transfer

$Q_h$  = sensible heat transfer

$Q_e$  = gain or loss of latent heat caused by evaporation, condensation, or sublimation

$Q_1$  = gain or loss of latent heat caused by freezing or melting

$Q_w$  = net heat transfer caused by a gain or loss of water.

If it is assumed that no solar radiation penetrates the surface layer of the snowpack and that the heat storage of this layer is negligible, equation (1) may be written:

$$Q_r + Q_h + Q_e + Q_1^1 + Q_c + Q_w^1 = 0 \text{ ----- (2)}$$

where:

$Q_c$  = heat transferred to or from surface layer by conduction within the snow pack

1 = denotes the surface layer rather than snow pack as a whole.

#### Discussion of Individual Terms

$Q_w^1$

As 32°F is the zero point for computations of heat storage and as water leaving the pack is usually at 32°F,  $Q_w^1$  represents heat transferred to the surface layer by precipitation. As there was no precipitation during this study,  $Q_w^1 = 0$ .

$Q_c$

Anderson (1968) indicated that  $Q_c$  is small because of the low thermal conductivity of snow and may be neglected.

$Q_1^1$

This term, the loss of latent heat associated with melting, is usually the quantity to be calculated. The melt in inches may be determined by dividing  $Q_1^1$  by the latent heat of fusion required to freeze or melt one inch - (2.54 cm./in. \* 79.7 cal/cm<sup>3</sup> = 202.4 cal/cm<sup>2</sup>). If the free water content is two percent as suggested by Anderson (1968), then;

$$\text{MELT} = Q^1 / (202.4) (1 - 0.02) = Q^1 / 198.352 \text{ inches} \text{ -- (3)}$$

Q<sub>e</sub>

The transfer of latent heat by evaporation or condensation is a turbulent exchange process that may be expressed as:

$$Q_e = (A + BV) (E_a - E_s) \text{ ----- (4)}$$

where:

V = wind velocity in miles per hour at a reference height

E<sub>s</sub> = saturation vapour pressure at the temperature of snow surface

E<sub>a</sub> = vapour pressure of the air at a reference height

A = an empirical evaporative heat transfer constant

B = an empirical evaporative heat transfer coefficient.

In the literature there is a wide range of values for A and B. The problem of choosing the constant and coefficient appropriate to our conditions is discussed later.

Q<sub>h</sub>

The transfer of sensible heat between the air and the snow surface occurs by conduction at the molecular interface between the air and snow. It obviously depends on (T<sub>a</sub> - T<sub>s</sub>), the temperature gradient and a turbulent exchange function f(v):

$$Q_h = f(v) \cdot (T_a - T_s) \text{ ----- (5)}$$

where:

T<sub>a</sub> = air temperature at a reference height

T<sub>s</sub> = surface temperature.

Anderson (1968) points out that thus far it has been impossible to obtain reliable measurements with which to

calculate  $Q_h$  accurately. An alternative method of calculating  $Q_h$  was suggested by Bowen (1926). This method uses the ratio of  $Q_h$  to  $Q_e$  which can be expressed as:

$$\text{Bowen Ratio} = R = Q_h/Q_e = \gamma \cdot (T_a - T_s)/(E_a - E_s) \quad \text{-- (6)}$$

where:

$$\gamma = C_p \cdot P_a / (0.622 \cdot L) \quad \text{----- (7)}$$

and

$C_p$  = specific heat of air

$L$  = latent heat of vapourization

$P$  = atmospheric pressure.

If  $C_p = 0.133$  calories/(gm °F),  $L = 597.3$  calories/cm<sup>2</sup>, and  $P$  is in millibars, then  $\gamma = 0.00036 P_a$  millibars/°F.

There is some controversy concerning the correctness of the Bowen Ratio under some weather conditions. For discussion of this point reference is made to papers by Anderson (1968), Munn (1966, pp 95-97), Pruitt & Lourence (1966) and Brutsaert (1965).

$Q_r$       The net radiation transfer was measured directly.

### Sign Convention

The sign convention used in this project is that a flux is positive if it tends to add heat to the surface. For example:

- (a) Incoming radiation is positive.
- (b) Outgoing radiation is negative.
- (c) Evaporation causes a negative latent heat flux.
- (d) Condensation causes a positive latent heat flux.

### Simplified Energy Balance Equation

In equation (2) we wrote:

$$Q_r + Q_h + Q_e + Q_1^1 + Q_c + Q_w^1 = 0$$

If we take  $Q_c = Q_w = 0$ ; as we have just shown, and if we

$$\text{set } Q_m^1 = -Q_1^1$$

where:

$Q_1^1$  = gain or loss of latent heat caused by melting  
or freezing in surface layers

$Q_m^1$  = heat causing melting;

we may write:

$$Q_m^1 = Q_r + Q_h + Q_e \text{ ----- (8)}$$

Since  $Q_h$  is related to  $Q_e$  [ $Q_h = R \cdot Q_e$ ] we may write:

$$Q_m^1 = Q_r + Q_e (R + 1) \text{ ----- (9)}$$

$$\text{Melt} = Q_m^1 / 202.4 (0.98) \text{ when melt +ve ----- (10A)}$$

$$\text{Melt} = Q_m^1 / 202.4 \text{ when melt -ve ----- (10B)}$$

Different "effective" latent heats of fusion were used for the two cases because under melting conditions it was assumed the snow pack contained 2 percent free water.

From equation (9) it can be seen that since  $Q_r$  was measured it is only necessary to calculate  $Q_e$  to be able to calculate  $Q_m^1$  and thus the amount of melt.

Before leaving the theoretical development of the energy balance equation, it may be worthwhile to review the main assumptions that have been used:

It has been assumed that:

- (1) During the periods of active melt the snow surface temperature was 32°F;



- (2) During the non-melting (nighttime) periods the snow surface temperature was that of the ambient air;
- (3) There is no negative transfer of sensible heat; i.e.  $Q_h \text{ min.} = 0$ ; [Although in assumption (2) it is recognized that the snow surface temperature may drop below 32°F, the amount of heat given up by the snow is neglected. This is not a bad assumption because the low thermal conductivity of snow results in the heat storage capacity of the surface layer being negligible when compared to other components of the energy balance; such as, the net radiation exchange.]
- (4) Bowen's ratio holds;
- (5) There is no penetration of the surface layer by solar radiation;
- (6) The free-water content of a melting snow pack is 2 percent;
- (7) All negative  $Q_m$  acts to freeze free water in the pack. [In other words, no consideration is taken of the actual water holding capability of the freezing pack.]

### Summary

In this section the component terms of the energy balance equation, their relative importance and the main assumptions necessary to their computation have been discussed with the result that a simplified energy balance equation

$$\begin{aligned}
 Q_m^1 &= Q_r + Q_h + Q_e \\
 &= Q_r + Q_e (R + 1)
 \end{aligned}$$

has been presented for use in this analysis of snowmelt.

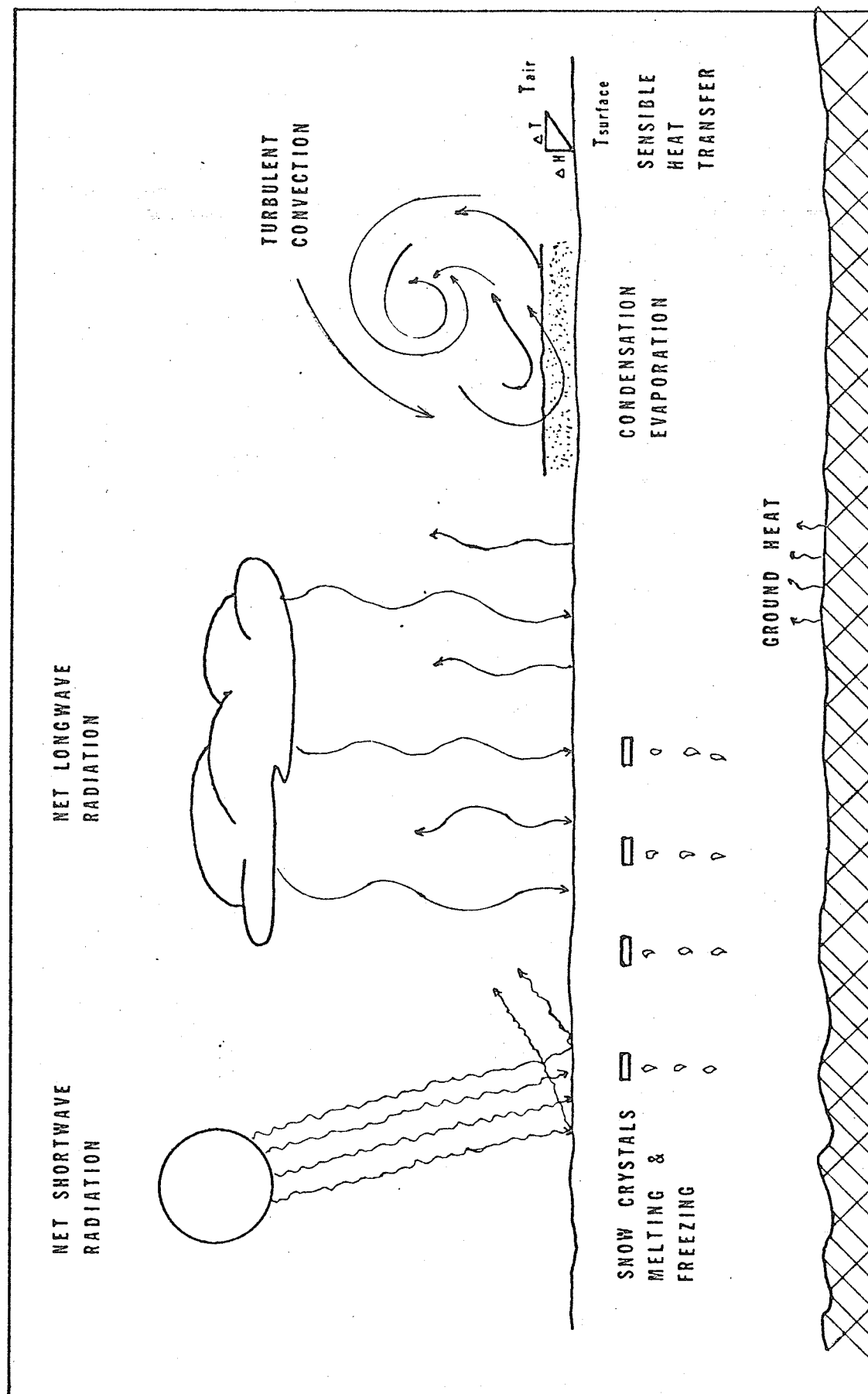


FIGURE 3

FACTORS INFLUENCING ENERGY BALANCE OF A SNOWPACK

### CHAPTER III

#### INSTRUMENTATION

The net radiation was measured in langleys (calories/cm<sup>2</sup>) by a net pyrradiometer developed by the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organization (CSIRO) of Australia. Latimer (1963) indicates that with proper care this instrument should be accurate to within  $\pm 5$  to  $\pm 10$  percent.

Because of the lack of heated facilities on the watershed, it was necessary to locate the instrument at prairie level in the town of McCreary about five miles north of the watershed. This may well be the major source of error in this measurement. The major problem is that the snow cover was less in McCreary and thus it is believed to have disappeared maybe a half-day to a day sooner. The CSIRO net pyrradiometer showed no change in the net radiation that would indicate a drastic change in the albedo of the surface.

The incident solar radiation was measured with a Kipp & Zonen pyranometer that is quoted to have an error of  $\pm 5$  percent.

The air temperature and relative humidity were measured and recorded by a hygrothermograph inside a standard shelter 4.5 feet above the ground. The temperature was measured by means of a bimetallic strip and the recorded values were found

to agree within  $\pm 1^{\circ}\text{F}$  of those obtained with a standard mercury thermometer. The use of a hair operated mechanism to measure relative humidity cannot be expected to yield a high order of accuracy.

As the wind speed was measured by a three-cup type of anemometer at a reference height of 10 meters, the standards of the World Meteorological Organization (W.M.O. -No. 168TP82) which call for an accuracy of 10.5 meters/sec ( $\pm 1.1$  m.p.h.) should have been met.

The net radiation, air temperature, relative humidity, and wind speed were used to compute the amount of melt. For control the actual amount of melt was measured by a network of eleven (11) snowcourses. The courses were fairly well distributed throughout the basin but because of access problems were mainly located on the higher ground between valleys. On April 4 and 5 before the start of the melt season traverses were run across three major valleys and it was found that the snow-water equivalent in the valleys averaged about 125 percent of the water equivalent on the interflaves. This distribution of the snow cover was kept in mind when isohyets of water equivalent were drawn on the basin.

As barometric pressure was not recorded on the watershed, it was necessary to estimate the values of this parameter from records obtained at Dauphin Airport, which is about thirty (30) miles north of the watershed. As the barometric pressure at Dauphin Airport never varied more

than four (4) percent from the monthly mean, that mean was used after being adjusted to the approximate mean elevation of the watershed (1800 feet).

From equation (7) it was seen that  $\gamma = 0.00036 P_a$  millibars per  $^{\circ}\text{F}$ . If the average value of  $P_a = 949.6$  millibars, then from Equation 6:

$$R = Q_h/Q_e = 0.342 \cdot (T_a - T_s)/(E_a - E_s) \text{ ----- (11)}$$

### Summary

In summary it can be said that although the relative humidity was not measured as accurately as could be desired, it is felt that the accuracy of this instrumentation ( $\pm 10 - 15\%$ ) was sufficient for the purpose of the exercise. In other words, no major error in the energy budget is due to faulty instrumentation.

## CHAPTER IV

### ANALYSIS OF OBSERVATIONS

#### Trial Energy Balance

In CHAPTER II it was shown that it was only necessary to calculate  $Q_e$  to be able to calculate  $Q_m^1$  and thus the amount of melt. In order to calculate  $Q_e$  by equation (4) it is necessary to obtain estimates of A and B. In order to test the sensitivity of the energy balance to different values of A and B, two sets of transfer coefficients were chosen. They are shown below and represent the low and high ends, respectively, of the range of values given in the literature for transfer coefficients.

- (a) Those presented by Ferguson (1968, p. 49)  
where:  $A = 0.000$ ,  $B = 1.191$
- (b) Gold & Williams (1961)  
where:  $A = 0.000$ ,  $B = 7.652$ .

It should be noted that these coefficients have been adjusted to suit the time increment to be used in this energy balance and to suit the 10m height at which the wind speed was measured. In this study a twelve (12) hour time increment has been used. One period starts at 19.00 hours and runs through the night until 06.00 hours. The daytime period runs from 07.00 hours to 18.00 hours. The wind speed was adjusted by a power law relationship.

$$V_{10m} = V_{meas.} (10m/z_{meas.})^P \text{ ----- (12)}$$

Following Ferguson's (1968) reasoning P was taken as 0.25. This assumes that the turbulence created by the wind spilling over Riding Mountain is of the same order of magnitude as that found over the Niagara River. The temperature and relative humidity measurements were not adjusted for the relatively small differences in instrument height.

Using equations 4, 9, 10, and 11 the melt for each twelve hour increment was computed. The computations were started on April 12 at 07.00 as the hydrograph (FIGURE 4) showed that melt started during the 12th. As there was a snow survey on the 14th that is indicative of conditions at about 12.00, the computations were run until that time.

There was also a snow survey on April 8. The amount of snow that disappeared between the 8th and 14th was equivalent to 3.89 in. of water. The energy balance computations for the period April 12, 07.00 to April 14, 12.00 gave the following results:

<u>Evaporative Transfer Coefficient</u>	<u>Acc. Melt</u>
Ferguson	5.31 inches
Gold & Williams	13.54

In the discussion on instrumentation in CHAPTER III it was shown that no major error in the energy budget is due to faulty instrumentation. These results therefore indicate the inaccuracy of melt computations using inappropriate coefficients in equation (4):

$$Q_e = (A + BV) \cdot (E_a - E_s)$$

In addition the results illustrate that significant difference are obtained by the use of two well-recognized sets of values for "A" and "B".

#### Testing of Mass Transfer Formulae

In the preceding section the importance of the evaporative component in the energy budget was clearly demonstrated. As a result it was decided to try other sets of coefficients that have been proposed. From a literature survey fourteen sets of values for "A" and "B" were found and tested in the energy balance equation for the period April 12, 07.00 - April 14, 12.00. As the primary purpose of these computations was to determine the effect of the evaporative latent heat transfer term on the energy balance,  $Q_e$ ,  $Q_h$  and  $Q_e + Q_h$  were calculated in addition to the melt quantity.

From TABLE 1 it is seen that all estimates of "A" + "B" caused the energy balance to overestimate the actual melt of 3.89 in. water equivalent. The differences in the effect of various estimates of "A" and "B" are also clearly shown in the mass curves presented in FIGURE 5,  $Q_e$  versus Time; FIGURE 6,  $Q_h$  vs Time; and FIGURE 7,  $Q_e + Q_h$  vs Time. The bottom portion of FIGURES 5, 6 and 7 are a plot of accumulated  $Q_e$ ,  $Q_h$  and  $Q_e + Q_h$  against Time. In the upper portion of these figures are plots of the vapour pressure and temperature differences between the air and snow surfaces that along with the wind speed control the transfer of latent and sensible heat.



For the sake of clarity in FIGURES 4, 5, and 6, equations 1, 2, 10, 11, and 12 of Table 1 are the only ones shown as they were thought to be representative [see APPENDIX B]. These five equations were chosen by eye using preliminary mass curves (not shown) of  $Q_e + Q_h$  for all fourteen equations.

It is interesting that the mass curves of  $Q_e + Q_h$  are bracketed by those representing the work of two Canadian groups; Barry (1967) and Gold & Williams (1961). Both these groups derived their transfer coefficients over a snow surface whereas the other investigators were working over grass or water surfaces. Details of the various investigators' work may be obtained by consulting the references given in APPENDIX C.

In summary the melt calculated using the evaporative transfer coefficients found in the literature was always in excess of that observed. In the introduction to CHAPTER IV it was pointed out that the values of the evaporative transfer coefficients represent the only uncertainties in this energy balance. Thus as the instrumentation has been shown to be adequate it appears that the values of these coefficients found in the literature do not suit the meteorological conditions encountered at Wilson Creek.

#### Derivation of Evaporative Heat Transfer Coefficient

As the Transfer coefficients reported in the literature were not suitable, it was necessary to determine coefficients that were applicable under the meteorological conditions encountered during this study. This was done using

an iterative approach.

The first step was to assume that "A" equalled zero thus leaving only "B" to be evaluated. Once a value for "B" was assumed,  $Q_e$  was readily calculated from equation (4) and  $Q_h$  from  $Q_h = RQ_e$ . Then the melt was found from equations (9) and (10). If the accumulated melt for the period April 12 07.00 - April 14 12.00 did not agree with the results of the snow survey (a loss at 3.89 in. water), the value of "B" was adjusted. After several iterations the value of the transfer coefficient "B" was found to be 0.184 calories/(cm<sup>2</sup> • mile • mb). That is:

$$Q_e = (0.000 + 0.184 V) (E_a - E_s) \text{ calories/(cm}^2 \cdot 12 \text{ hr)}$$

----- (13)

It was assumed in this study that if a crust formed at the snow surface during the night of the 11th (the night before significant melting occurred) that the heat deficit it represented had to be supplied next morning.

The difference in the results of the energy balance observed by using the experimentally determined value of  $B = 0.184$  as opposed to using the transfer coefficients found in the literature is clearly shown by the mass curves of  $Q_e + Q_h$  in FIGURE 7. As was expected the experimental curve falls below that of Barry's.

### Summary

In this section it has been shown that if the experimentally determined evaporative heat transfer coefficient was

used; that is, if

$$Q_e = (0.00 + 0.184 V) \cdot (E_a - E_s) \text{ calories}/(\text{cm}^2 \cdot \text{mb} \cdot 12 \text{ hr.})$$

the energy balance gave a predicted melt similar to the melt obtained from the snow surveys. If the transfer coefficients found in the literature are used the resulting melt is excessive.

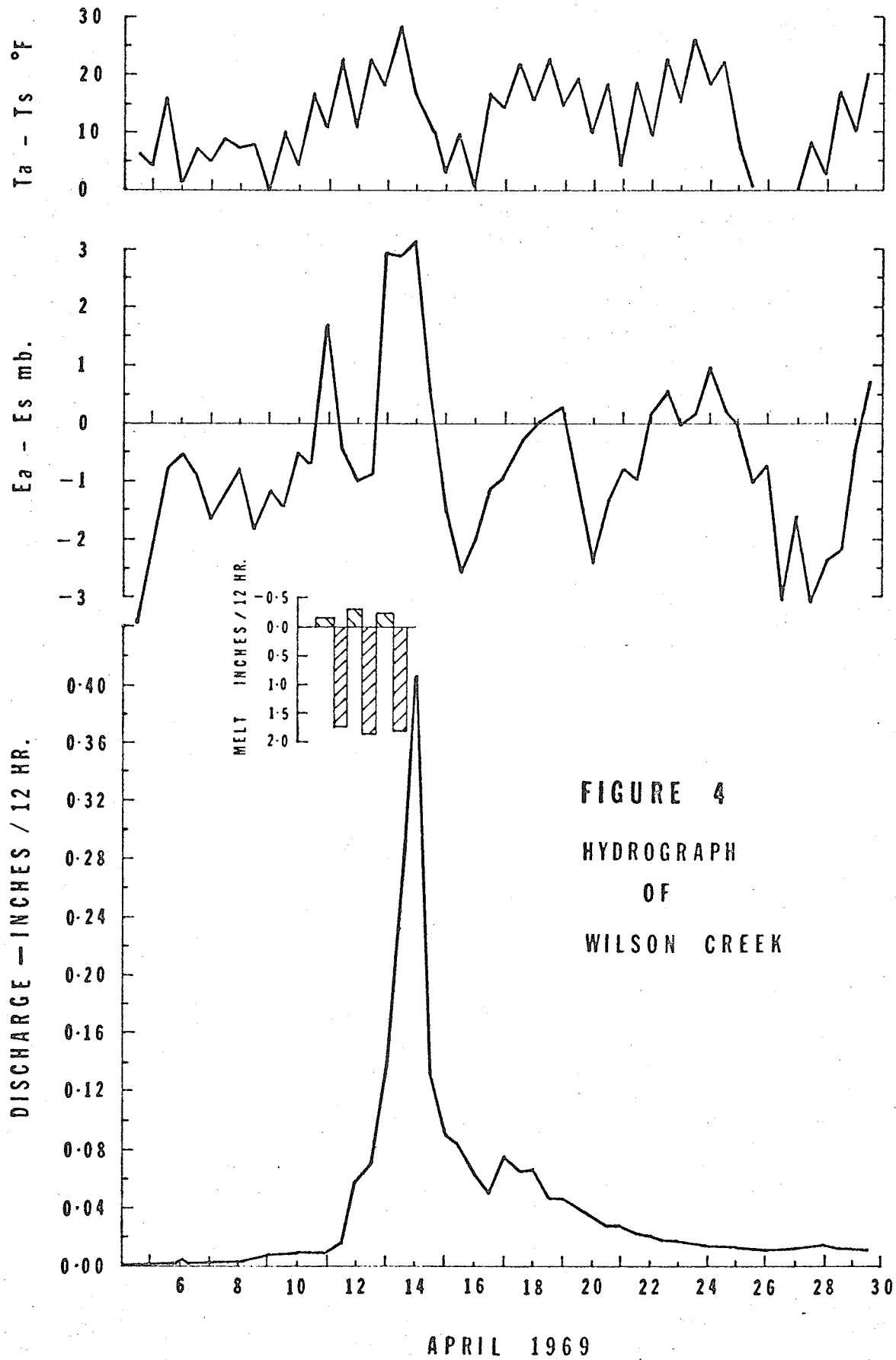


TABLE 1

EVAPORATIVE TRANSFER COEFFICIENTS  
 "A" AND "B" FOR MASS TRANSFER EQUATIONS<sup>a</sup>

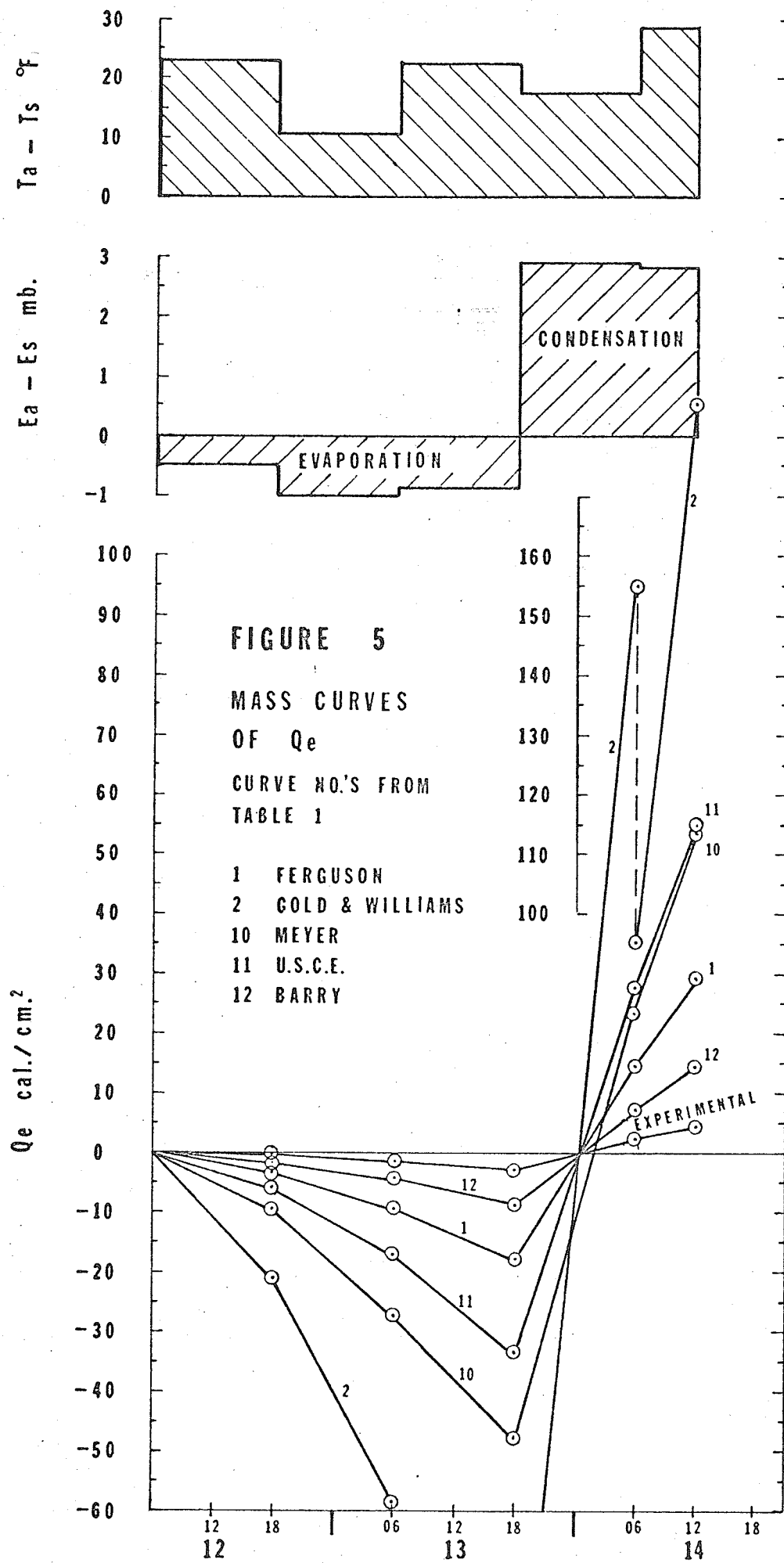
NO.	INVESTIGATOR	A	B	MELT April 12-14 in.
1	"FERGUSON"	0.000	1.191	5.31
2	GOLD & WILLIAMS	0.000	7.652	13.54
3	WMO (a)	0.000	1.186	5.30
4	WMO (b)	3.898	0.838	5.48
5	ROHWER	6.273	0.705	5.69
6	PENMAN 1956	2.744	0.881	5.35
7	GANGOPADHYAYA	5.376	1.308	6.32
8	LAKE HEFNER	0.000	1.226	5.35
9	LAKE MEAD	0.000	1.167	5.28
10	MEYER	11.200	1.408	7.38
11	U.S.C.E.	0.000	2.244	6.65
12	BARRY	0.000	0.582	4.47
13	LAMOREUX <sup>b</sup>	8.854	1.324	6.77
14	MORTON	7.988	1.331	6.76

<sup>a</sup>General Form:

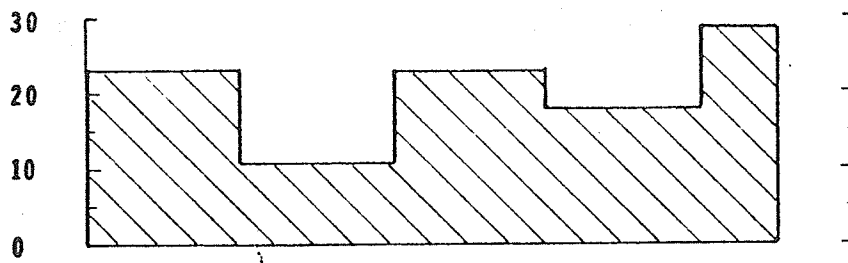
$$Q_e = (A + B \cdot V_{10}) \cdot (E_a - E_s) \text{ CAL.}/(\text{CM.}^2 \cdot 12\text{HR.})$$

<sup>b</sup>Form used by LAMOREUX:

$$Q_e = (A + B \cdot V_{10}) \cdot (E_a - E_s)^{0.88} \text{ CAL.}/(\text{CM.} \cdot 12\text{HR.})$$

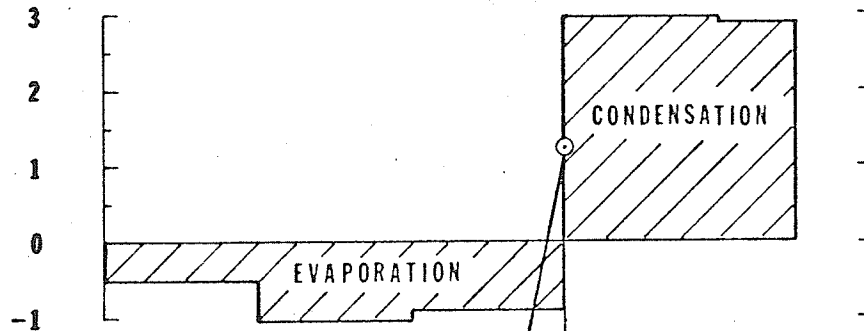


$T_a - T_s$  °F

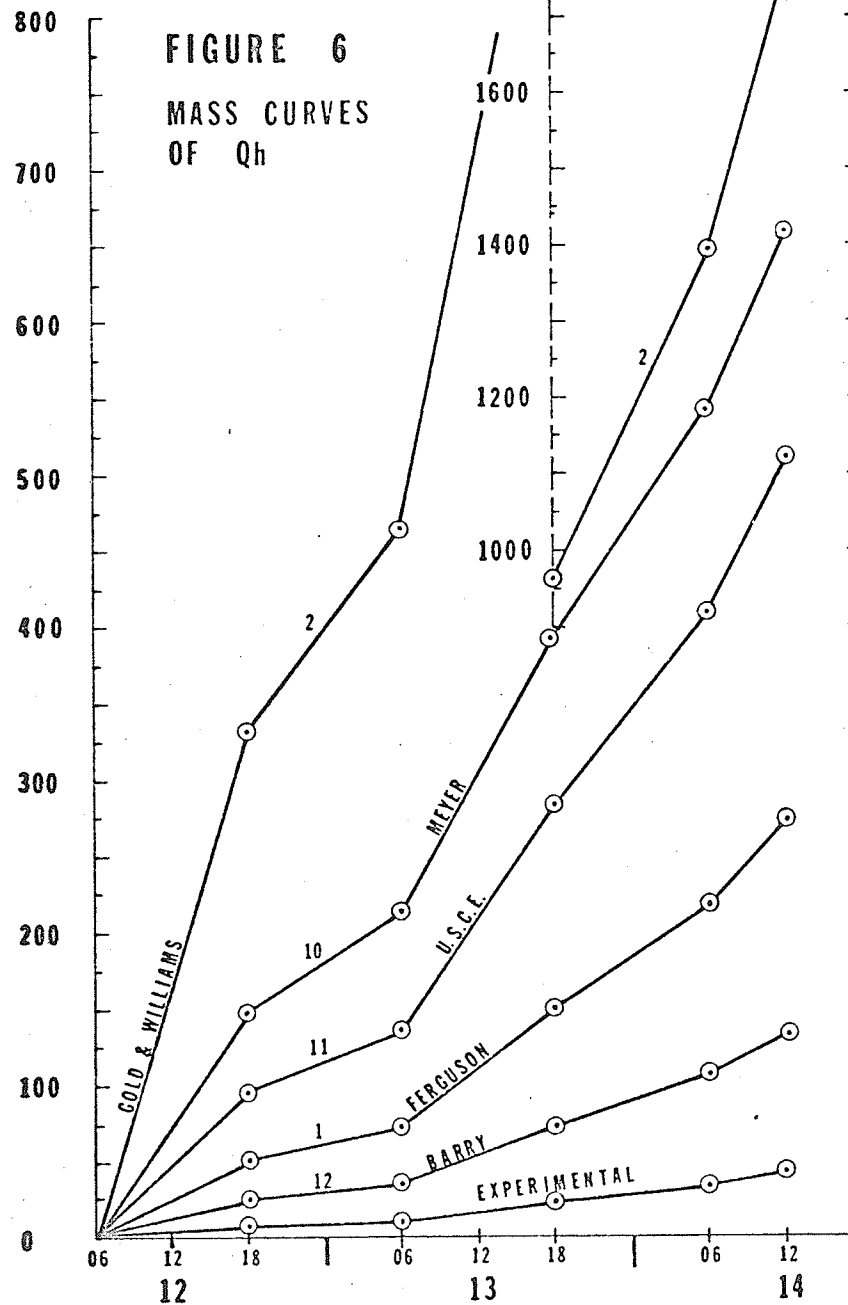


24

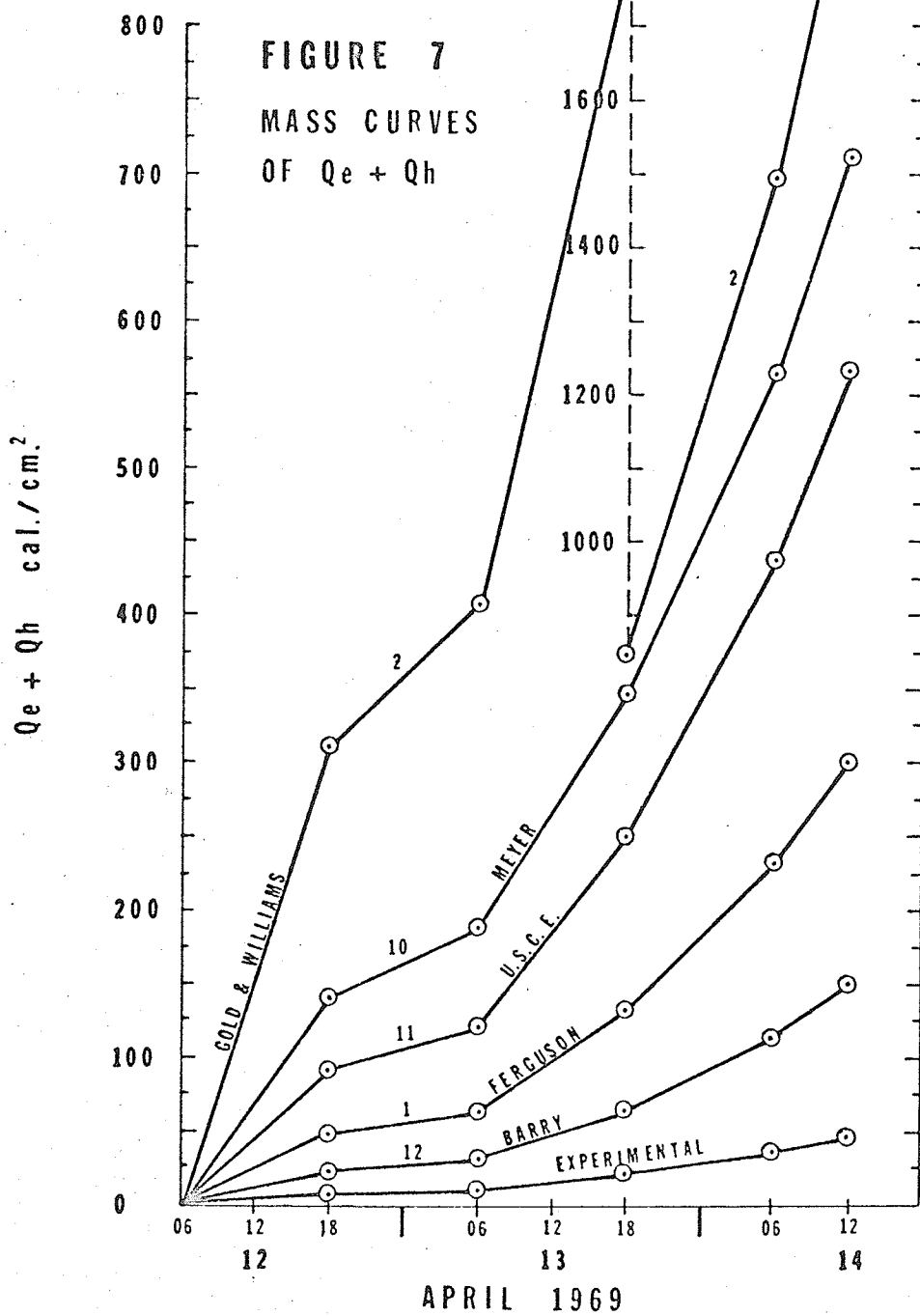
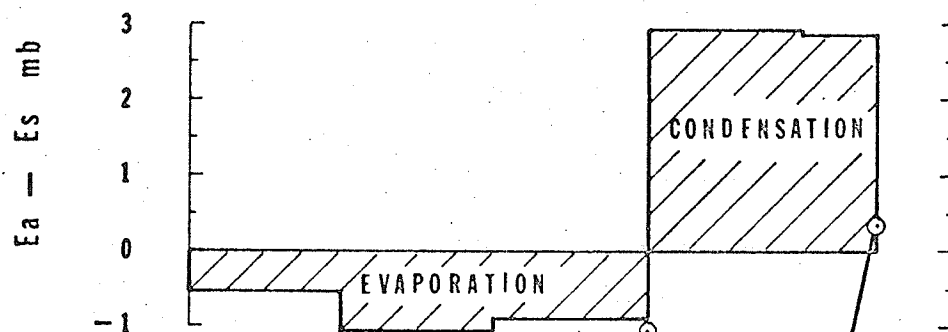
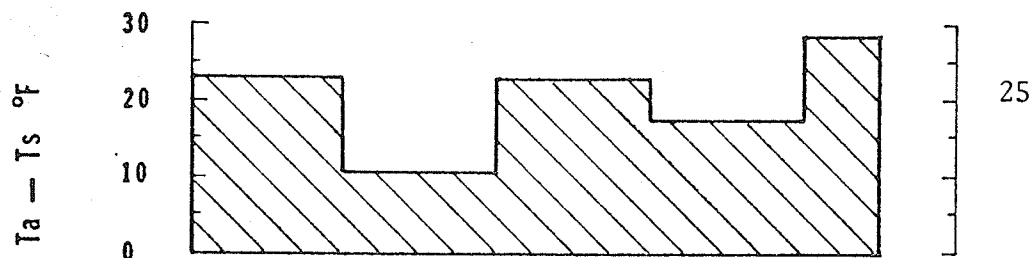
$E_a - E_s$  mb.



$Q_h$  cal./cm.<sup>2</sup>



APRIL 1969





## CHAPTER V

### DISCUSSION OF RESULTS

#### Comments on the "Derived" Transfer Coefficient

The most striking point brought out by the above calculations is illustrated by the "experimental" mass curve of  $Q_e + Q_h$  in FIGURE 7. The fact that this mass curve is so close to the origin indicates that the snowmelt is due mainly to the radiation component of the energy balance. In fact the accumulated  $Q_e + Q_h$  is only six (6) percent of the accumulated  $Q_r$ .

This approximate equality between  $Q_m^1$  and  $Q_r$  is not in agreement with the results of Gold & Williams (1961). However, Munn (1966, p. 142) reproduced a graph (see FIGURE 8) of the "Daily Components of the energy balance on the Blue Glacier, in the state of Washington" in which it is seen that  $Q_r$  and  $Q_m^1$  are approximately equal and that  $Q_r$  is much greater than  $Q_e + Q_h$ . FIGURE 9 is reproduction of a graph presented by Ambach & Hoinkes (1963). Ambach & Hoinkes (1963) reported that 68 percent of the heat causing melting was supplied by net radiation and 32 percent by net convection ( $Q_e + Q_h$ ) and that these figures compared very well with those on the Blue Glacier.

One disappointing result of this study was that neither the derived evaporation transfer coefficient nor those found in the literature enabled the energy balance to distinguish between periods of actual runoff producing melt

and periods in which the melt contributed only to the "ripening" of the snow pack. This is illustrated in TABLE 2 which shows the melt obtained for each period from April 8 - 12 using:

$$Q_e = (0.000 + 0.184 V) \cdot (E_a - E_s).$$

The importance of these small evaporative and sensible heat components of the energy balance might be questioned. Yet, it is interesting to note in FIGURE 10 how the mass curve of  $Q_e + Q_h$  rose at the same time as the curve of accumulated melt and with changing meteorological conditions.

During the energy balance computations it was assumed that all negative  $Q_m^1$  went towards freezing liquid water in the snow pack. Using this assumption the following results were obtained:

Night of April	$-Q_m^1$	$Q_m^1$ on following day	$-Q_m^1/Q_m^1$ %
11	-29.6	345.9	8.6
12	-61.8	371.0	16.7
13	-47.2	331.6	14.2

Section 8-04.05 of "Snow Hydrology" (1956) states that the nighttime energy deficit is approximately 15 percent of the daytime energy input in the open. Thus it appears that our assumption is acceptable.

From the snow survey results there were 0.95 inches of water left on the watershed at noon on April 14th. Using the derived evaporative transfer coefficient in the energy

balance it was calculated that another 0.86 inches melted during the afternoon of the 14th. Assuming that this represented the end of the snowmelt period, the mass curve of snowmelt was plotted in FIGURE 11 in order to compare the volume of melt with the volume of runoff. From FIGURE 11 and from the hydrograph of Wilson Creek in FIGURE 4 it is seen that the runoff peaked approximately 6 hours after the end of snowmelt on the 14th. At the time of the peak the runoff volume was 17% of the melt volume. By 18.00 hours on April 18 the runoff-melt ratio had increased to 0.31 and by April 24 to 0.39.

#### Comparison of the "Derived" Transfer Coefficient with Barry's

Barry's evaporative transfer coefficient was the closest to the derived coefficient. Thus this experiment may be an indication of support for Barry's belief that even in fully rough flow the viscous skin friction in the laminar sublayer cannot be neglected "since it is to this part that mass (and heat) transfer correspond". (Barry 1967)

#### Comparison of the "Derived" Transfer Coefficient with Gold & Williams'

The difference between the value of the evaporative transfer coefficient derived at Wilson Creek and by Gold and Williams is very interesting for the methods used are believed to be basically the same. As previously described the calculations on Wilson Creek were performed by working with individual terms of the energy balance; whereas Gold & Williams

factored the energy balance equation, worked with various groupings of physical data and later multiplied by appropriate factors. Gold and Williams obtained their sums of  $V \cdot (E_a - E_s)$  and  $V \cdot (T_a - T_s)$  by graphical integration which may theoretically be more correct than using twelve hour averages of the individual quantities.

Although the sites of the two experiments were different; as Gold and Williams conducted their experiments on a flat, open field and Wilson Creek is a very open forest, the wind speeds were approximately equal, as shown in TABLE 3. TABLE 3 also shows that the temperatures experienced on Willson Creek were considerably higher than those at Ottawa. The average vapour pressures must have also been higher at Wilson Creek for over the period considered there was net condensation while at Ottawa there was considerable evaporation. The integration of these differences is clearly seen in the following indices:

	<u>Wilson Creek</u>	<u>Gold &amp; Williams</u>	
Average $V_{2m} \cdot (E_a - E_s)$	89	-1498	mb $\cdot$ miles/day
Average $V_{2m} \cdot (T_a - T_s)$	2380	151	$^{\circ}\text{F} \cdot$ miles/day

Gold and Williams recognized that under weather conditions where the air was moist and had a temperature consistently above  $32^{\circ}\text{F}$  the evaporative component in the energy budget would tend to be suppressed or even reversed.

as was the case at Wilson Creek. Perhaps the results of Gold and Williams' study are more applicable to early spring melting periods than to later periods during which there are influxes of warm, relatively moist air.

#### Summary

From the studies on Wilson Creek it appears that the heat required for snowmelt is principally supplied by the radiation component of the energy balance with evaporative and sensible heat transfer being of only minor importance. The results of other studies reported in the literature show that there are discrepancies in the importance of the evaporative component that cannot be easily explained but simply point towards more research into the physics of evaporation. Both Gold & Williams and Barry have tried to relate their transfer coefficients to a drag coefficient but at present such a relationship is not clearly understood.

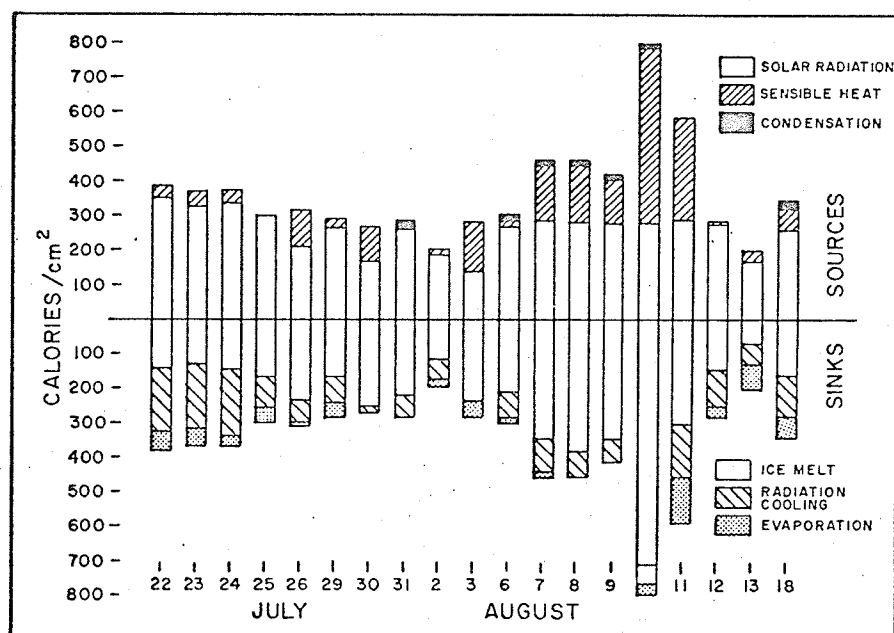


FIGURE 8 - DAILY COMPONENTS OF THE ENERGY BALANCE ON THE BLUE GLACIER IN THE STATE OF WASHINGTON

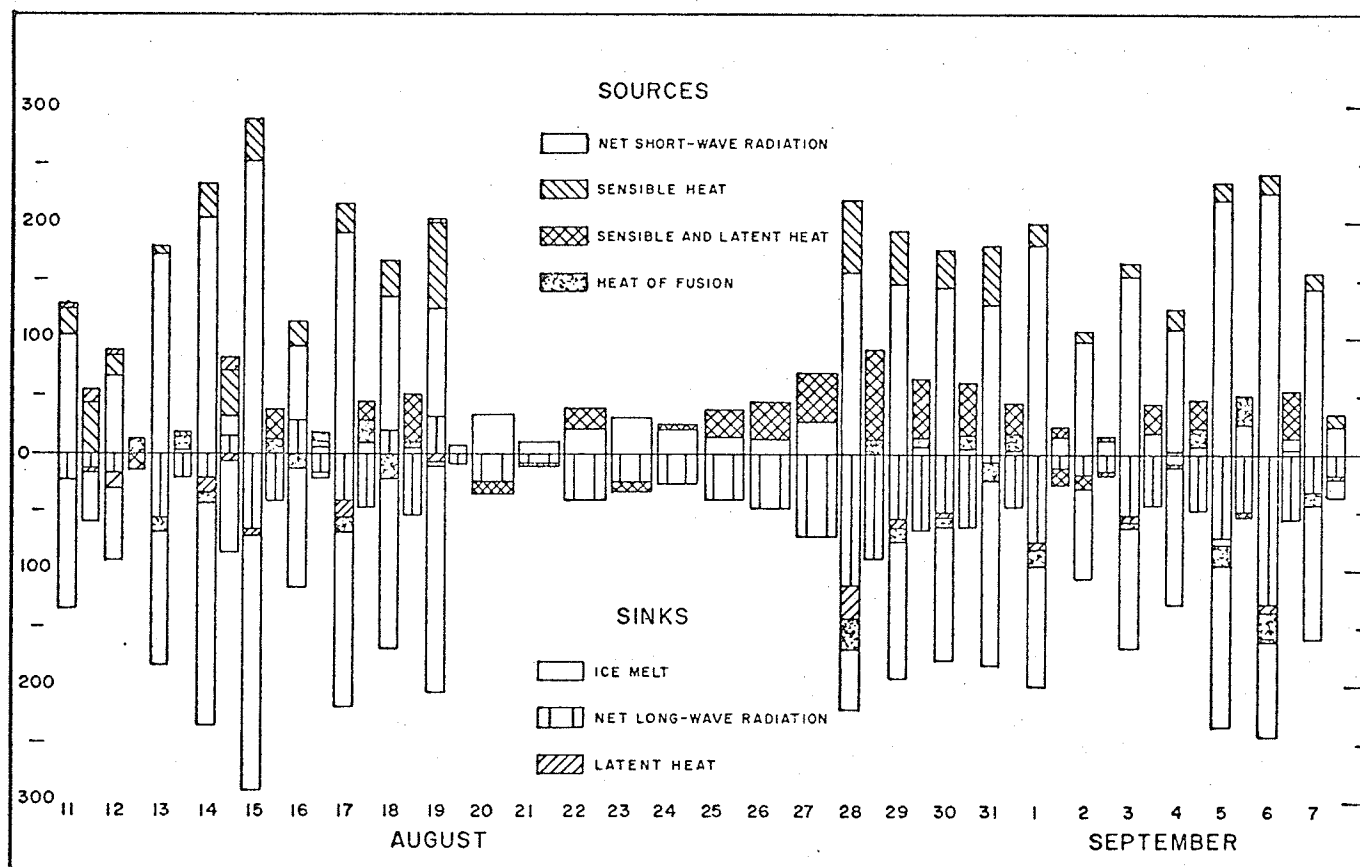


FIGURE 9 - HEAT BALANCE AT SNOW SURFACE · KESSELWANDFERNER  
3240 m · AUG.—SEPT. 1958

TIME INTERVALS FOR TWO ABLATION PERIODS USUALLY 08-18  
HRS. AND 18-08 HRS. FOR ACCUMULATION PERIOD 09-09 HRS.

TABLE 2

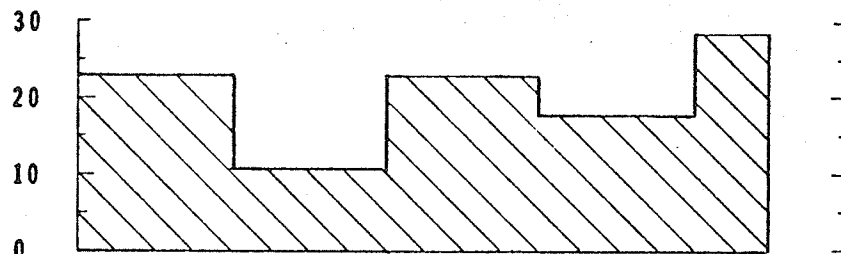
SNOWMELT AT WILSON CREEK\*  
IN./12 HR.

DAY	TIME	MELT
9	19-06	-0.13
	07-18	1.66
10	19-06	-0.35
	07-18	1.80
11	19-06	-0.28
	07-18	1.84
12	19-06	-0.15
TOTAL		4.41

\* Obtained Using Equations 9 & 10

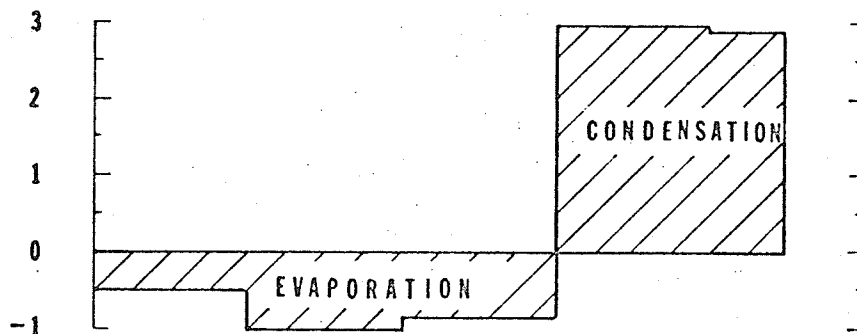
with  $Q_e = (0.000 + 0.184 \cdot V_{10}) \cdot (E_a - E_s)$   
Cal./(CM.<sup>2</sup> · 12HR.)

$T_a - T_s$  F



33

$E_a - E_s$  mb.



$Q_m, Q_r, Q_e + Q_h$  cal./cm.<sup>2</sup>

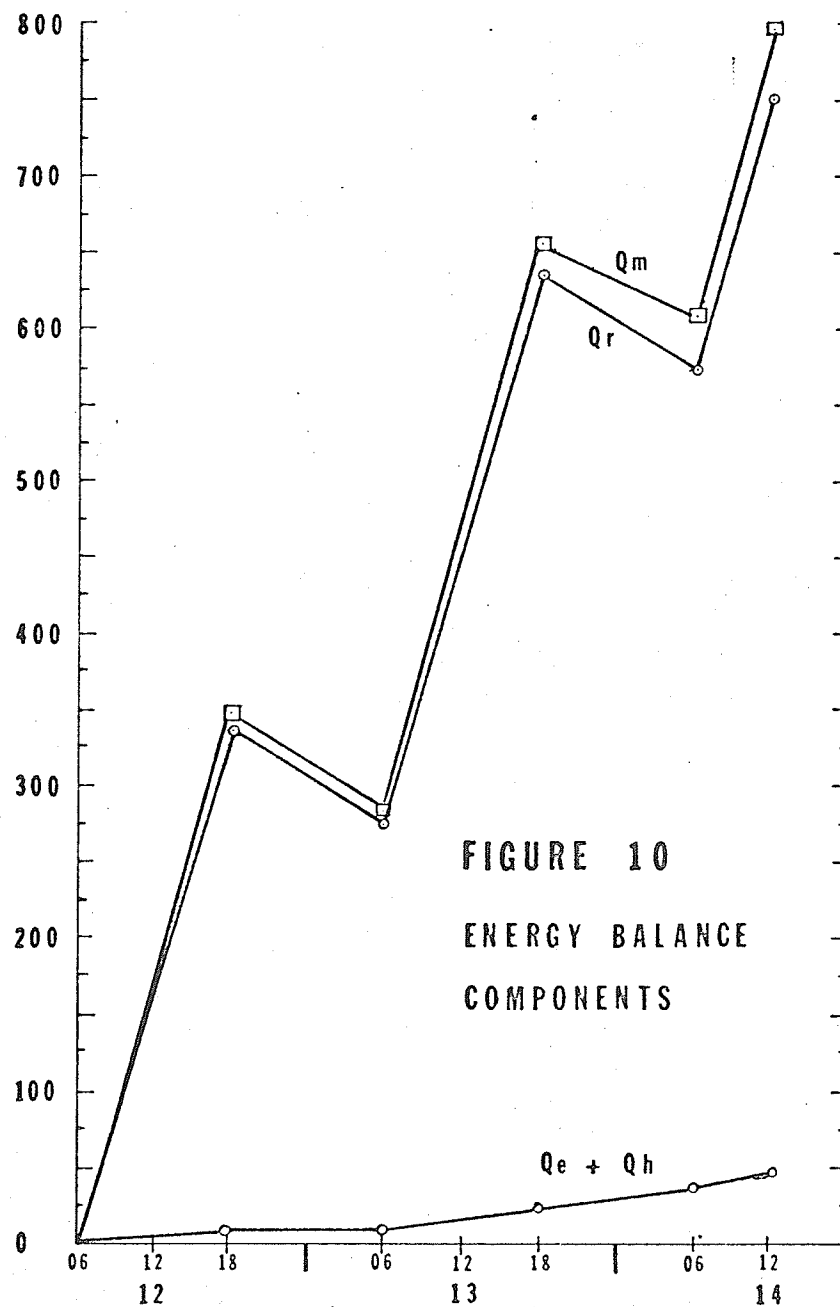


FIGURE 10  
ENERGY BALANCE  
COMPONENTS

APRIL 1969



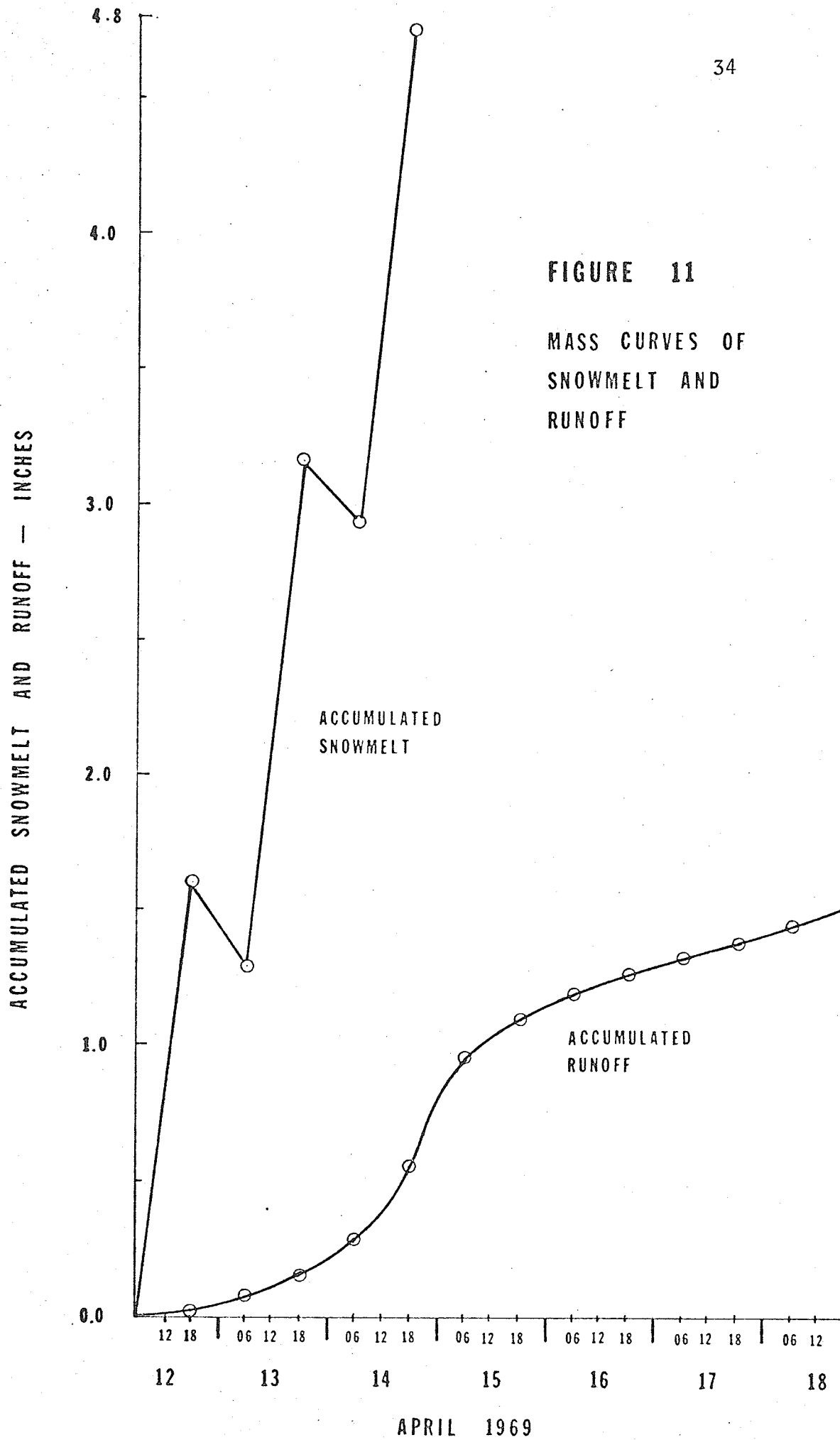


TABLE 3

COMPARISON OF METEOROLOGICAL CONDITIONS  
DURING MELTING PERIOD  
OTTAWA 1959 VS WILSON CREEK 1969

METEOROLOGICAL PARAMETER		OTTAWA 1959	WILSON CREEK 1969
$T_a$	Air Temp.	33.5 °F	52.2 °F
$T_a - T_s$		1.5 °F	20.2 °F
$E_a - E_s$	Vapour Pressure Deficit	-1.48mb. (evaporation)	+0.59mb. (condensation)
$V_{2m}$	Wind Speed	6.31m.p.h.	5.06m.p.h.
$V \cdot (E_a - E_s)$		-1498 $\frac{\text{mb.} \cdot \text{miles}}{\text{Day}}$	89.4 $\frac{\text{mb.} \cdot \text{miles}}{\text{Day}}$
$V \cdot (T_a - T_s)$		151 $\frac{\text{°F} \cdot \text{miles}}{\text{Day}}$	2380 $\frac{\text{°F} \cdot \text{miles}}{\text{Day}}$
$Q_r$	Net Radiation	165 $\frac{\text{Cal.}}{\text{cm.}^2 \cdot \text{Day}}$	334 $\frac{\text{Cal.}}{\text{cm.}^2 \cdot \text{Day}}$
$Q_m$	Snowmelt	57.1 $\frac{\text{Cal.}}{\text{cm.}^2 \cdot \text{Day}}$	343 $\frac{\text{Cal.}}{\text{cm.}^2 \cdot \text{Day}}$
$Q_e$	Evaporative Heat Transfer	- 164 $\frac{\text{Cal.}}{\text{cm.}^2 \cdot \text{Day}}$	2.0 $\frac{\text{Cal.}}{\text{cm.}^2 \cdot \text{Day}}$
$Q_h$	Sensible Heat Transfer	56.1 $\frac{\text{Cal.}}{\text{cm.}^2 \cdot \text{Day}}$	18.7 $\frac{\text{Cal.}}{\text{cm.}^2 \cdot \text{Day}}$

## CHAPTER VI

### SEMI-EMPIRICAL METHODS

Three semi-empirical methods of calculating snowmelt were tested using the data from Wilson Creek. The three equations are presented below along with some observations on the test results. A detailed explanation of the terms in the equations and a fuller description of the test results is given in APPENDIX D.

#### A. Degree-Day Method

$$\text{Melt} = (\text{Degree-Day Factor}) \cdot (T_a - 32) \text{ ----- (14)}$$

#### B. Multiple Linear Regression Equation (Coefficients determined in New Brunswick)

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Melt} = & 0.534 + 0.00407 \text{ RL} + 0.00309 \text{ V} (T_a - 36) \\ & + 0.0343 \text{V(RH)} + 0.000772 \text{ R}_s (1 - A) \\ & + 0.007 \text{P}_r (T - 32) \text{ ----- (15)} \end{aligned}$$

#### C. U.S.C.E. Equation

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Melt} = & K^1 (0.00508)(1 - A) \text{R}_s + 0.029 \text{ N} (T_c - T_s) \\ & + ((0.0212)(T_a - T_s) - 0.84) (1 - N) \\ & + K (0.00629)(Z_a Z_b)^{-1/6} ((T_a - T_s) \text{ P/P}_0 \\ & + 8.59 (E_a - E_s)) \text{ V}_b \text{ ----- (16)} \end{aligned}$$

Using the measured snowmelt and air temperatures a degree-day factor of 0.08 inches/degree-day was derived. This is well within the standard range of degree-day factors. The U.S.C.E. equation for snowmelt predicted a melt greatly in excess

of that determined by the snow surveys, while the multiple regression equation proposed by Pysklywec, Davar, and Bray underestimated the melt considerably. The melt quantities associated with the various indices; such as, melt from the radiation exchange; were found in the case of the U.S.C.E. equation to be of the same order of magnitude as the corresponding parts of the energy balance equation, but this was not found to be so in the case of the regression equation.

## CHAPTER VII

### CONCLUSIONS

This study began with an examination of the terms in the energy budget equation that produced a simplified form of the equation suitable for use in this study:

$$\begin{aligned} Q_m^1 &= Q_r + Q_h + Q_e \\ &= Q_r + Q_e (R + 1) \end{aligned}$$

It was then apparent that as  $Q_r$  was measured and as  $Q_h$  was related to  $Q_e$  it was only necessary to calculate  $Q_e$  to be able to calculate  $Q_m^1$  and thus the amount of melt.

Using values of the evaporative heat transfer coefficients "A" and "B" found in the literature,  $Q_e$  was calculated, and the amount of melt predicted. In all cases this predicted melt was in excess of the melt determined from the snow surveys.

In order to obtain values of the transfer coefficients that were applicable under the meteorological conditions encountered at Wilson Creek an iterative approach was used. Assuming "A" to be zero (0) and knowing the total accumulated melt during a given period, various values of the transfer coefficient "B" were assumed until both sides of the energy balance equation were equal. "B" was thus found to be 0.18 calories/(cm<sup>2</sup> • mile • mb). That is:

$$Q_e = (0.000 + 0.18 V_{10}) \cdot (E_a - E_s) \text{ calories/(cm}^2 \cdot 12 \text{ hr)}$$

With such a small value for the transfer coefficient it is apparent that  $Q_e$  was only a minor term in the energy budget, and that at Wilson Creek the energy for snowmelt was supplied almost entirely by net radiation transfer.

Even with the use of the derived transfer coefficient it was impossible for the energy balance to distinguish between periods of runoff - producing melt and those in which the melt contributed only to the ripening of the snow pack. This was also found to be true of the three semi-empirical approaches tested; the degree-day, the U.S.C.E. snowmelt equation, and a multiple regression equation.

The predicted melts from the U.S.C.E. equation and from the regression equation considerably over- and underestimated, respectively, the melt determined from the snow surveys. However, by working the degree-day method backwards a degree-day factor of 0.08 inches/degree-day was obtained; which is well within the standard range.

From comparisons with the results of research on evaporative heat transfer coefficients over a snow surface by Gold and Williams and by Barry it is clear that the discrepancies encountered cannot be explained without some intensive research. One direction for this research would be to examine the transfer of heat, mass, and momentum in the laminar sublayer and its relationship to drag coefficients as suggested by Barry (1967).

Until this research is done the energy budget approach

to snowmelt cannot be used with confidence except in conjunction with regional index basins at which the evaporative transfer coefficients may be checked and melt starting dates determined.

This study has shown that an evaporative heat transfer coefficient of  $0.18 \text{ calories}/(\text{cm}^2 \cdot \text{mile} \cdot \text{mb})$  is suitable for use in Western Manitoba under warm temperatures late in the melting season.

### SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY

- Ambach, W. and Hoinkes, H., "The Heat Balance of an Alpine Snowfield." International Association of Scientific Hydrology (I.A.S.H.) Pub. No. 61, (1963), pp. 24-36.
- Anderson, E.A., "Development and Testing of Snow Pack Energy Balance Equations." Water Resources Research, 4 (Feb. 1968), pp. 19-37.
- Barry, P.J., "The Use of Radioactive Tracer Gases to Study the Rate of Exchange of Water Vapour Between Air and Natural Surfaces." Isotope Techniques in the Hydrologic Cycle, Amer. Geoph. U. - Nat. Res. Council-Geoph. Monograph Series, No. 11 (1967), pp. 69-76.
- Bowen, I.S., "The Ratio of Heat Losses by Conduction and by Evaporation from any Water Surface." Physical Review, 27 (June, 1926), pp. 779-787.
- Boyd, D.W., Gold, L.W. and Williams, G.P., "Radiation Balance During the Snow Melt Period at Ottawa, Canada." National Research Council, Canada, Division of Building Research, NRC 7152, Ottawa, Dec. 1962.
- Brutsaert, W., "Equations for Vapor Flux as a Fully Turbulent Diffusion Process Under Diabatic Conditions." Bulletin of the I.A.S.H., X (June, 1965), pp. 11-21.
- Clark, R.H., "Predicting the Runoff from Snowmelt." Engineering Journal, 38 (April, 1955), pp. 434-441.
- Davar, K.S., "Peak Flow - Snowmelt Events." International Hydrologic Decade Seminar, Halifax, 1968.
- Ferguson, H.L., "A Preliminary Estimate of the Ice-Season Energy Balance for the Niagara River." Bulletin of the I.A.S.H., XIII (Sept. 1968), pp. 41-58.
- Gold, L.W., "Micrometeorological Observations of the Snow and Ice Section, Division of Building Research, National Research Council." Proceedings of the First Canadian Conference on Micrometeorology, Part 1, Meteorological Service of Canada, Toronto, 1967.
- Gold, L.W. and Williams, G.P., "Energy Balance During the Snow Melt Period at an Ottawa Site." I.A.S.H. Pub. No. 54, pp. 288-294/ (Reprinted by NRC as NRC 6283).



- Grainger, M.E. and Lister, H., "Wind Speed, Stability and Eddy Viscosity Over Melting Ice Surfaces." Journal of Glaciology, 6 (Feb., 1966), pp. 101-127.
- Johnson, Oliver A. and Boyer, Peter B., "Application of Snow Hydrology to the Columbia Basin." J. of Hyd. Div. ASCE, Jan. 1959, pp. 61-81.
- Latimer, J.R., "The Accuracy of Total Radiometers." In Symposium on the Heat Exchange at Snow and Ice Surfaces, NRC, Assoc. Committee on Soil and Snow Mechanics, Tech. Memo. No. 78, Ottawa, Oct. 1963, pp. 31-55.
- Linsley, Ray K., Jr., Kohler, Max A., and Paulhus, Joseph L.H., Applied Hydrology. New York: McGraw-Hill Book Co., Inc., 1949.
- Mackay, G.H. and Stanton, C.R., "Wilson Creek Study, Erosion and Sedimentation Control." Proceedings of Hydrology Symposium No. 4, NRC, Assoc. Committee on Geodesy and Geophysics, Subcommittee on Hydrology, Ottawa, 1965, pp. 41-77.
- Mateer, C.L., "Average Insolation in Canada During Cloudless Days." Canadian Journal of Technology, 33, pp. 12-32.
- Munn, R.E., Descriptive Micrometeorology. Advances in Geophysics, Supplement 1, New York: Academic Press Inc., 1966.
- Munn, R.E. and Truhlar, E., "The Energy Budget Approach to Heat Transfer at the Surface of the Earth." Transactions of the Engineering Institute of Canada, Vol. 6, No. B-7, July, 1963.
- Pruitt, W.O. and Lourence, F.J., "Tests of Aerodynamic, Energy Balance and Other Evaporation Equations Over a Grass Surface." Invest. Energy, Momentum and Mass Transfer Near the Ground-Final Rept. 1965, Univ. Calif., Davis, Calif., 1966, pp. 37-63.
- Pysklywec, D.W., Davar, K.S., Bray, D.I., "Snowmelt at an Index Plot." Water Resources Research, 4 Oct. 1968, pp. 937-946.
- U.S. Army, Corps of Engineers, Snow Hydrology, Summary Rept. Snow Invest., North Pacific Div., Portland, Oregon, 1956.
- United Nations, World Meteorological Organization. Guide to Hydrometeorological Practices. WMO-No. 168 TP82, 1965.

## APPENDIX A

### SAMPLE ENERGY BALANCE COMPUTATIONS

For the Period April 13, 1969 07:00-18:00

Given:  $Q_r = 360.4 \text{ calories/cm}^2/12 \text{ hr.}$

$$V_{10} = 8.33 \text{ m.p.h.}$$

$$E_a - E_s = -0.88 \text{ mb.}$$

$$T_a - T_s = 22.8^\circ\text{F}$$

From Equation 14:

$$Q_e = 0.184 \cdot V \cdot (E_a - E_s) \text{ cal./cm}^2/12 \text{ hr.}$$

$$= (0.184) (8.33) (-0.88)$$

$$Q_e = -1.34 \text{ cal./cm}^2/12 \text{ hr.}$$

From Equation 6:

$$Q_h = R \cdot Q_e$$

From Equation 12:

$$R = 0.342 \cdot (T_a - T_s) / (E_a - E_s)$$

$$= 0.342 \cdot (22.8) / (-0.88)$$

$$R = -8.861$$

Therefore:

$$Q_h = -8.861 (-1.34)$$

$$Q_h = 12.0 \text{ cal./cm}^2/12 \text{ hr.}$$

From Equation 11:

$$\begin{aligned} Q_m^1 &= Q_r + Q_e + Q_h \\ &= 360.4 - 1.3 + 12.0 \\ Q_m^1 &= 371.1 \text{ cal./cm}^2/12 \text{ hr.} \end{aligned}$$

From Equation 12a:

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Melt} &= Q_m^1 / 202.4 (0.98) \text{ inches} \\ &= 371.1 / 202.4 (0.98) \\ \text{Melt} &= 1.87 \text{ inches} \end{aligned}$$

∴ For the daytime period 07:00-18:00 on April 13, 1969  
the snowmelt equaled 1.87 inches.

APPENDIX B

TABLE OF REPRESENTATIVE EQUATIONS

REPRESENTATIVE EVAPORATION EQUATIONS		EQUATIONS REPRESENTED	
NO.	INVESTIGATOR	NO.	INVESTIGATOR
1	"FERGUSON"	3	WMO (a)
		4	WMO (b)
		5	ROHWER
		6	PENMAN 1956
		8	LAKE HEFNER
		9	LAKE MEAD
2	GOLD & WILLIAMS		
10	MEYER		
11	U.S.C.E.	7	GANGOPADHYAYA
		13	LAMOREUX
		14	MORTON
12	BARRY		

## APPENDIX C

TABLE SHOWING SOURCES FROM WHICH INFORMATION  
FOR TABLE 1 WAS OBTAINED

NO.	INVESTIGATOR	SOURCE
1	"FERGUSON"	"A Preliminary Estimate of the Ice-Season Energy Balance for the Niagara River." <u>Bulletin of the International Assoc. of Scientific Hydrology</u> (I.A.S.H.), III (Sept. 1968), p. 49.
2	Gold & Williams	"Energy Balance During the Snow Melt Period at an Ottawa Site." <u>I.A.S.H. Pub. No. 54</u> , pp. 289-294. (Reprinted by NRC as NRC 6283).
3	WMO (a)	Ferguson's paper - p. 47
4	WMO (b)	Ferguson's paper - p. 47
5	Rohwer	Ferguson's paper - p. 47
6	Penman 1956	"Estimating Evaporation." <u>Trans. Amer. Geoph. U.</u> , 37 (Feb. 1956), pp. 43-50.
7	Gangopadhyaya	"Evaporation - Its Measurement and Estimation." <u>I.A.S.H. Pub. No. 68</u> , II, p. 520.
8	Lake Hefner	<u>Water-Loss Investigations: Lake Hefner Studies, Technical Report - Geol. Survey Prof. Paper 269</u> . Washington, D.C., 1954 p. 65.
9	Lake Mead	<u>Water-Loss Investigations: Lake Mead Studies - Geol. Survey Prof. Paper 298</u> , Washington, D.C., 1958, p. 34.
10	Meyer	"Computing Run-off from Rainfall and Other Physical Data." <u>Trans. ASCE</u> , 79 (1929), pp. 1056-1224.

NO.	INVESTIGATOR	SOURCE
11	U.S.C.E.	"Snow Hydrology". <u>Summary Report Snow Invest. North Pacific Div., Corps of Eng., Portland, Oregon, 1956.</u>
12	Barry	"The Use of Radioactive Tracer Gases to Study the Rate of Exchange of Water Vapour Between Air and Natural Surfaces". <u>Isotope Techniques in the Hydrologic Cycle - Amer. Geoph. U. - National Res. Council - Geoph. Monograph Series, No. 11 (1967), pp 69-76.</u>
13	Lamoreux	"Modern Evaporation Formulae Adapted to Computer Use." <u>Monthly Weather Review, Jan. 1962, pp 26-28.</u>
14	Morton	"Potential Evaporation and River Basin Evaporation". <u>J. Hydraul. Div. ASCE, 91, HYC (Nov. 1965), pp 69 &amp; 74.</u>

## APPENDIX D

### SEMI-EMPIRICAL METHODS FOR ESTIMATING SNOWMELT

#### Degree-Day Method

The simplest and oldest method of calculating snowmelt is the degree-day method in which air temperature is used as an index for all the factors affecting snowmelt.

Snowmelt is very simply calculated from:

$$\text{Melt} = \text{DDF} (T_a - T_b) \text{ ----- (17)}$$

where:

$T_a$  = Average daily air temperature ( $^{\circ}\text{F}$ )

$T_b$  = Base Temperature (assumed here to be  $32^{\circ}\text{F}$ )

$\text{DD} = (T_a - T_b) = \text{Degree Days}$

$\text{DDF} = \text{Degree-Day Factor (inches/DD)}$

Melt in inches/day.

If temperature averages are for 12 hours, one works with degree half-days. From the computations shown in TABLE 4 a degree half-day factor of 0.038 (or a degree day factor of 0.076) was obtained. Using this value the melt in each period was calculated as shown in TABLE 5. Linsly, Kohler, and Paulhus (1949, p. 429) give the usual range of dry-bulb degree-day factors as 0.05 to 0.15 in/degree-day. Clark (1955) found the values of the degree-day factor for the Red River basin to range from 0.02 to 0.06 in/degree-day.

Multiple Linear Regression Equation  
(New Brunswick Coefficients)

Pysklywec, Davar, and Bray (1968) have presented a multiple linear regression equation using the basic meteorological indices presented in CHAPTER 6 of "Snow Hydrology" but with the regression coefficients derived from a local index plot. Their equation is:

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Melt} = & 0.534 + 0.00407 R_L + 0.00309 V (T_a - 36) \\ & + 0.0343 V (RH) + 0.000772 R_S (1 - A) \\ & + 0.007 P_r (T_a - 32). \text{-----} (18) \end{aligned}$$

where:

Melt is in inches/day

A = albedo (decimal fraction)

$P_r$  = rainfall (in/day) = 0.0

$R_L$  = net longwave radiation (langleys/day)

$R_S$  = incident shortwave radiation (langleys/day)

RH = relative humidity at 4.5 foot level (decimal fraction)

$T_a$  = mean daily air temperature at 4.5 foot level ( $^{\circ}\text{F}$ )

V = wind velocity at 33 foot level (miles per hour).

$R_S (1 - A)$  may be replaced by  $(Q_r - R_L)$  where  $Q_r$  is the net all-wave radiation. Estimates of  $R_L$  were obtained using the formula presented in "Snow Hydrology" (1956, p. 160):

$$R_L = 1440 (0.757 \sigma T^4 - 0.459) (1 - KN) \text{-----} (19)$$

where:

$R_L$  = net longwave radiation (langleys/day)



$\sigma$  = Stefan-Boltzmann constant

$$= 8.26 \times 10^{-11} \text{ langleys/min/}(\text{deg K})^4$$

N = Portion of sky covered by clouds (decimal fraction)

K = cloud quality function based on cloud height and type.

In this study estimates of  $(1 - KN)$  were taken as the value of the ratio of observed shortwave radiation (QSOL) to maximum possible (or cloudless day) insolation (QCS). The cloudless day insolation was obtained by Mateer (1955).

Thus equation (19) may be written:

$$R_L = 1440 (0.757 T^4 - 0.459) (QSOL/QCS) \text{ ----- (20)}$$

The results of using this regression equation to obtain the daily melt quantities is shown in TABLE 6. The computations were done on a daily basis as that is the way the regression coefficients had been derived, and it was thought it would make for a fairer comparison. The melt quantities obtained using the "derived" evaporative transfer coefficient are also shown for comparison. They were put on a daily basis by combining the daytime melt with one-half the melt of the preceding nighttime period and one-half that of the following nighttime period.

The total amount of melt computed by this method is considerably below the melt determined from the snow surveys. The most interesting point about the use of this regression equation is that the magnitude of the melt quantities associated with various indices bears no relation to the

magnitude of the actual quantity, as illustrated in TABLE 7.

#### U.S.C.E. Equation

The U. S. Army Corps of Engineers have presented an equation for snowmelt during rain-free periods in an open area which takes into account all the components of the energy balance: the absorbed shortwave radiation, the net longwave radiation from clouds, from the atmosphere and snow surface; the sensible heat transfer; and the latent heat transfer from evaporation and condensation. Combining the equations on pages 176 and 253 of "Snow Hydrology" we obtain:

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Melt} = & K^1 (0.00508) (1 - A) R_S + 0.029 N (T_C - T_S) \\ & + ((0.0212) (T_a - T_S) - 0.84) (1 - N) \\ & + K (0.00629) (Z_a Z_b)^{-1/6} ((T_a - T_S) P/P_o \\ & + 8.59 (E_a - E_s)) V_b \text{ ----- (21)} \end{aligned}$$

where;

Melt is in inches/day

A = albedo (decimal fraction)

$R_S$  = incident shortwave radiation (langleys/day)

N = estimated cloud cover (decimal fraction)

$T_C$  = cloud base temperature ( $^{\circ}\text{F}$ )

$T_S$  = temperature of snow surface ( $^{\circ}\text{F}$ )

$Z_a$  = height of air temperature measurement (feet)

$Z_b$  = height of wind velocity measurement (feet)

P = air pressure at station elevation (mb)

$P_o$  = air pressure at sea level (mb)

$E_a$  = air vapour pressure (mb)

$E_s$  = saturation vapour pressure at the temperature of the snow surface (mb)

$K^1$  = "factor to correct  $R_s$  for average slope angle and orientation of snow area" (Johnson & Boyer (1959))

$K$  = "An average corrective factor for the degree of exposure of the snow area to wind" (Johnson & Boyer (1959)).

For Wilson Creek

$Z_a = 4.5$  ft.

$Z_b = 32.81$  ft. (10m.)

$P/P_0 = 0.9$

$K^1 = 1.0$

$K = 0.8$

$R_s (1 - A)$  was replaced by  $(Q_r - R_L)$  with estimates of  $R_L$  obtained as for the multiple regression method.

The cloud base temperature was obtained using a lapse rate of  $3.0^\circ\text{F}$  per 1000 ft as suggested on p. 247 of "Snow Hydrology". The cloud base during the active melting period was believed to be roughly at 5000 ft and this figure was assumed to be constant throughout the period.

The value of  $N$  the estimated cloud cover was obtained as follows:

During the discussion of equation (20) it was suggested that:

$$(1 - KN) = QSOL/QCS$$

From equation 5-14 p. 160 of "Snow Hydrology"

$$K = 1 - 0.024 Z$$

where:

$Z$  = cloud base height in thousands of feet

Therefore:

$$N = (1 - QSOL/QCS) / (1 - 0.024 (5000)).$$

The results of using the U.S.C.E. equation for snowmelt are shown in TABLE 6; where it is seen that this method considerably overestimated the actual melt. As might be expected from the form of the equation, the melt quantities due to the various component parts (radiation, sensible heat etc.) of this equation are of the same order of magnitude as for the energy budget. TABLE 7 illustrates this point.

### Summary

A degree-day factor of 0.08 inches/degree-day was derived from the measured snowmelt which is well within the standard range of degree-day factors. The U.S.C.E. equation for snowmelt was found to predict a melt greatly in excess of that determined by the snow surveys, while the multiple regression equation proposed by Pysklywec, Davar, and Bray underestimated the melt considerably. The melt quantities associated with the various indicies; such as, melt from radiation exchange; were found in the case of the U.S.C.E. equation to be of the same order of magnitude as the corresponding parts of the energy balance equation, but this was not found to be so in the case of the regression equation.

TABLE 4

## CALCULATION OF DEGREE HALF-DAY FACTOR

DATE	TIME	Ta - 32 (Degree Half-Day)
April		
12	07-18	23.0
13	19-06	10.8
	07-18	22.8
14	19-06	17.8
	07-18	28.6
Total Degree Half-Days		103.0

$$\begin{aligned}
 \text{Degree Half-Day Factor} &= \frac{\text{Total Melt}}{\text{Total Degree Half-Days}} \\
 &= \frac{3.89 \text{ in.}}{103}
 \end{aligned}$$

$$\text{Degree Half-Day Factor} = 0.038 \text{ in./Degree Half-Day}$$

TABLE 5

COMPARISON OF SNOWMELT COMPUTED  
 BY TWO METHODS:  
 DEGREE-DAY\* AND ENERGY BALANCE

DAY	TIME	MELT - INCHES	
		DEGREE-DAY	ENERGY BALANCE
12	07-18	0.87	1.60
13	19-06	0.41	-0.31
	07-18	0.87	1.87
14	19-06	0.68	-0.23
	07-12	1.09	0.96
TOTAL		3.92	3.89

\* Degree Half-Day Factor =  $0.038 \text{ in.}/\frac{1}{2} \text{ Deg.-Day}$

TABLE 6

COMPARISON OF SNOWMELT COMPUTED  
BY THREE METHODS:  
A REGRESSION EQUATION, U.S.C.E. EQUATION, AND AN ENERGY BALANCE

DAY	TIME	SNOWMELT - INCHES	
		REGRESSION <sup>a</sup>	U.S.C.E. <sup>b</sup> ENERGY BALANCE <sup>c</sup>
12	01-24	0.84	1.64 1.51
13	01-24	1.00	1.77 1.60
14	01-24	1.40	2.00 1.66
TOTAL		3.24	5.41 4.77

<sup>a</sup>MULTIPLE LINEAR REGRESSION EQUATION - NO. 15

<sup>b</sup>UNITED STATES CORPS OF ENGINEERS SNOWMELT EQUATION - NO. 16

<sup>c</sup>ENERGY BALANCE EQUATIONS - NO:s 9 & 10

TABLE 7

PORTION OF SNOWMELT ON APRIL 13, 1969 ATTRIBUTED  
TO VARIOUS COMPONENTS OF THE ENERGY BALANCE  
BY THREE DIFFERENT METHODS:

ENERGY BALANCE COMPONENTS	SNOWMELT - INCHES		
	REGRESSION EQUATION	U.S.C.E. EQUATION	ENERGY BALANCE
SHORT-WAVE RADIATION	0.28	1.87	2.73
LONG-WAVE RADIATION	-0.29	-0.38	-1.23
NET RADIATION	-0.01	1.49	1.50
EVAPORATIVE HEAT TRANSFER	0.13	0.00	0.02
SENSIBLE HEAT TRANSFER	0.35	0.28	0.05
REGRESSION CONSTANT	0.53	-----	-----
TOTAL	1.00	1.77	1.57



APPENDIX E

METEOROLOGICAL DATA

WILSON CREEK WATERSHED  
1769

59

DATE	TIME	CARD NO.	EAES MB.	TATS F	BOWEN RATIO	VTEN MPH	QNET	QSOL	QCS	RH
MARCH										
26	19-06	51	-0.46	0.0	0.0	999.99	999.9	999.9	999.9	0.858
	07-18	52	-1.12	0.0	0.0	999.99	999.9	999.9	999.9	0.743
27	19-06	53	-0.83	0.0	0.0	5.00	999.9	999.9	999.9	0.802
	07-18	54	-0.47	0.0	0.0	11.91	999.9	999.9	999.9	0.708
28	19-06	55	-0.34	0.0	0.0	13.33	999.9	999.9	999.9	0.548
	07-18	56	-0.66	0.0	0.0	11.67	999.9	999.9	999.9	0.321
29	19-06	57	-0.34	0.0	0.0	6.08	999.9	999.9	999.9	0.567
	07-18	58	-0.92	0.0	0.0	6.83	999.9	999.9	999.9	0.318
30	19-06	59	-0.65	0.0	0.0	7.33	999.9	999.9	999.9	0.488
	07-18	60	-1.29	0.0	0.0	7.50	999.9	999.9	999.9	0.260
31	19-06	61	-0.67	0.0	0.0	11.08	999.9	999.9	999.9	0.611
	07-18	62	-0.75	0.0	0.0	8.83	999.9	999.9	999.9	0.762
APRIL										
1	19-06	63	-0.41	0.0	0.0	7.17	999.9	999.9	999.9	0.861
	07-18	64	-0.72	0.0	0.0	7.67	999.9	999.9	999.9	0.754
2	19-06	65	-0.75	0.0	0.0	6.25	999.9	999.9	999.9	0.642
	07-18	66	-1.37	0.0	0.0	13.00	999.9	999.9	999.9	0.704
3	19-06	67	-0.56	0.0	0.0	6.75	-27.6	999.9	999.9	0.862
	07-18	68	-0.63	0.0	0.0	9.08	66.6	999.9	999.9	0.852
4	19-06	69	-0.69	0.0	0.0	6.25	-3.6	999.9	999.9	0.861
	07-18	70	-2.62	3.6	-0.470	8.83	165.2	999.9	999.9	0.495
5	19-06	71	-1.21	0.0	0.0	4.25	-64.8	999.9	999.9	0.764
	07-18	72	-3.39	6.4	-0.646	13.75	210.6	999.9	999.9	0.345
6	19-06	73	-2.24	4.4	-0.672	14.67	-58.2	999.9	999.9	0.531
	07-18	74	-0.74	16.1	-7.441	7.08	222.2	999.9	999.9	0.470
7	19-06	75	-0.46	1.3	-0.966	10.50	-26.3	999.9	999.9	0.878
	07-18	76	-0.87	7.6	-2.988	12.83	244.3	999.9	999.9	0.634
8	19-06	77	-1.65	4.6	-0.953	10.75	-53.3	999.9	999.9	0.608
	07-18	78	-1.14	8.8	-2.640	5.00	194.2	341.6	568.0	0.574
9	19-06	79	-0.77	7.4	-3.287	7.08	-27.8	0.0	0.0	0.652
	07-18	80	-1.84	8.1	-1.506	10.25	327.3	546.4	573.0	0.507
10	19-06	81	-1.14	0.0	0.0	5.08	-68.8	0.0	0.0	0.802
	07-18	82	-1.47	10.5	-2.443	5.08	355.6	534.6	578.0	0.502
11	19-06	83	-0.52	4.0	-2.631	6.17	-57.0	0.0	0.0	0.780
	07-18	84	-0.72	17.1	-8.122	7.83	357.9	510.4	583.0	0.454
12	19-06	85	1.74	10.5	2.064	7.50	-37.0	0.0	0.0	0.850
	07-18	86	-0.50	23.0	-15.732	5.50	338.4	506.4	588.0	0.380
13	19-06	87	-1.02	10.8	-3.621	4.75	-64.1	0.0	0.0	0.545
	07-18	88	-0.88	22.8	-8.861	8.33	360.4	541.3	594.0	0.357
14	19-06	89	2.93	17.8	2.078	9.33	-62.7	0.0	0.0	0.742
	07-18	90	2.88	28.6	3.396	11.25	335.0	515.1	598.0	0.498
15	19-06	91	3.18	16.7	1.796	8.25	-31.1	0.0	0.0	0.795
	07-18	92	0.55	11.8	7.337	6.25	101.5	160.4	604.0	0.686
16	19-06	93	-1.46	3.1	-0.726	8.25	-75.4	999.9	999.9	0.672
	07-18	94	-2.61	9.9	-1.297	8.67	330.4	999.9	999.9	0.387
17	19-06	95	-2.01	0.9	-0.153	5.67	-62.7	999.9	999.9	0.647
	07-18	96	-1.17	16.8	-4.911	11.42	230.4	999.9	999.9	0.421
18	19-06	97	-0.94	14.4	-5.239	14.92	-28.8	999.9	999.9	0.482
	07-18	98	-0.41	22.1	-18.435	16.42	233.9	999.9	999.9	0.399
19	19-06	99	-0.01	15.0	-513.000	11.17	-64.1	999.9	999.9	0.556
	07-18	100	0.17	22.8	45.868	15.67	215.2	999.9	999.9	0.429
20	19-06	101	0.28	14.6	17.833	10.58	-62.0	999.9	999.9	0.592
	07-18	102	-1.01	19.6	-6.637	15.67	280.7	999.9	999.9	0.392
21	19-06	103	-2.47	9.5	-1.315	10.00	-91.8	999.9	999.9	0.409
	07-18	104	-1.37	18.8	-4.693	12.92	297.8	999.9	999.9	0.375
22	19-06	105	-0.78	3.7	-1.622	5.25	-66.2	999.9	999.9	0.752
	07-18	106	-0.98	18.8	-6.561	6.92	312.9	999.9	999.9	0.406
23	19-06	107	0.17	9.8	19.715	9.67	-69.6	999.9	999.9	0.698
	07-18	108	0.60	22.8	12.996	11.08	335.1	999.9	999.9	0.458
24	19-06	109	-0.09	15.0	-57.000	11.25	-77.0	999.9	999.9	0.549
	07-18	110	0.08	25.9	110.722	13.33	323.7	999.9	999.9	0.378
25	19-06	111	0.98	18.2	6.351	9.75	-43.4	999.9	999.9	0.573
	07-18	112	0.20	22.2	37.962	13.42	137.6	999.9	999.9	0.440
26	19-06	113	0.0	7.3	999.999	16.08	-20.2	999.9	999.9	0.748
	07-18	114	-1.03	0.0	0.0	18.67	38.4	999.9	999.9	0.796
27	19-06	115	-0.71	0.0	0.0	13.00	-55.2	999.9	999.9	0.840
	07-18	116	-3.09	0.0	0.0	9.75	303.4	999.9	999.9	0.468
28	19-06	117	-1.56	0.0	0.0	3.83	-72.0	999.9	999.9	0.648
	07-18	118	-3.09	8.8	-0.974	5.58	325.6	999.9	999.9	0.349
29	19-06	119	-1.84	2.5	-0.465	7.67	-71.4	999.9	999.9	0.632
	07-18	120	-1.70	17.2	-3.460	9.33	336.4	999.9	999.9	0.370
30	19-06	121	-0.45	10.2	-7.752	8.17	-51.8	999.9	999.9	0.620
	07-18	122	0.76	20.4	9.180	12.58	257.2	999.9	999.9	0.512

EAES - VAPOUR PRESSURE DEFICIT (AIR - SURFACE)

999.9 - MISSING DATA

TATS - TEMPERATURE DIFFERENCE (AIR - SURFACE)

BOWEN RATIO = 0.342 \* TATS / EAES

VTEN - WIND SPEED AT 10 METERS

QNET - NET RADIATION (LANGLEYS / 12 HR.)

QSOL - OBSERVED SHORTWAVE RADIATION (LANGLEYS / 12 HR.)

QCS - MAXIMUM POSSIBLE INSOLATION (MATEER, 1955)

RH - RELATIVE HUMIDITY

APPENDIX F

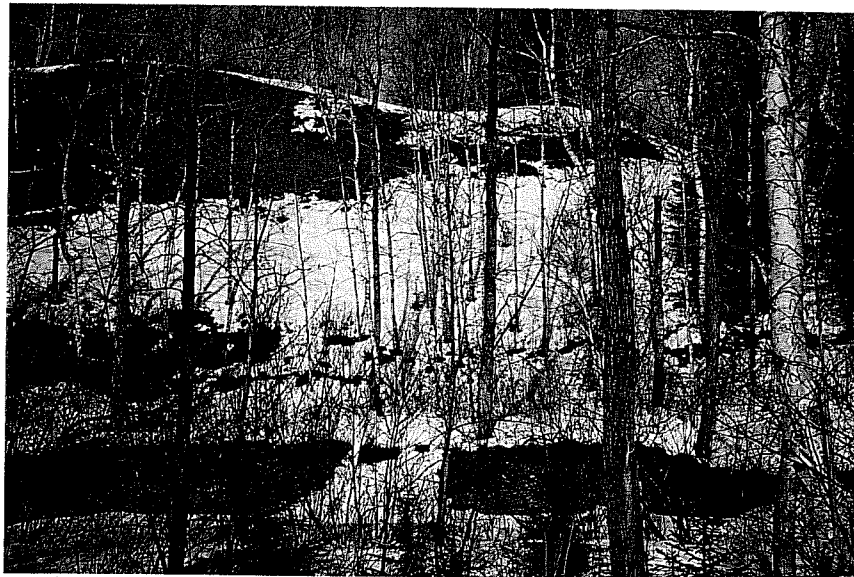
MISCELLANEOUS PHOTOGRAPHS



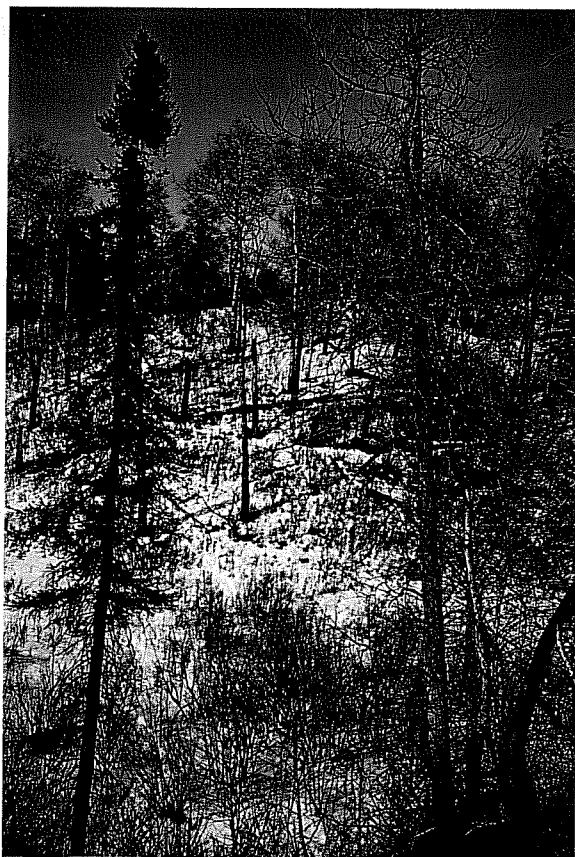
PHOTOGRAPH NO. 1 - ON JET TRAIL AT EL. 1520  
LOOKING EAST ACROSS PRAIRIE - EL. 1200 AND  
SHOWING A MT. ROSE SNOW SAMPLER. APRIL 4, 1969



PHOTOGRAPH NO. 2 - FROM ANIMAL ENCLOSURE NO. 3.  
LOOKING ACROSS A LOWER REACH OF THE VALLEY OF  
BALD HILL CREEK. APRIL 4, 1969



PHOTOGRAPH NO. 3 - SOUTH-FACING SHALE BANK ALONG  
BALD HILL CREEK. APRIL 4, 1969



PHOTOGRAPH NO. 4

SOUTH-FACING  
VALLEY SIDE ON THE  
UPPER REACHES OF  
PACKHORSE CREEK.

SNOW CONDITIONS:

DEPTH - 16.9 IN.  
DENSITY - 0.32  
APRIL 5, 1969



PHOTOGRAPH NO. 5 - EXTENT OF SNOW COVER AT  
PRAIRIE LEVEL: AVERAGE DEPTH = 8.5 IN.,  
AVERAGE DENSITY = 0.30 - APRIL 5, 1969

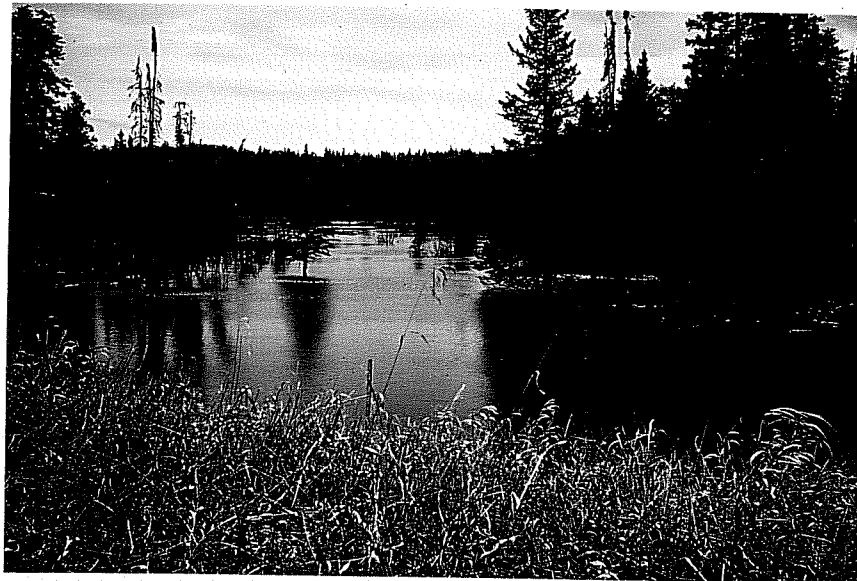


PHOTOGRAPH NO. 6

NORTH-FACING  
VALLEY SIDE ON THE  
UPPER REACHES OF  
PACKHORSE CREEK.

SNOW CONDITIONS:

DEPTH - 25.6 IN.  
DENSITY - 0.21  
APRIL 5, 1969



PHOTOGRAPH NO. 7 - BALD HILL RESERVOIR ON  
APRIL 30, 1970. WATER LEVEL IS 8.2 FT. OVER  
AN UNCONTROLLED CULVERT.

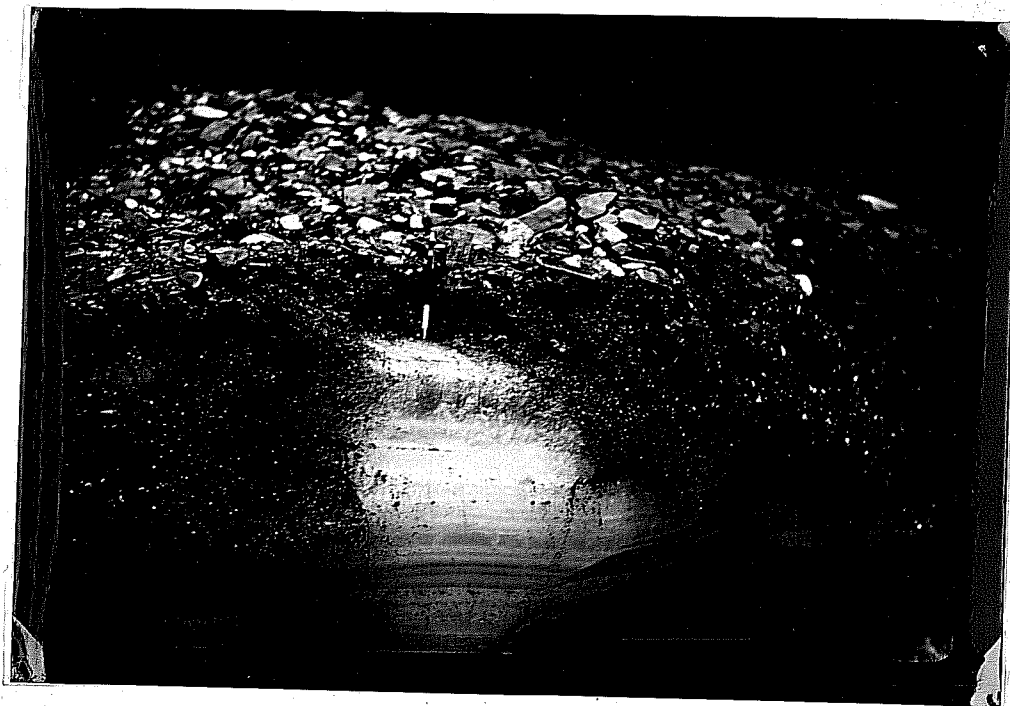


PHOTOGRAPH NO. 8

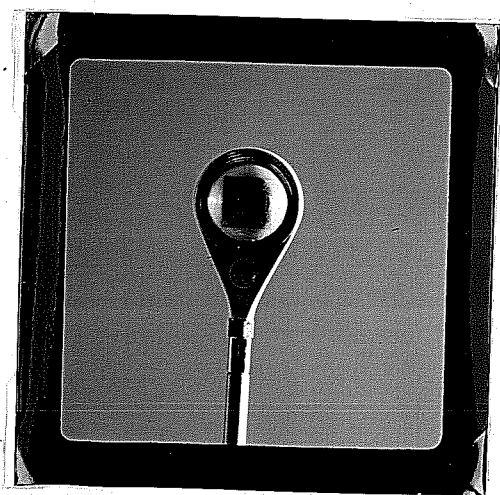
BALD HILL CREEK  
AT JET TRAIL CROSSING

DISCHARGE = 12 CFS

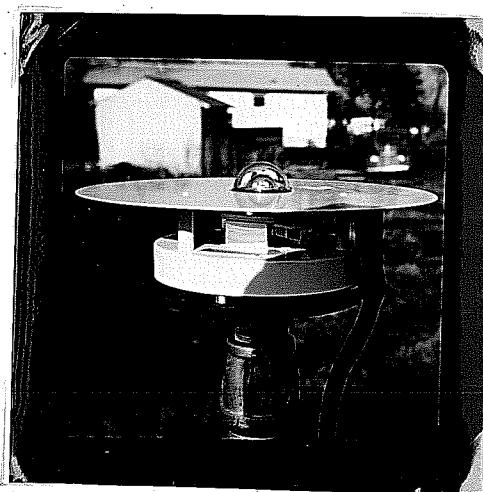
MAY 1, 1969



PHOTOGRAPH NO. 9 - IN MANY PLACES THE SNOWMELT  
RUNOFF FLOWED OVER THE WINTER ICE COVER, THIS  
SHALE DEPOSIT WAS FOUND IN LOWER REACHES OF  
PACKHORSE CREEK ON MAY 1, 1969



PHOTOGRAPH NO. 10  
NET PYRRADIOMETER  
CSIRO



PHOTOGRAPH NO. 11  
PYRANOMETER  
KIPP & ZONEN