



Desert News, 13 Jan. 1982
Annual rainfall varies each year

The rainfall in 1982 for the Desert Foothills was approximately 33 percent higher than the average expectation as recorded for the past 10 years (at Canyon del Oro, this average is 15.33 inches inclusive of 1982, which raised the previous average by .43 inches).

Following is a record of rainfall, as kept by Andy Romanyak in Canyon del Oro (which is on the south slopes of Continental Mountain); by Don Leavitt, on Stevens Road (immediately north of Black Mountain); and at the Carefree Airport, which records for the U.S. Weather Bureau.

Month	Canyon del Oro	Stevens Rd.	Carefree Airport
Jan.	2.85	3.06	2.36
Feb.	1.90	1.71	1.61
March	3.41	3.52	3.24
April	.10	.03	0
May	.79	1.34	1.28
June	0	0	0
July	.70	.77	.38
Aug.	.66	1.08	1.12
Sept.	1.15	1.13	1.07
Oct.	.06	.04	.05
Nov.	4.85	3.53	3.10
Dec.	3.31	3.76	2.96
Total	19.78	19.97	17.17

Variations in readings are indicative of the ef-

fect thundershowers have in localizing deposition of moisture. Canyon del Oro had more than one-inch of rain in five days in 1982; one each in January, February and December; and two days in November — of which one on Nov. 30, 1982 was a high of 1.68 inches. The largest amount to fall in a 24-hour period during the last 10 years was 2.56 on March 2, 1978.

Nature set the stage in November and December of this past year in providing sufficient moisture to be retained in the soil to trigger germination of the desert annual seeds. Much of this is now visually evident by the greening of the hillsides and the desert floor. Brittle bush is quite profuse and is possibly signaling another repeat banner year for this plant — as was witnessed several years ago.

Hopefully, nature will continue to endow us with favorable conditions for the next few months to assume a beautiful spring floral display.

During the past 10 years, a low of 7.56 inches was recorded in 1977 and a high of 31.33 inches in 1978. As a matter of record, it should be noted the desert can display some unpredictable rainfall.

At Canyon del Oro, between Jan. 1, 1960, and Dec. 15, 1961, only one-half inch was recorded.