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## CENTRAL REGION TECHNICAL ATTACHMENT 88-35

## WHAT IS EVENING?.....

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With the recent advent and emphasis on the Enhanced Local Forecast Program (ELFP) the word 'EVENING' or 'THIS EVENING' has become routinely used in the local forecasts in Central Region. What does the word 'EVENING' mean to you? Is your definition the same as the other forecasters at your station and the same as the general public?

The WSFO in Topeka handed out a questionnaire at the 1988 Kansas Flower, Lawn and Garden Show which included the question "When the term 'EVENING' is used, what period of time do you feel it refers to?"

Before reviewing the answers received from the questionnaire, what does the Random House College Dictionary define 'EVENING' as? Three definitions are given: (1) The latter part of the day and the early part of the night, (2) the period from sunset to bedtime, and (3) the time between noon and sunset, including the afternoon and twilight. Thus, the dictionary identifies a wide range of times which can be encompassed by the term 'EVENING;' e.g., anywhere from noon until bedtime. For most normal people, bedtime is usually after the 10:00 p.m. nightly news.

The questionnaire generated 128 responses (Table 1) and most of them fall into the three categories of the above definition. Figure 1 shows a graph of the weighted responses. The figure was derived by giving each time mentioned one mark. If a range of times were mentioned each of those times were given a mark. If the person gave an answer such as "after 5:00 p.m." a mark was given to each of the next four hours. This period was chosen because most ranges were three to five hours in length. If sunset was mentioned as the starting time, 7:00 p.m. was used; sunrise was assigned a time of 7:00 a.m.

Figure 1 shows the time of day and the number of marks given to each hour. The hour column in Figure 1 is the time HH+00 to HH+59. The most popular time for 'EVENING' was in the range from 5:00 p.m. until 10:59 p.m., with a peak during the hour beginning at 7:00 p.m. Of the total marks, 79 percent were between 5:00 p.m. and 10:59 p.m., while 93 percent fell between 5:00 p.m. and 11:59 p.m. Times outside this range dropped off rapidly in number of responses and marks.

TABLE 1  
Raw Data from Survey

<u>RESPONSE GIVEN</u>	<u>NUMBER OF TIMES GIVEN</u>
p.m.	2
Noon until midnight	1
2:00 p.m. until 10:00 p.m.	1
3:00 p.m. until 8:00 p.m.	1
3:00 p.m. until midnight	1
Late afternoon	1
After 4:00 p.m.	2
4:00 p.m. until 8:00 p.m.	3
4:00 p.m. until 9:00 p.m.	5
4:30 p.m. until 9:00 p.m.	1
After 4:30 p.m.	1
After 5:00 p.m.	11
5:00 p.m. until dark	1
5:00 p.m. until 7:00 p.m.	5
5:00 p.m. until 8:00 p.m.	10
5:00 p.m. until 9:00 p.m.	9
5:00 p.m. until 10:00 p.m.	6
5:00 p.m. until 11:00 p.m.	1
5:00 p.m. until midnight	1
5:00 p.m. until sunrise	1
After 5:30 p.m.	1
6:00 p.m.	1
6:00 p.m. news time	1
After 6:00 p.m.	15
6:00 p.m. until dusk	1
6:00 p.m. until 8:00 p.m.	1
6:00 p.m. until 9:00 p.m.	2
6:00 p.m. until 10:00 p.m.	12
6:00 p.m. until midnight	14
After 7:00 p.m.	1
7:00 p.m. until 7:00 a.m.	1
After 8:00 p.m.	2
two hours before sunset	1
At dark	6
After sunset	3
Supertime or later	1
No answer given	1

From the raw data on the 128 questionnaires returned, 15 people (or about 12 percent) cited "after 6:00 p.m." as 'EVENING.' The next most popular choice was "6:00 p.m. until midnight," picked by 14 people (or about 11 percent of the total). The third most popular choice was "6:00 p.m. until 10:00 p.m." noted by 12 people (or about 10 percent). Some of the more unique and unusual answers

received were: at dark, suppertime or later, two hours before sunset, 6:00 p.m. news time, after 5:30 p.m., noon until midnight, 7:00 p.m. until sunrise, and p.m.

Although answers varied quite widely, it appears most of the public perceives 'EVENING' quite equally in the 5:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m. range. Thus, for the Topeka local forecast, the term 'EVENING,' will be assumed to be the time after the 4:00 p.m. forecasts are issued until about 11:00 p.m. How does this compare to your definition and your area?

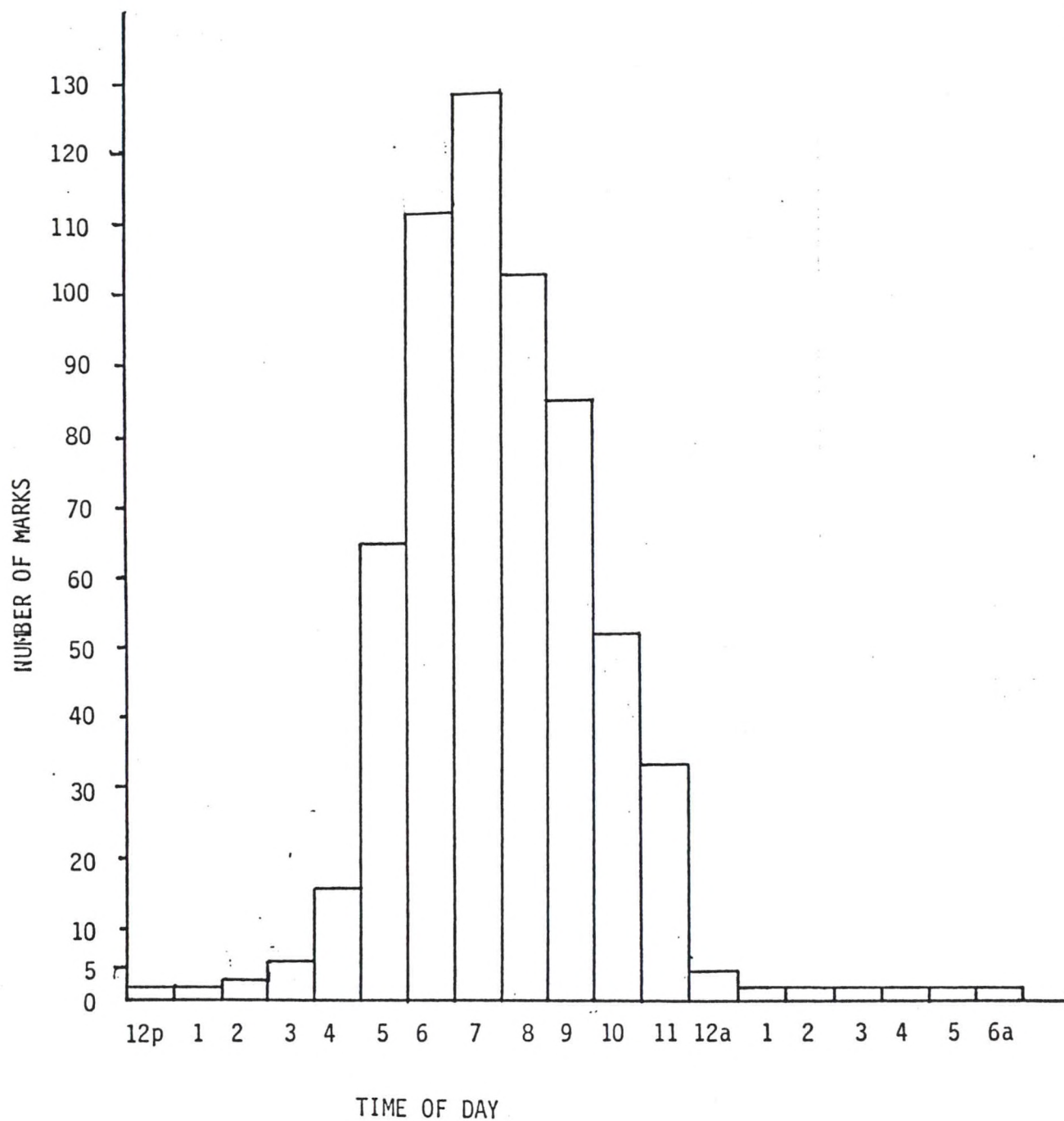


Figure 1. Distribution of responses to the question "When does evening begin?"