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The Use of an Interactive Video Computer in the Classroom

Part 1. McIDAS Case Study Videotapes

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all analysis to be  
do as w/ J.F.

Case study - 7 times - 3 analyzed

SFC - Zap did }  
Upper air - Ferweh } App A  
Tropical -  
Radar -

Videocassette needs improvement

WORKING  
COPY

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## 1. Introduction

Within a Synoptic Laboratory course it is often difficult to gather, display and interrelate satellite and radar data with conventional meteorological analyses used in case study exercises. This paper describes a set of case study videotapes and maps which combine high quality satellite imagery with conventional surface and upper air information in describing an interesting case of cyclogenesis and severe weather. Using <sup>the</sup> Man-computer Interactive <sup>DATA ACCESS</sup> Computer System (McIDAS) at Space Science and Engineering Center, videotapes of meteorological analyses with GOES satellite data have been prepared to complement student investigation of this case. In addition, McIDAS computer products such as GRIDED fields of derived parameters, isentropic cross sections and surfaces were incorporated into the case study. The cyclone studied is a case of dramatic cyclogenesis and strong squall line development over the Midwest during 12-13 May 1978. The purpose of this paper is to describe and document the videotape presentations <sup>of</sup> on this case, detail the role of McIDAS in additional support of the study and assess the impact of the videotape and computer products in the classroom.

## 2. McIDAS Videotapes

Three videotapes were prepared to support the case study investigation.

Introductory Tape. The first tape was an introduction consisting of hourly GOES visual and infrared imagery sequences of a crucial 16 hours of the cyclogenesis period. The tape was shown on the distribution day of the case study map set with the purpose of illustrating to the students weather events which their analyzed maps would describe. The cloud and weather patterns

evolve in dramatic fashion on 12-13 May as shown on Figure 1. At 1200 GMT (Figure 1A) the weather activity with the incipient low consisted of a modest area of showers and thundershowers over the Northern Plains while an active frontal system was moving through the eastern states. During the day the convective activity expanded rapidly under the influence of an amplifying upper level trough and associated strong upper level jet streak. By 2200 GMT GOES visual data (Figure 1B) shows a developing comma cloud area associated with the developing cyclone in Iowa. An intense rain shield with embedded convection is present north of the low while strong thunderstorms are developing along the cold front to the south. The satellite data at the end of the image loop (Figure 1C), 0400 GMT 13 May, shows the cyclone nearing maturity with a classic comma pattern.

Case Study Analyses. The following map set was prepared for student analyses of this case:

**Surface Maps:**

1200 GMT 12 May

1800 GMT 12 May

0000 GMT 13 May

0600 GMT 13 May

1200 GMT 13 May

**Upper Air Maps:**

850, 700, 500, 300 mb and 300 K, 310 K, 320 K surfaces and  
cross-sections for

1200 GMT 12 May

0000 GMT 13 May

1200 GMT 13 May

Radar Maps:

1435-2335 GMT 12 May

Appendix A includes analyzed and master copies of these charts.

Two longer videotapes were prepared for the class discussion of the case after map analyses were completed. The goal of the videotapes was to combine satellite and radar views of rapid cyclogenesis and squall line development with standard surface and upper air analyses.

Using McIDAS, a variety of conventional analyses were mapped into the satellite projection so that the student can directly interrelate weather features with the basic meteorological fields which he (she) is analyzing in the course. One tape focuses primarily on features associated with cyclogenesis while the second studies the squall line and severe weather development associated with the cyclone.

An outline of each videotape follows with key aspects of each scene noted.

Videotape 2

Title: Satellite and Conventional Analysis of Midwest Cyclogenesis of May 12-13, 1978.

Objective: To interrelate satellite images and loops with upper and lower tropospheric observations of cyclogenesis using McIDAS.

I. Satellite Sequence

A. GOES 16 hour IR loop of Midwest

II. Surface and Satellite Analyses

- B. Surface Temperature Analyses
- C. Surface Streamlines
- D. Surface Temperature Banding
- E. Surface Weather

III. Upper Tropospheric Feature with Satellite Imagery

- A. 500 mb Geopotential Height
- B. 500 mb Temperature and Height
- C. 500 mb Vorticity with Streamlines
- D. 500 mb Isotachs with Streamlines
- E. 300 mb Isotachs with Streamlines

*LLJ (SSO →)*

IV. Combination of Surface and Upper Air Features with Satellite Images

- A. Surface and 500 mb Streamlines
- B. Surface Streamline and 300 mb Isotachs
- C. Surface Pressure and 500 mb Heights

*sfc  
? 300 mb  
isotachs*

Videotape 32

Title: Squall Line Development

Objective: Interrelate upper and lower tropospheric observations with satellite images and radar data in the study of squall line development.

I. Satellite and Radar Sequences

- A. GOES infrared 6 hour loop
- B. Severe Weather Reports on May 12-13, 1978
- C. Manually Digitized Radar Data with Satellite Images

II. Upper Tropospheric Features at 12 CMT 12 May

- A. 850 mb Dewpoint
- B. 700 mb Dewpoint
- C. 500 mb Temperature
- D. 500 mb Absolute Vorticity
- E. Totals Index
- F. Selected Soundings

III. Evolution of Surface Features During the Day

- A. Surface Streamline
- B. Surface Divergence
- C. Surface Temperature
- D. Surface Dewpoints
- E. Surface Equivalent Potential Temperature ( $\theta_e$ )
- F. Divergence  $\theta_e$

IV. Upper ~~to~~ Tropospheric Features at 0000 GMT 13 May

- A. 850 mb Dewpoint
- B. 700 mb Dewpoint
- C. 500 mb Temperature
- D. 500 mb Vorticity
- E. Totals Index
- F. Selected Soundings

Videotapes were presented and evaluated during the week of the case study discussion. The evaluation form and a compilation of the results are presented in Appendix B.

3. Other McIDAS Case Study Support

a. <sup>Derived</sup> ~~Wind~~ Fields

*dynamically*

McIDAS has computed a variety of derived fields of dynamically important quantities to complement and extend the investigation of this case. Fields prepared and used were:

- 850 mb divergence
- 300 mb divergence
- 500 mb vorticity advection
- 850 mb temperature advection
- 700 mb temperature advection

*Assistance*

The derived field grids in plotted form are presented in Appendix C.

Appendix D describes the derived fields and illustrates how various features which emerge from the charts complement the traditional synoptic charts in Appendix A.

b. Student Projects

In addition to the basic case study, students also completed an individual project. A number of students selected projects on this case study and used McIDAS capabilities to study:

- i) additional derived surface or upper air fields
- ii) additional cross-sections
- iii) detailed sounding and stability analyses
- v) other McIDAS synoptic topics

Appendix E includes a listing of all student projects, the <sup>e</sup>rolw of McIDAS support and an assessment of their value for the course.



Figure List

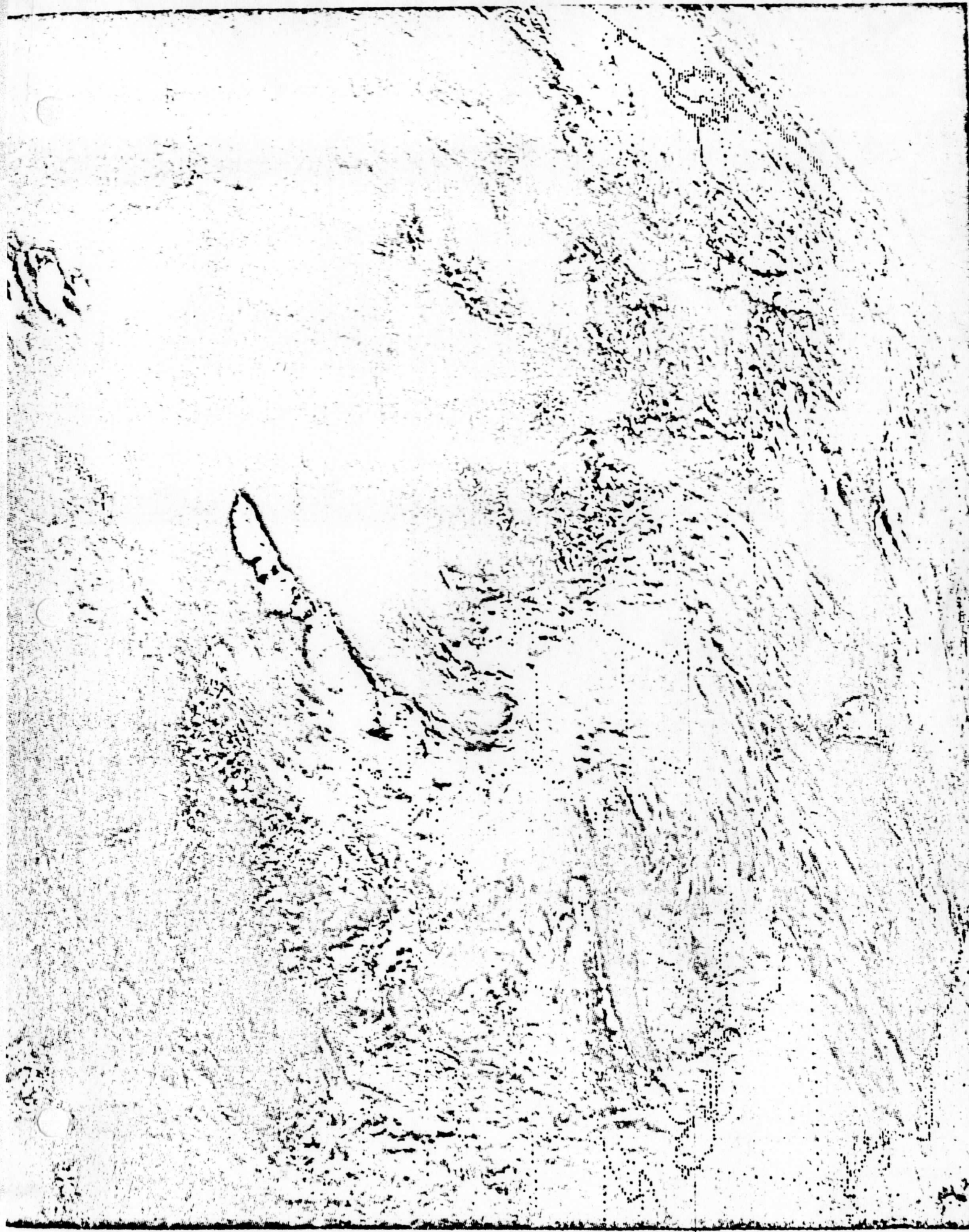
1. GOES satellite images of the Midwest for
  - A. 1200 GMT 12 May 1978 (IR)
  - B. 2200 GMT 12 May 1978 (Visual)
  - C. 0400 GMT 13 May 1978 (IR)

1201 12MY78 14E-12A 01431 13451 KB35N95W-1

Fig 1A



2201 12M78 24A-1 01181 13401 F&S112200 1



Appendix A  
Basic Case Study Maps

I. Master Copies

A. Surface maps

1. 1200 GMT 12 May
2. 1800 GMT
3. 0000 GMT 13 May
4. 0600 GMT
5. 1200 GMT

B. Isobaric Charts

300 mb, 500 mb, 700 mb, 850 mb

1. 1200 GMT 11 May
2. 0000 GMT 12 May
3. 1200 GMT 12 May ✓
4. 0000 GMT 13 May ✓
5. 1200 GMT 13 May ✓
6. 0000 GMT 14 May
7. 1200 GMT 14 May

C. Isentropic Charts

1. 0000 GMT 11 May  
300-305 K
2. 1200 GMT 11 May  
300-305 K

3. 0000 GMT 12 May

300-305 K

4. 1200 GMT 12 May - 12 GMT 13 May

290-325 K

D. Radar Charts

14 GMT - 12 May 1970 thru

0235 GMT - 13 May 1970

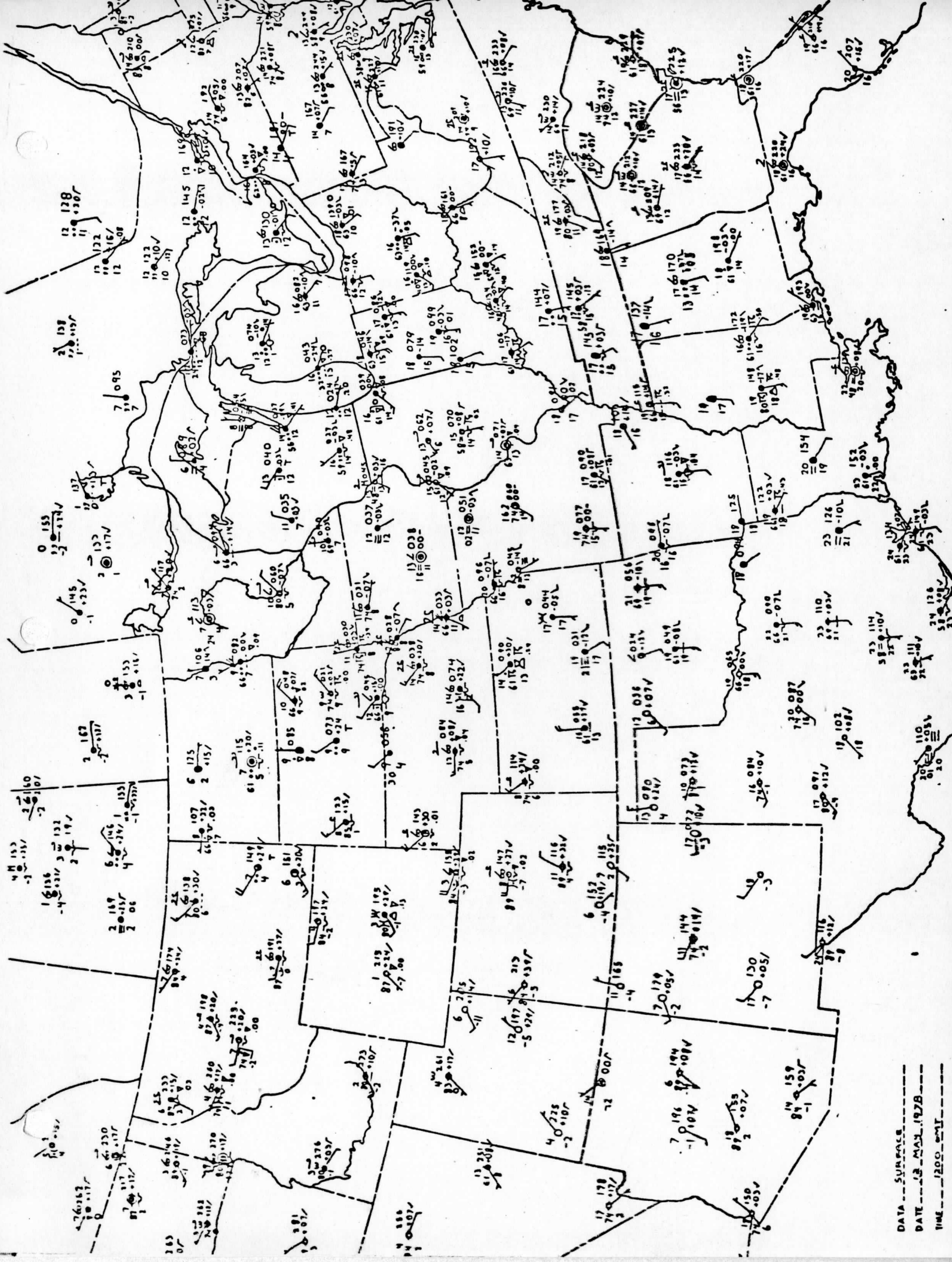
II. Analyzed Maps (12 Z 12 May + 12 Z 13 May)

A. Surface

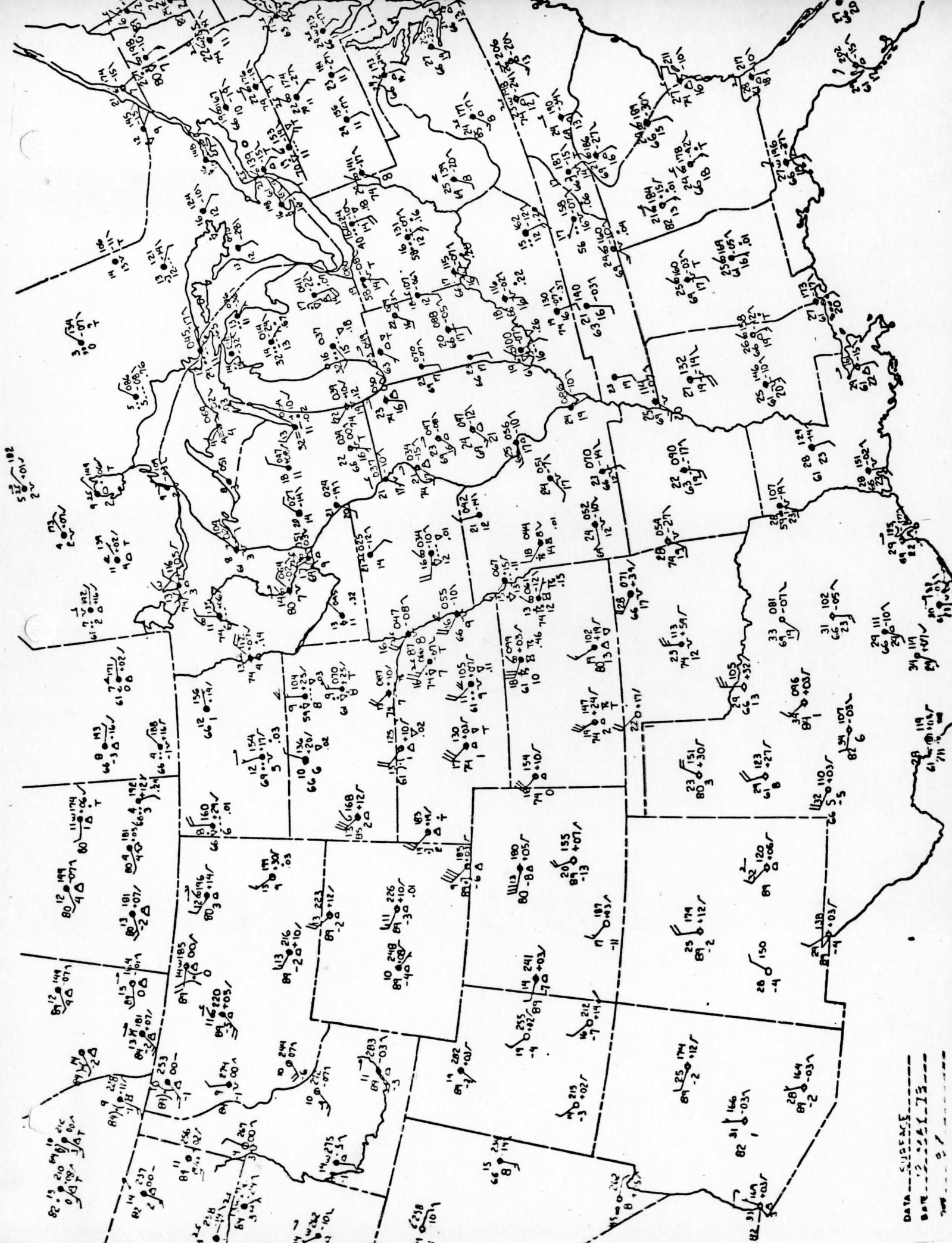
B. Isobaric

C. Isentropic

A. SURFACE MAPS

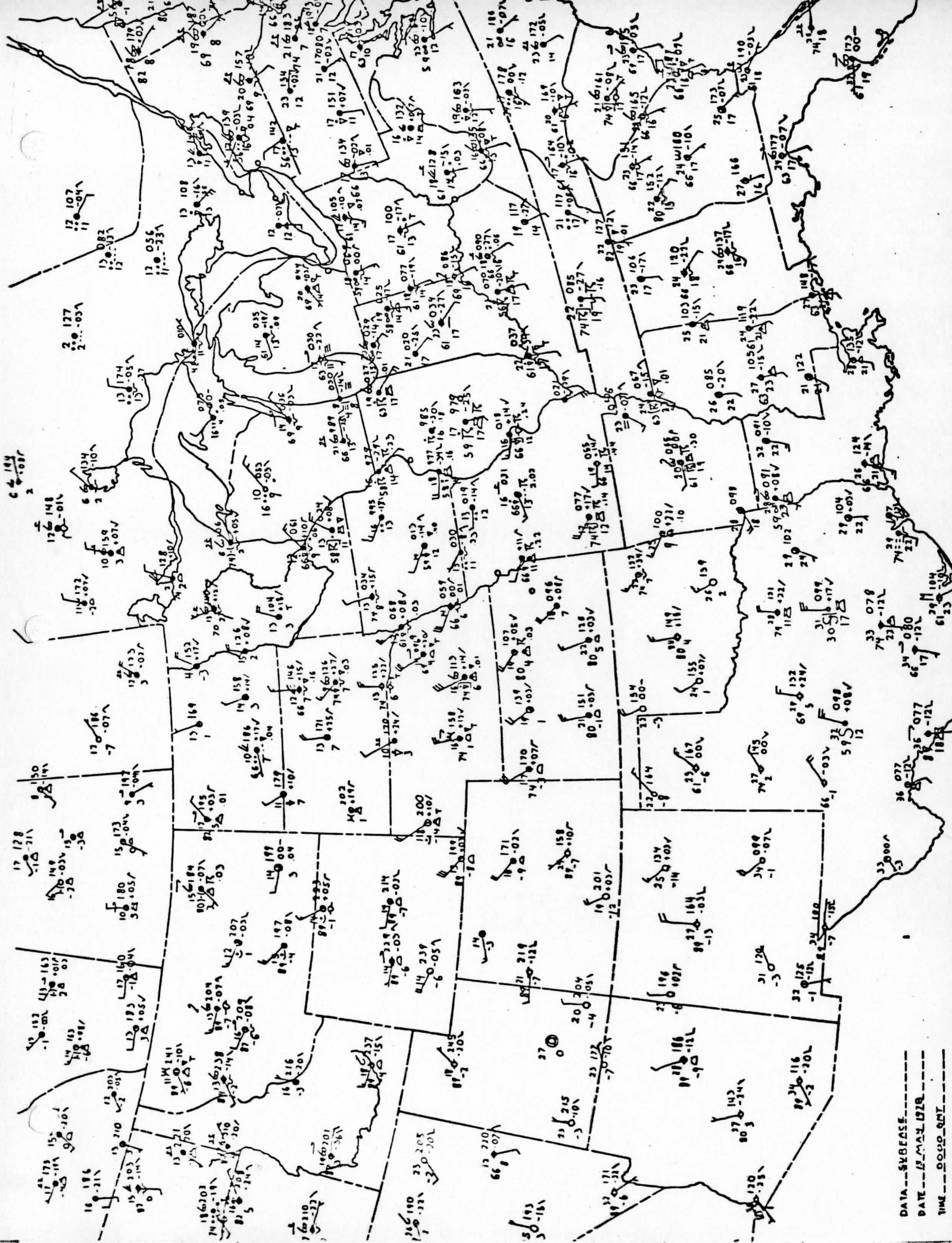


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 TIME 1200 GMT

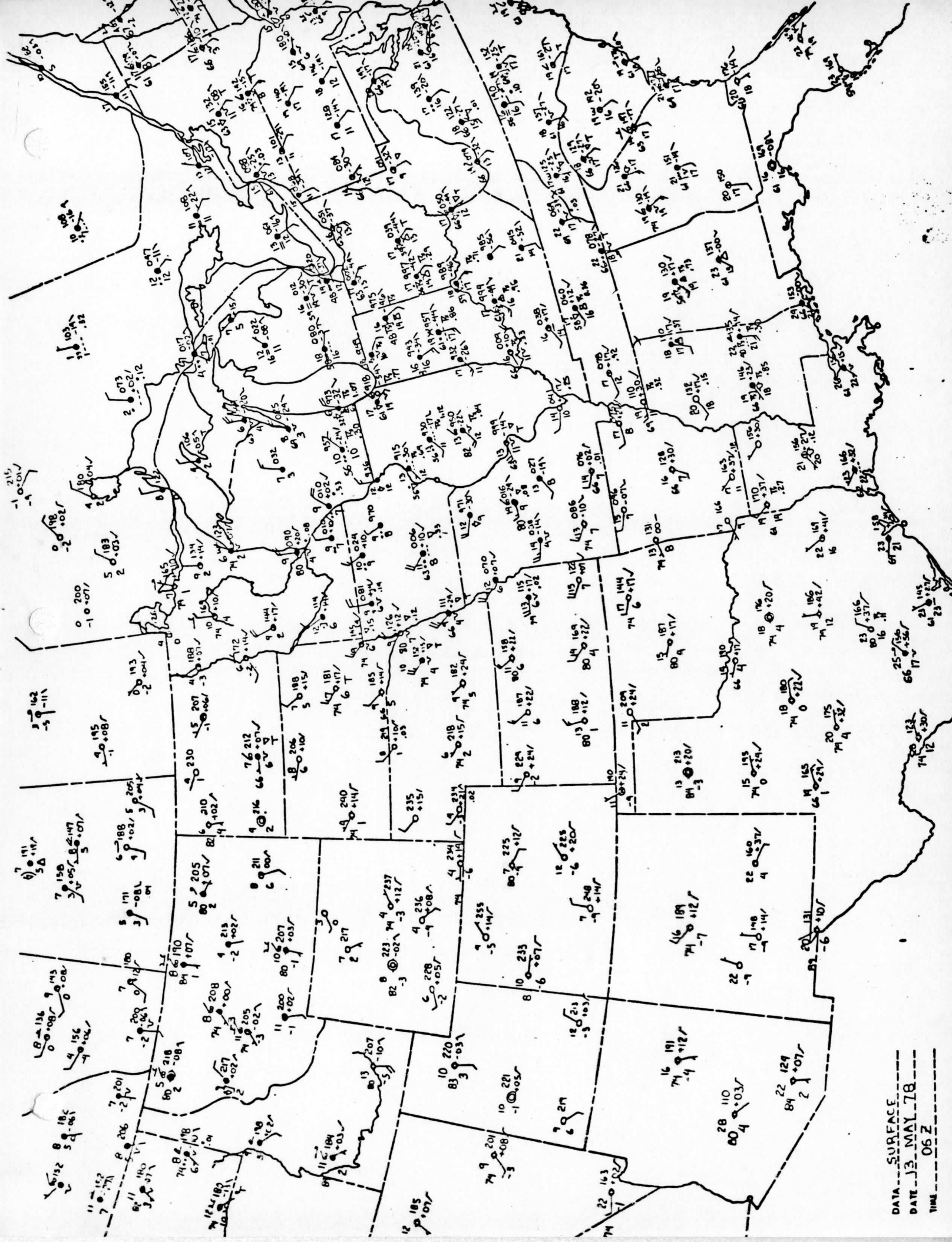


DATA SURFACE  
 DATE 12-2-23

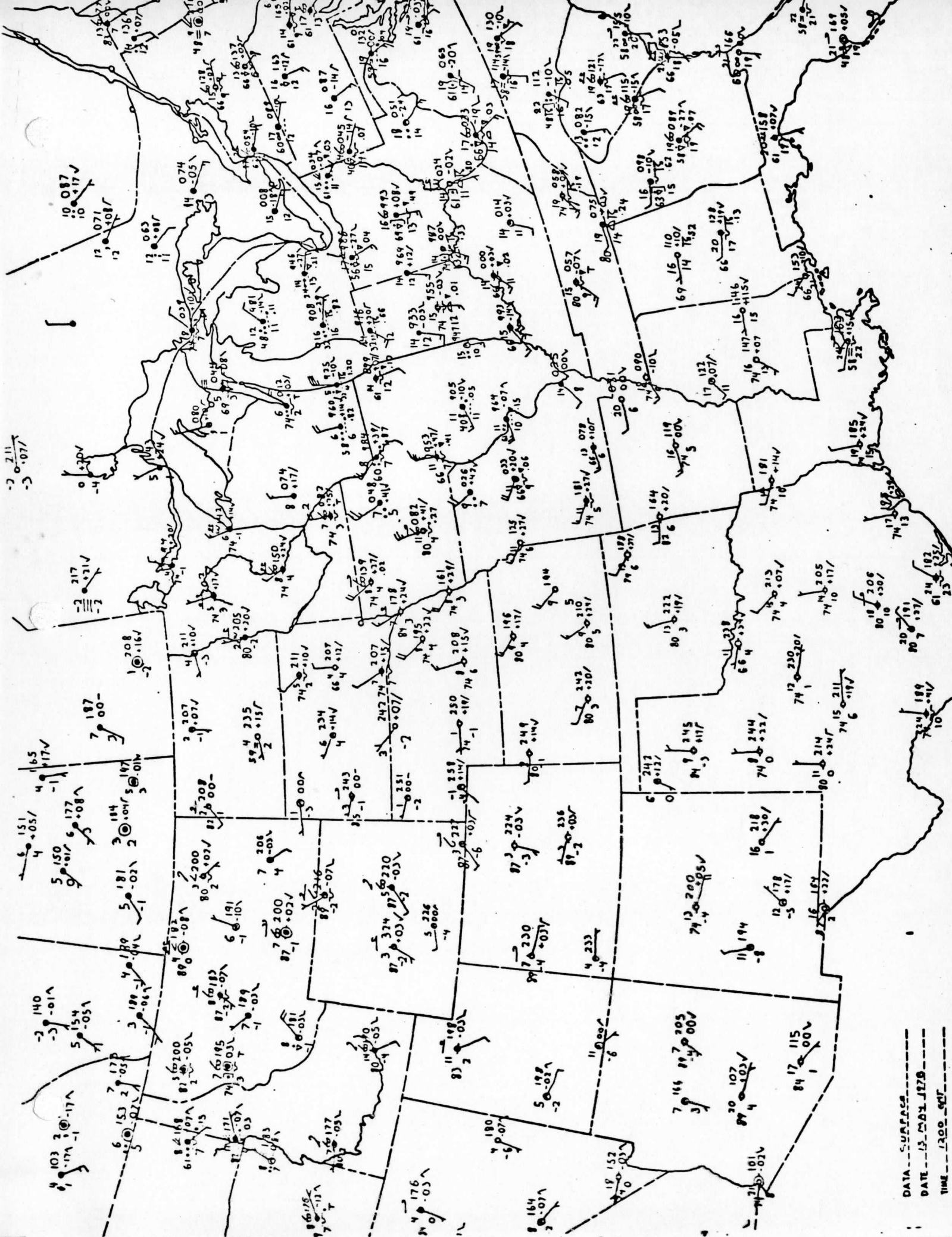




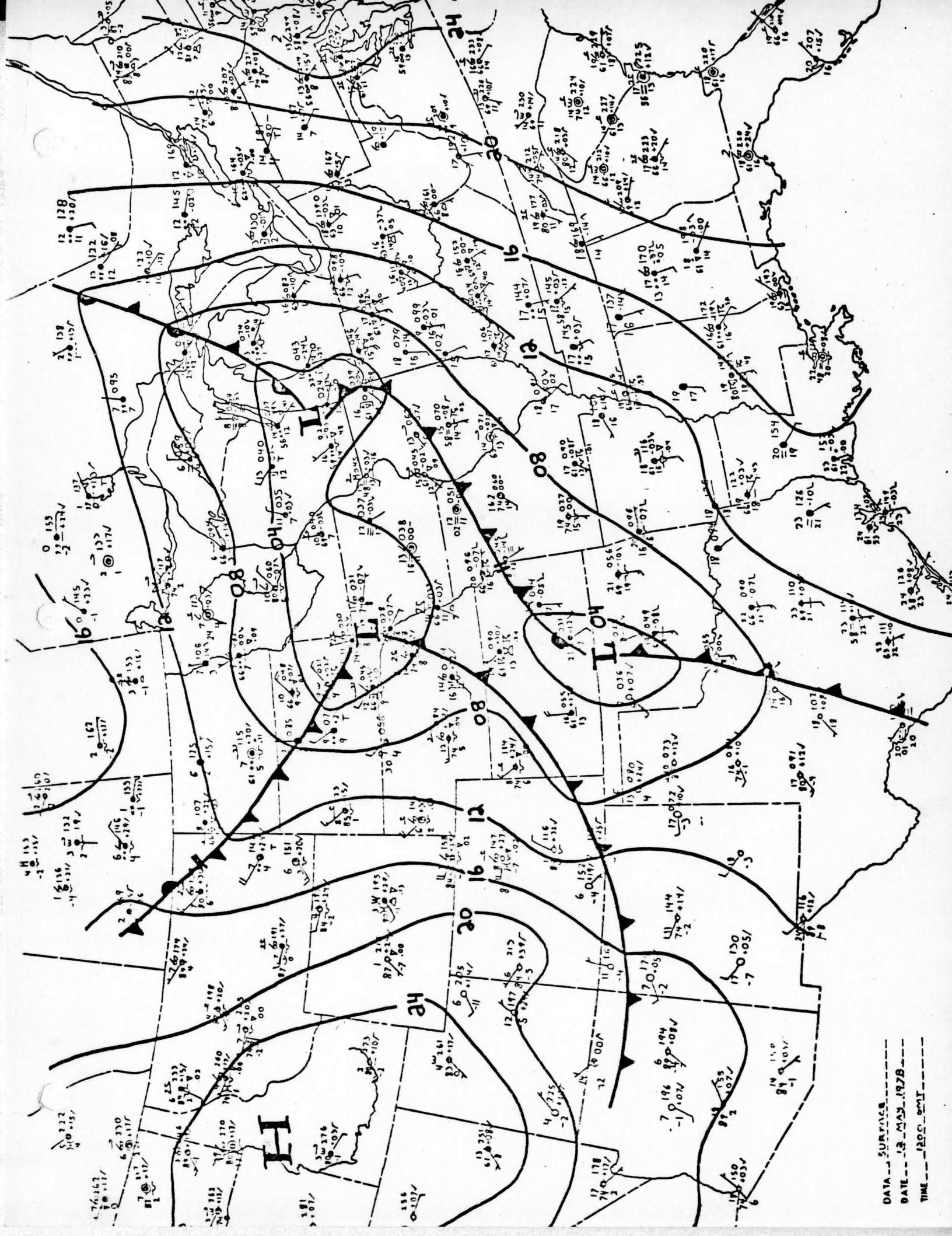
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 DATE --- 17 MAR 1978  
 TIME --- 00:00 EDT



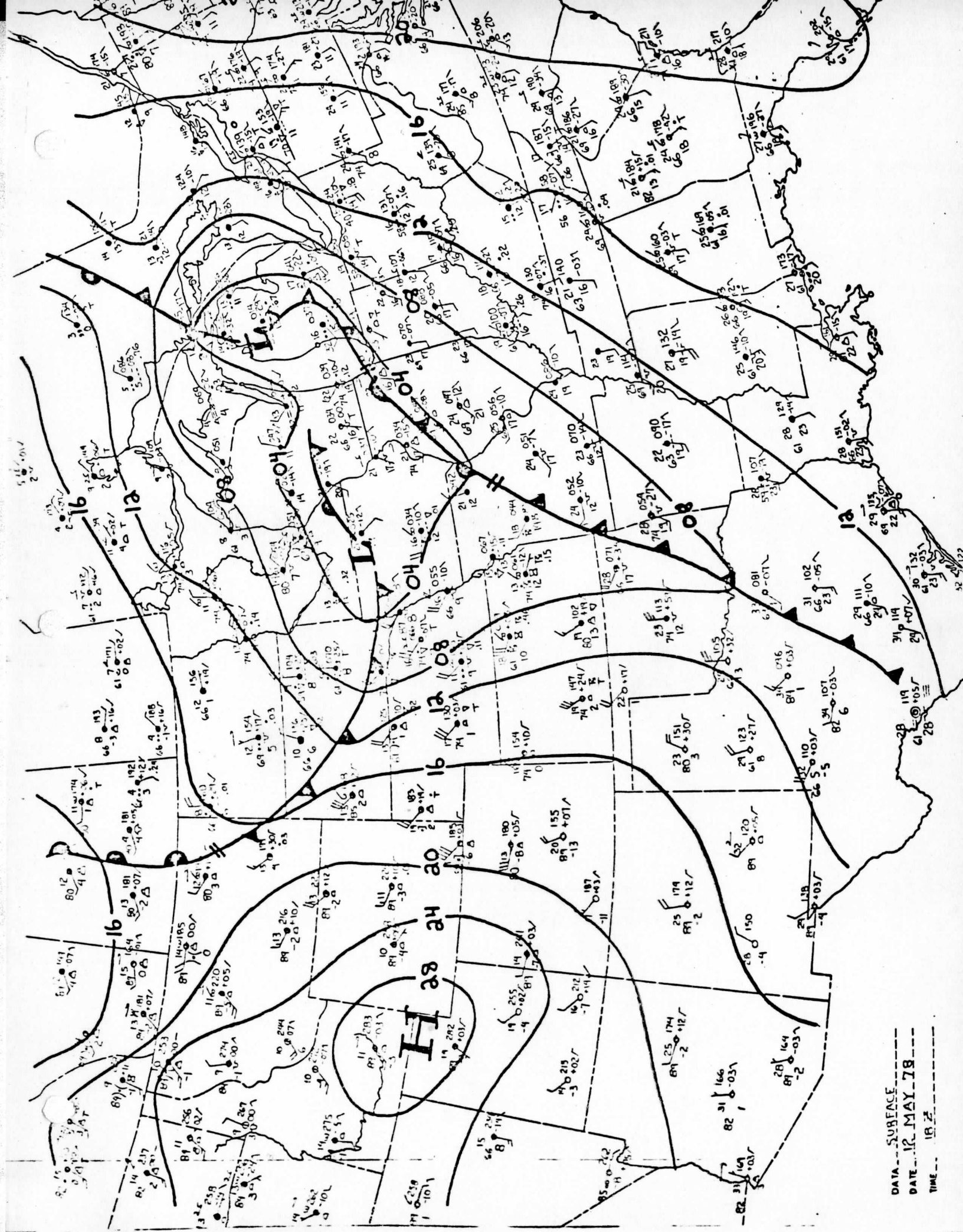
DATA - SURFACE  
 DATE - 13 MAY 78  
 TIME - 06 Z



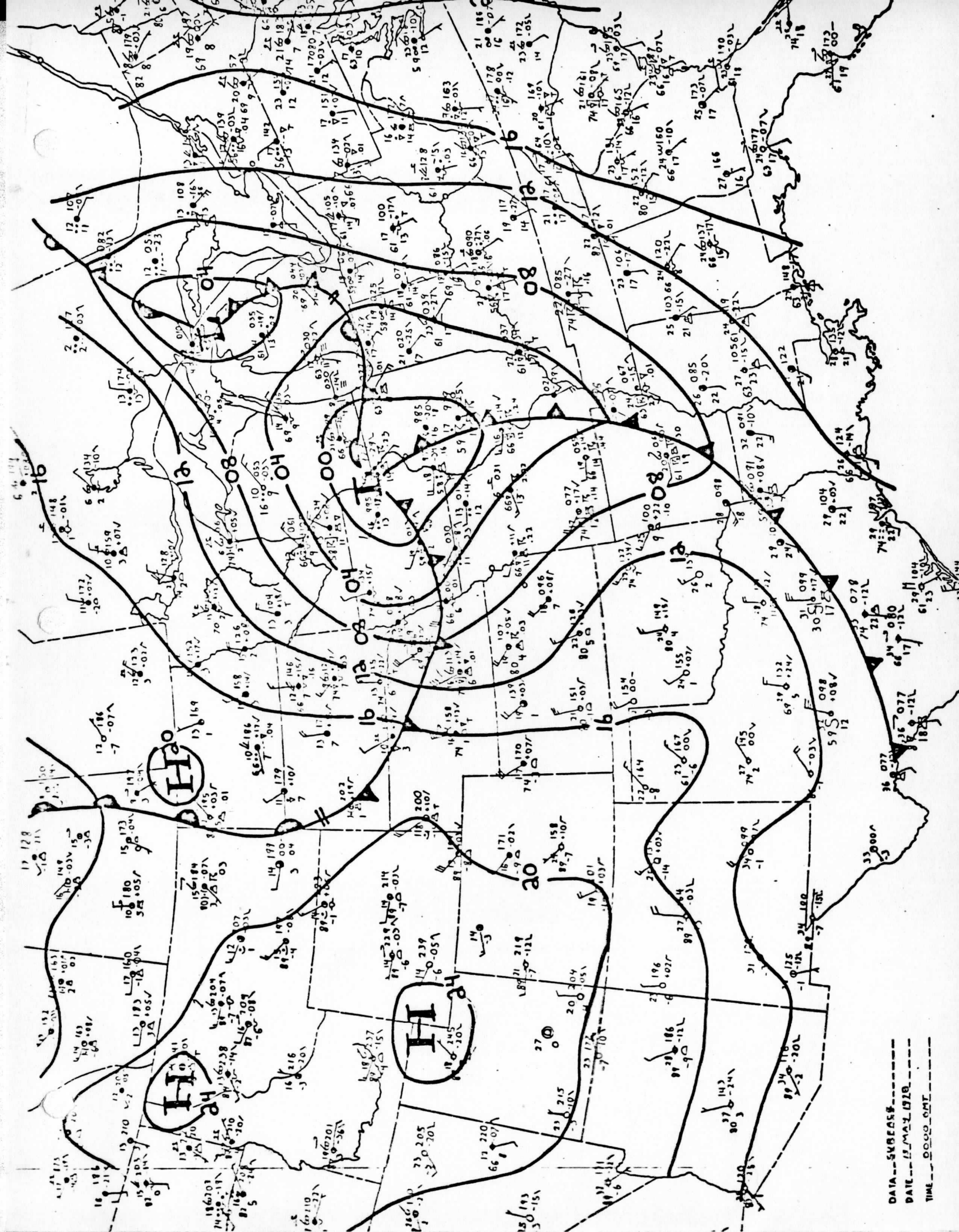
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 TIME 1200 EDT



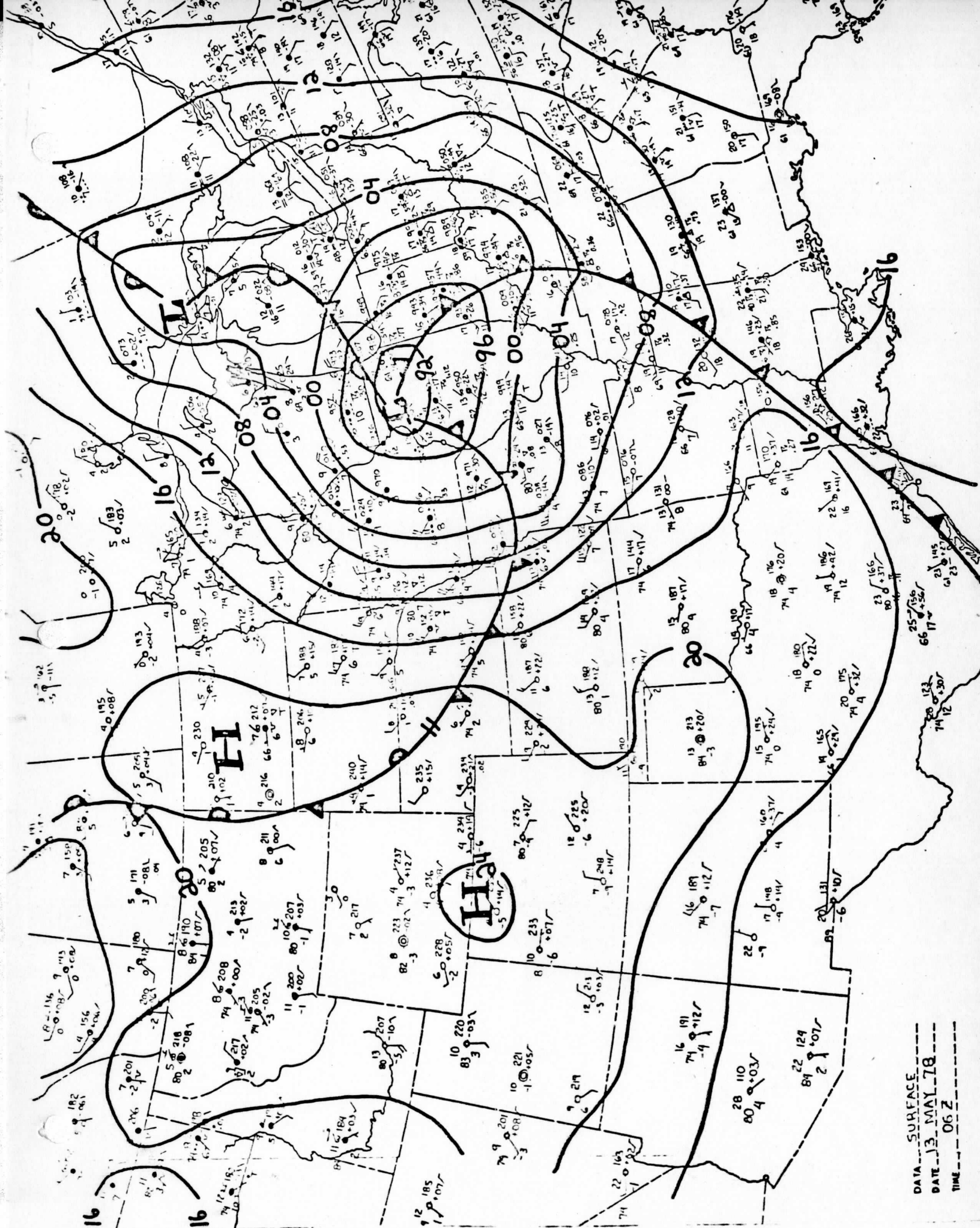
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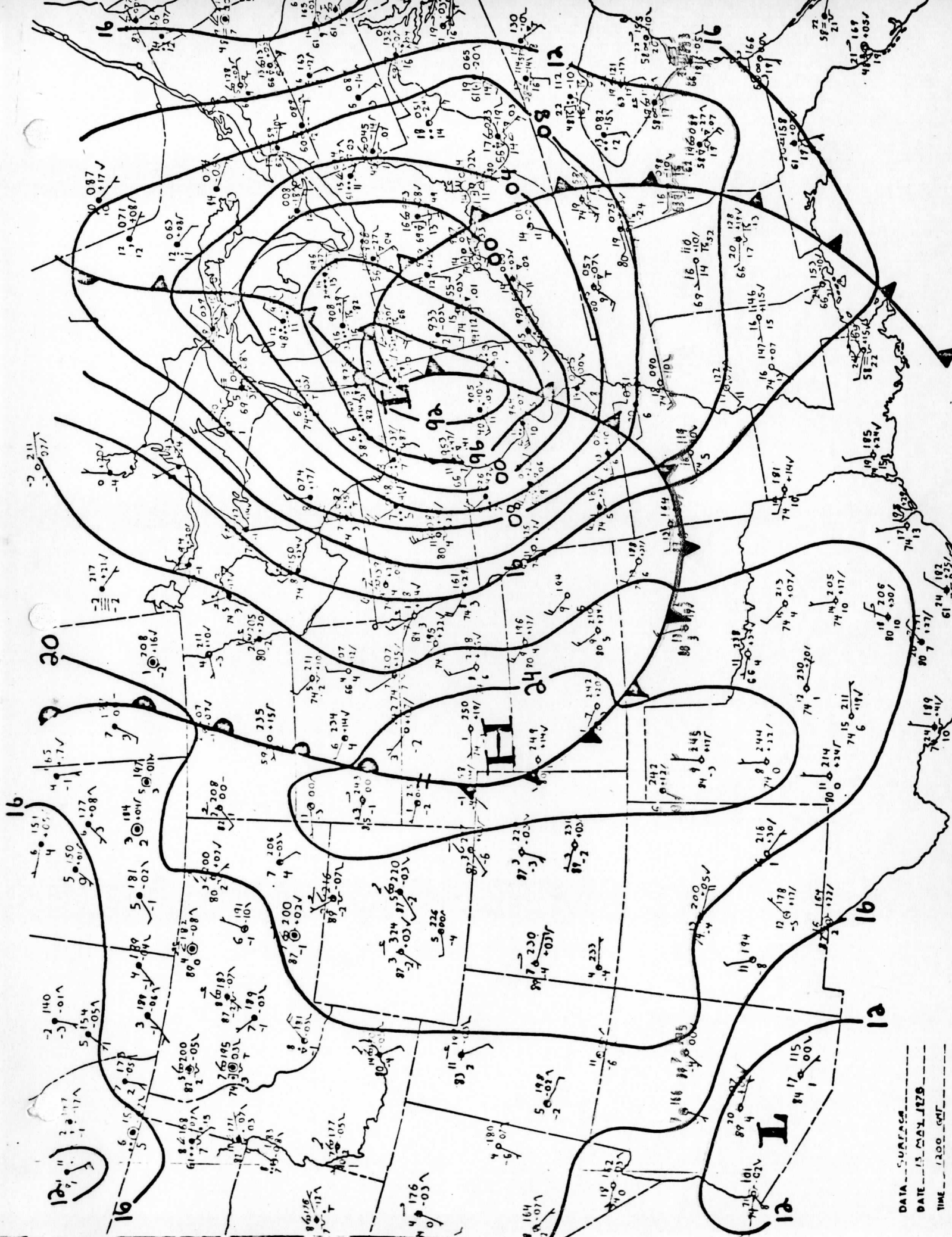
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 TIME --- 18 Z ---



DATA - SURFACE  
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 TIME - 0000 GMT



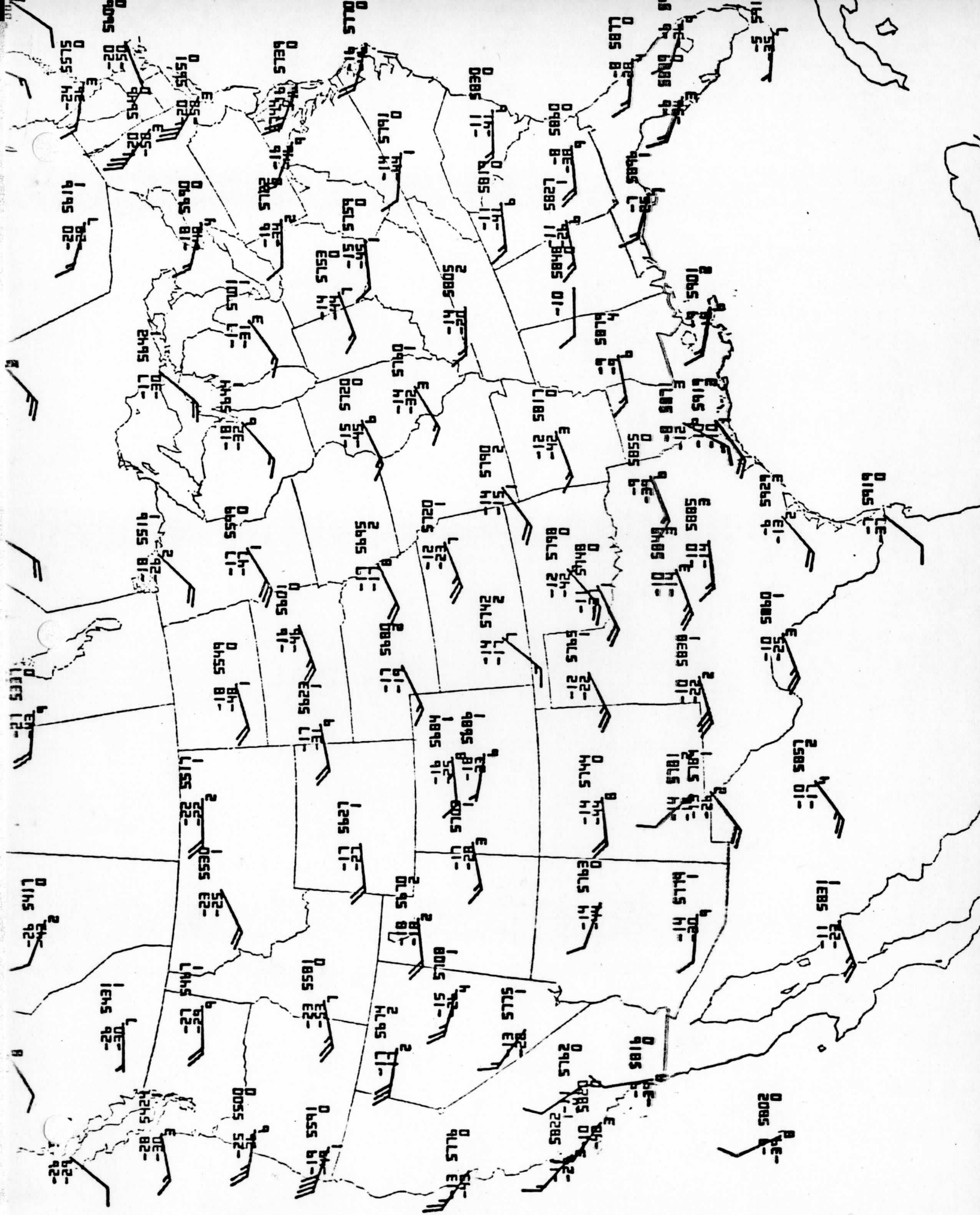
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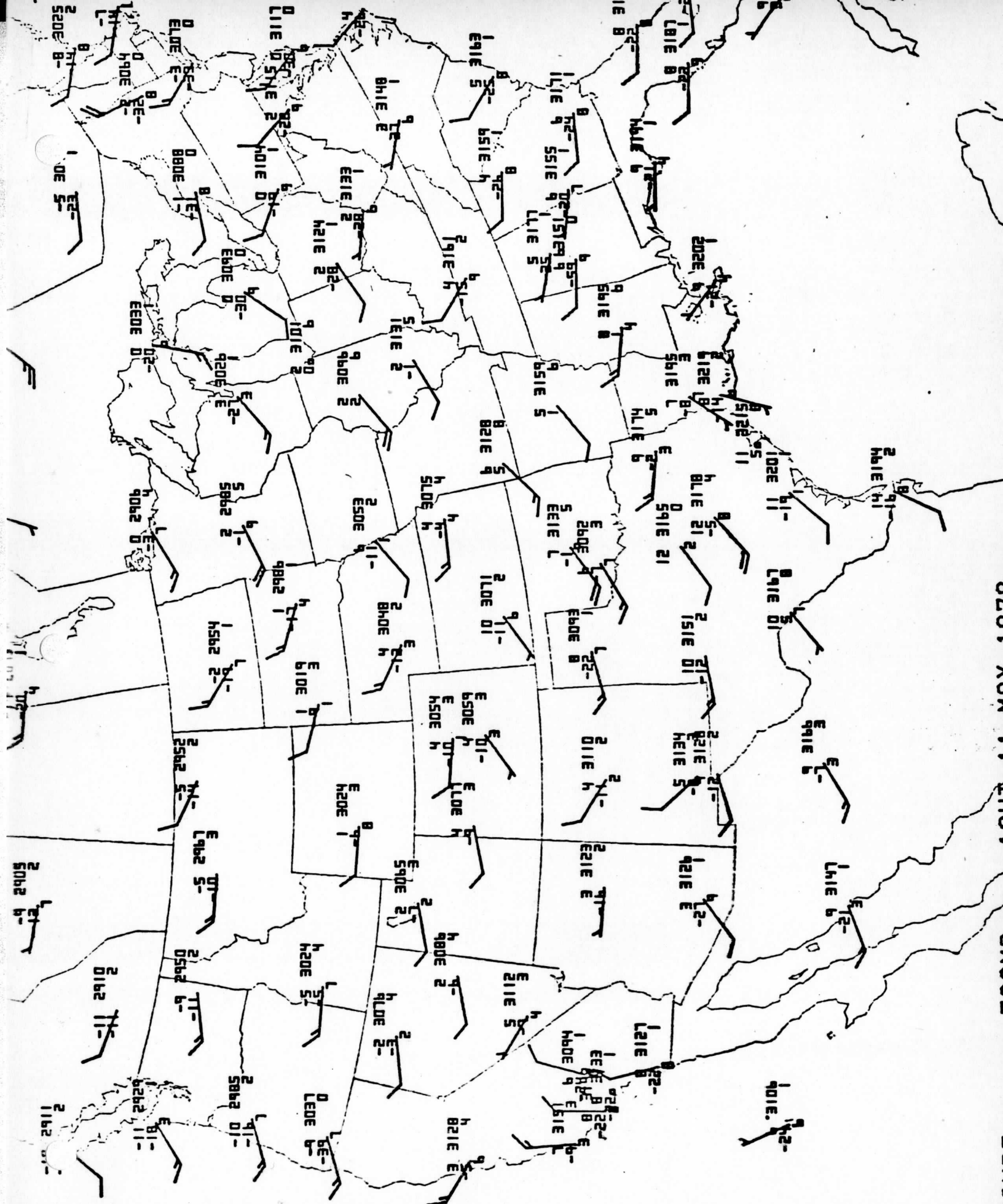


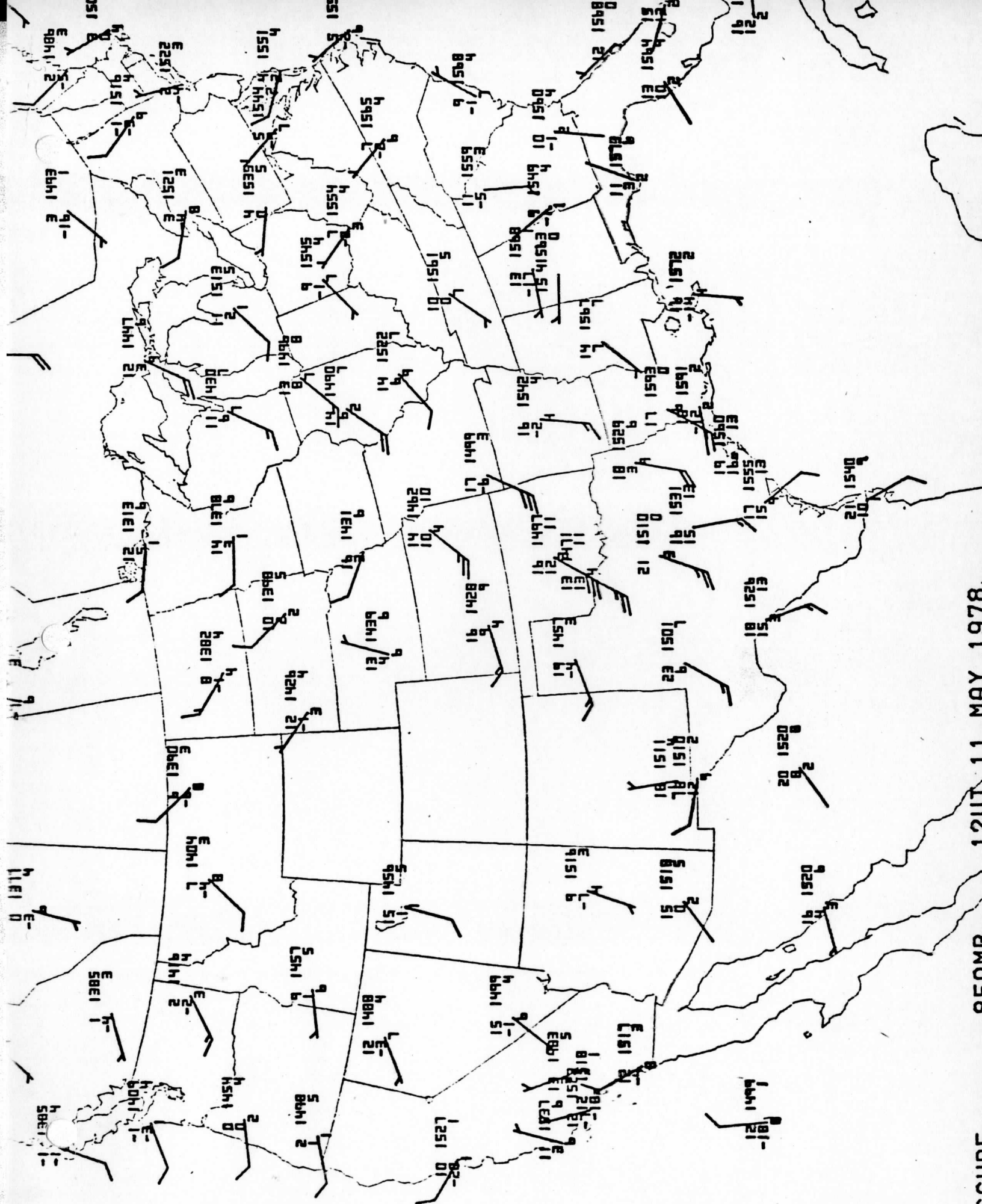
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 TIME 1200 GMT



**B. ISOBARIC CHARTS**



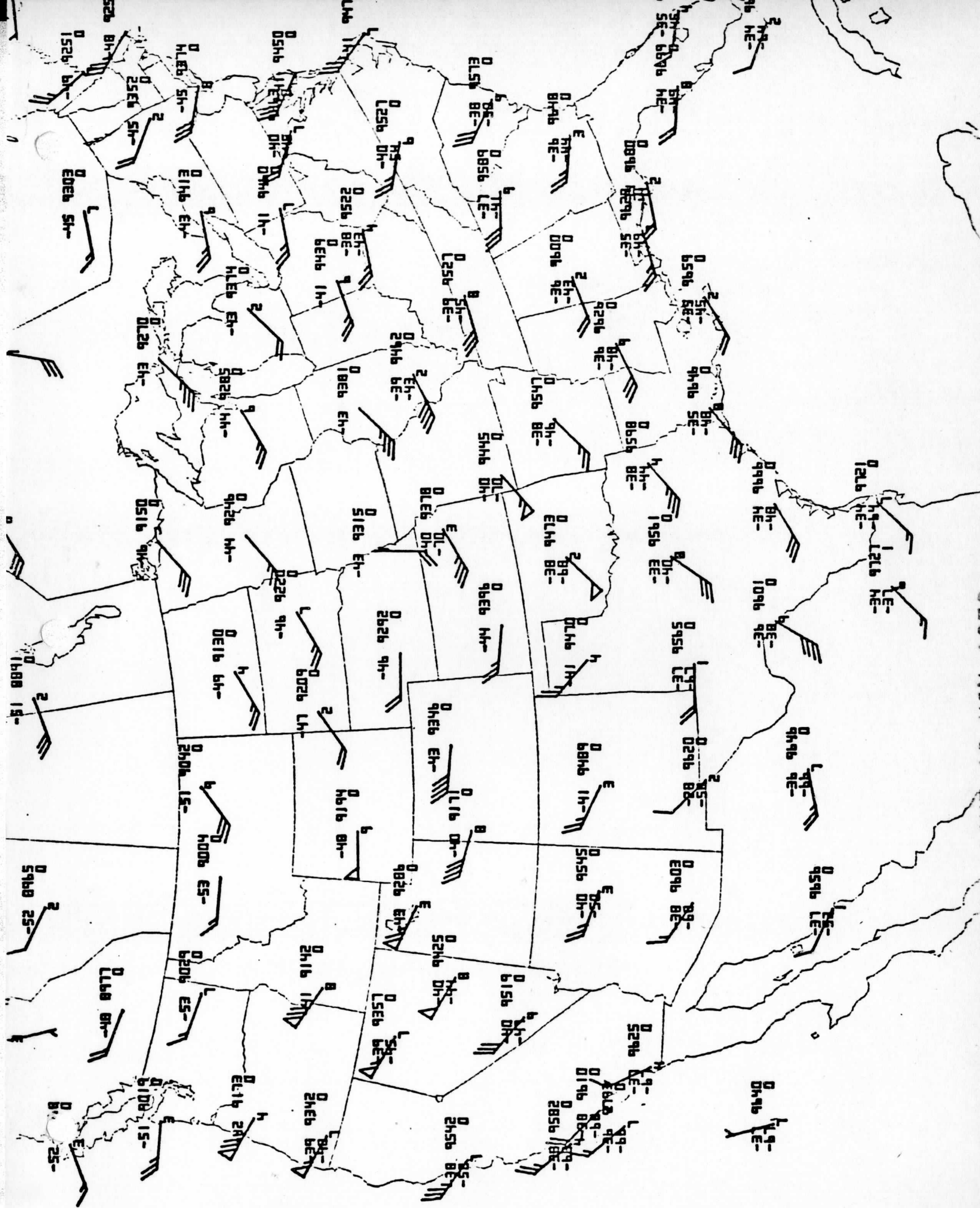




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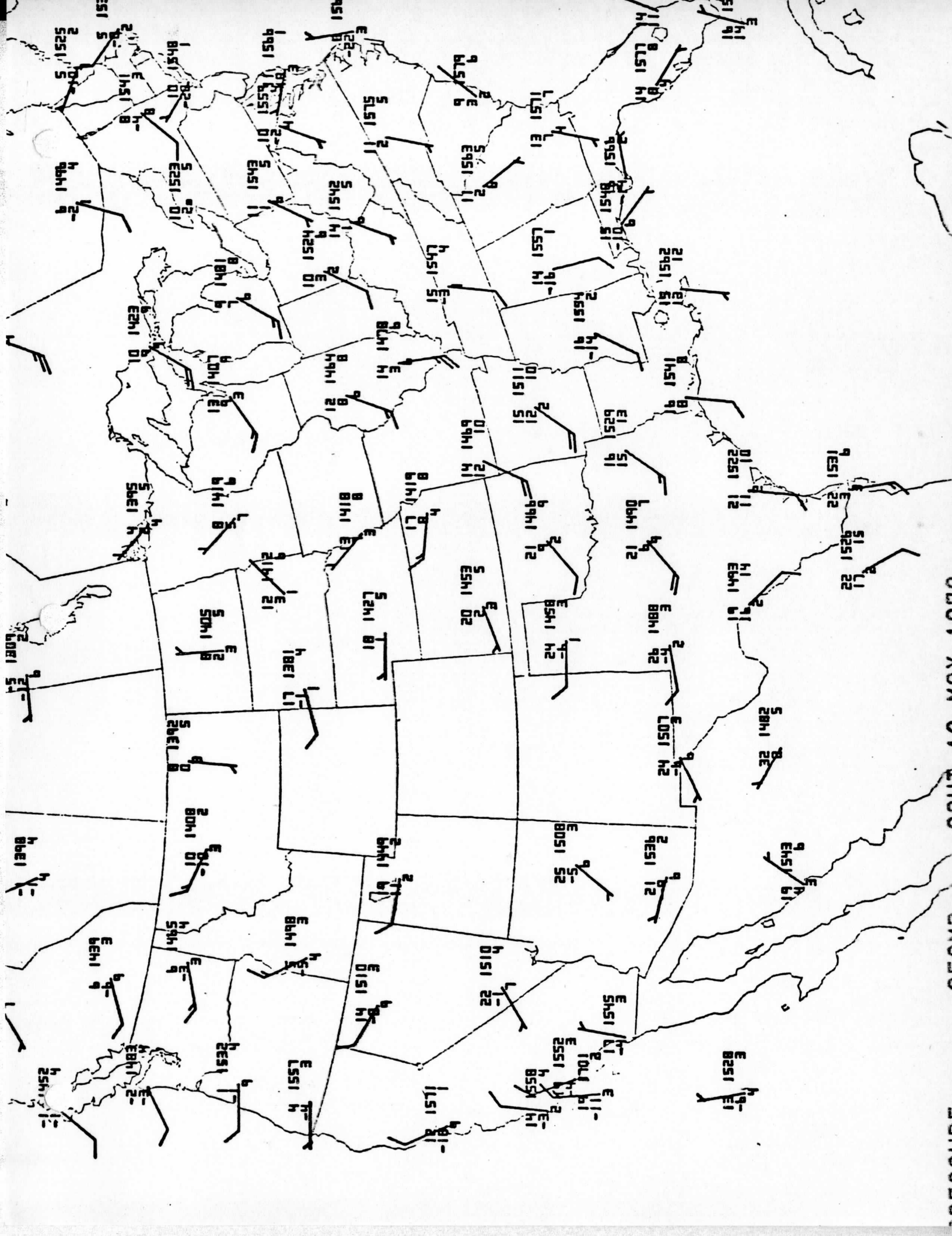
050MP

0000000













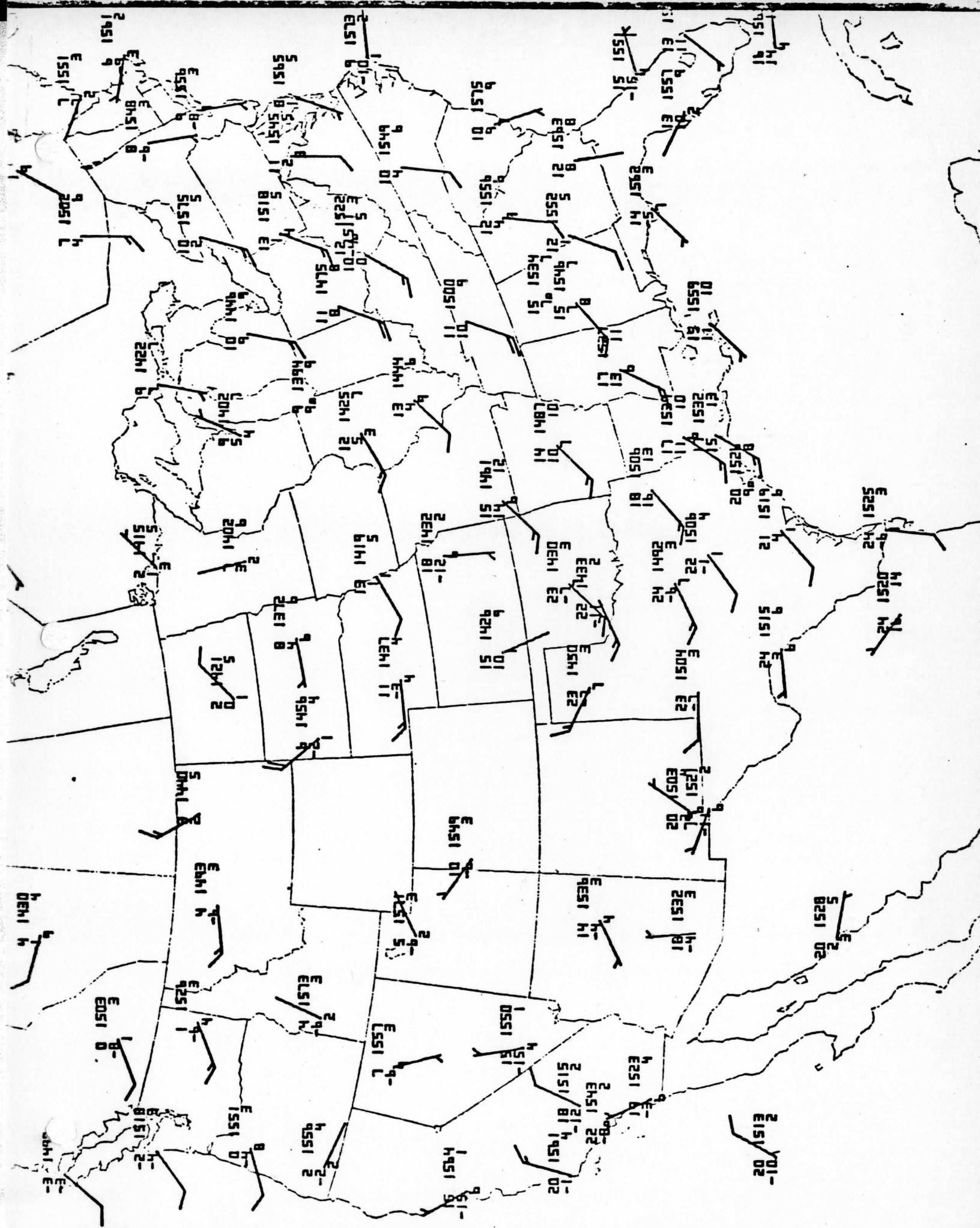
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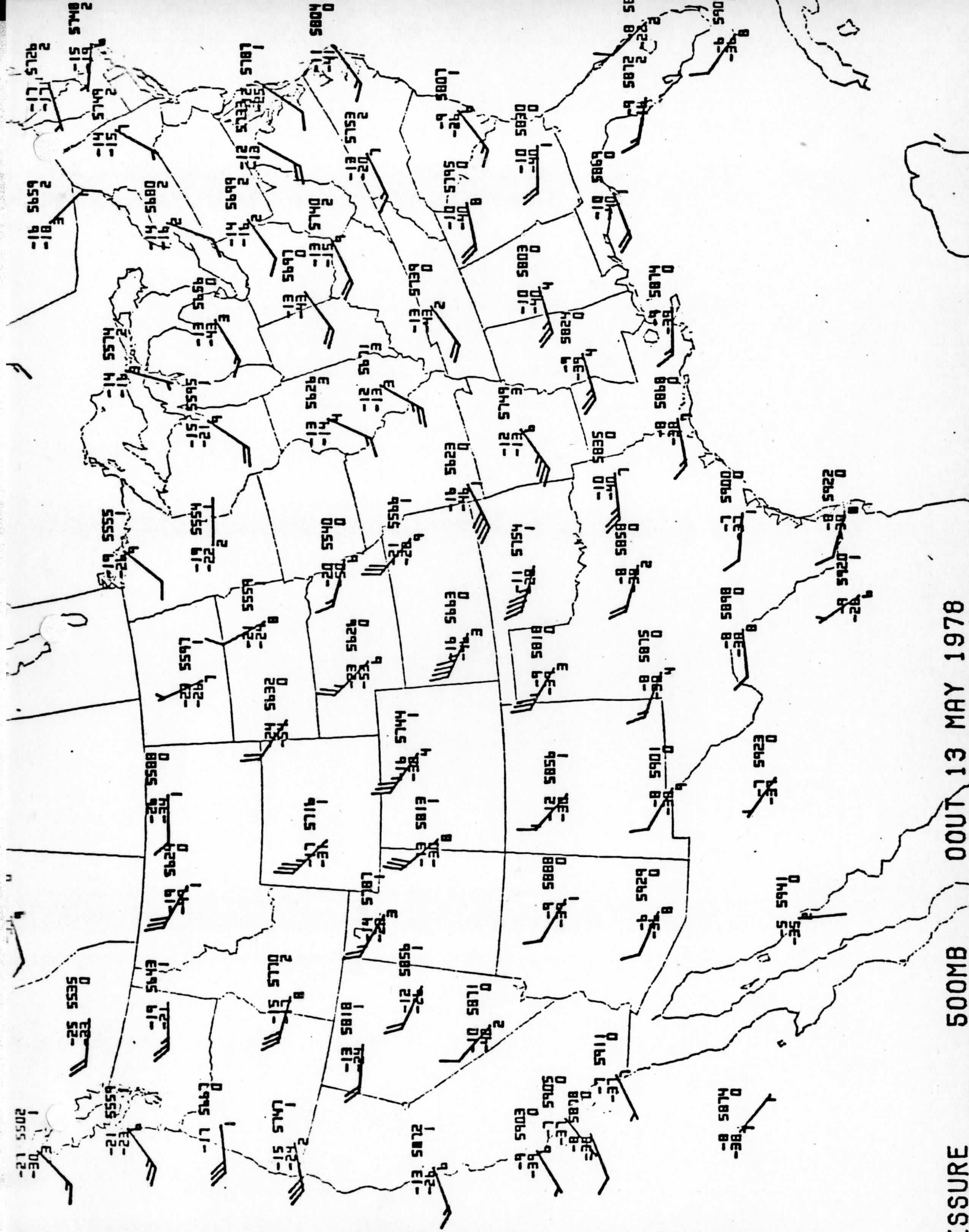
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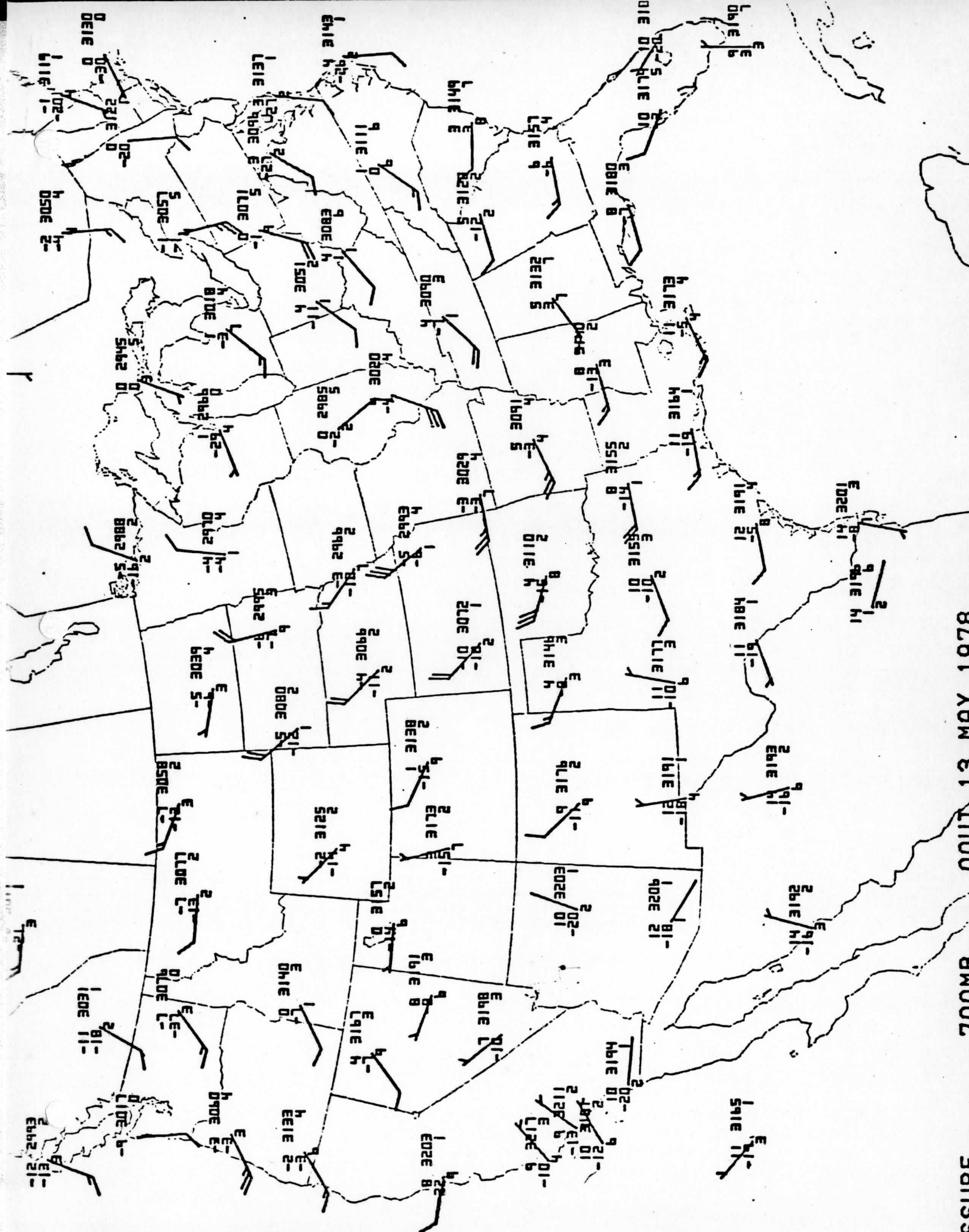




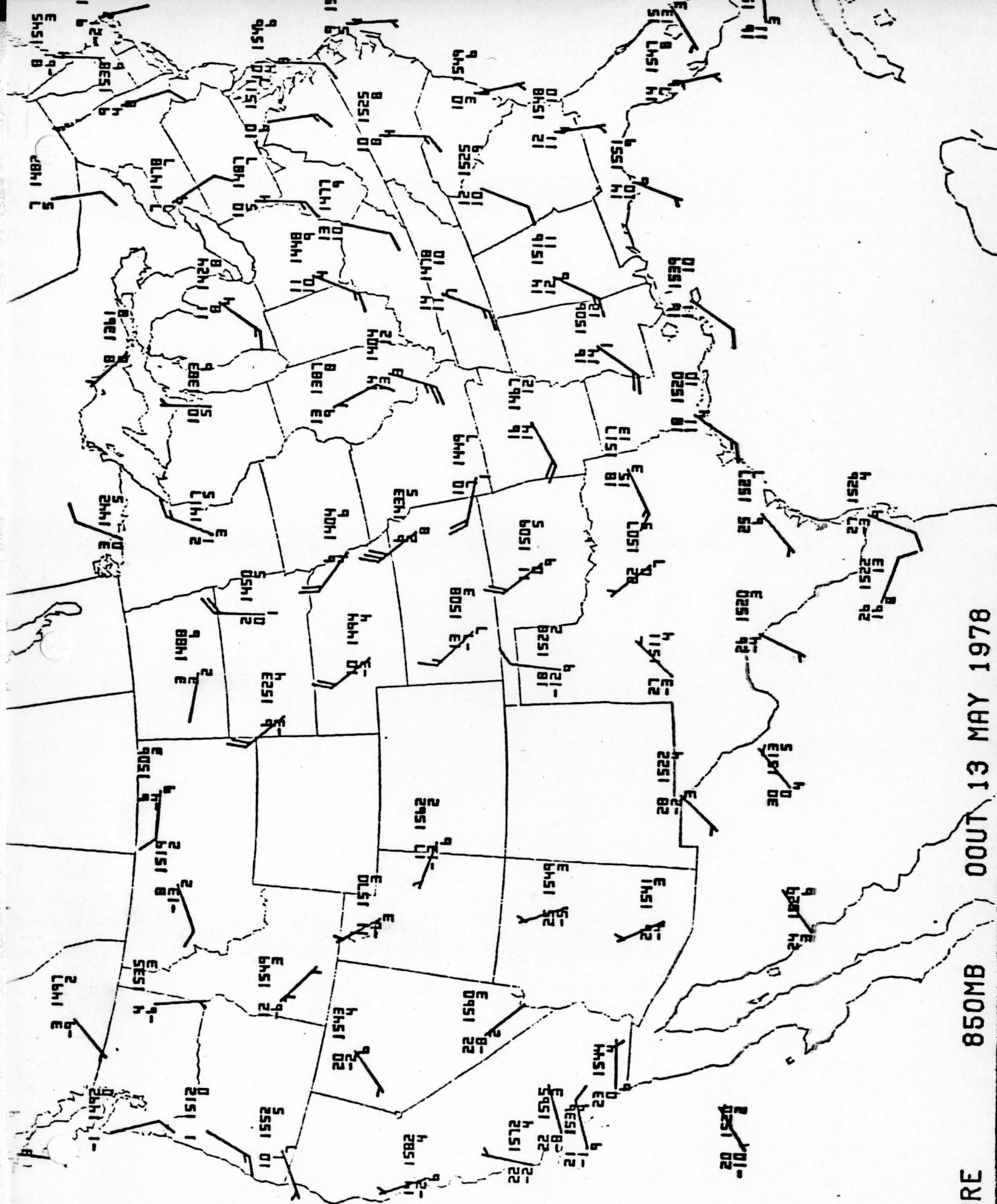
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ESSURE

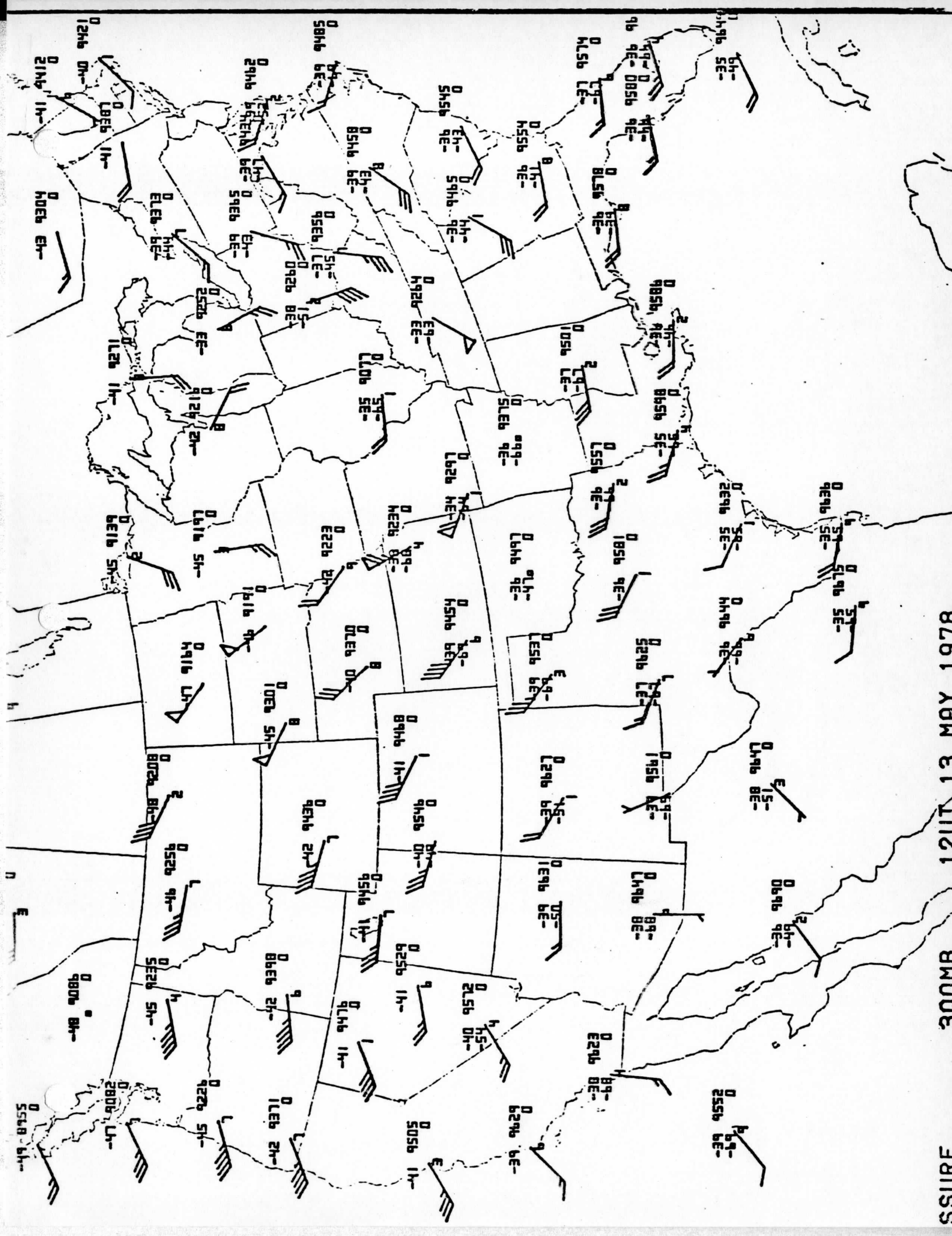


700MB  
0011 13 MAY 1978  
000100



RESSURE 850MB 00UT 13 MAY 1978

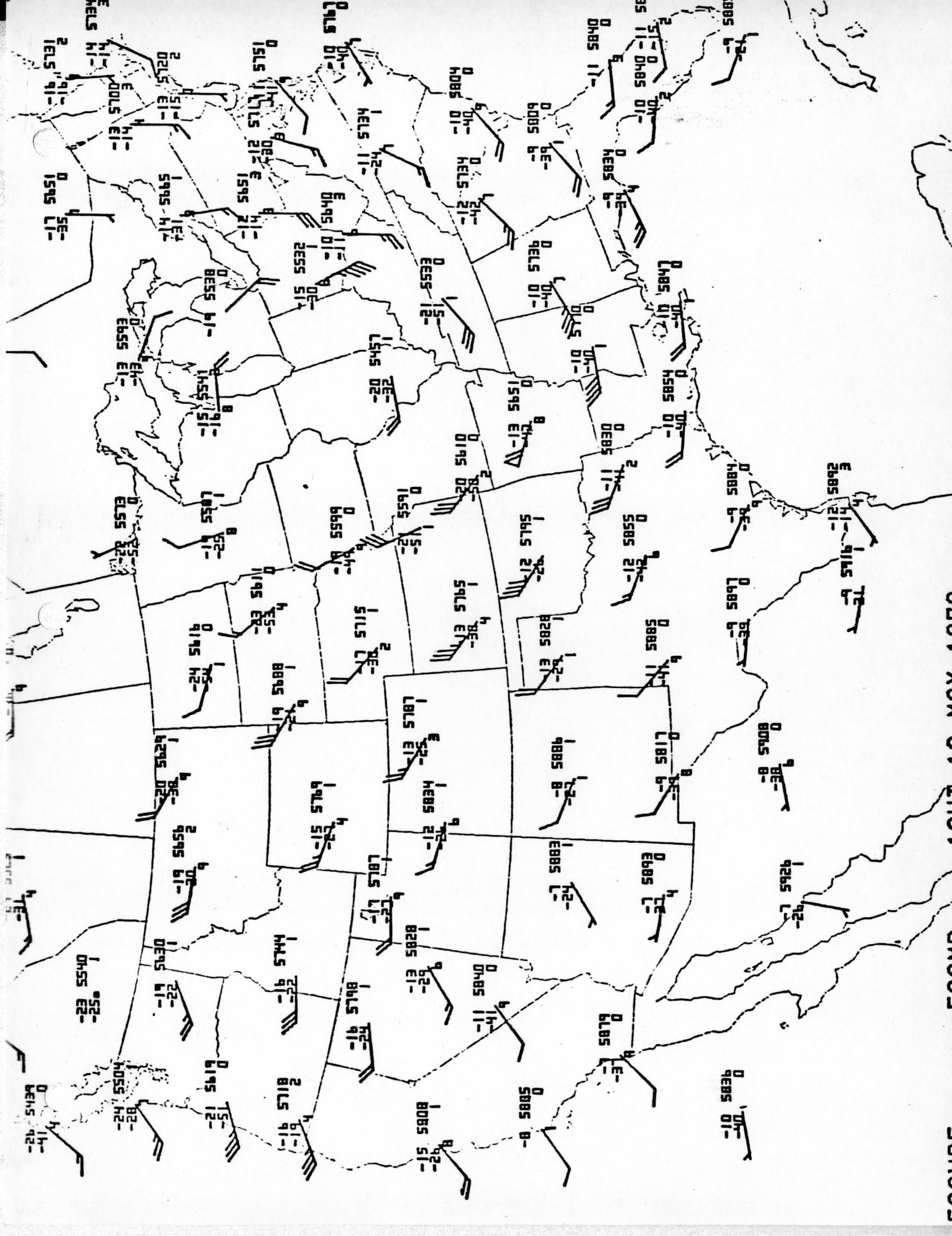




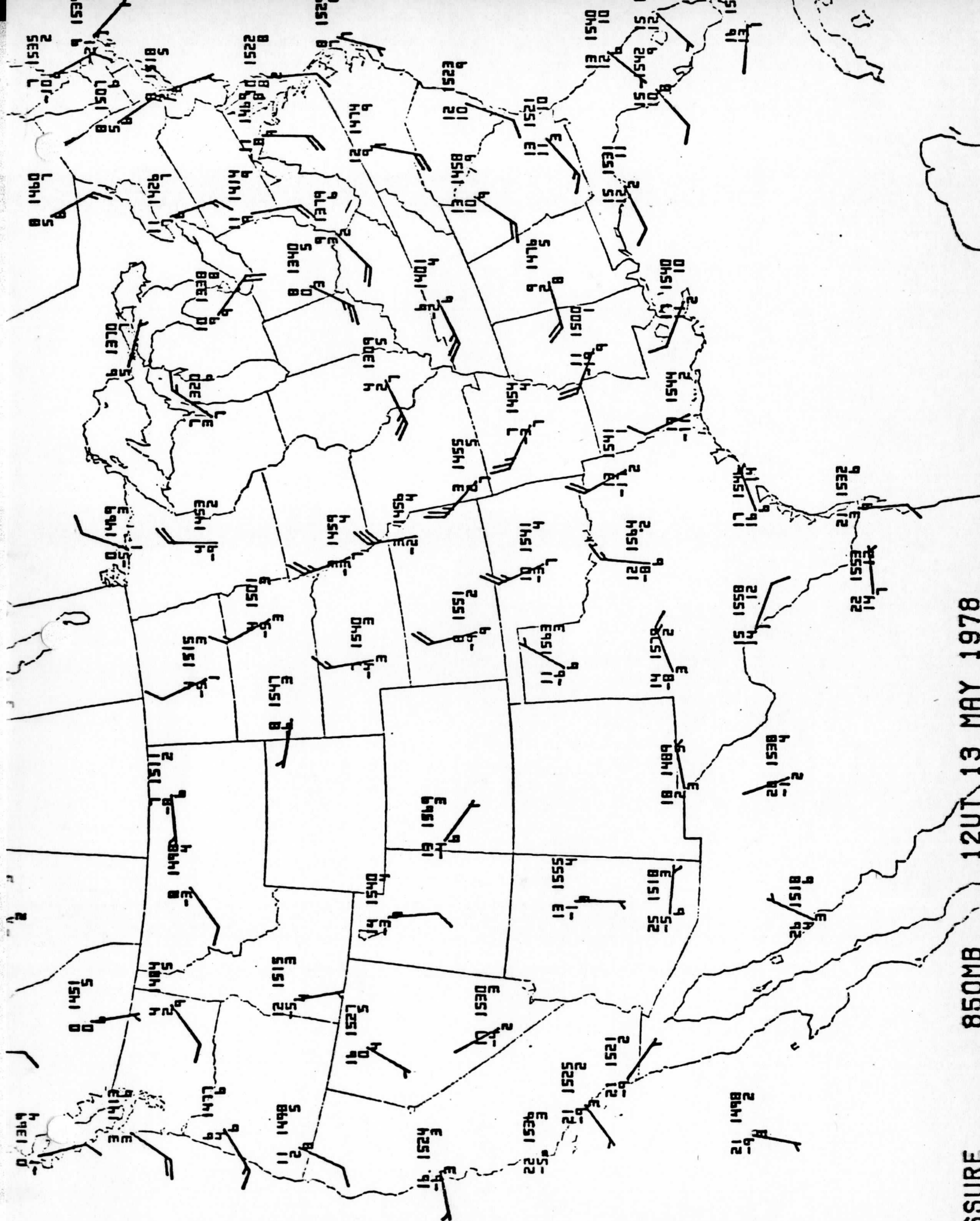
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300MB

SSIRE



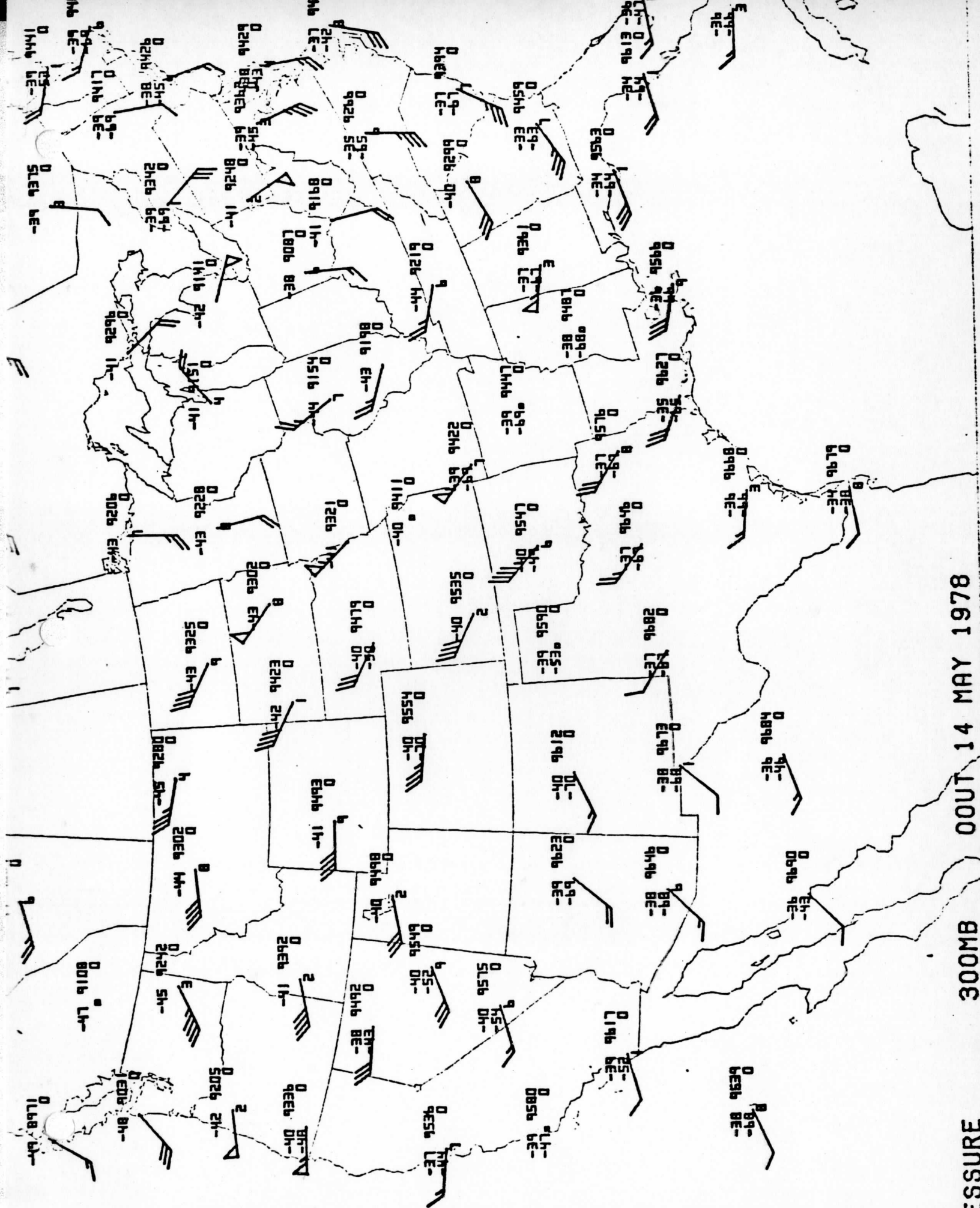




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850MB

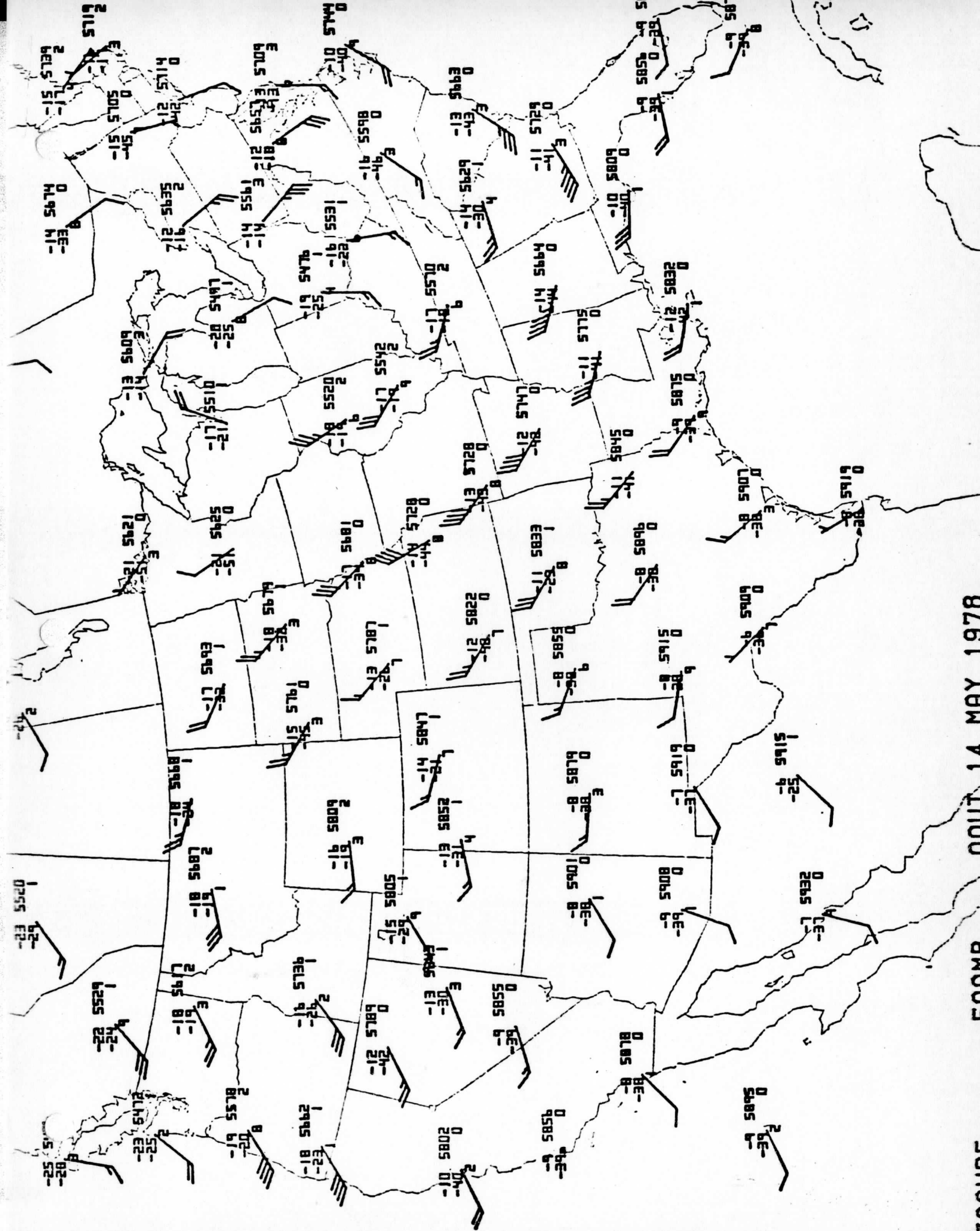
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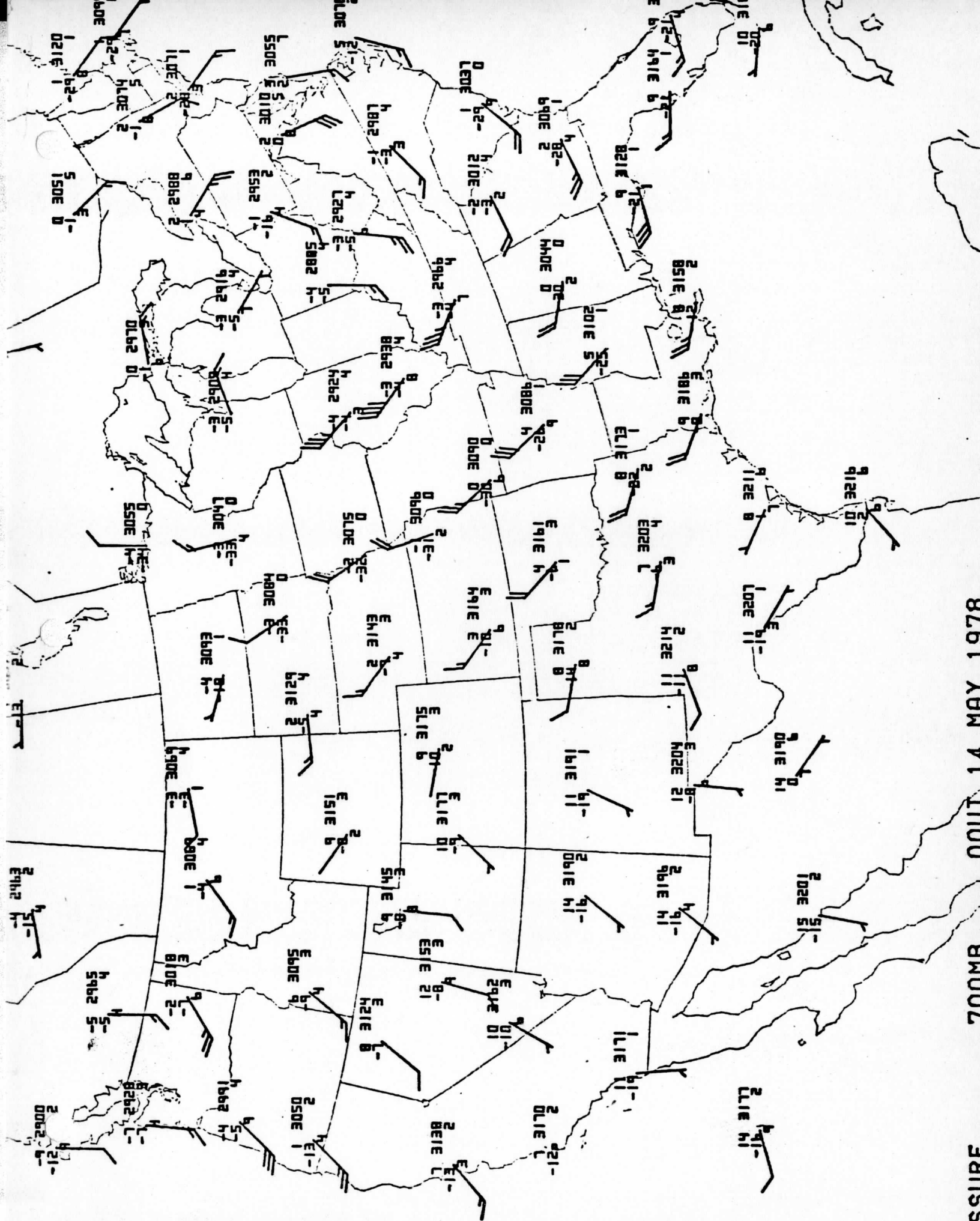
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00UT 14 MAY 1978



0011 14 MAY 1978

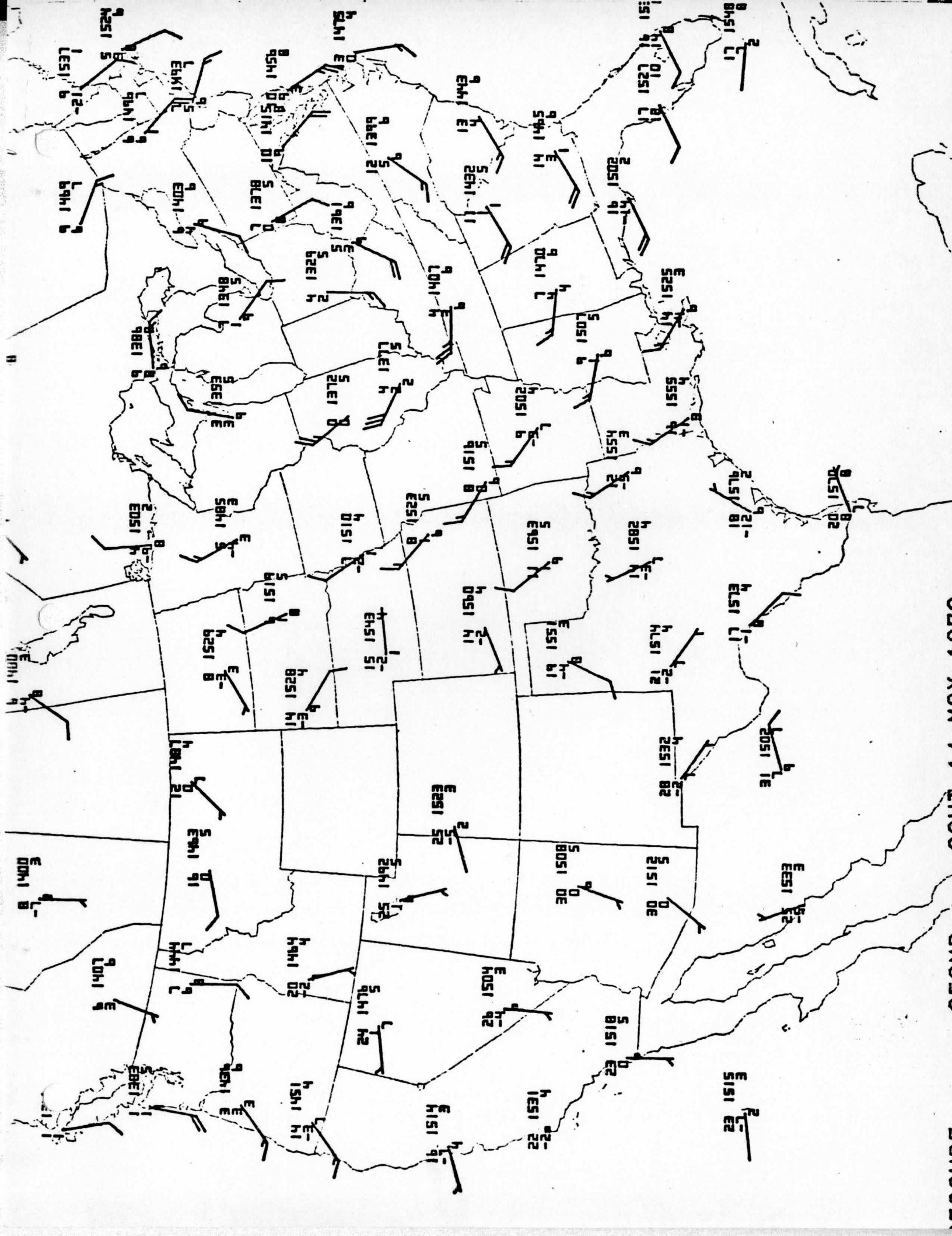
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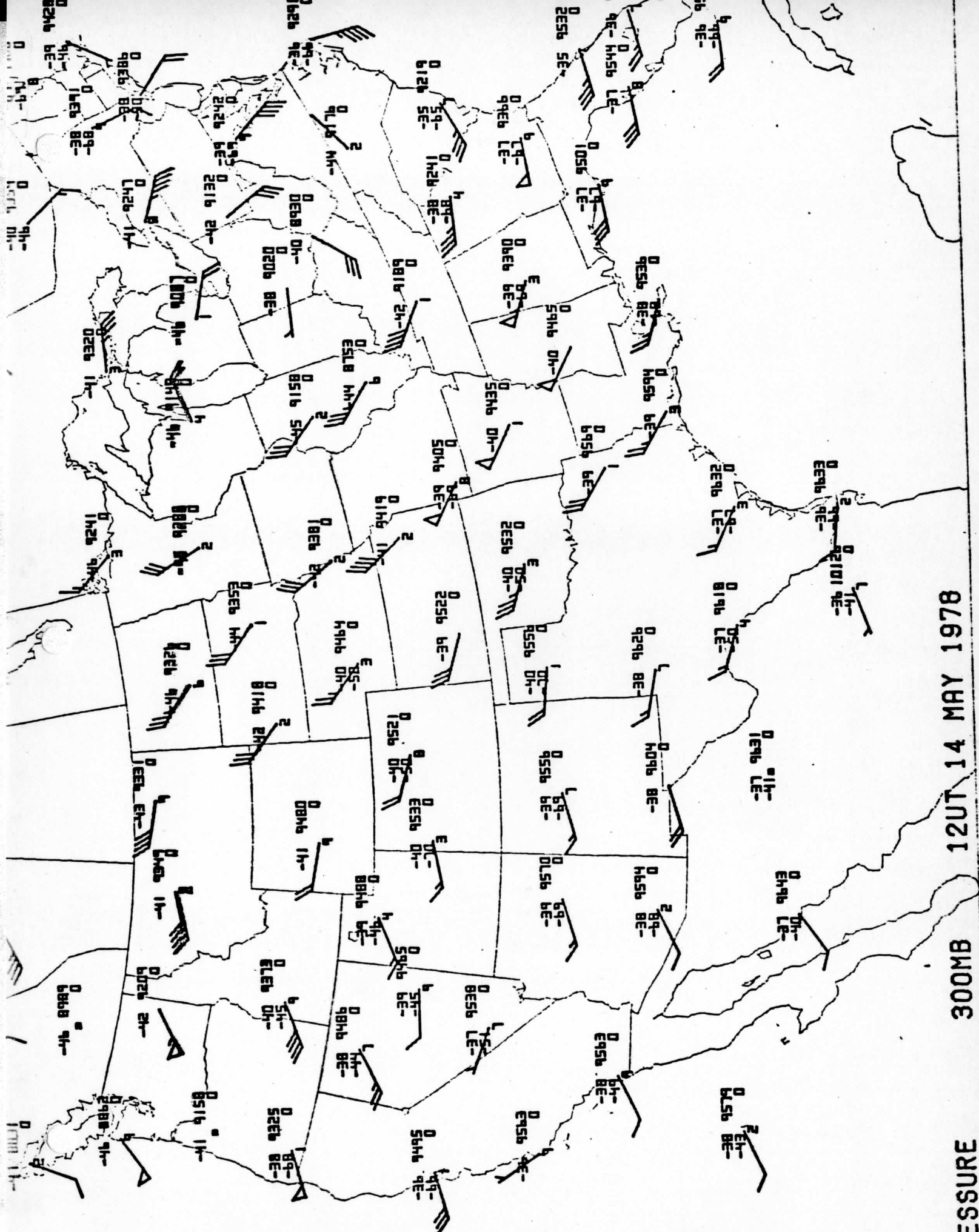
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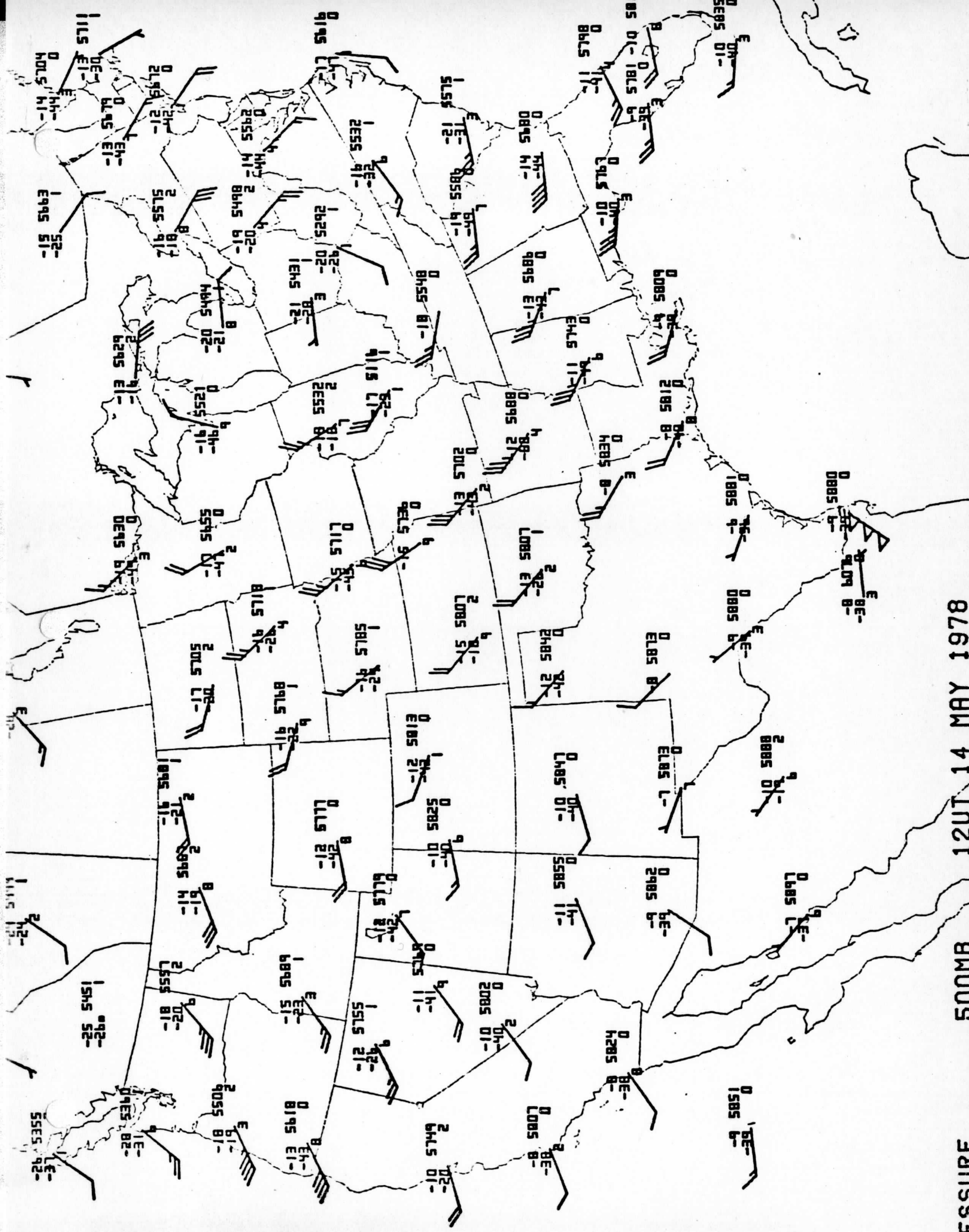






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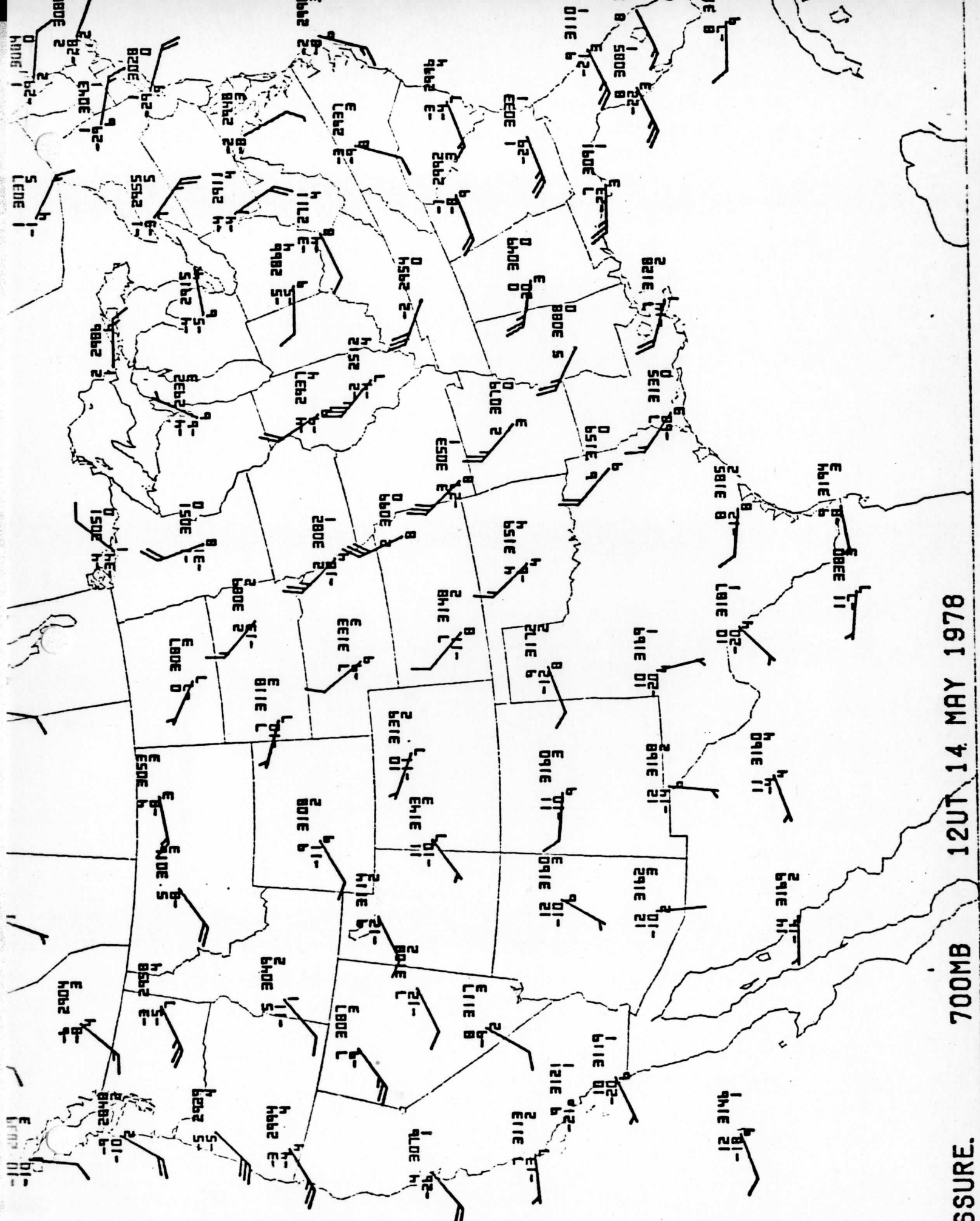
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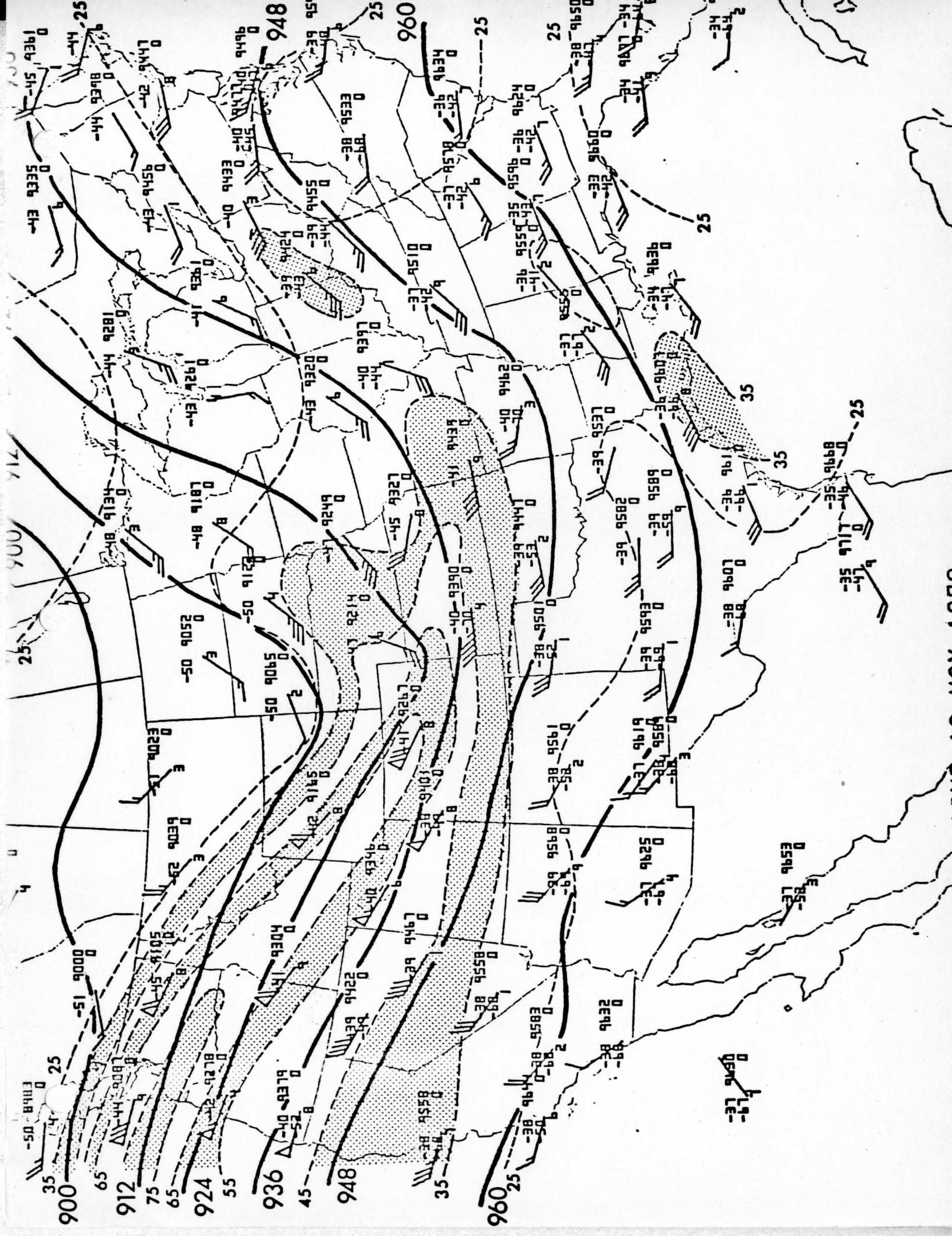


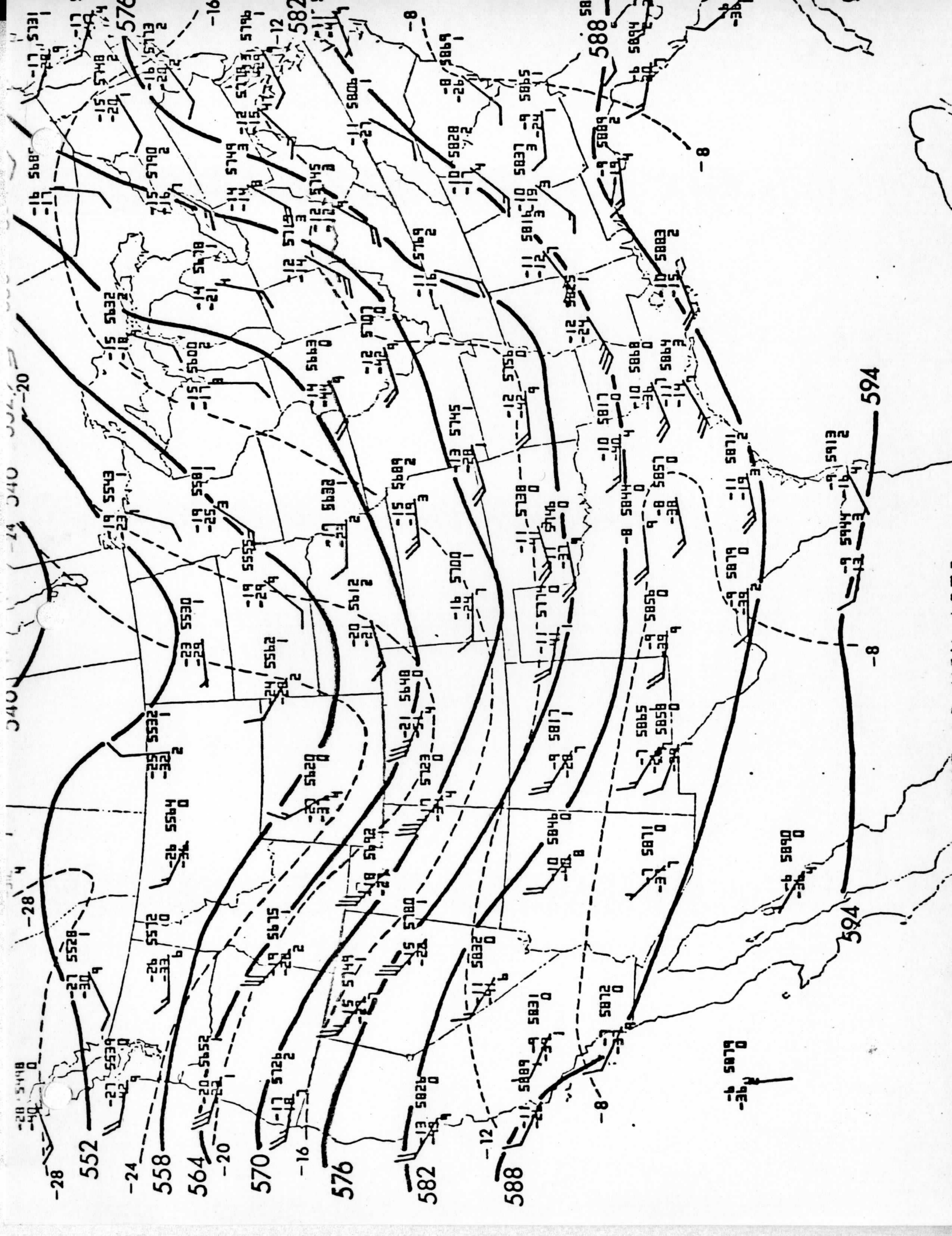
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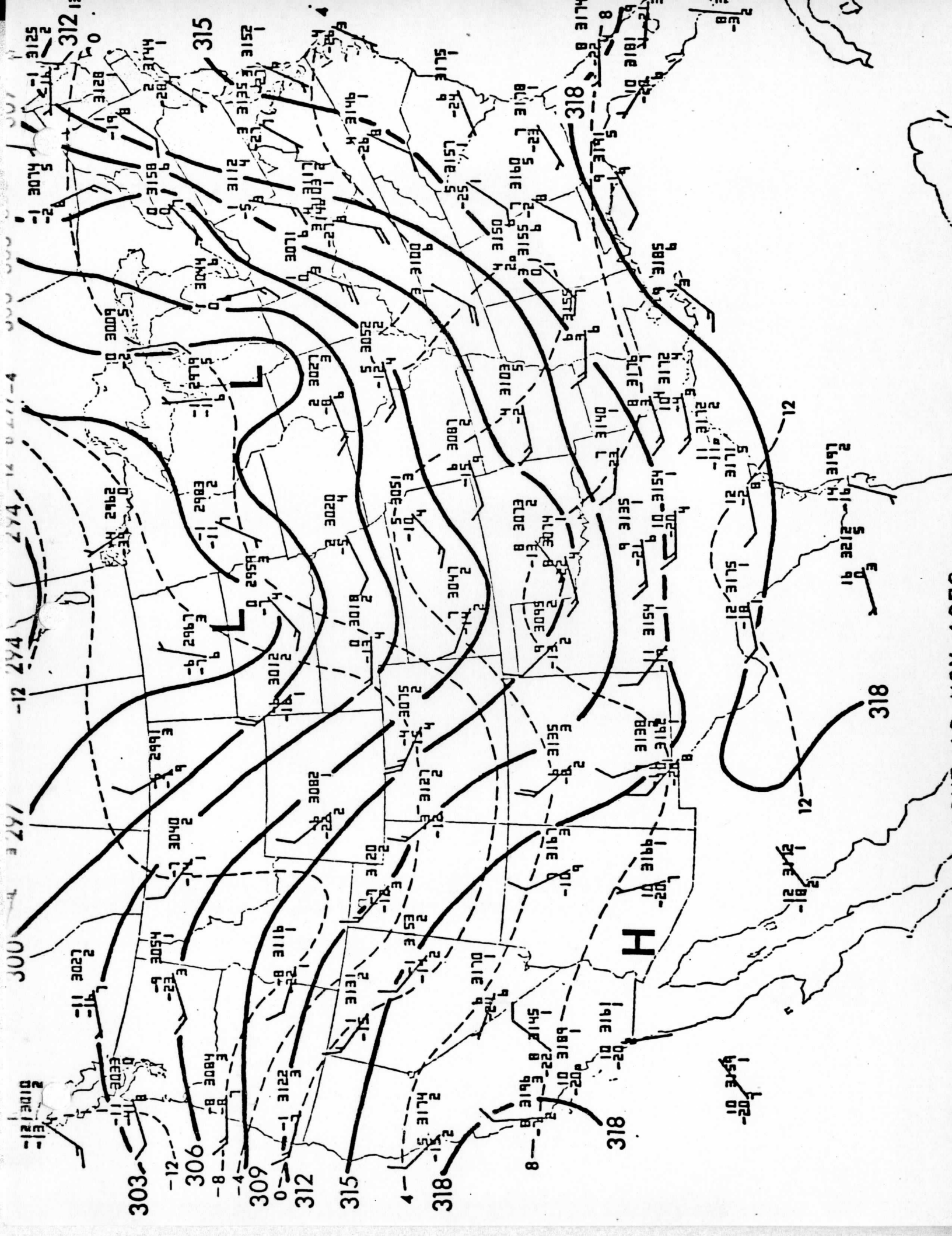
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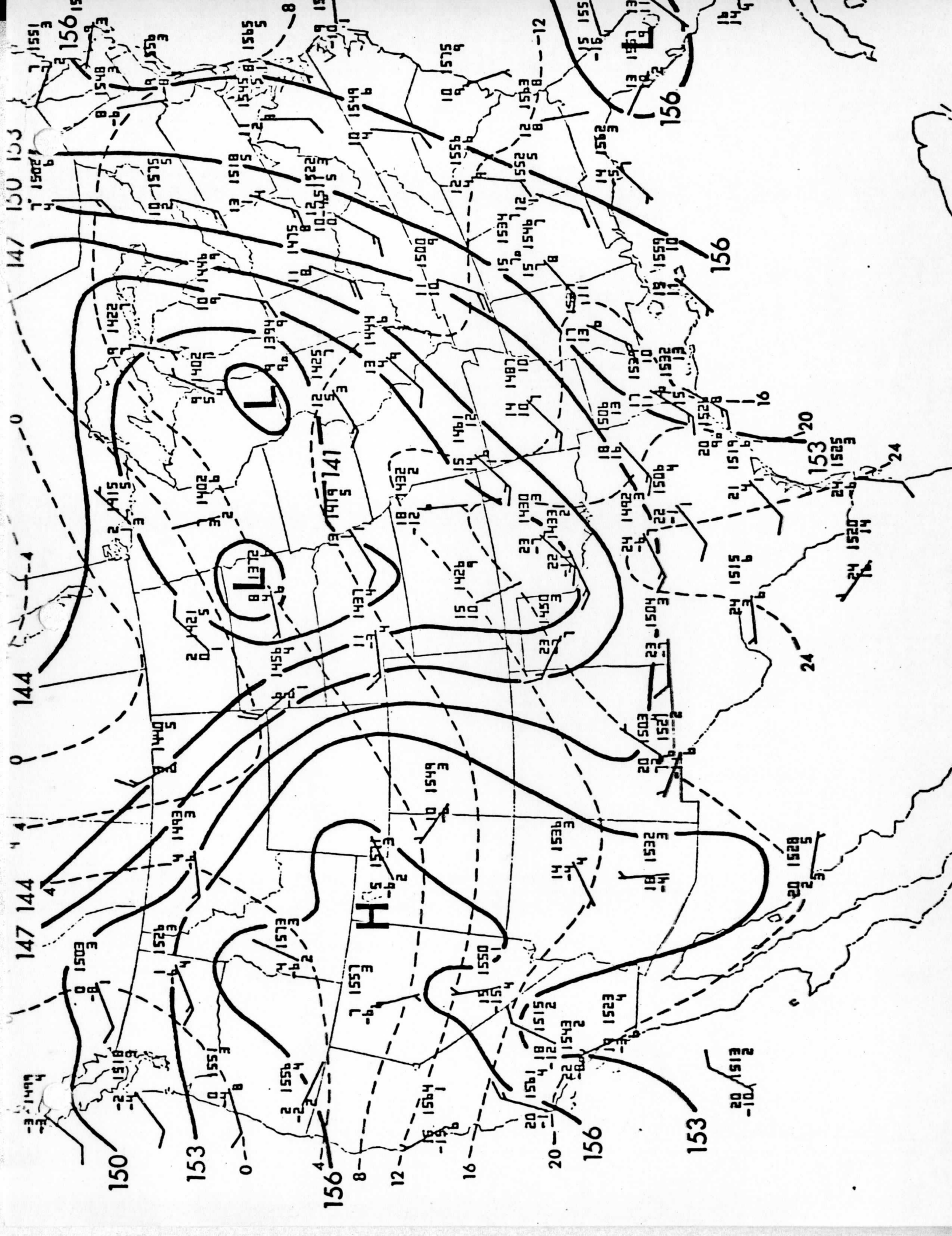
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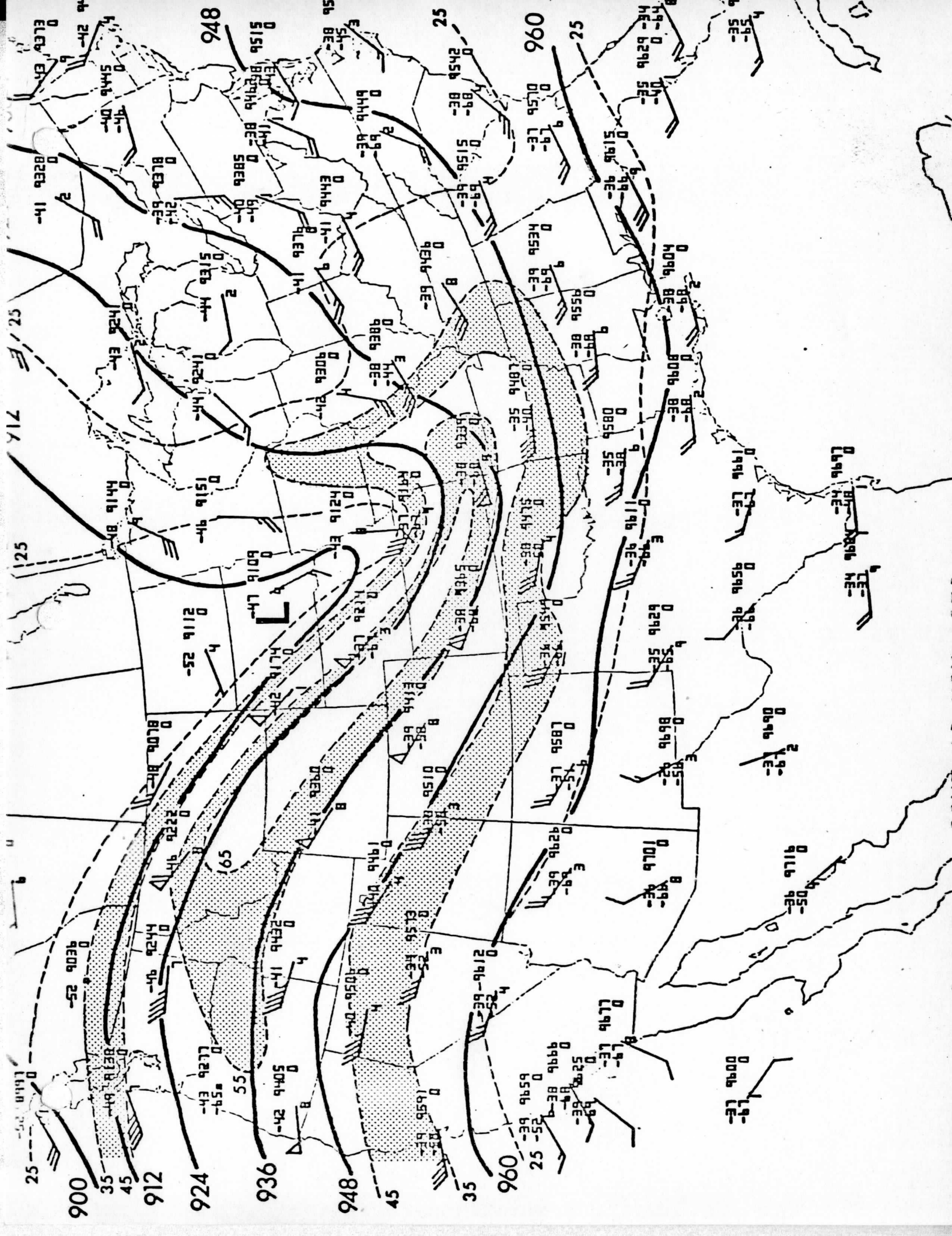


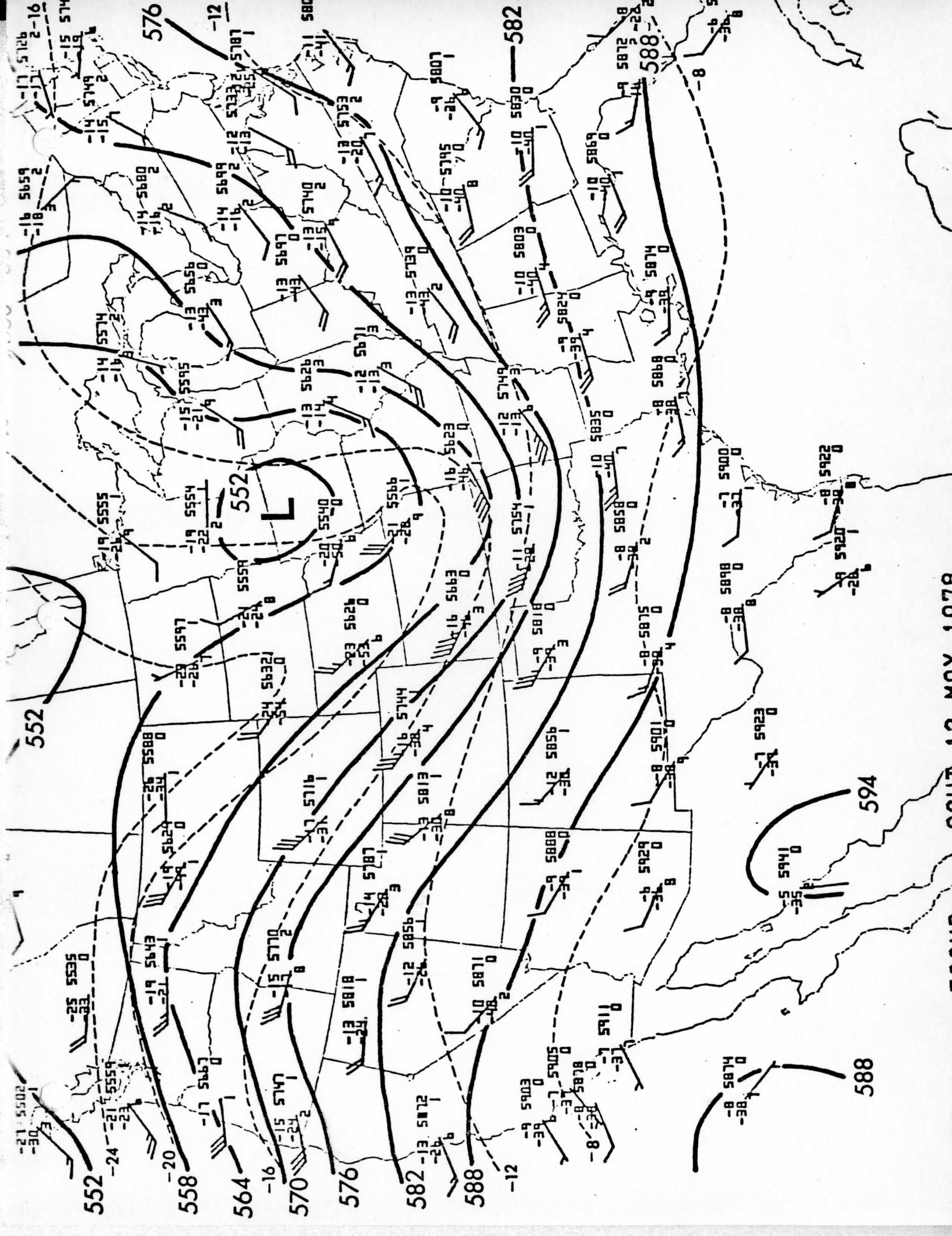


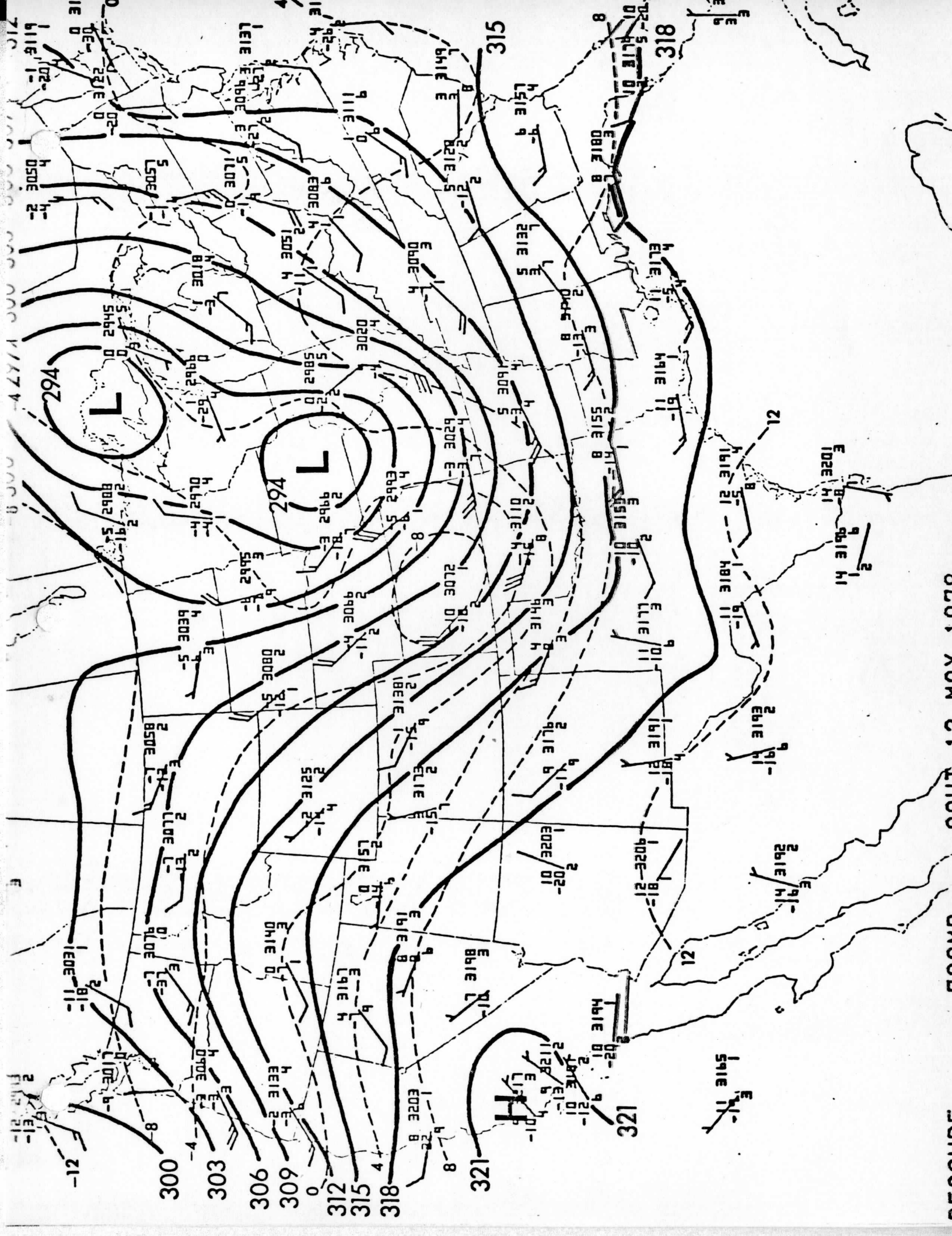


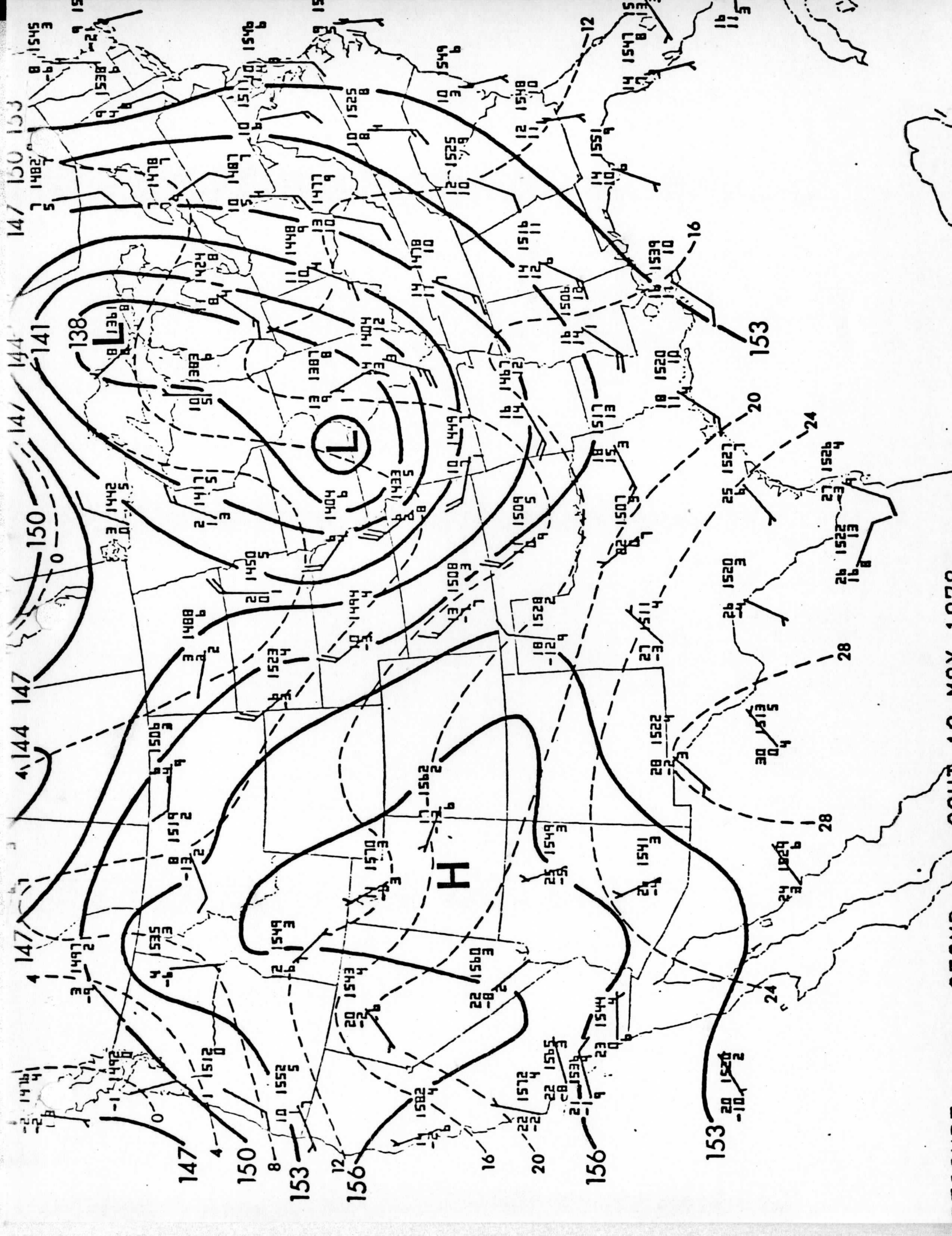




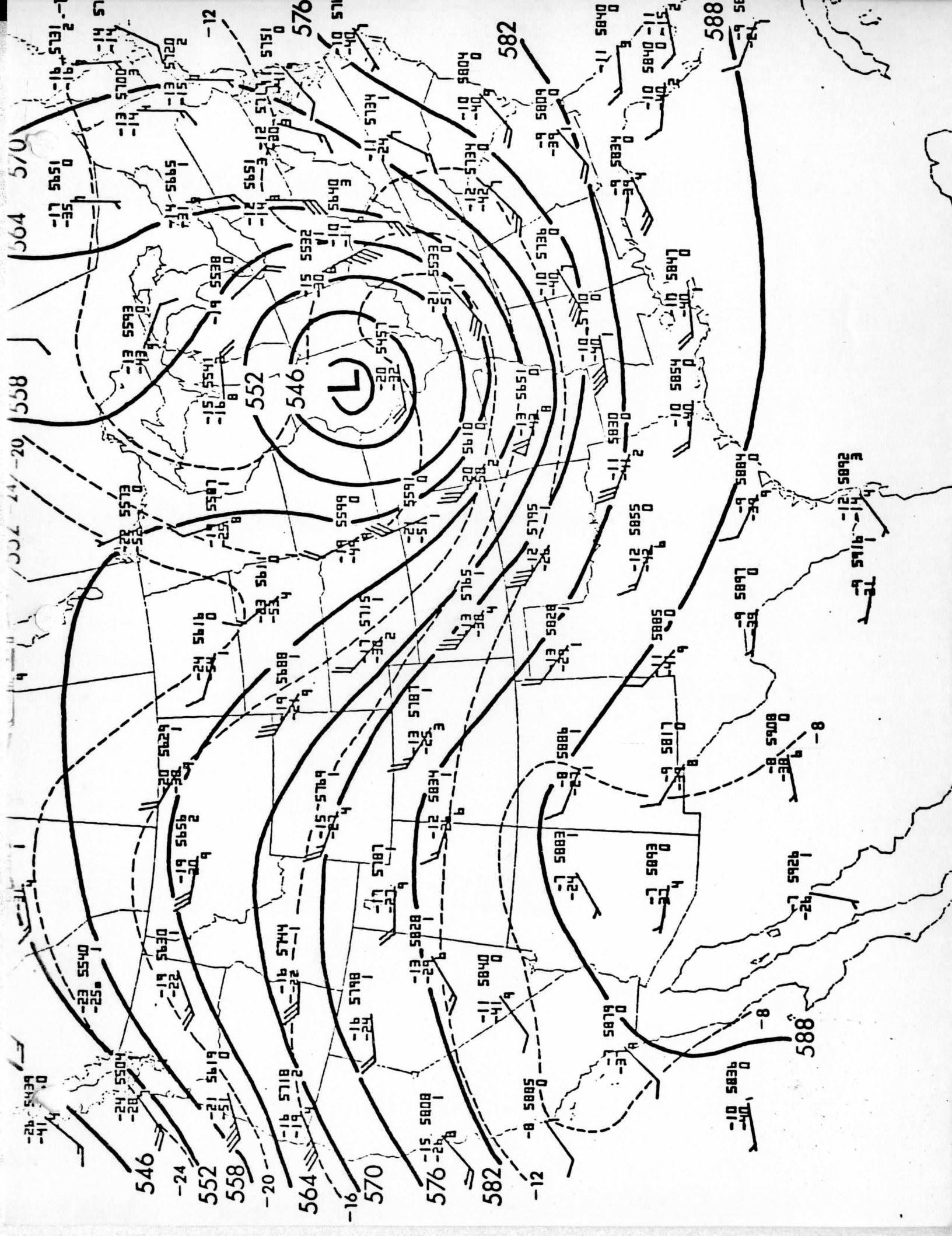


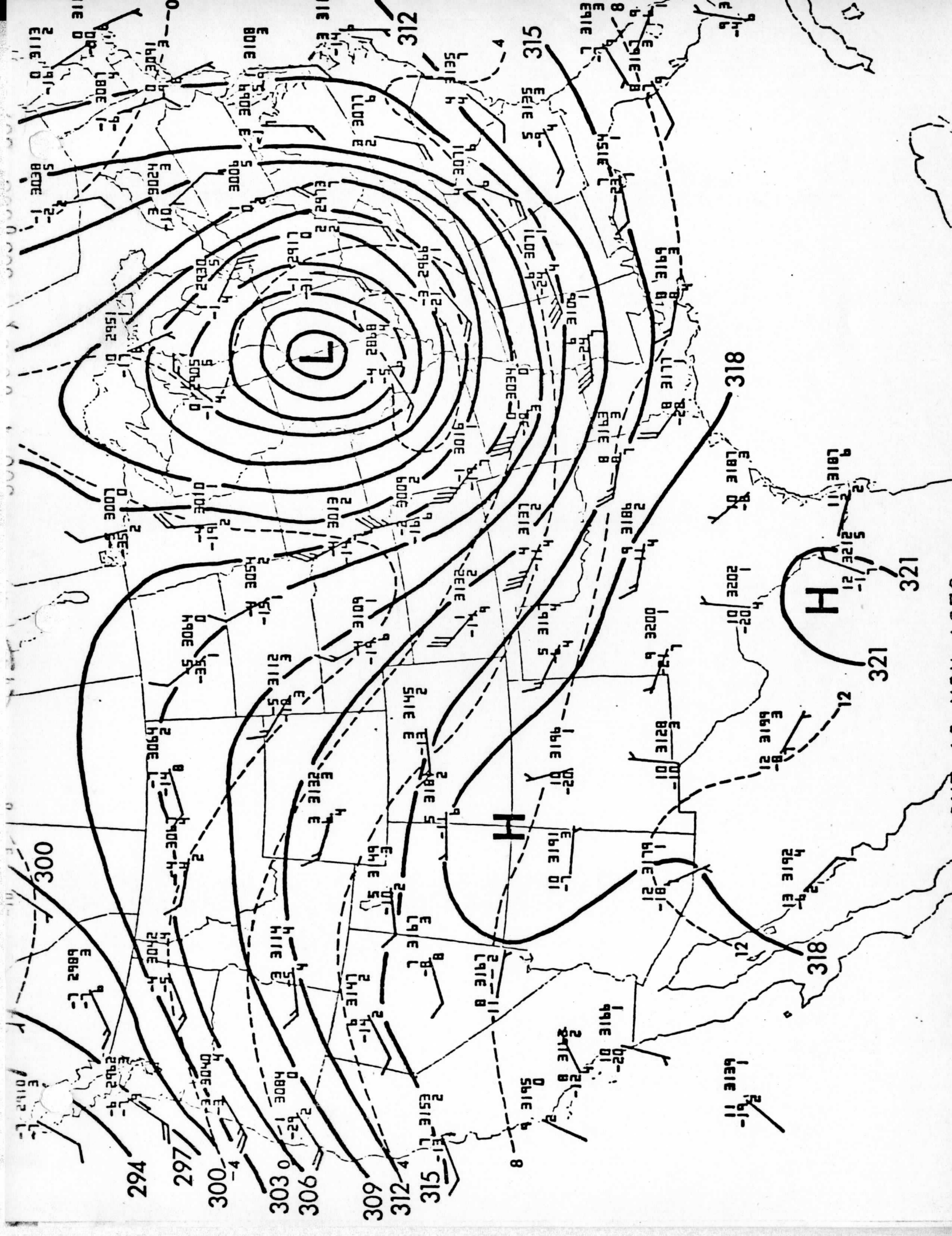


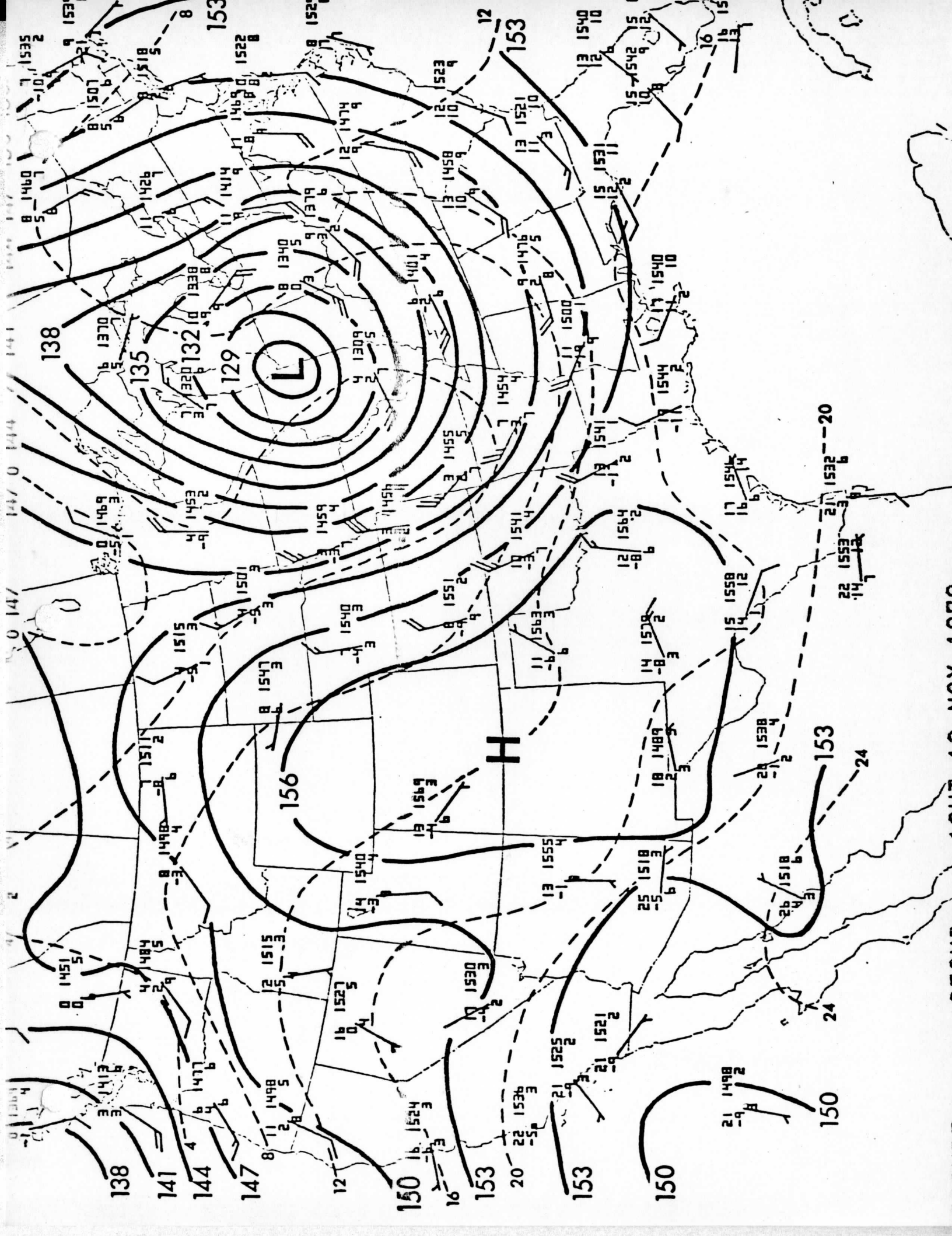






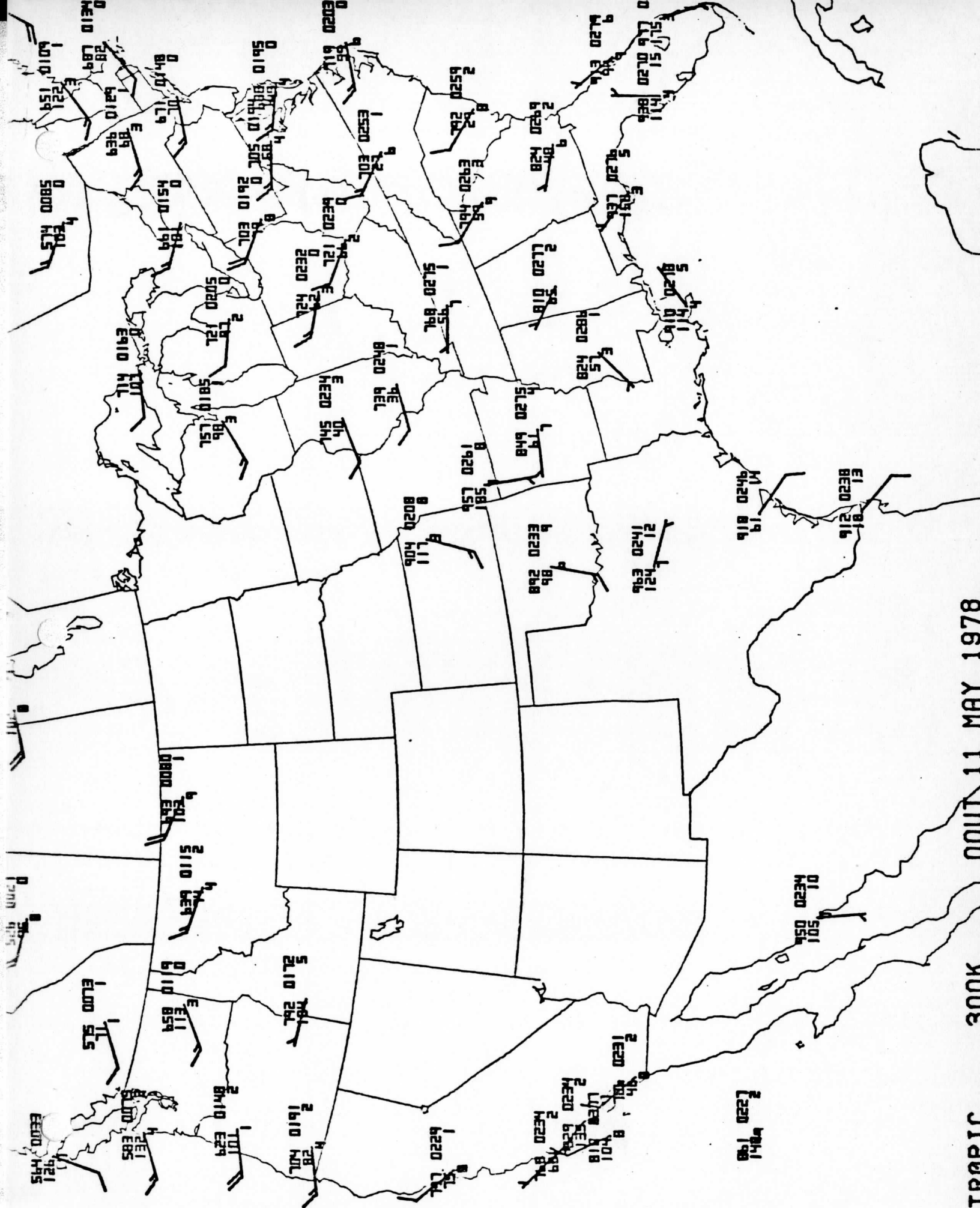








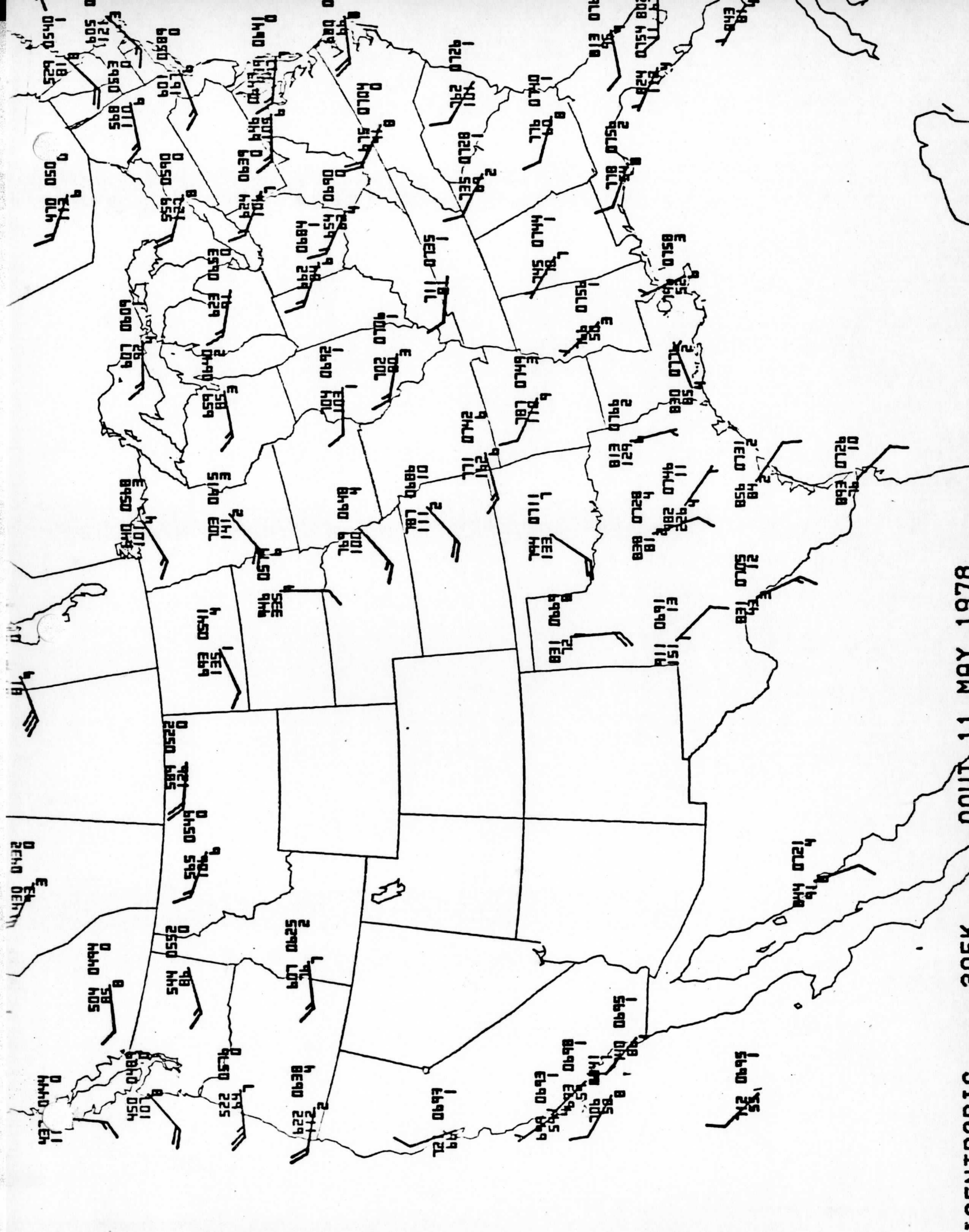
C. ISENTROPIC CHARTS



0011 MAY 1978

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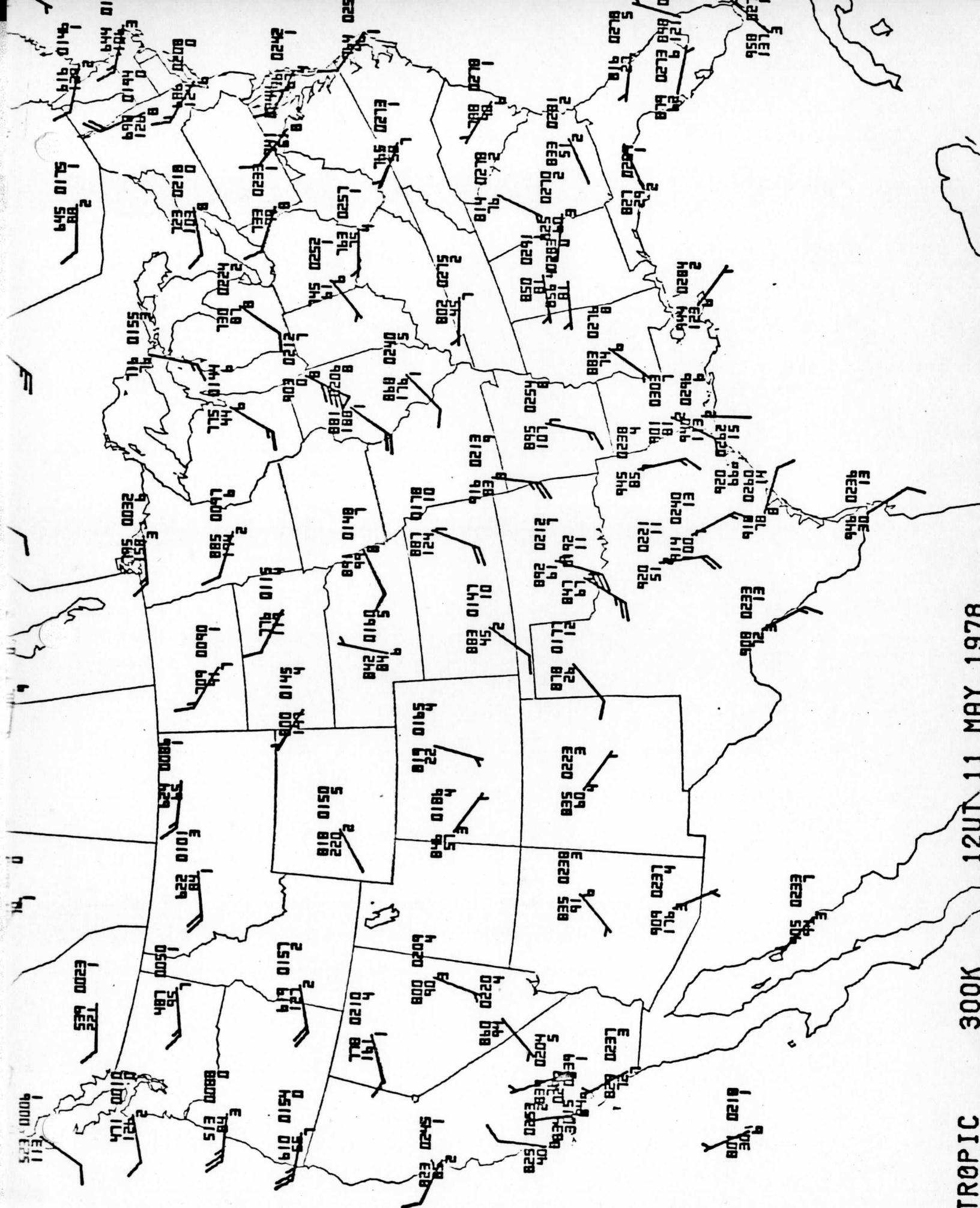
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NOIIT 11 MAY 1978

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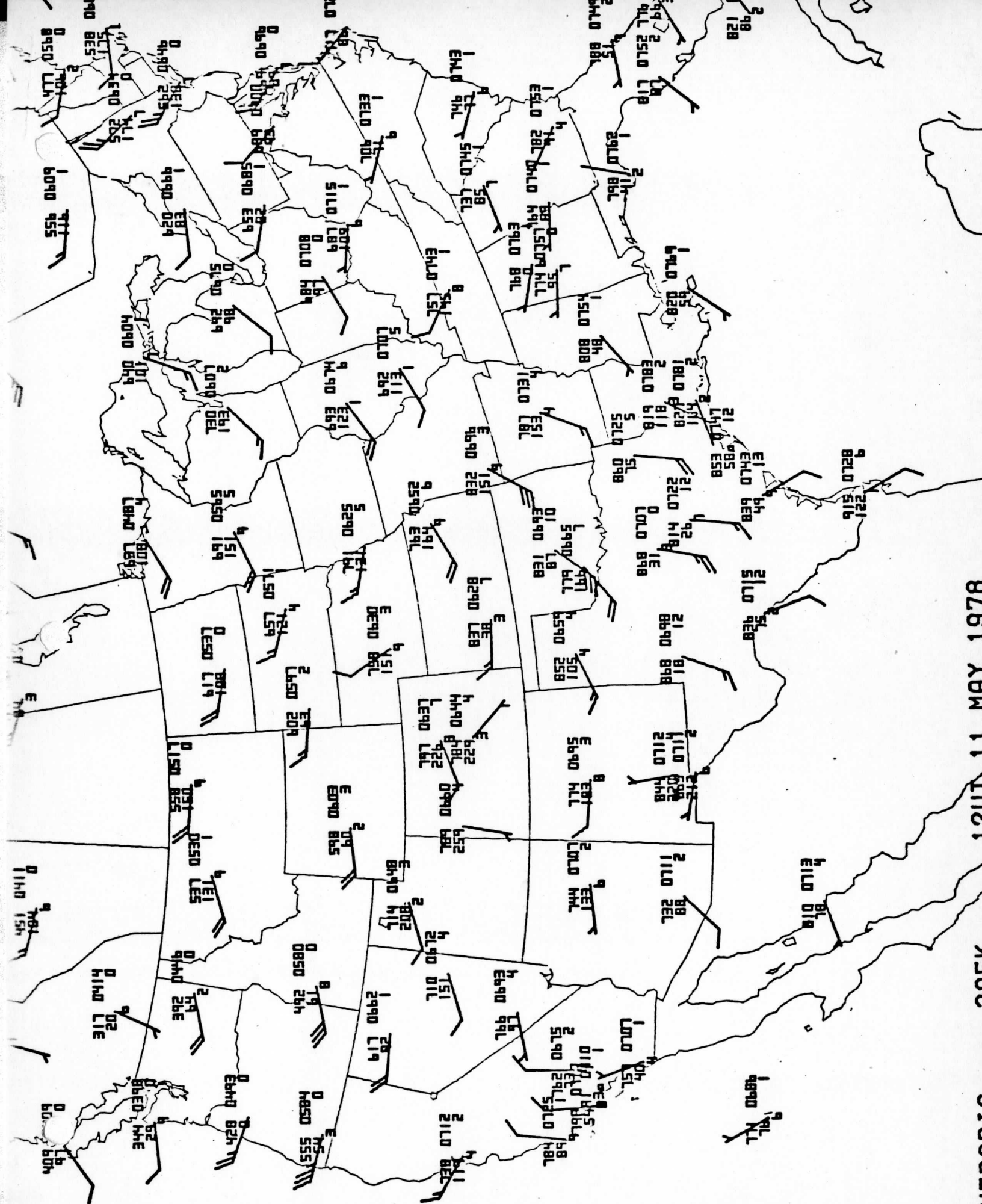
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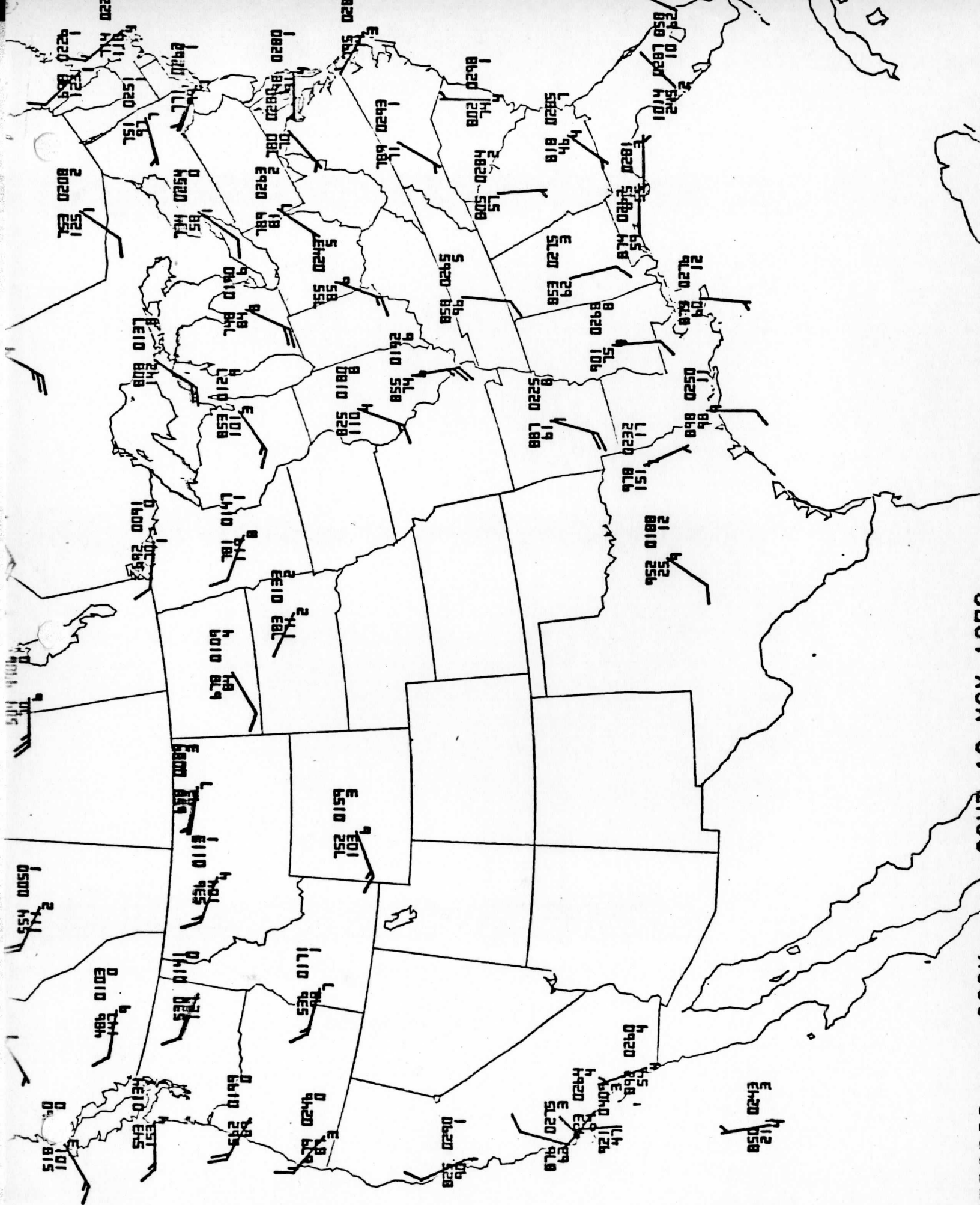
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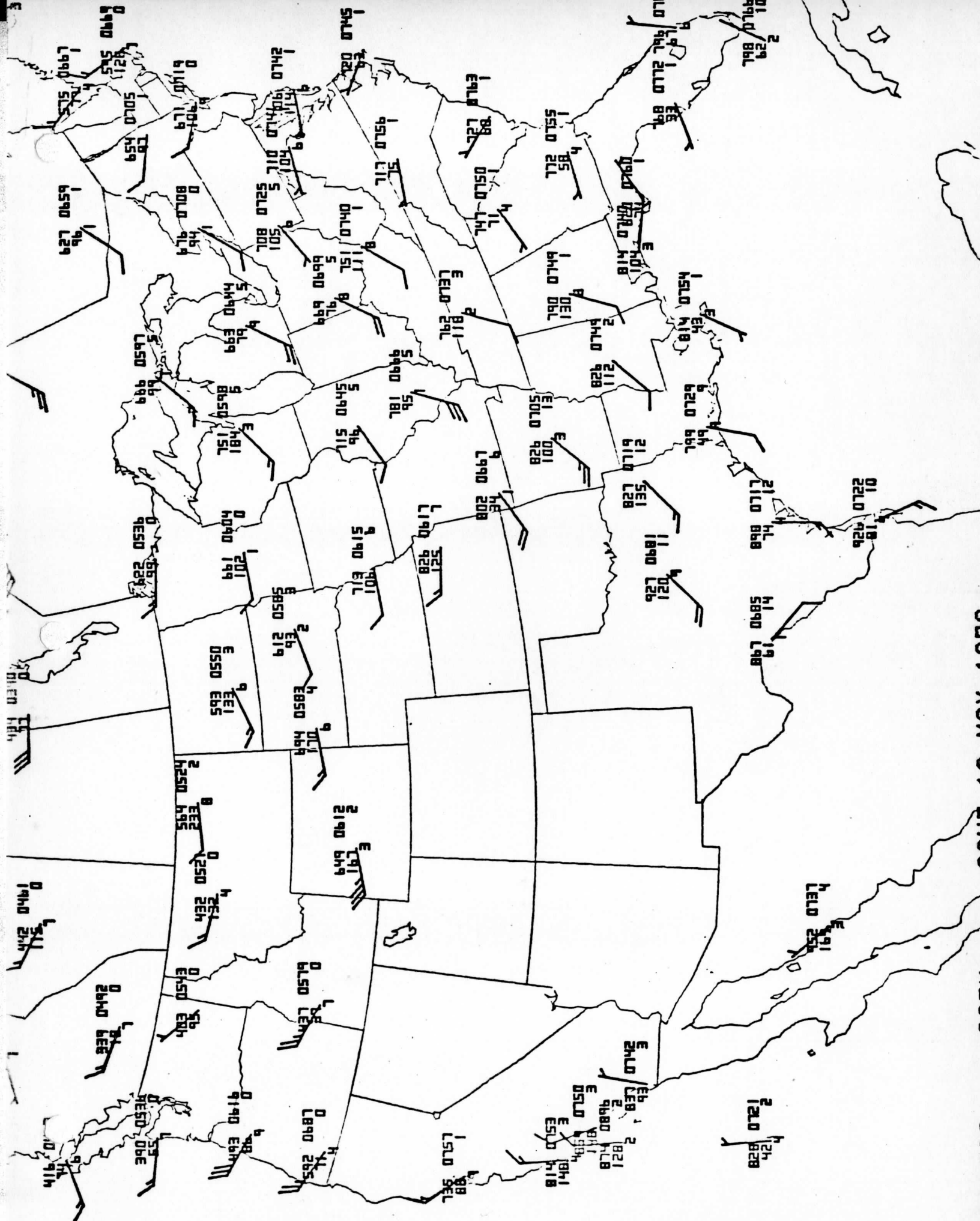


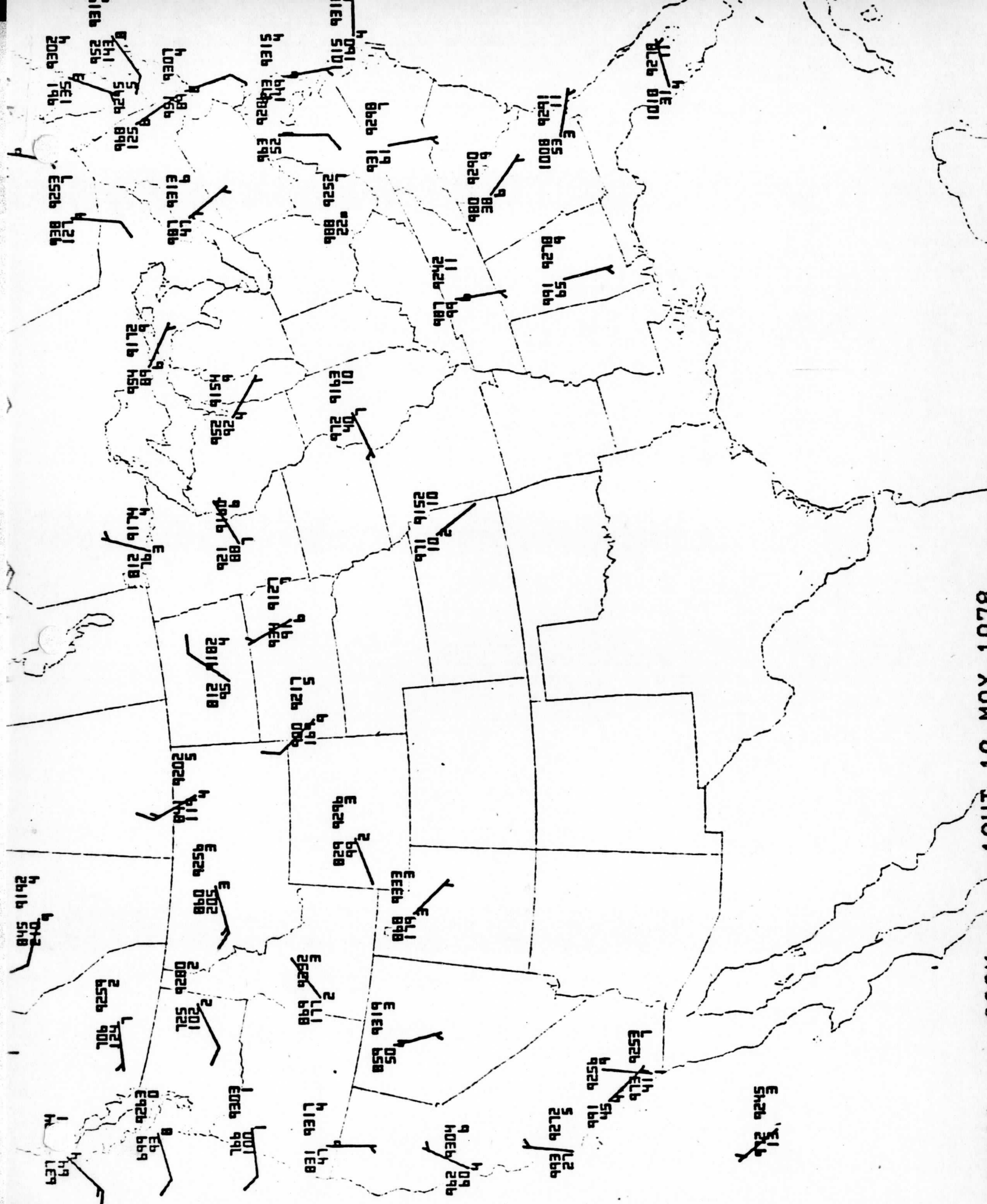
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0051

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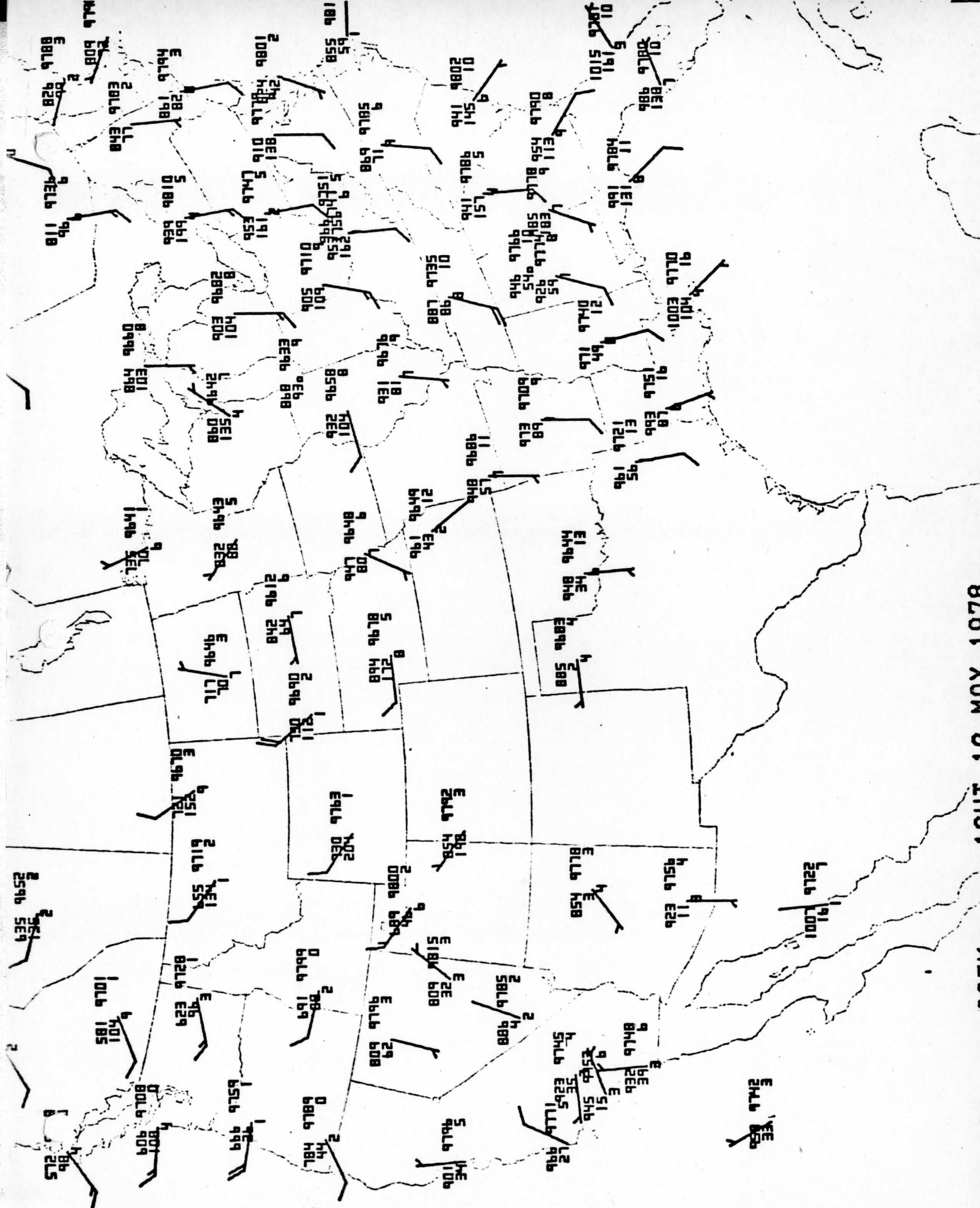






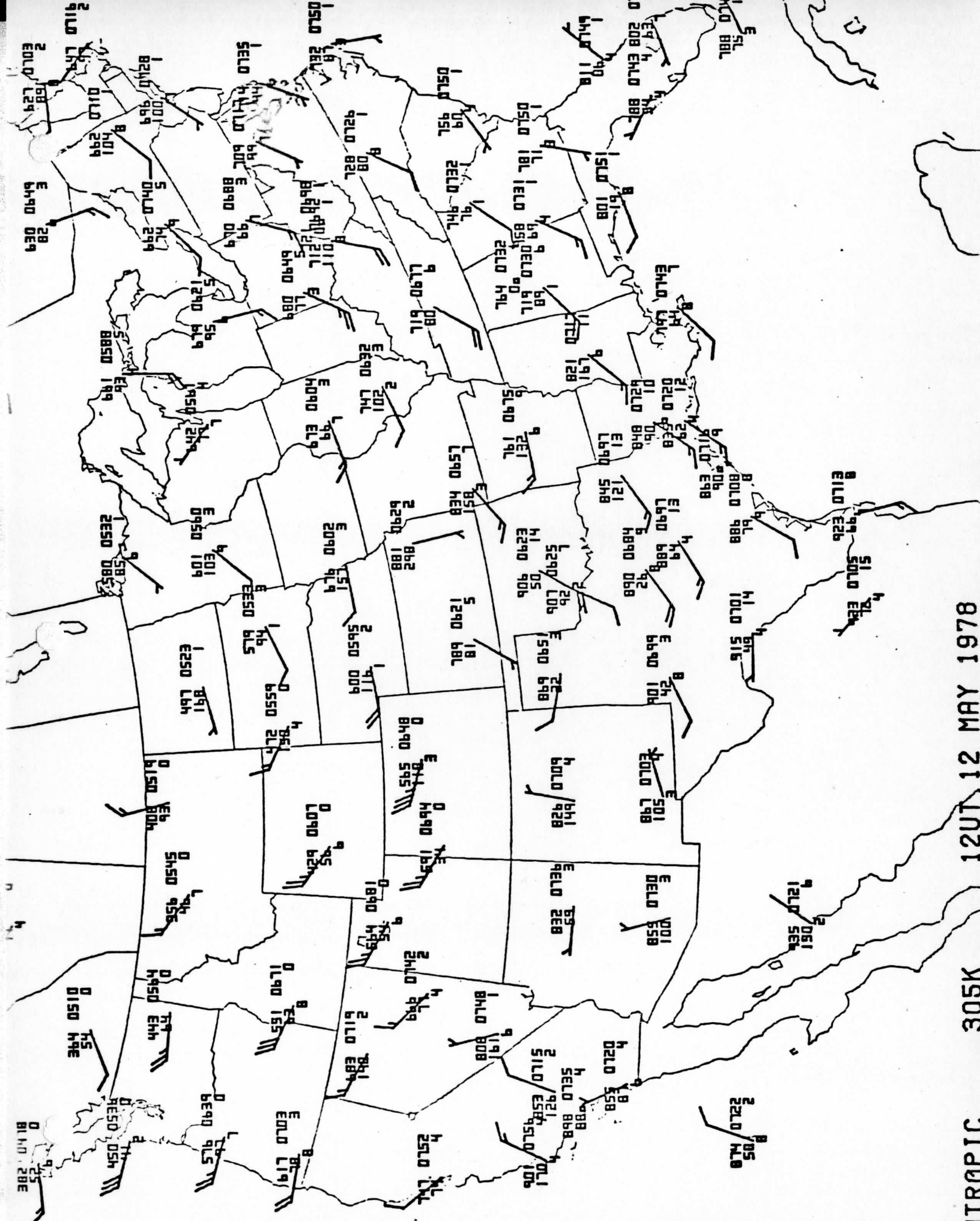
NOV 10 1978





PLAT 10 NOV 1078





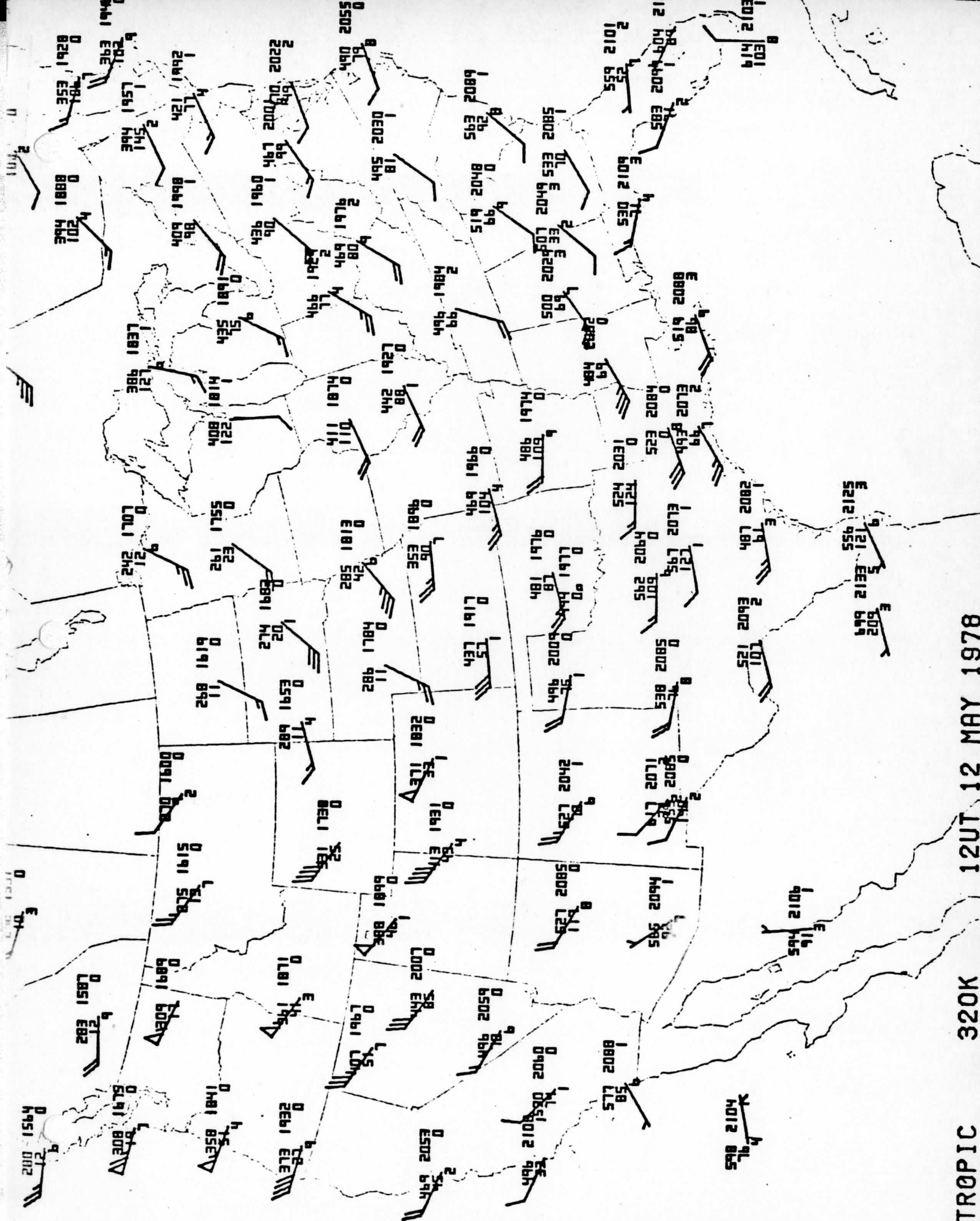
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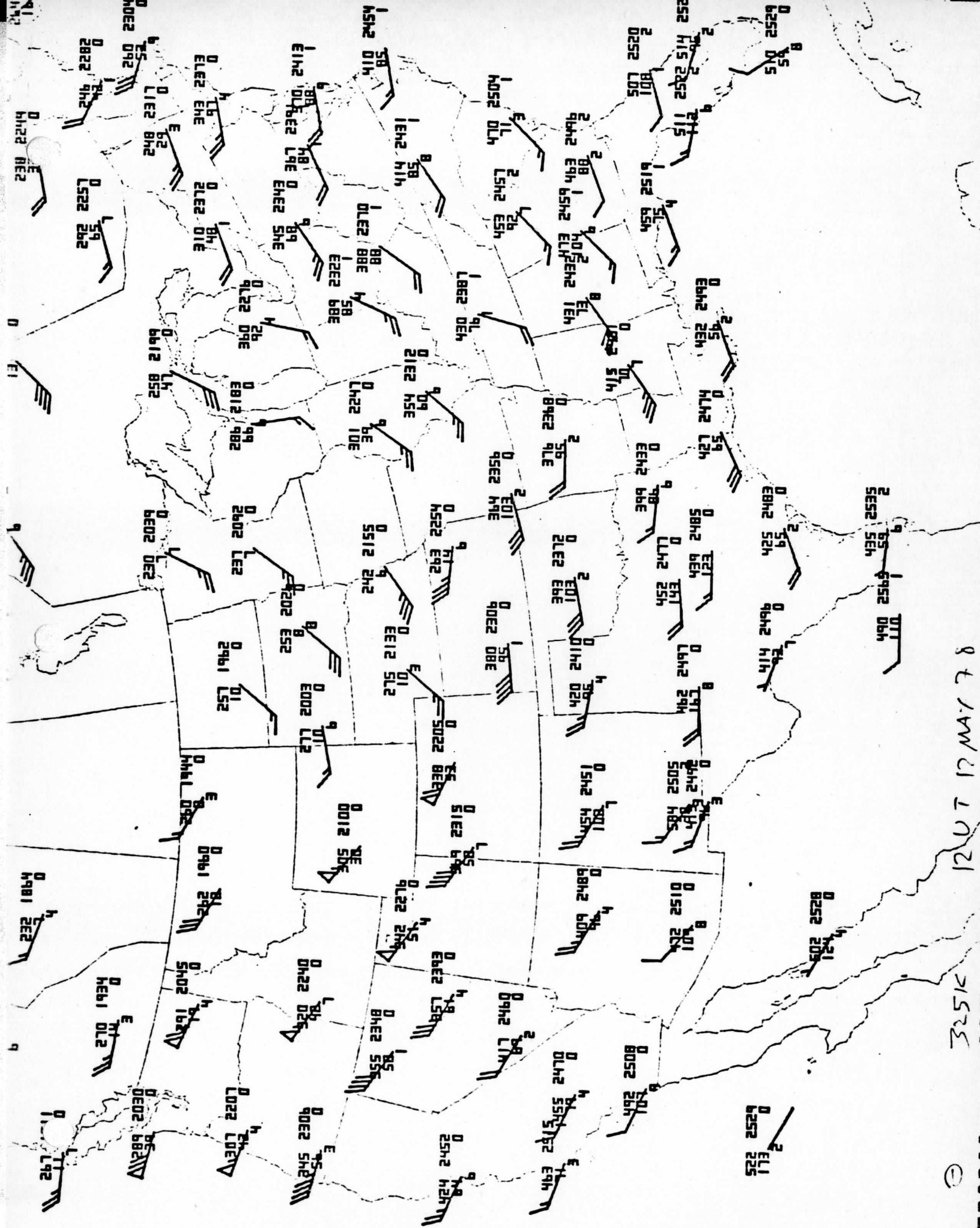
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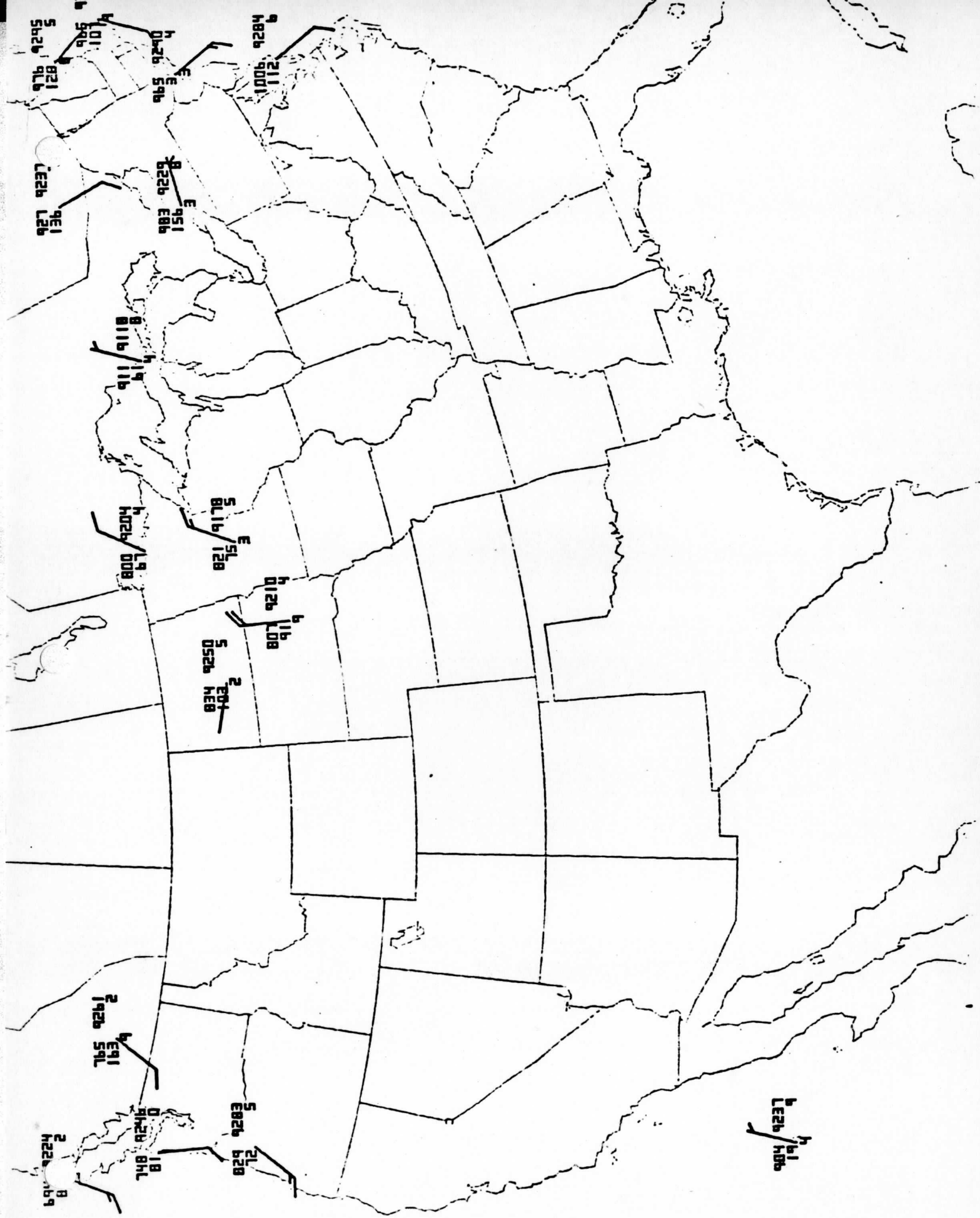
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1207 12 MAY 78

3251C

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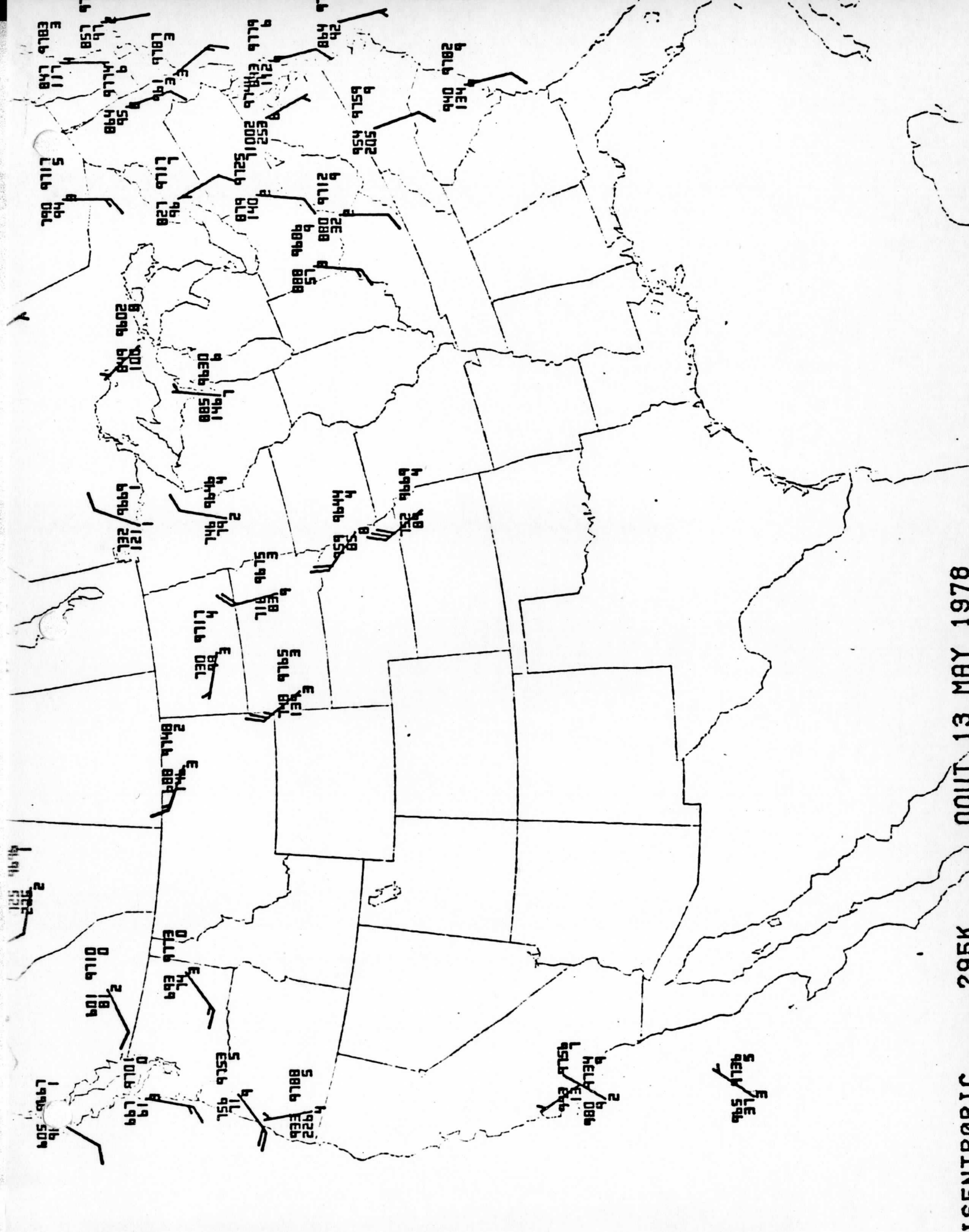


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200K



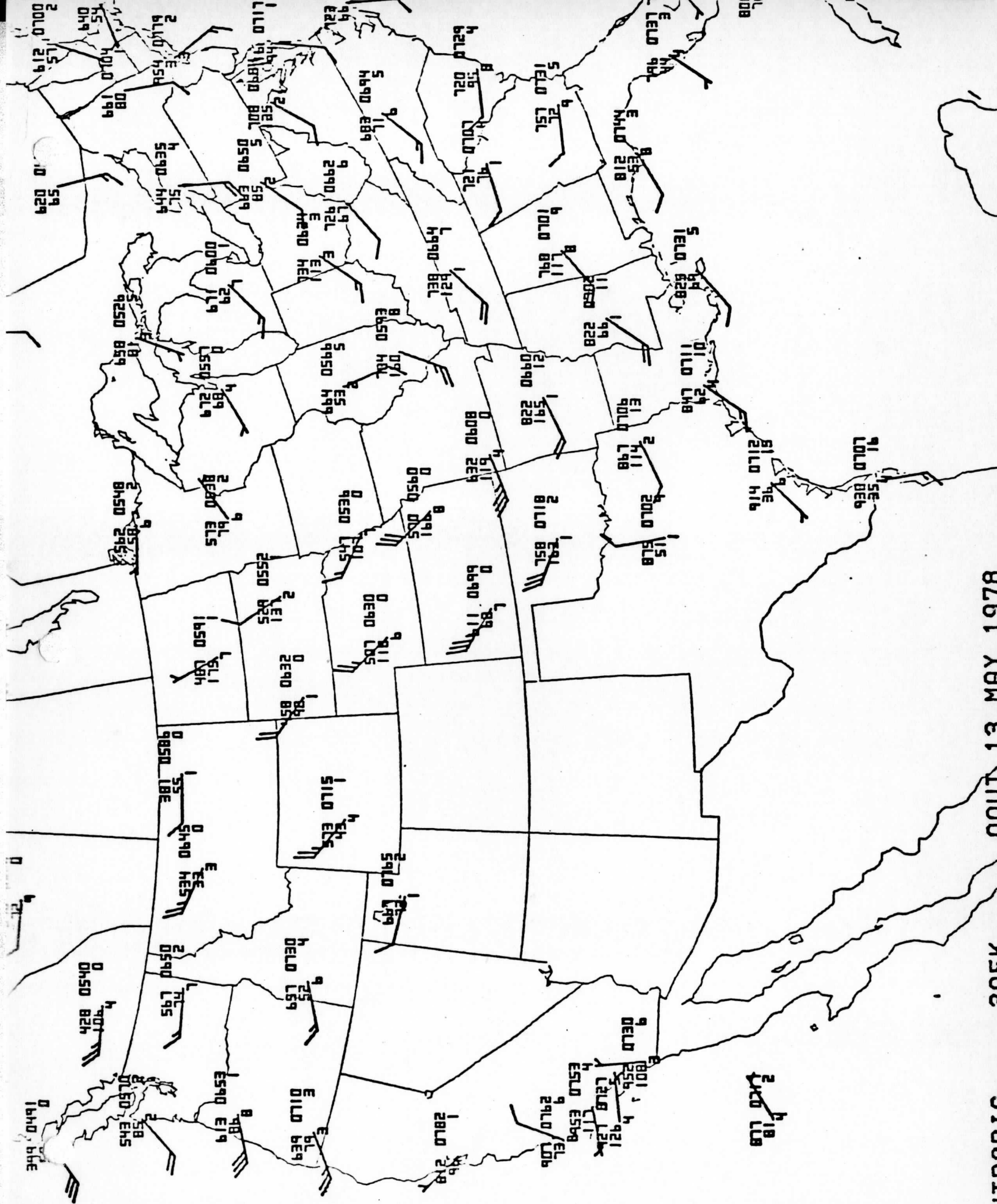


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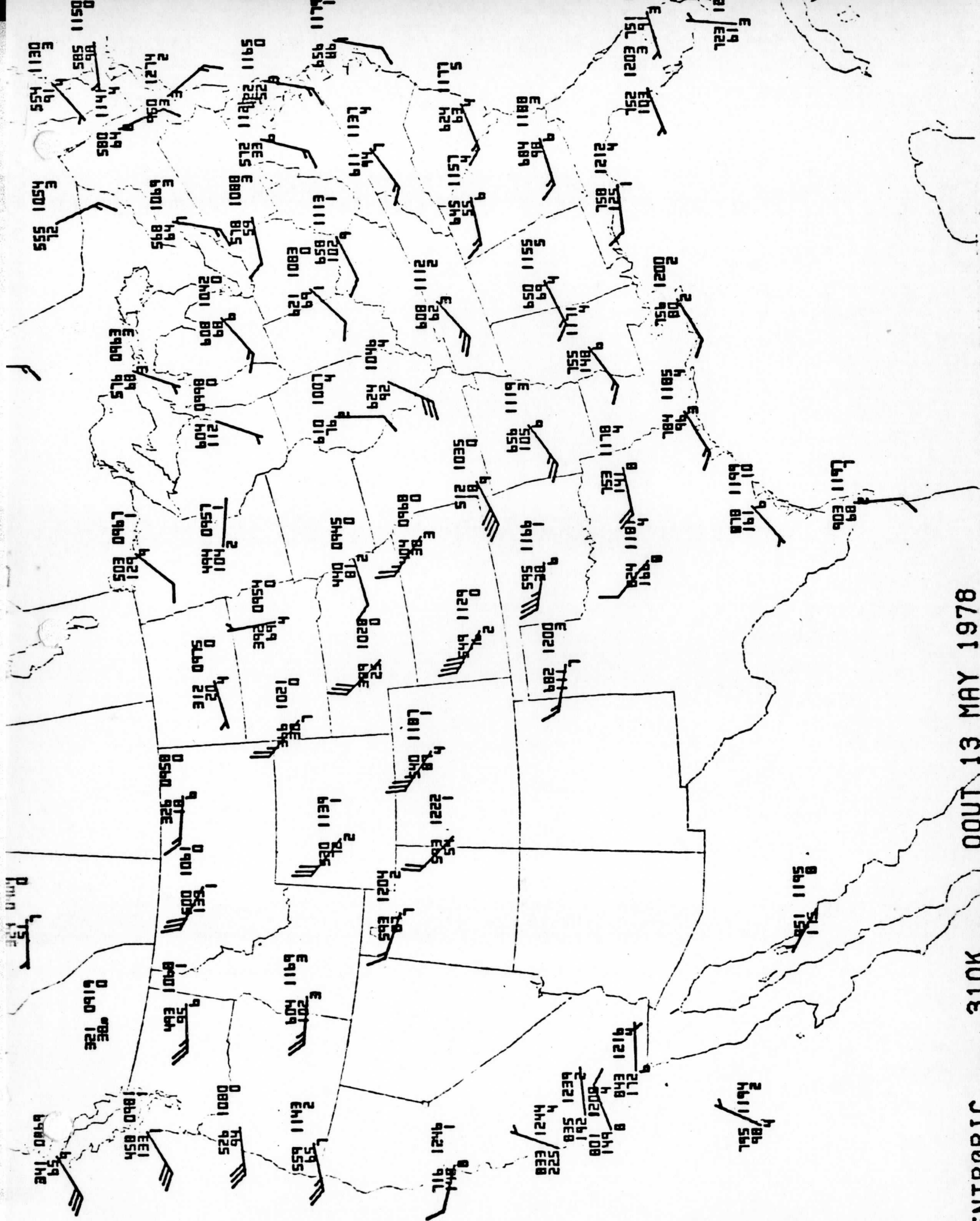




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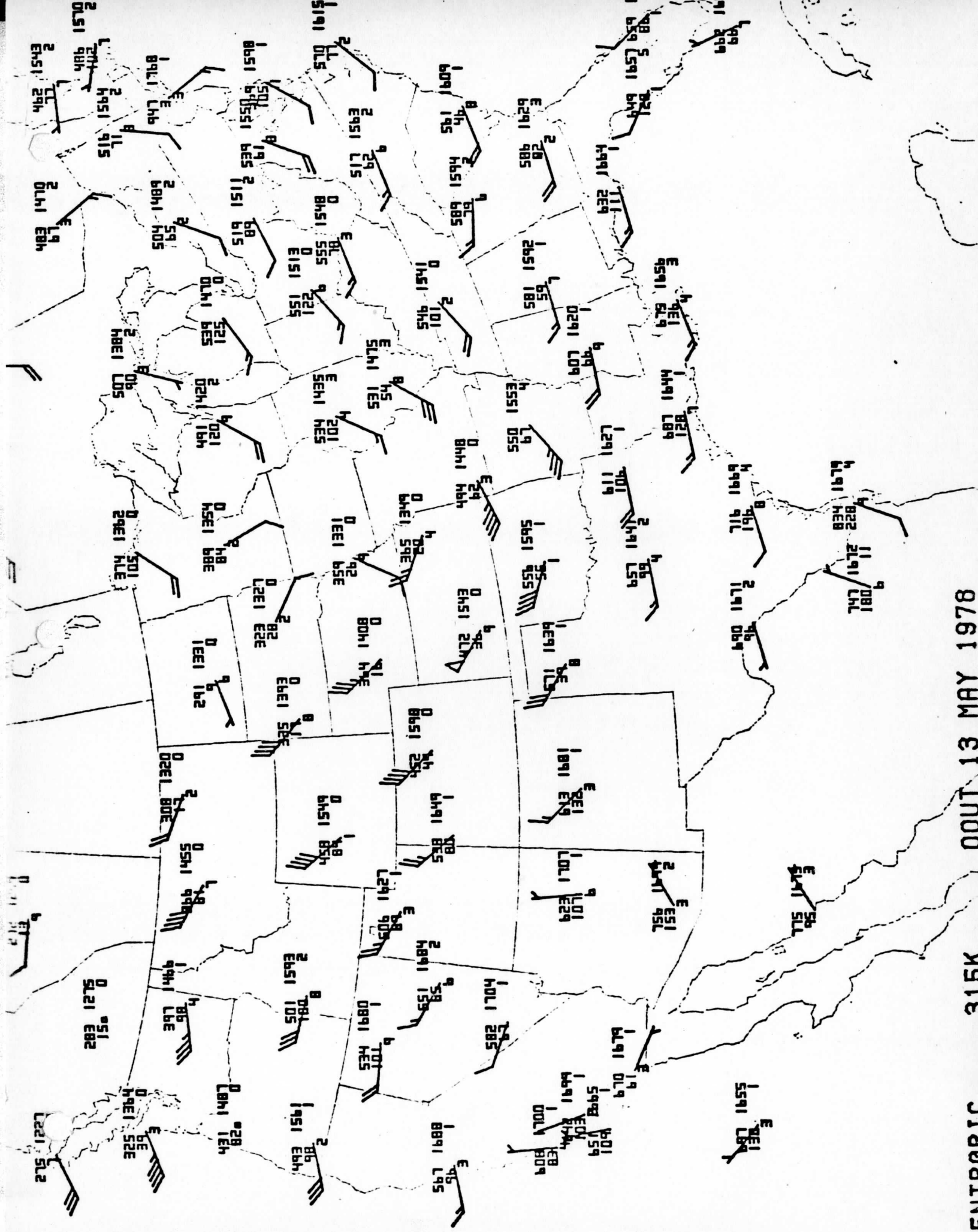
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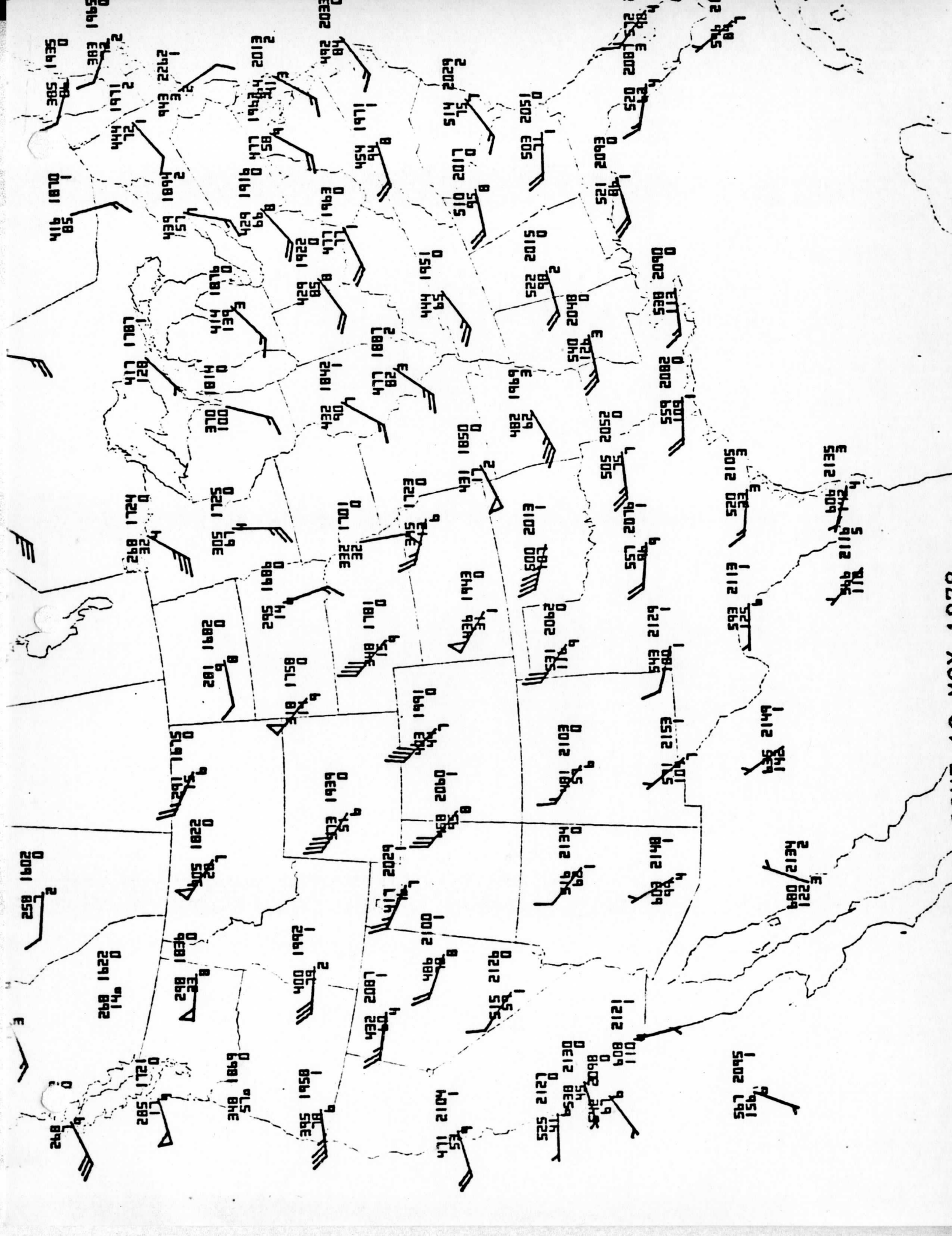
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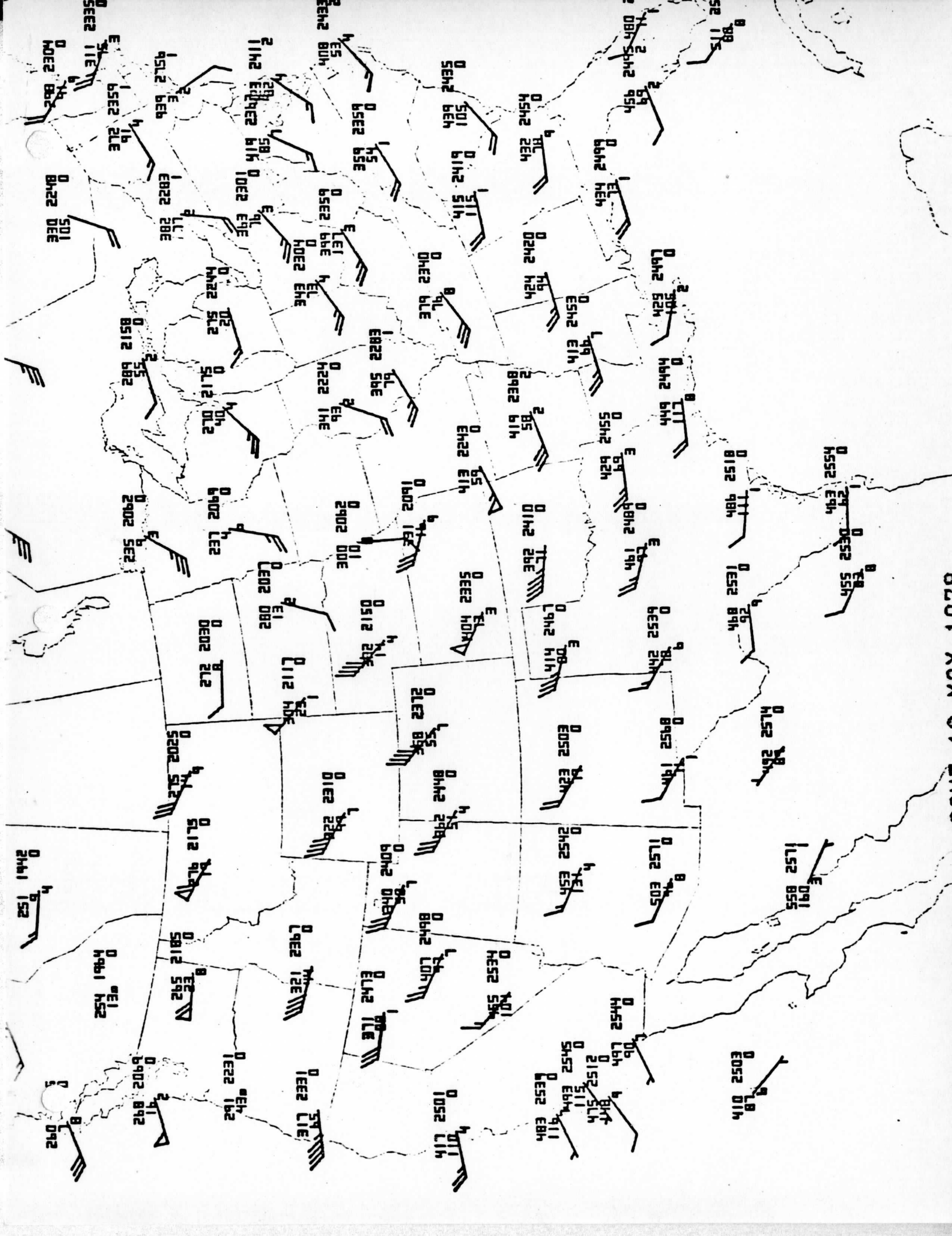


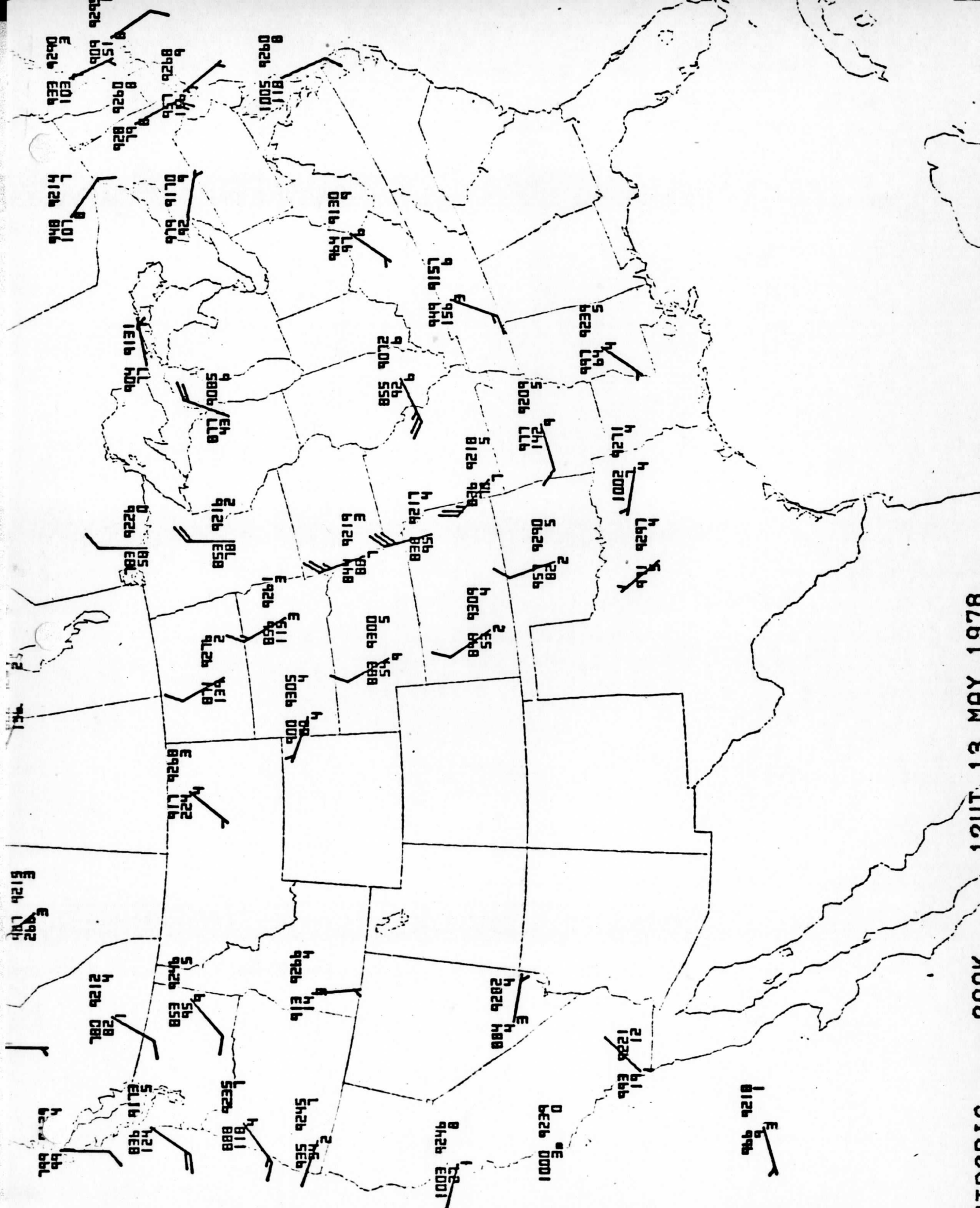
00UT 13 MAY 1978

315K

CENTROPIC





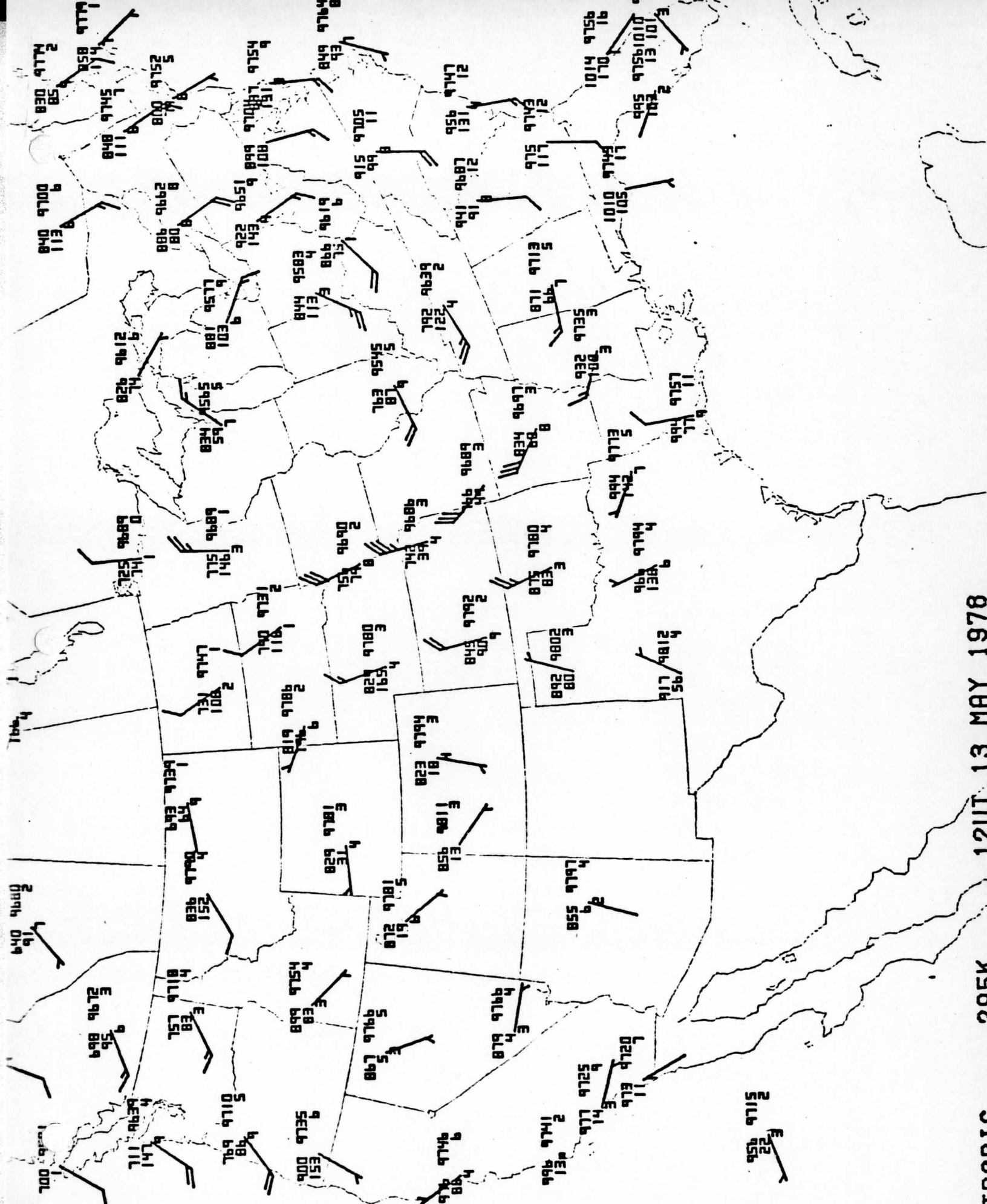


10111 13 MAY 1978

0000

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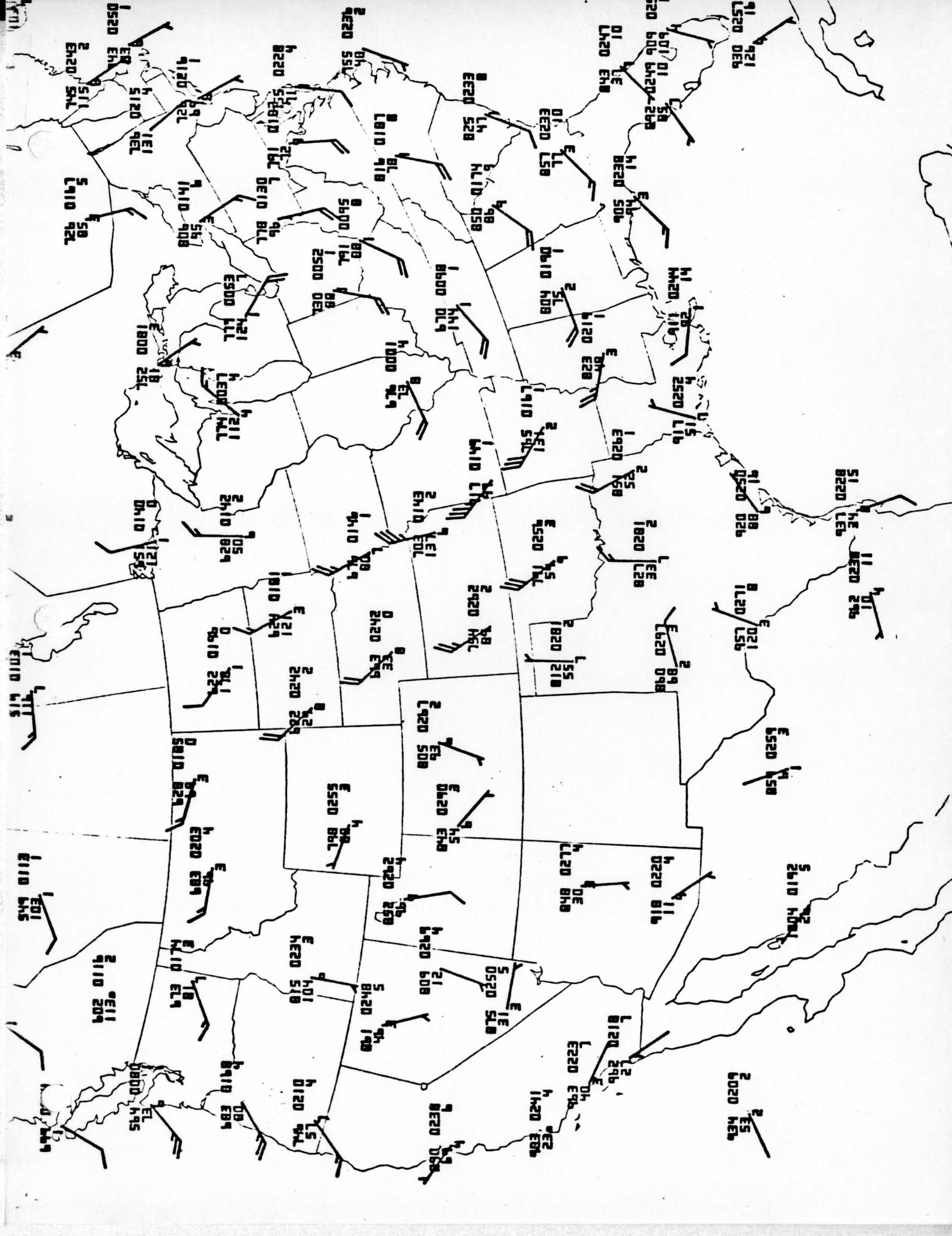


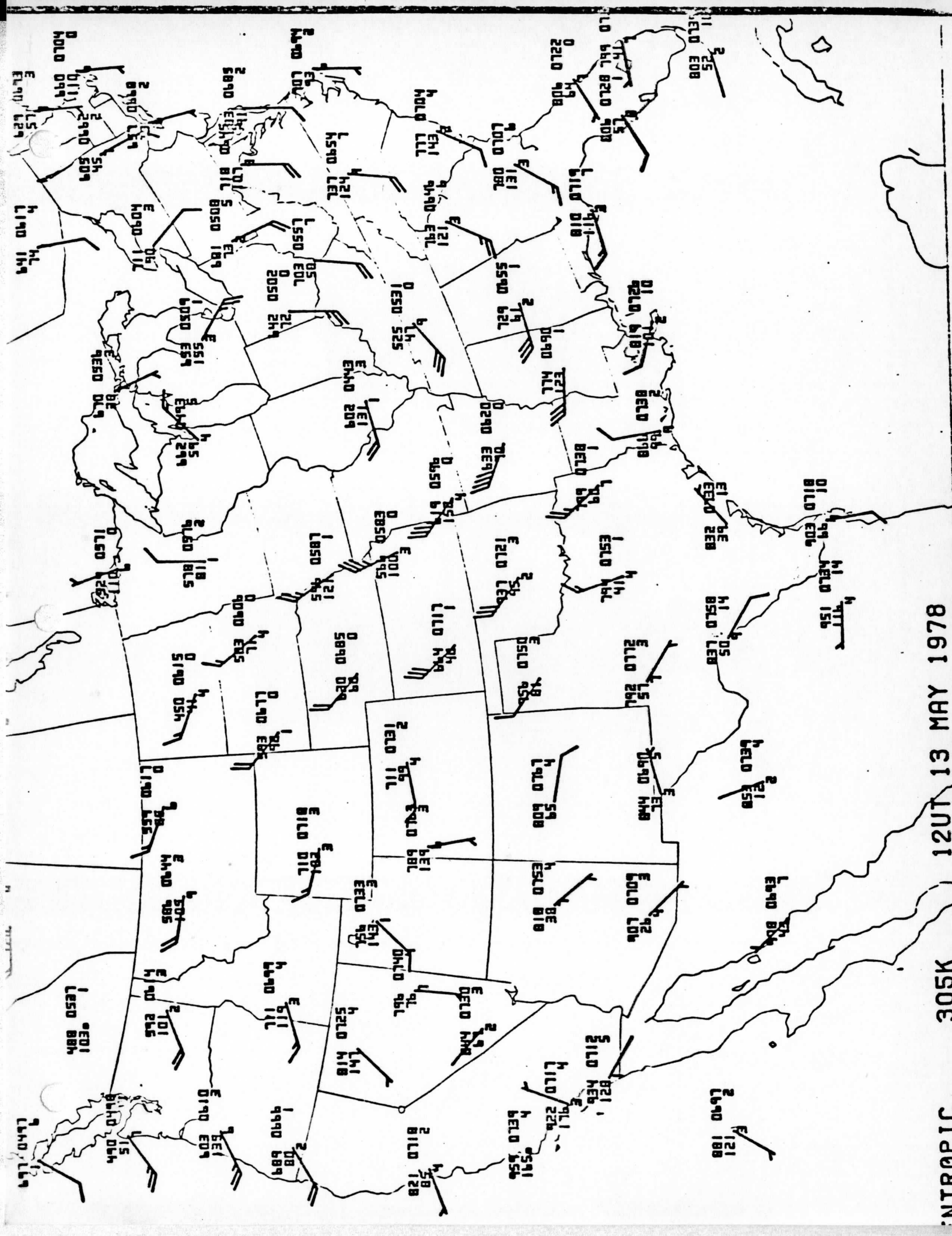


12111 13 MAY 1978

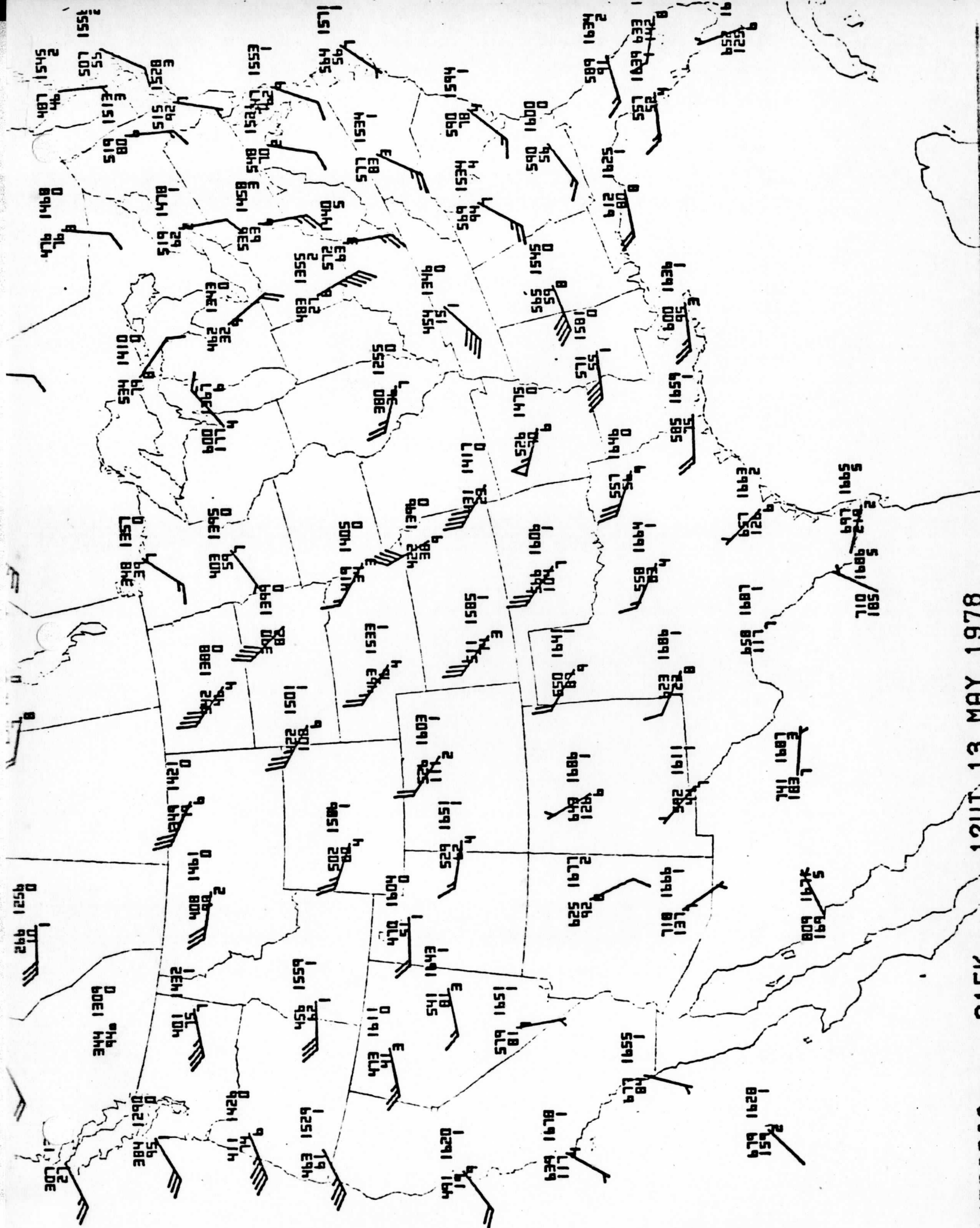
205K

205K

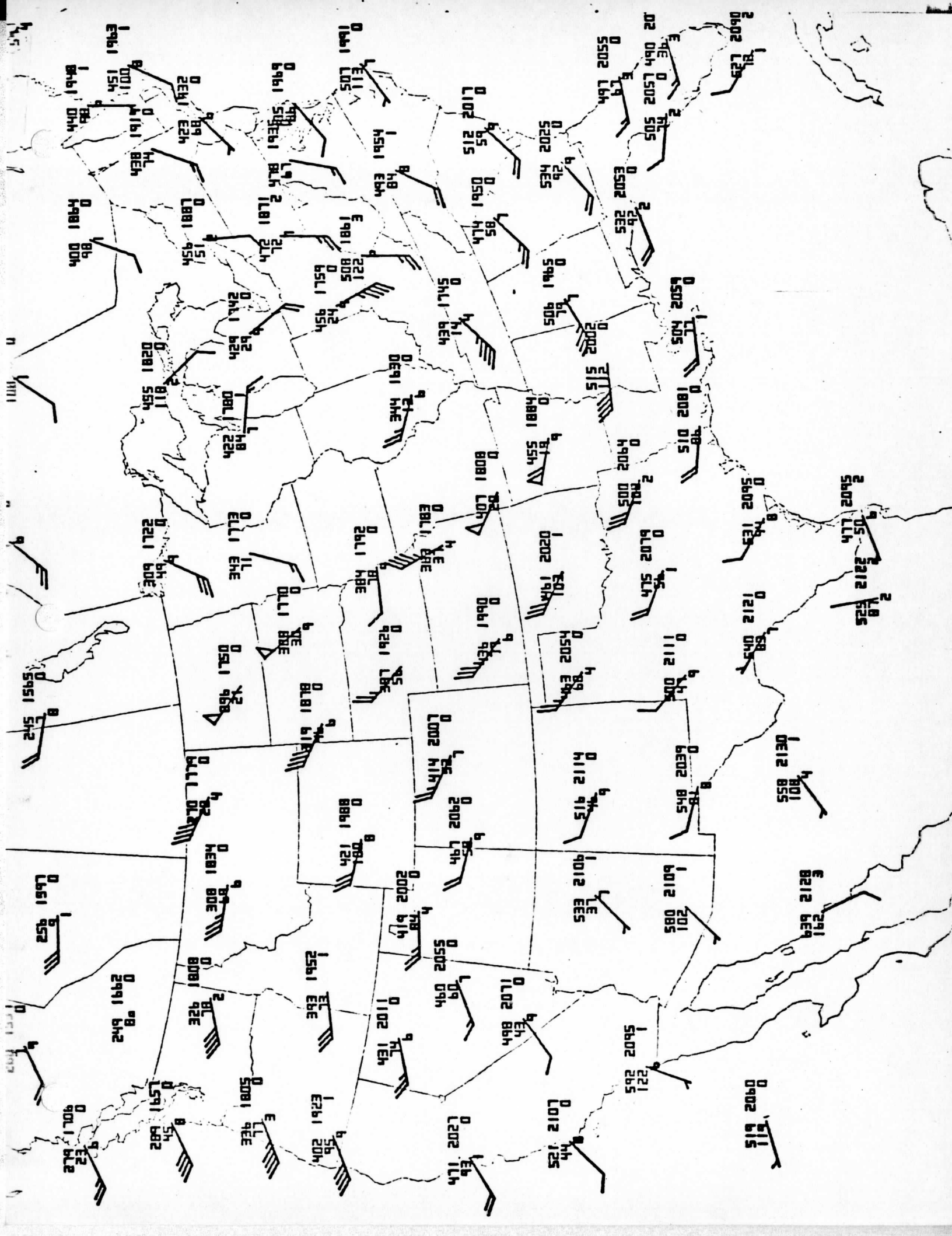


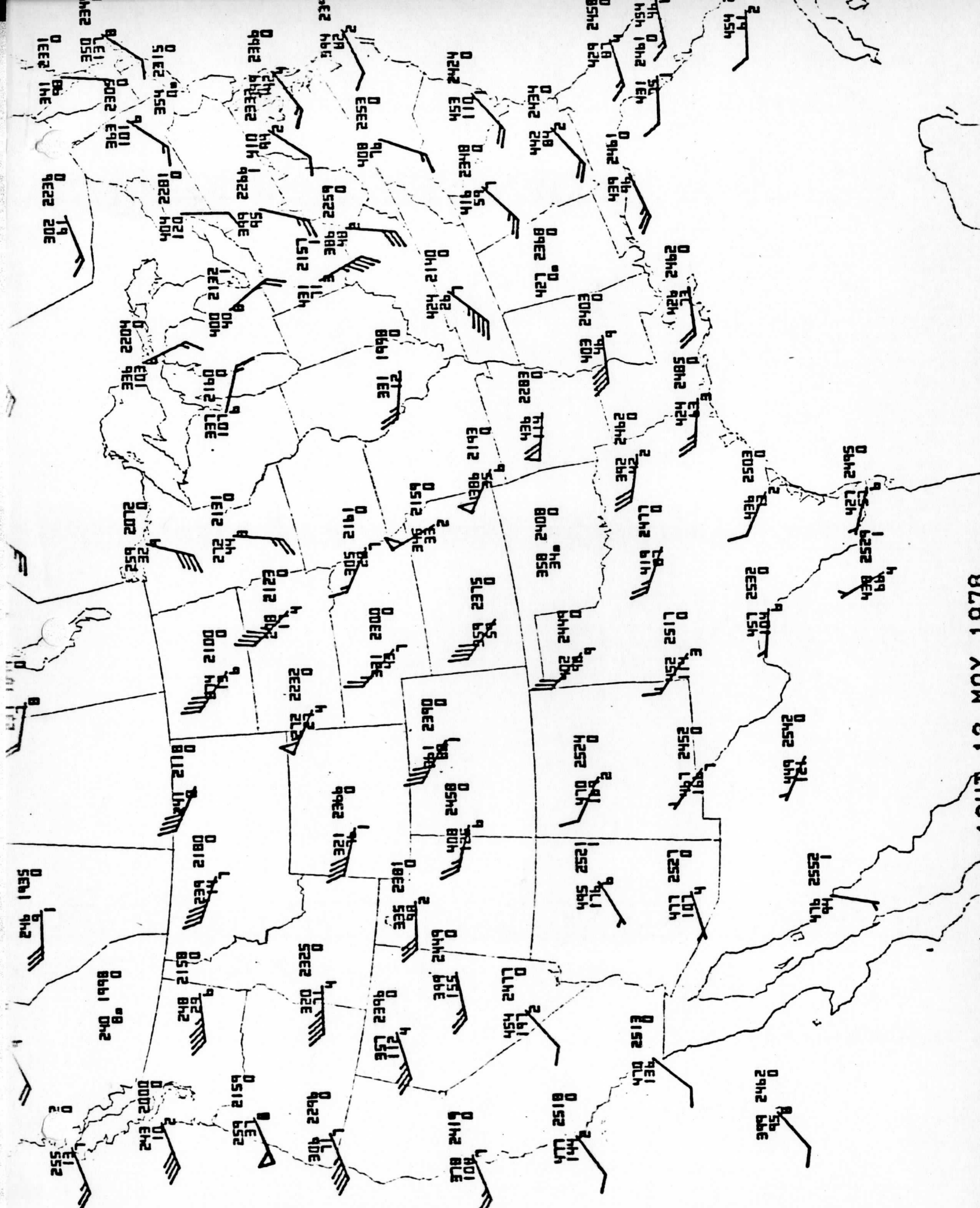




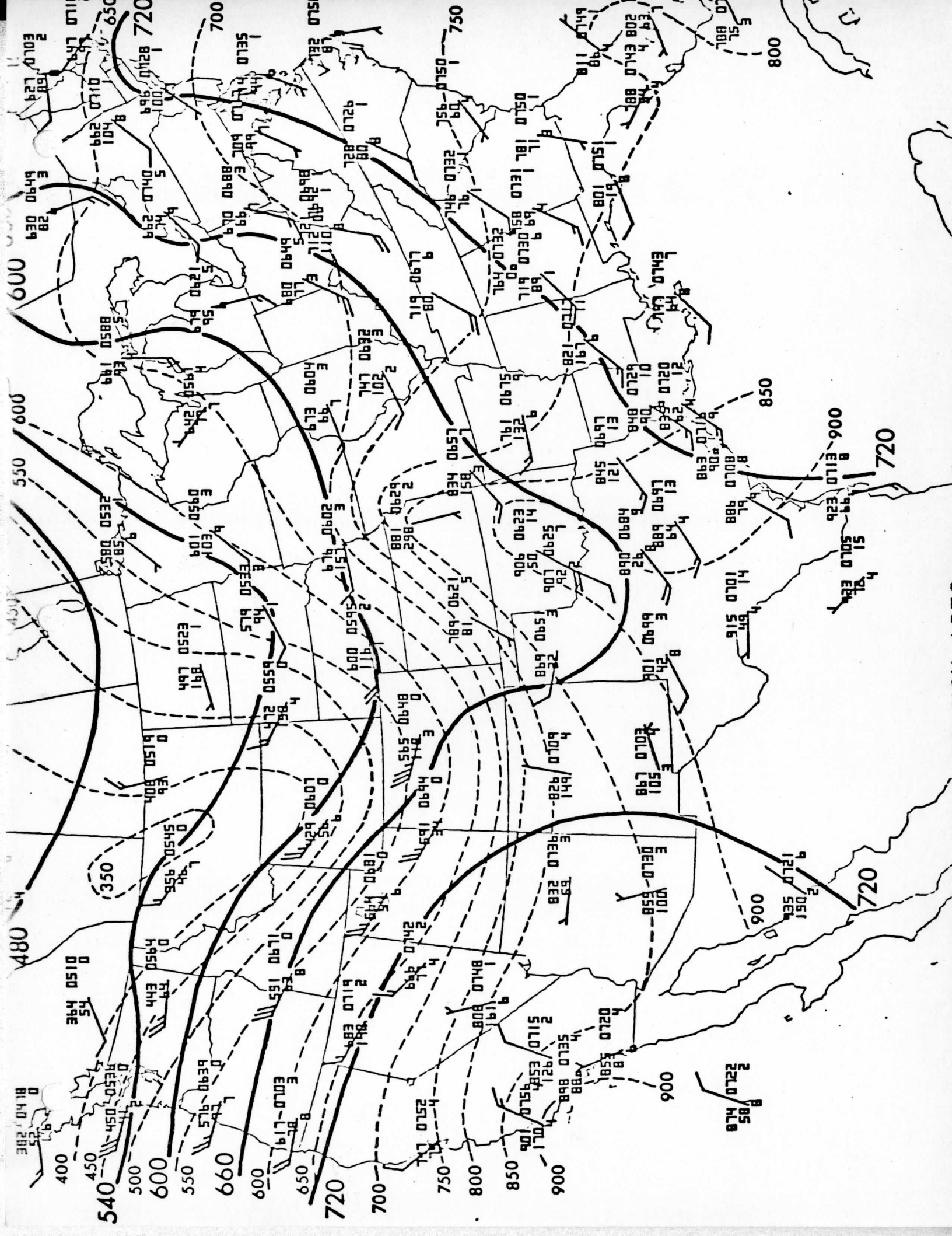


12111 13 MAY 1978

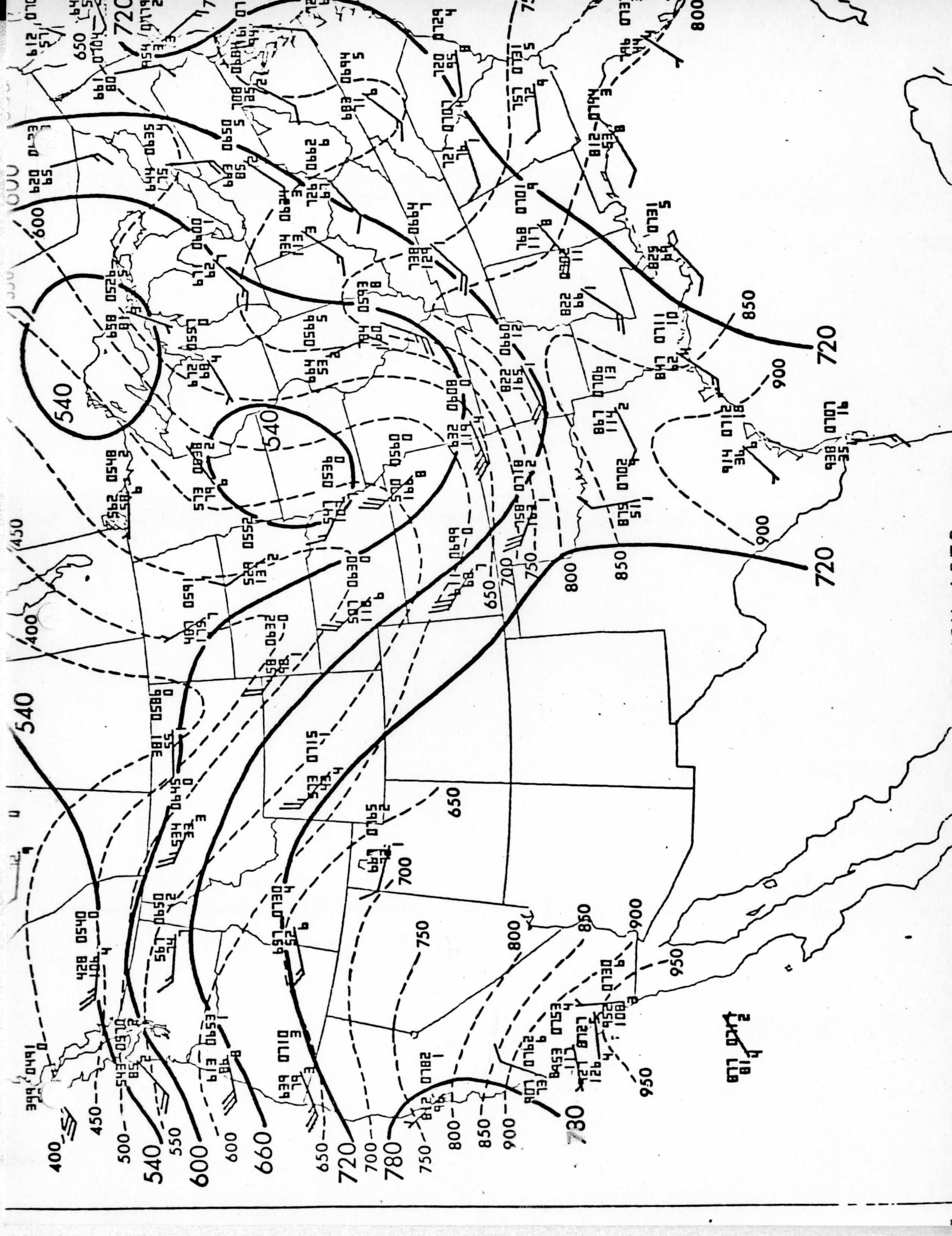


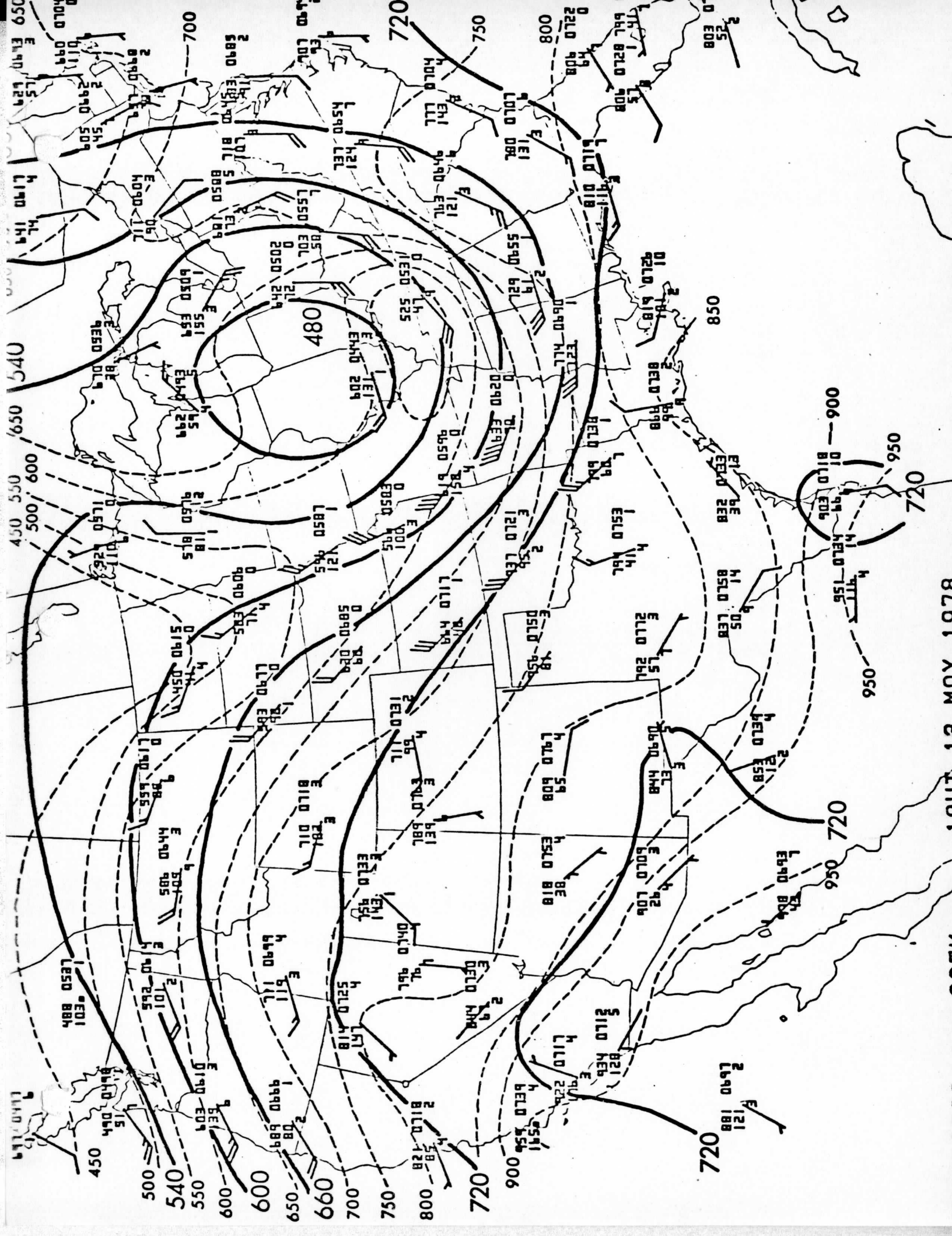


10 NOV 1978



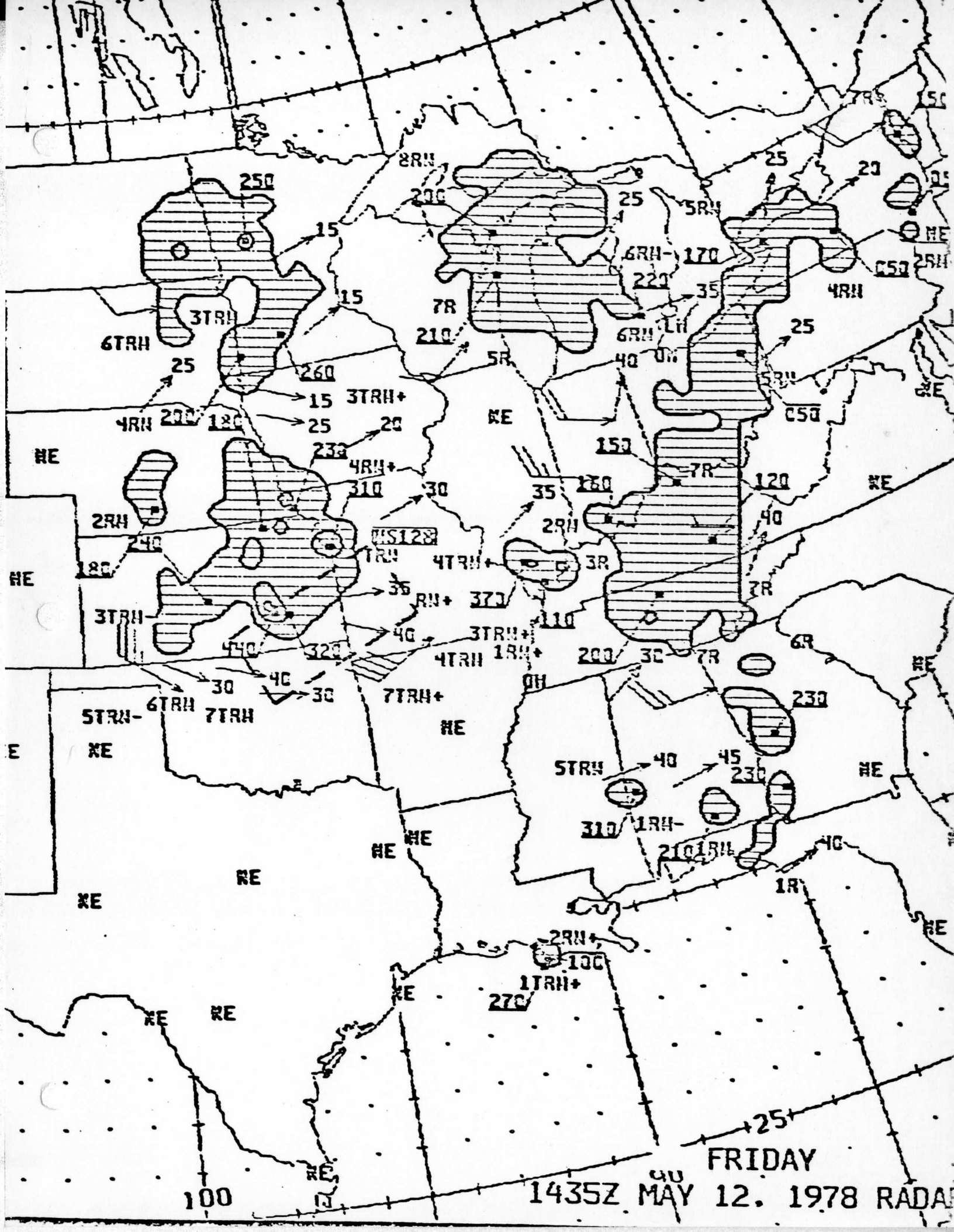






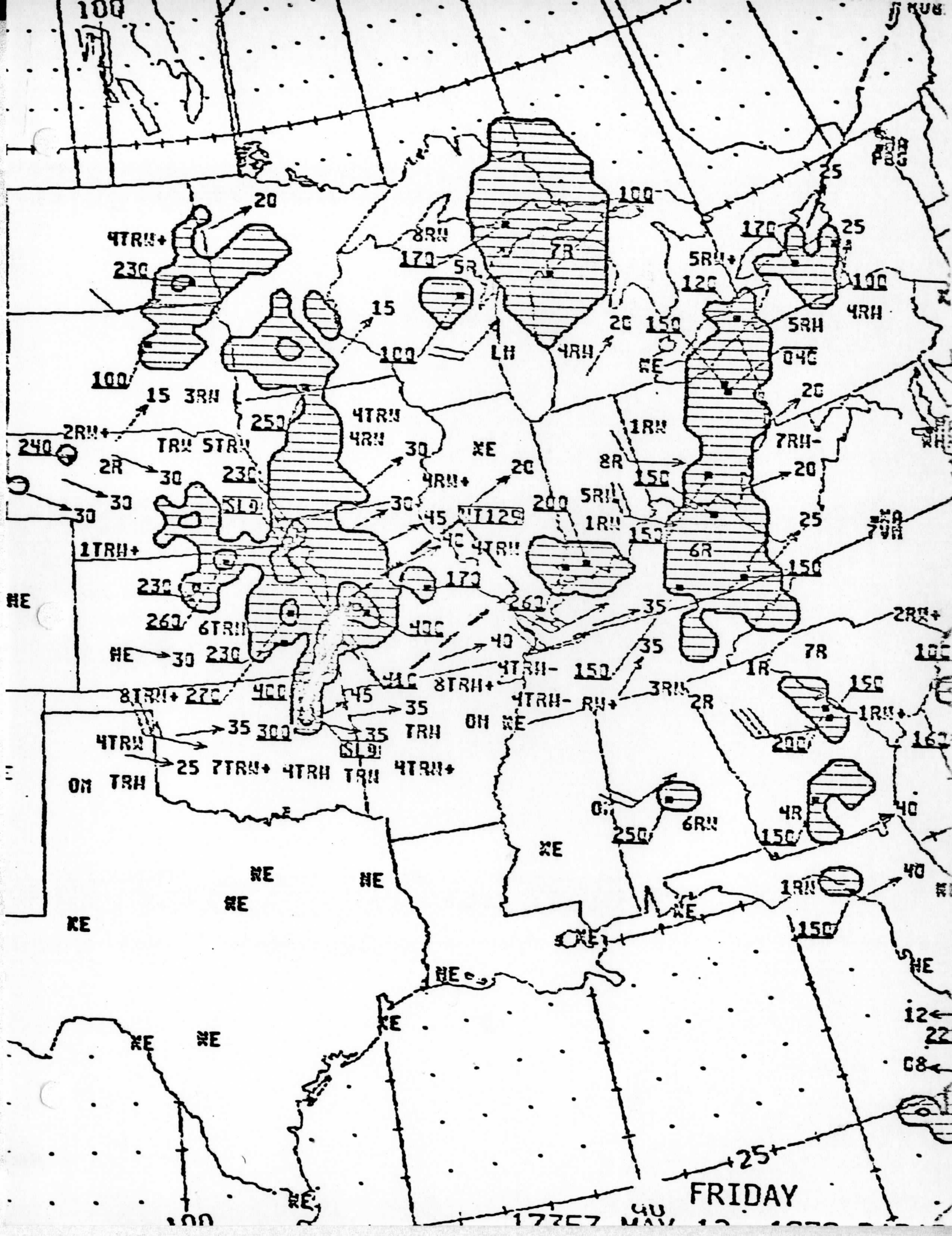
13 NOV 1978

D. RADAR CHARTS



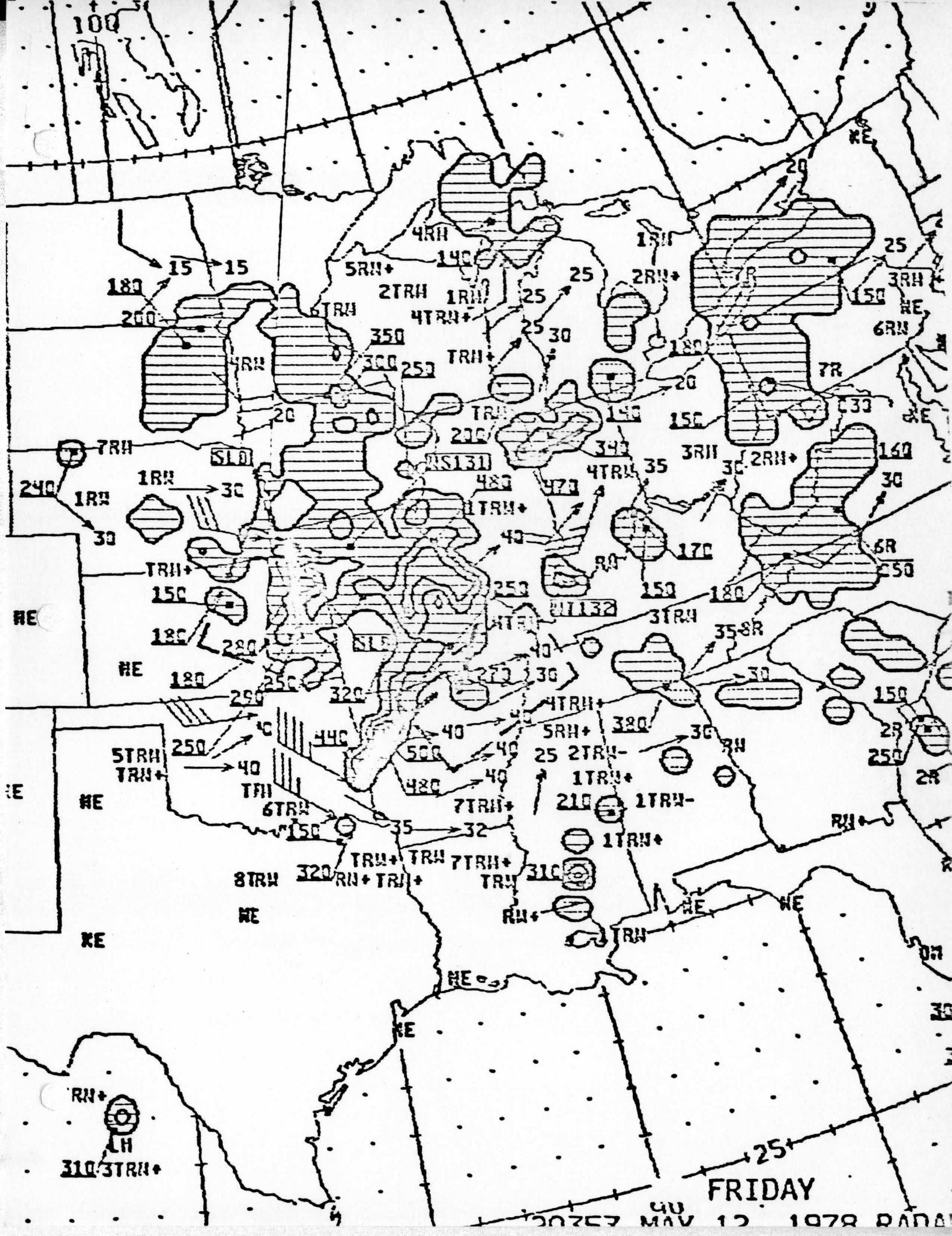
FRIDAY

1435Z MAY 12, 1978 RADAR



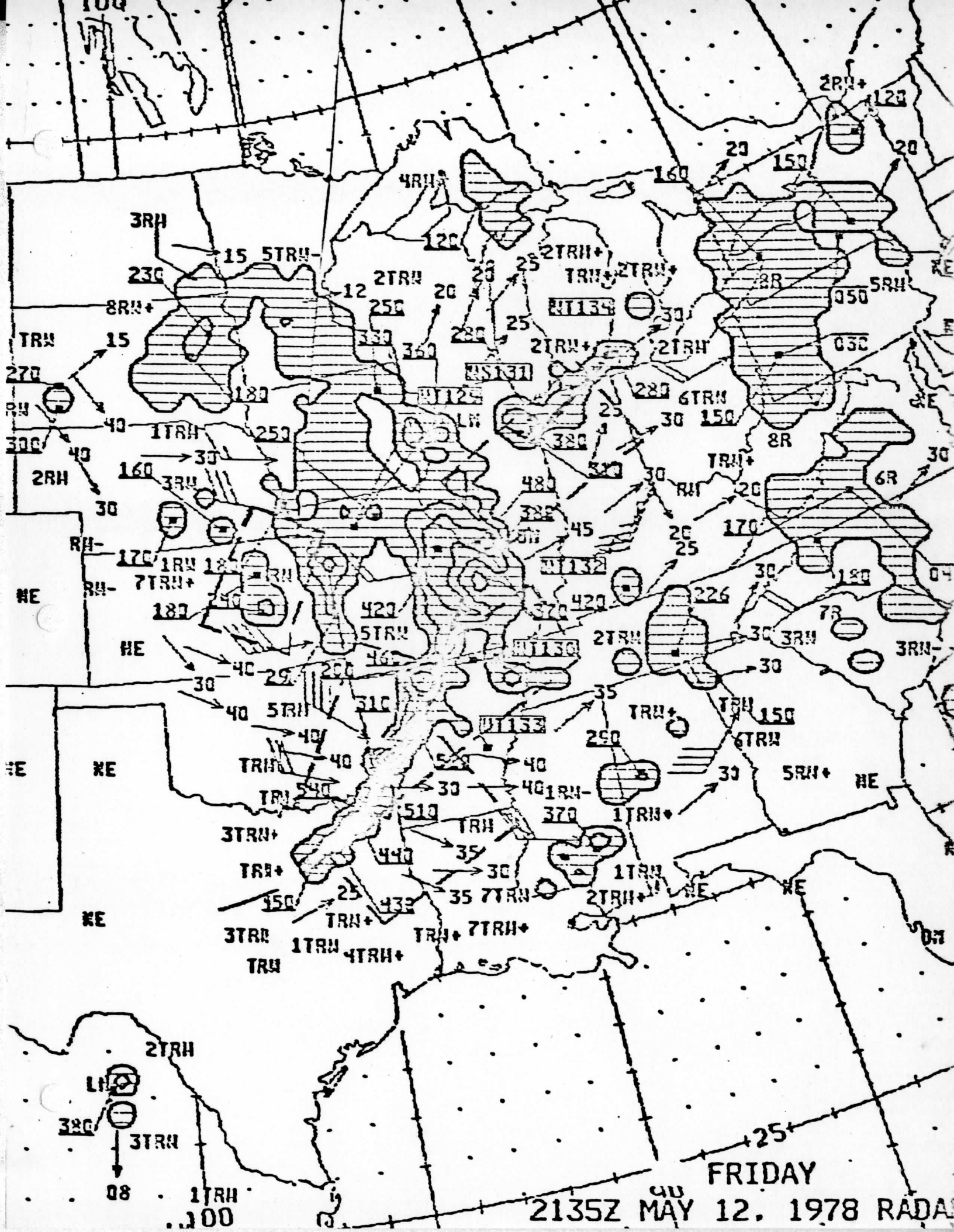
FRIDAY

17757



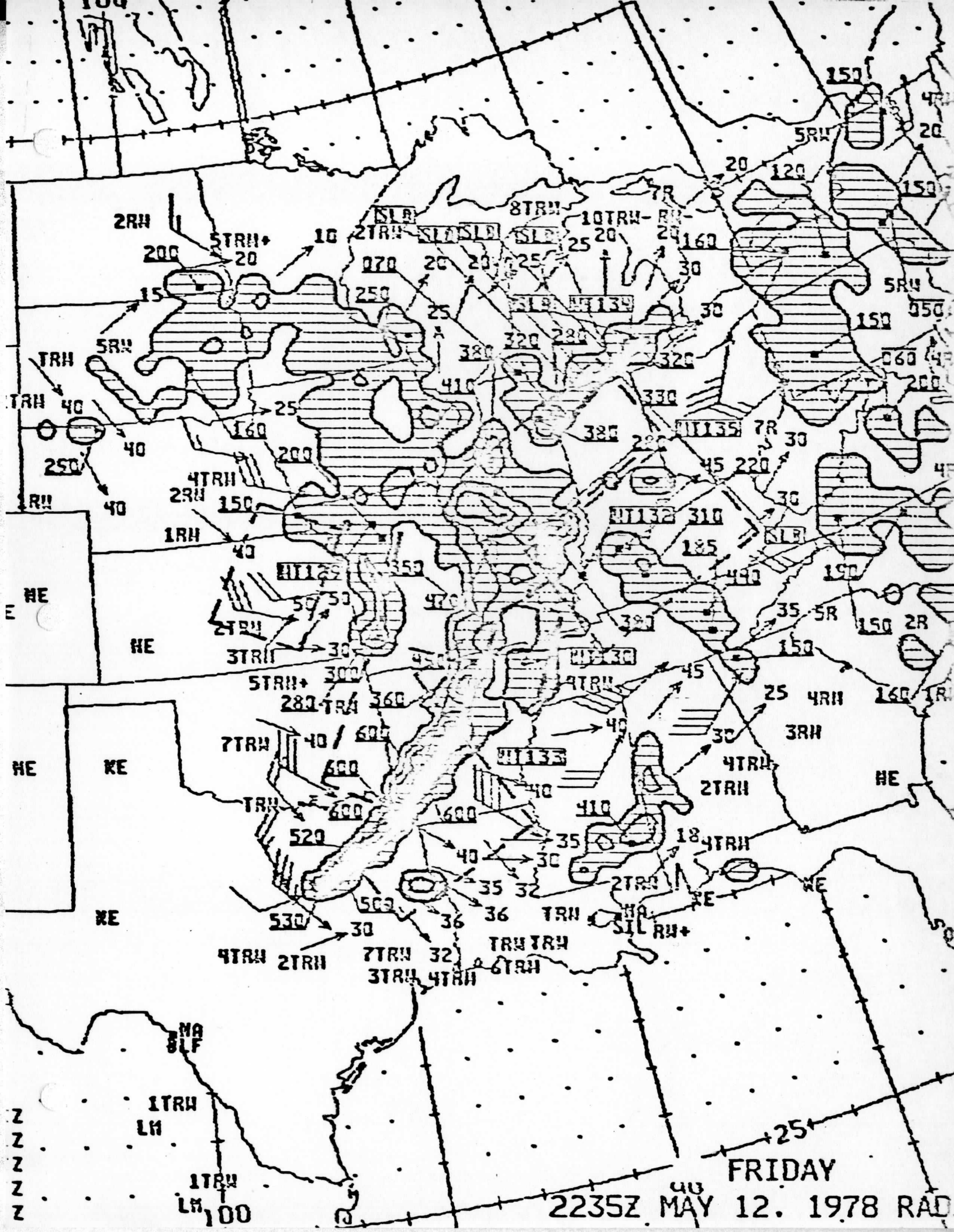
FRIDAY

20757 MAY 12 1978 PANDA



FRIDAY

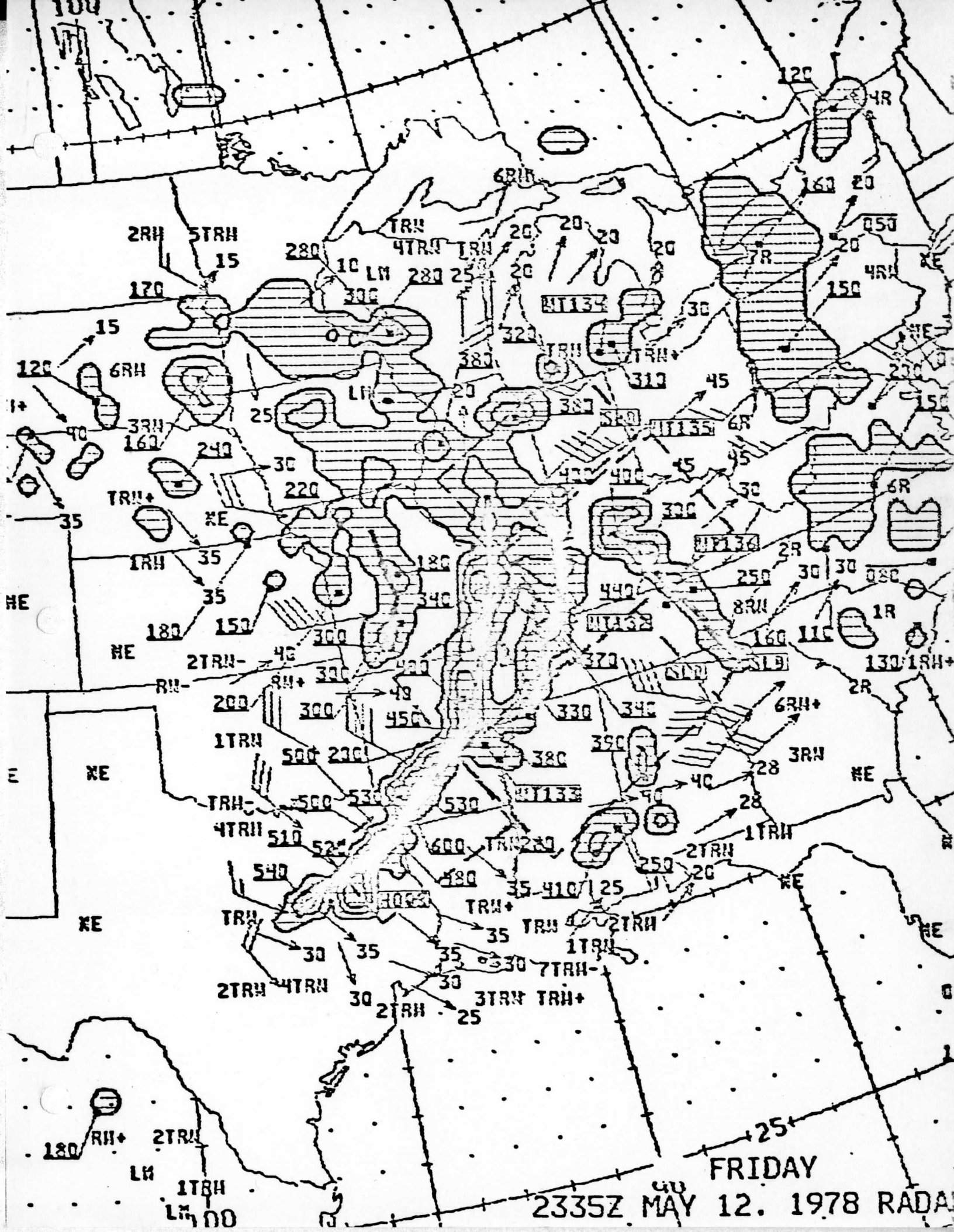
2135Z MAY 12, 1978 RADA



FRIDAY

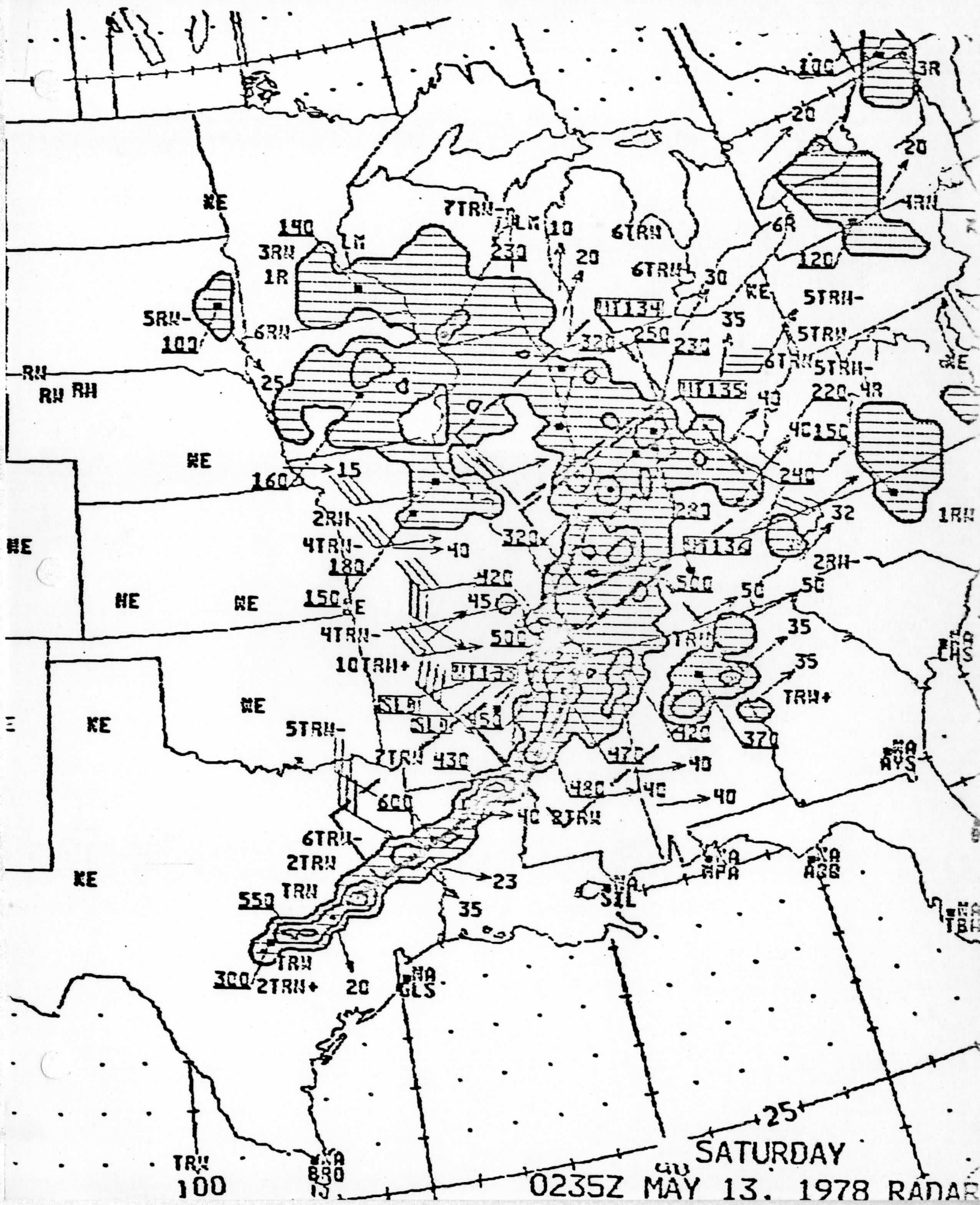
2235Z MAY 12, 1978 RAD





FRIDAY

2335Z MAY 12. 1978 RADA



APPENDIX B

VIDEO TAPE EVALUATION

VIDEOTAPE QUESTIONNAIRE

Instructions:

This evaluation is intended to judge the effectiveness of the videotape as a teaching tool for synoptic lab instruction. Your answers to the following questions, and any additional comments you may have, will help to determine if the videotape meets this goal or if changes are necessary. When answering the following questions, please write a short response in the space provided below the question. Please write legibly.

Thank you.

- 1) Do you feel that the videotape presents the material in a logical manner?
  
- 2) Is the pace of the videotape too fast or too slow?
  
- 3) Were the satellite images and derived fields shown long enough for you to pick out the important features?
  
- 4) If given a choice, should the videotape proceed through the various scenes rapidly with the option of reviewing certain features later, or should the scenes change at a much slower pace?
  
- 5) Was the visual quality of the videotape acceptable?  
If not, what areas could be improved?
  
- 6) Did the voice narration add or detract from the visual presentation?

- 7) Are there any synoptic fields or features that should be added to the videotape?
  
- 8) Are there any aspects of the videotape that could be deleted?
  
- 9) Was the videotape of any educational value to you?
  
- 10) If you were teaching synoptic lab, would you use this videotape in your class?
  
- 11) Did the videotape help you to visualize the processes that occur in the atmosphere for the synoptic situation examined?
  
- 12) Any additional comments?

THE RESULTS OF THE VIDEOTAPE QUESTIONNAIRE

There were 17 questionnaires returned. The comments were summarized where the question was answered by a written response.

Squall Line Development

Cyclogenesis

1) Do you feel that the videotape presents the material in a logical manner?

|           |    |    |
|-----------|----|----|
| YES       | 12 | 10 |
| NO        | 0  | 0  |
| NO ANSWER | 5  | 7  |

2) Is the pace of the videotape too fast or too slow?

|                   |   |    |
|-------------------|---|----|
| MUCH TOO FAST     | 0 | 0  |
| A LITTLE TOO FAST | 9 | 4  |
| ABOUT RIGHT       | 6 | 11 |
| A LITTLE TOO SLOW | 1 | 2  |
| MUCH TOO SLOW     | 0 | 0  |
| NO ANSWER         | 0 | 0  |

3) Were the satellite images and derived fields shown long enough for you to pick out the important features? Please check one.

|                  |   |   |
|------------------|---|---|
| YES              | 3 | 4 |
| MOST OF THE TIME | 7 | 9 |
| SOMETIMES        | 5 | 4 |
| NO               | 2 | 0 |
| NO ANSWER        | 0 | 0 |

If NO or sometimes, what sequences were too brief?

Upper air maps and soundings  
too fast.

Upper air  
streamlines.

Squall Line DevelopmentCyclogenesis

- 4) If given a choice, should the videotape proceed through the various scenes rapidly with the option of playing back certain features later, or should the scenes change at a much slower pace?

|             |    |   |
|-------------|----|---|
| QUICK PACE  | 3  | 4 |
| SLOWER PACE | 10 | 9 |
| OTHER       | 3  | 3 |
| NO ANSWER   | 1  | 1 |

- 5) Was the visual quality of the videotape acceptable?

If not, what areas could be improved?

|           |    |   |
|-----------|----|---|
| YES       | 11 | 7 |
| NO        | 1  | 2 |
| COMMENT   | 5  | 8 |
| NO ANSWER | 0  | 0 |

Numbers are hard to read.  
Red is very poor color.  
Green "interval" hard to read.

Isotachs were poor.  
Poor quality red  
lines and banding.  
Numbers hard to  
read.  
Better time  
continuity.

- 6) Would a written study guide or a voice presentation of the videotape enhance your understanding of the visual presentation?

If yes, which one?

|                       |    |    |
|-----------------------|----|----|
| YES                   | 14 | 8  |
| NO                    | 1  | 2  |
| COMMENT               | 1  | 6  |
| NO ANSWER             | 1  | 1  |
| VOICE                 | 13 | 14 |
| STUDY GUIDE           | 1  | 1  |
| PROFESSOR'S NARRATION | 1  | 0  |

Squall Line DevelopmentCyclogenesis

7) Was the videotape of any educational value to you?

If yes, in what way?

|           |    |    |
|-----------|----|----|
| YES       | 15 | 12 |
| NO        | 0  | 1  |
| COMMENT   | 0  | 3  |
| NO ANSWER | 2  | 1  |

Provide a visual picture  
of the various fields.

Expands on map  
analysis.  
Better sense of  
how fields were  
changing with  
time.  
Overall view of  
what is occurring.

8) If you were teaching synoptic lab, would you use this videotape in your class?

|           |    |    |
|-----------|----|----|
| YES       | 15 | 11 |
| MAYBE     | 2  | 4  |
| NO        | 0  | 1  |
| NO ANSWER | 0  | 0  |

9) Did the videotape help you to visualize the processes that occur in the atmosphere for the synoptic situation examined?

If yes, in what way?

|           |    |    |
|-----------|----|----|
| YES       | 14 | 12 |
| NO        | 0  | 1  |
| COMMENT   | 2  | 2  |
| NO ANSWER | 1  | 2  |

Provided overview of how clouds  
and parameters are related.

Streamlines on  
banded fields.  
Overall picture.



Squall Line DevelopmentCyclogenesis

- 10) What sequences do you think were the most significant during the videotape in capturing or illustrating the synoptic event that occurred?

Satellite loop.  
Loop of surface parameters.

Streamline fields  
(upper & lower).  
Satellite loop.

- 11) Are there any synoptic fields or features that should be added to the videotape?

300 mb isotachs.  
Cross section.  
850 mb heights.

Vorticity  
advection.  
Radar.  
Pressure falls.

- 12) Are there any aspects of the videotape that were confusing or could be deleted?

500 mb heights & vorticity.  
THE & EDI - hard to  
conceptualize.

Two fields  
on each other.  
Banded surface  
features clean  
up.

- 13) Did you find the videotape a useful addition to the case study you examined in class?

|           |    |    |
|-----------|----|----|
| YES       | 14 | 13 |
| NO        | 0  | 0  |
| COMMENT   | 2  | 3  |
| NO ANSWER | 1  | 1  |

- 14) Additional comments?

Leave soundings on  
longer.

Tapes should be  
made available  
around depart-  
ment.  
Like banding,  
needs work.

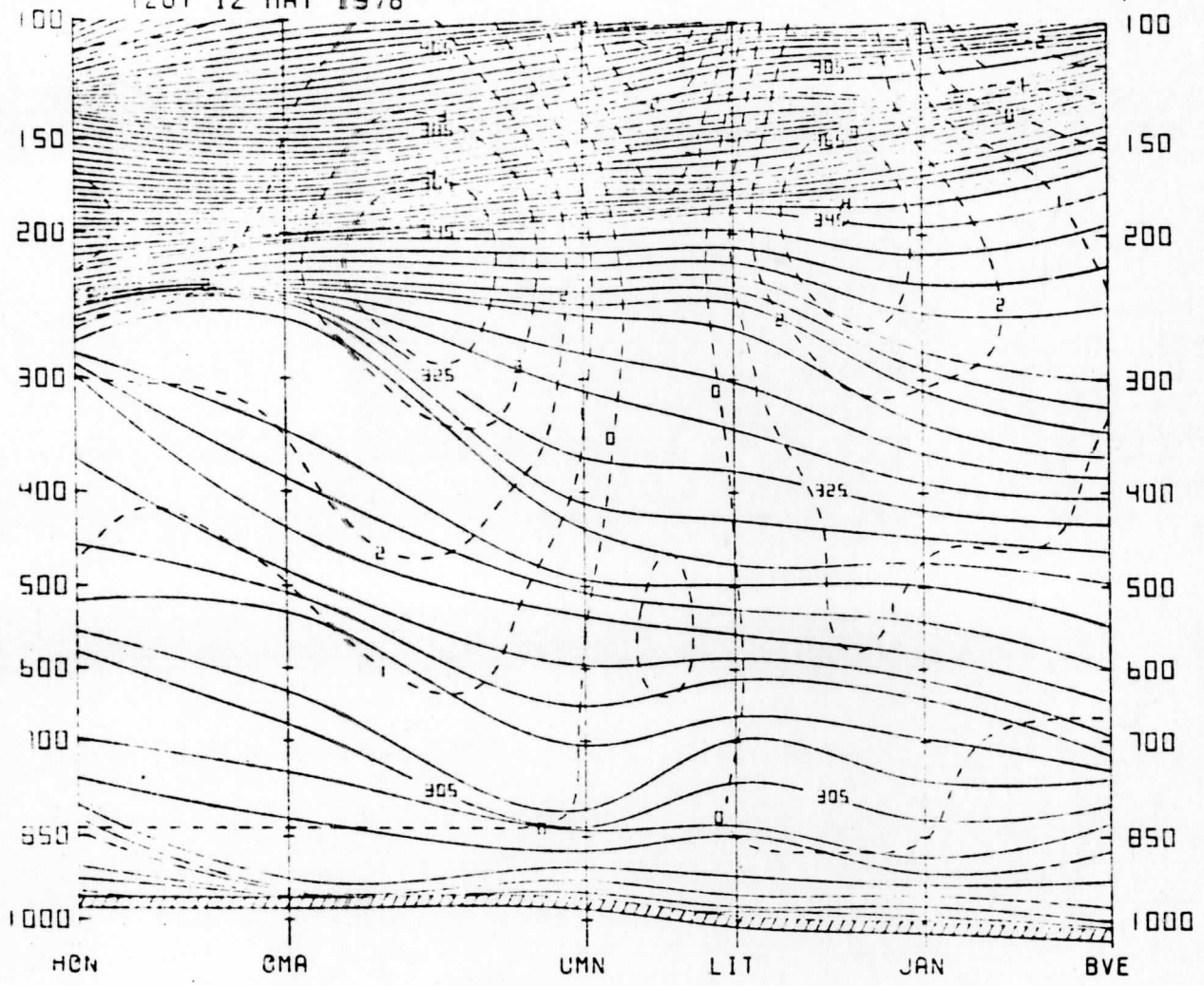
APPENDIX C

DERIVED FIELDS FOR CASE STUDY ANALYSIS

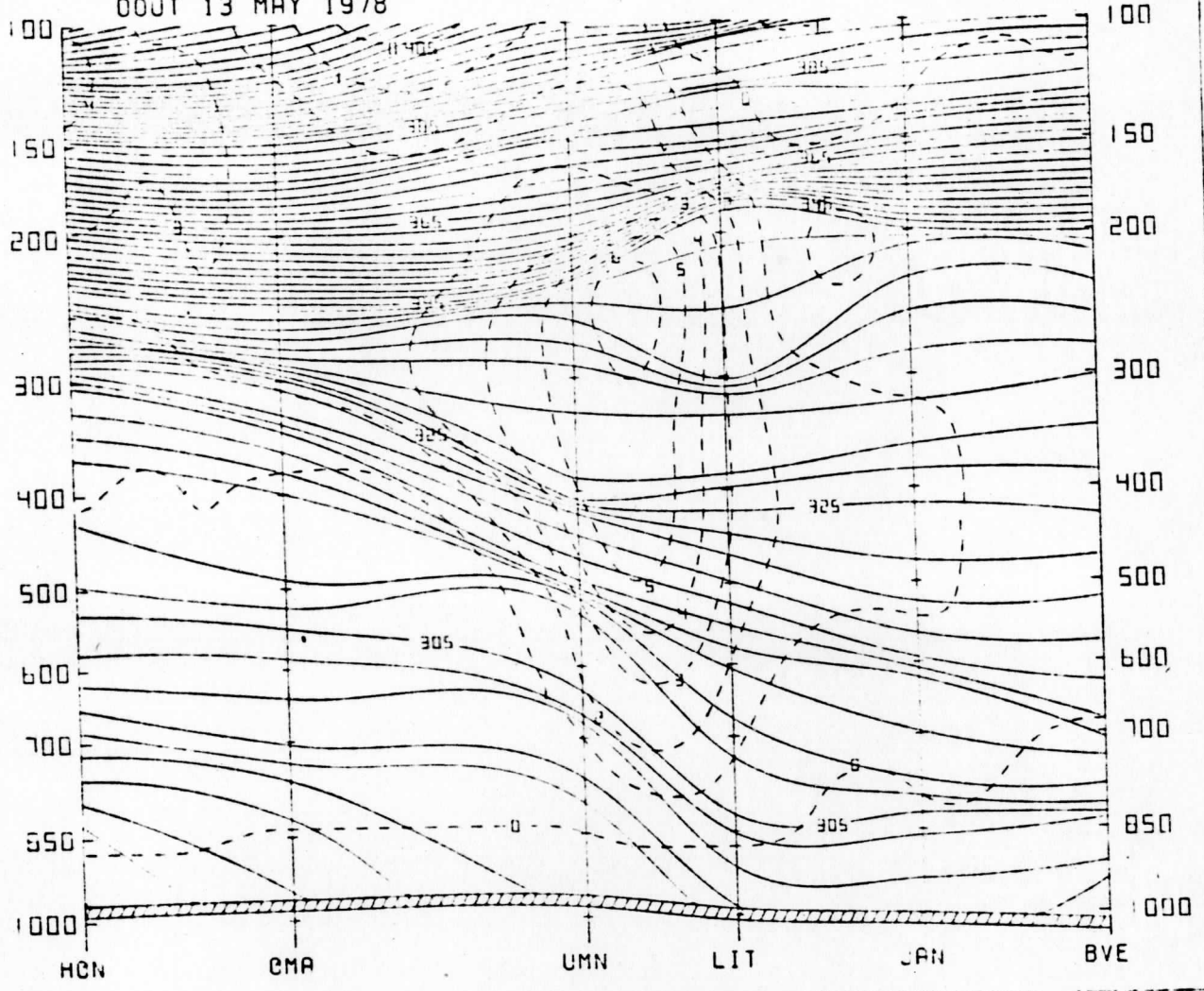
- I. Isentropic Cross Sections      00Z/12 May - 12Z/13 May
- II. McIDAS Derived Fields
  - A. 1200 GMT 12 May
    - 850 mb divergence
    - 300 mb divergence
    - 850 mb temperature advection
    - 700 mb temperature advection
    - 500 mb vorticity
    - 500 mb vorticity advection
  - B 0000 GMT 13 May
    - 850 mb divergence
    - 300 mb divergence
    - 850 mb temperature advection
    - 700 mb temperature advection
    - 500 mb vorticity
    - 500 mb vorticity advection



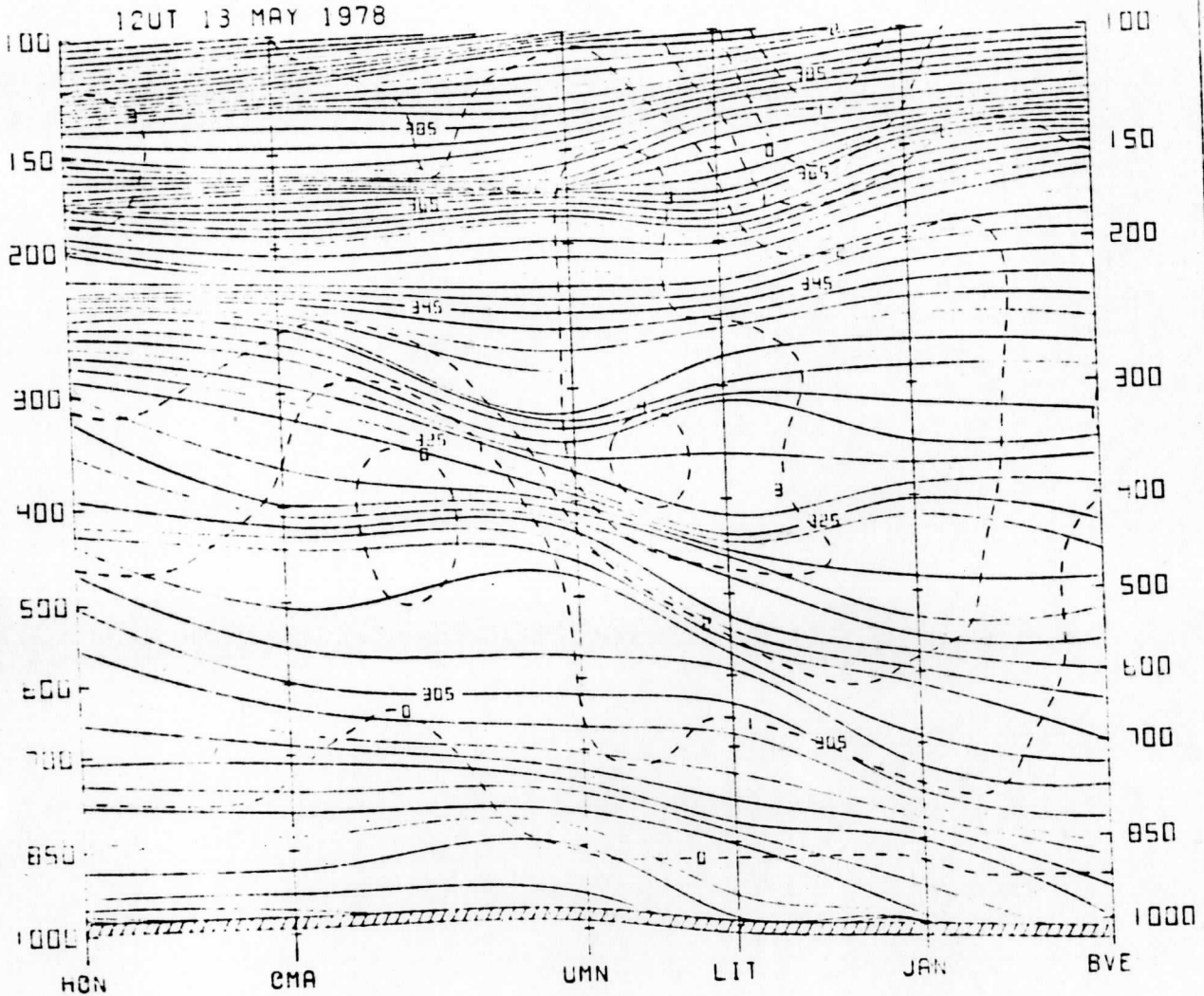
12UT 12 MAY 1978



00UT 13 MAY 1978



120T 13 MAY 1978



-17 -8 6 14 12 7 2 0 0 -0 2 4 4 4 4 3 2 0 -0  
-12 -15 -15 -6 11 7 2 0 -1 -1 1 3 5 6 6 4 3 1 -0  
-8 -10 -15 -13 -2 4 4 0 -1 -3 -4 -1 2 5 7 8 6 2 0 -0  
-7 -8 -10 -12 -9 -4 -1 -3 -6 -8 -8 -4 -0 4 8 9 7 3 -0 -1  
-4 -7 -11 -15 -16 -12 -8 -8 -13 -17 -16 -9 -4 -1 4 9 7 2 -1 -3  
-4 -8 -14 -21 -21 -17 -13 -12 -14 -19 -20 -13 -9 -10 -5 1 0 -2 -6 -9  
-9 -11 -18 -24 -20 -15 -15 -13 -11 -11 -15 -18 -17 -15 -11 -6 -8 -11 -11 -12  
-16 -18 -22 -24 -17 -11 -10 -11 -8 -3 -6 -16 -22 -18 -12 -9 -11 -14 -12 -8  
-16 -16 -17 -15 -10 -5 -3 -4 -5 -5 -6 -12 -17 -14 -9 -8 -7 -8 -7 -4  
-16 -13 -8 -3 -0 0 3 3 -2 -7 -9 -10 -11 -9 -8 -6 -1 2 1 -1  
-10 -10 -8 -4 -3 -0 5 8 0 -11 -14 -14 -13 -10 -10 -10 -4 3 4 1  
-5 -7 -10 -9 -4 1 7 9 2 -10 -17 -20 -20 -17 -13 -12 -6 -0 1 1  
-4 -5 -6 -5 -1 2 5 7 4 -3 -10 -17 -22 -20 -14 -8 -3 0 0 1  
-2 -2 -1 -0 0 1 2 4 3 0 -4 -10 -15 -13 -7 -4 -2 1 1 2  
-1 -1 -0 1 2 2 4 3 2 -2 -7 -2 2 0 -0 1 -0 -1  
CONTAINS INT

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```

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3 11 14 18 21 20 16 13 13 10 4 -0 -2 -3 -5 -5 -2 0 2 2
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12 12 15 21 24 22 18 16 14 10 5 1 -1 -3 -4 0 4 4 4 4
20 19 21 27 28 20 15 12 12 11 10 7 7 9 10 11 9 6 6 8
35 31 31 35 30 18 9 8 10 14 19 20 20 24 29 29 23 18 15 16
50 44 36 30 24 17 13 14 15 21 29 34 34 35 42 49 52 45 33 26
53 53 42 26 17 14 16 19 21 24 30 36 38 37 43 62 79 71 46 30
43 48 42 24 13 14 18 21 20 22 23 22 24 26 31 49 74 72 43 22
28 31 31 21 13 14 18 19 17 19 18 12 10 15 16 23 44 50 30 12
16 16 18 17 14 15 18 18 15 13 10 4 3 9 9 10 22 25 12 2
8 11 14 17 16 14 11 9 5 1 -1 -0 8 15 12 10 14 7 -4 -9
7 14 16 16 16 11 4 -3 -9 -11 -9 1 19 32 28 21 19 6 -9 -17
8 12 13 12 15 12 -0 -14 -20 -20 -8 9 36 60 60 44 30 15 -0 -7
7 9 8 9 13 8 -9 -24 -27 -20 -1 20 47 78 84 60 35 22 11 6
VOK 500 FROM 121200 CONTOUR INT 5

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```

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1 -2 -12 -28 -47 -50 -40 -30 -22 -14 -2 -2 -5 -4 -0 4 4 1 -0 -1
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14 11 3 -2 5 22 22 15 9 -2 -21 -30 -30 -21 -7 2 3 1 -3 -6
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-7 -6 -6 -3 7 18 7 -21 -36 -36 -30 -20 -12 -6 -0 3 3 -2 -8 -8
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CONTOUR INT 5
DIV 850 FROM 130000

```

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CONTOUR INT 5

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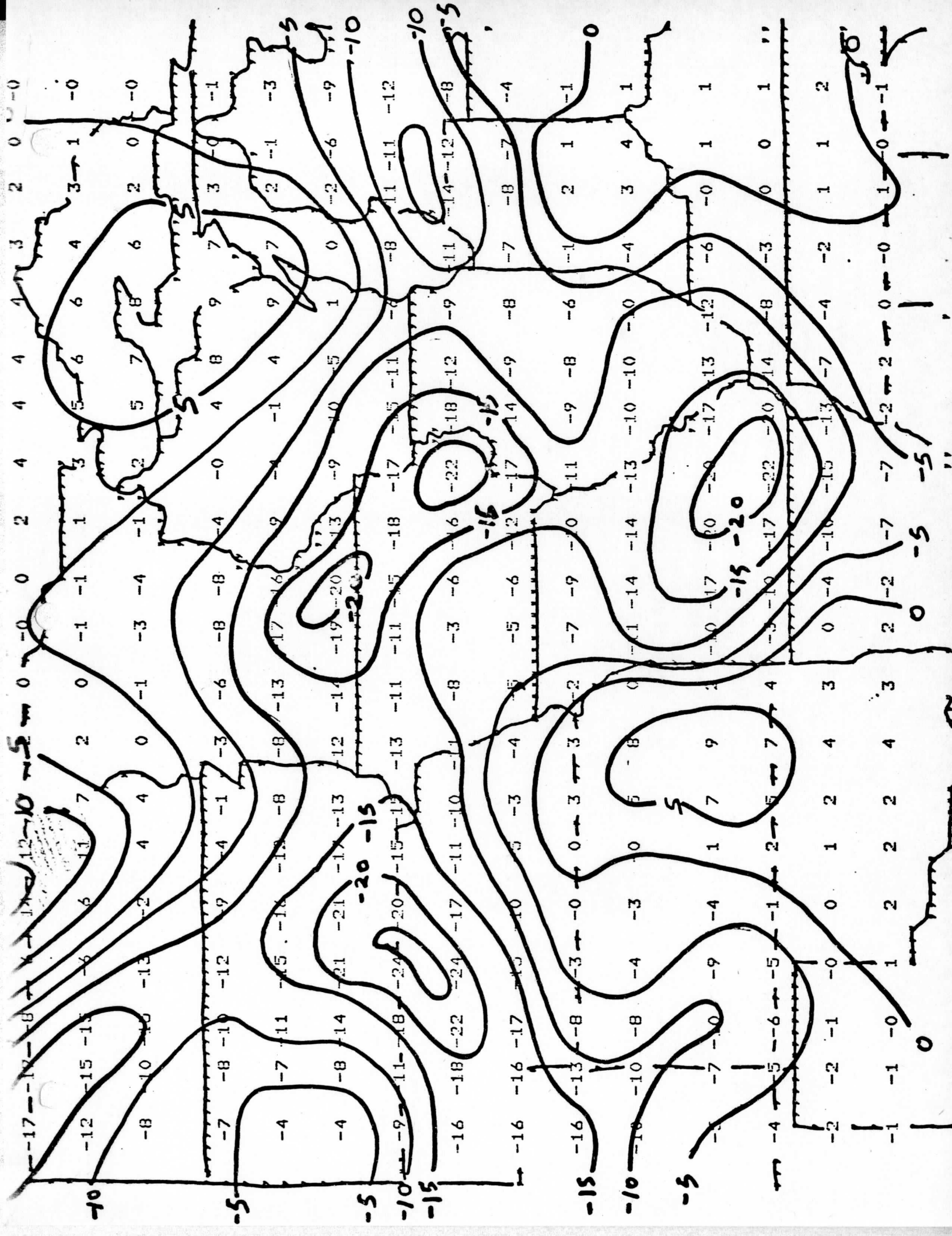


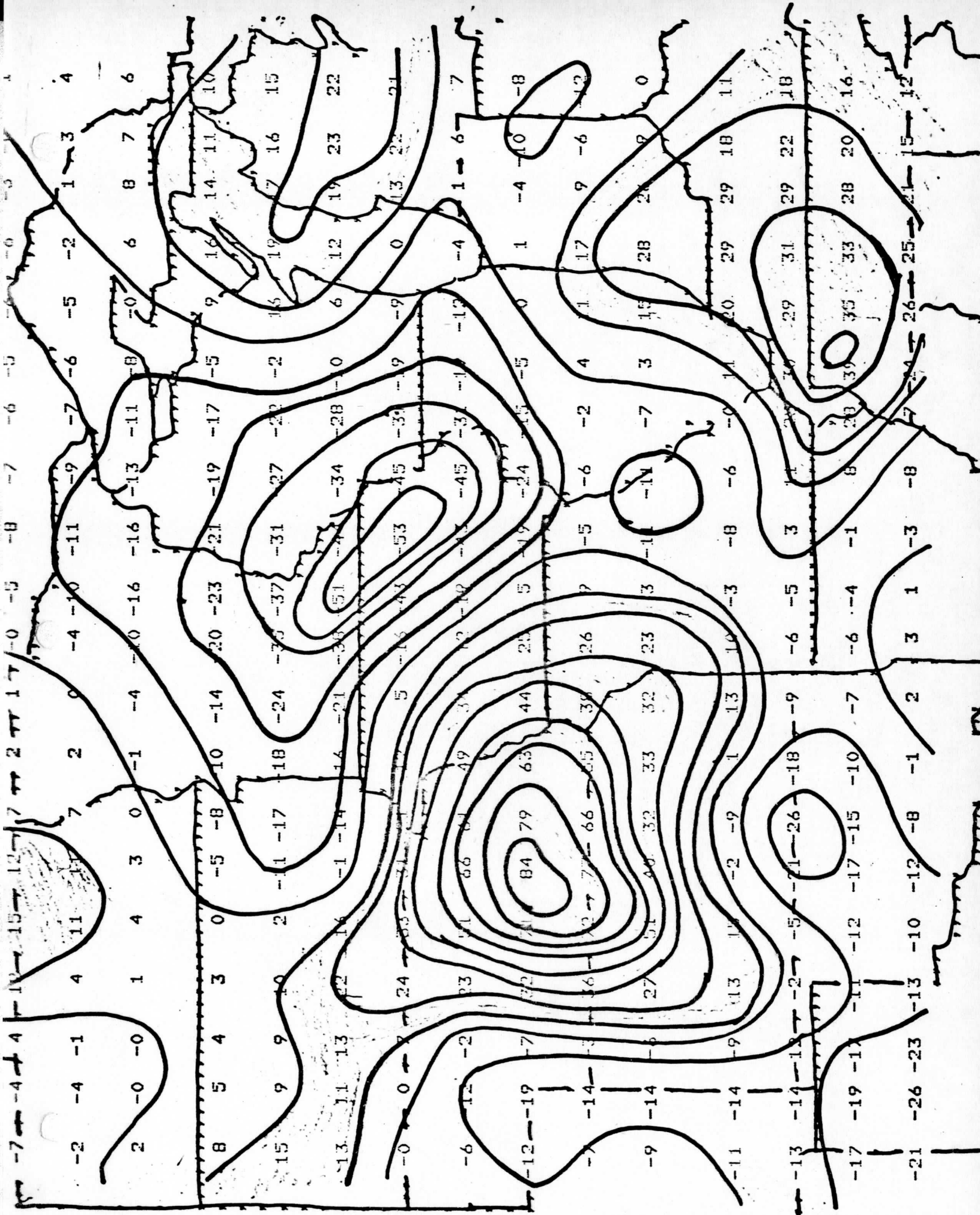


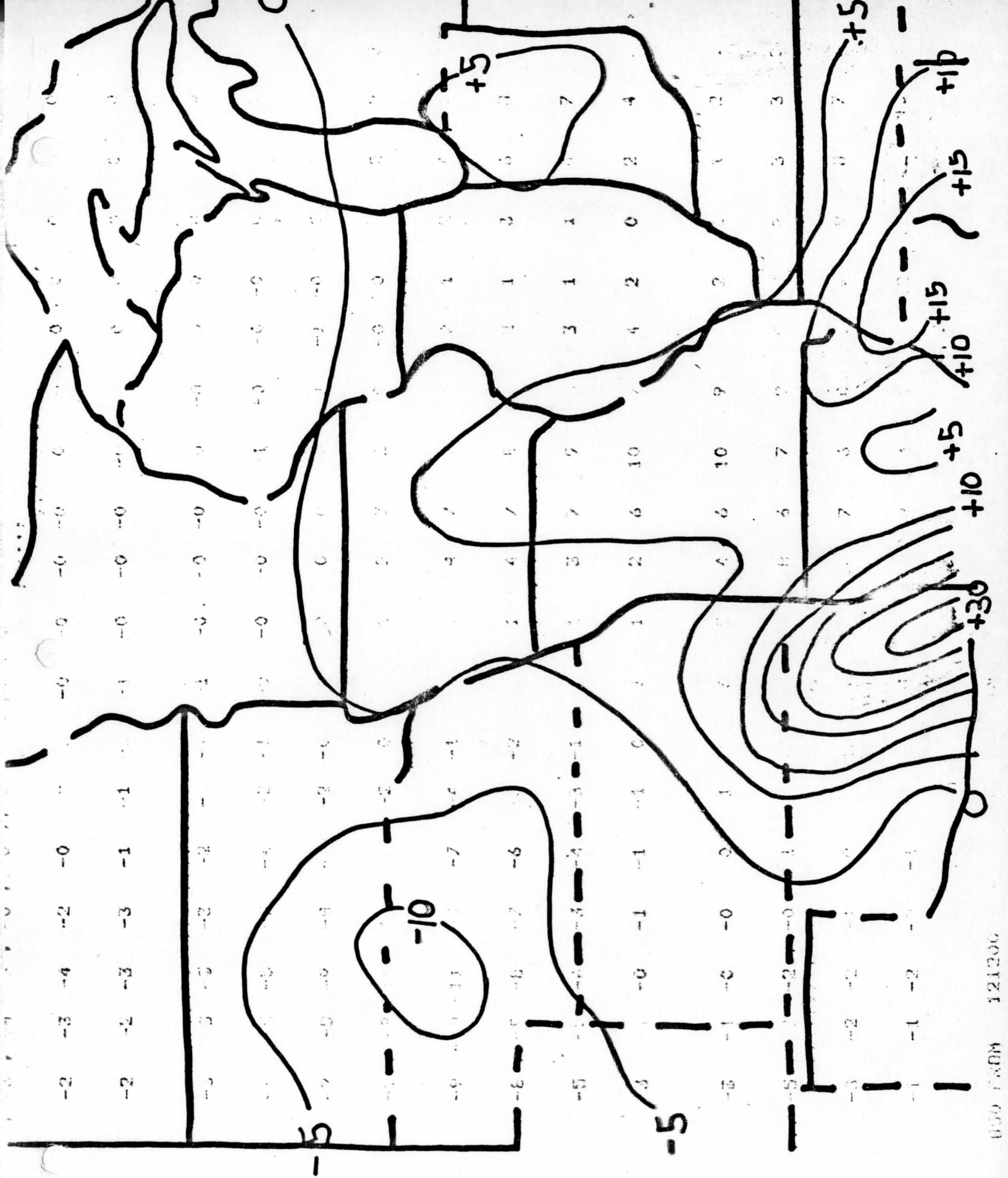
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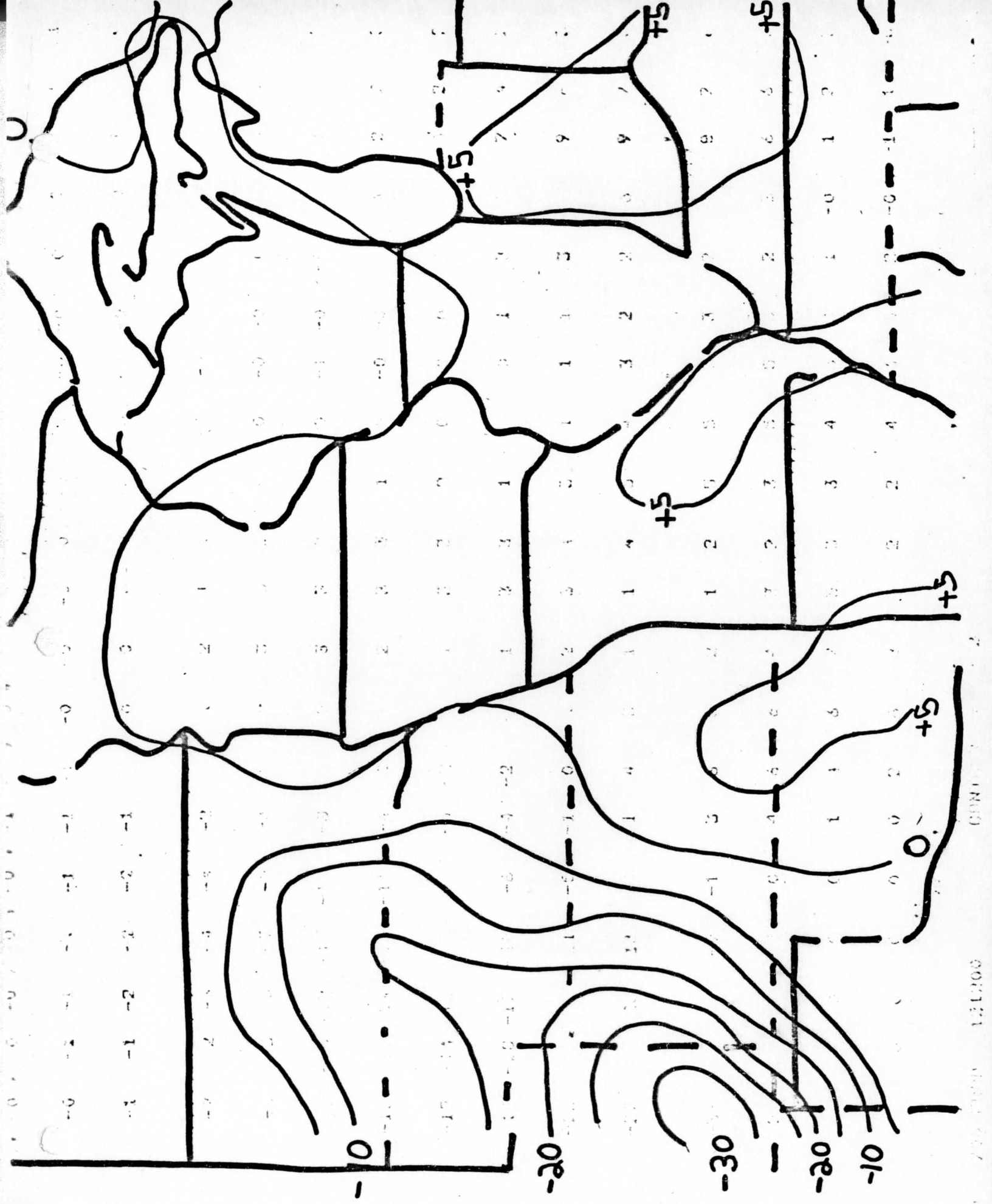
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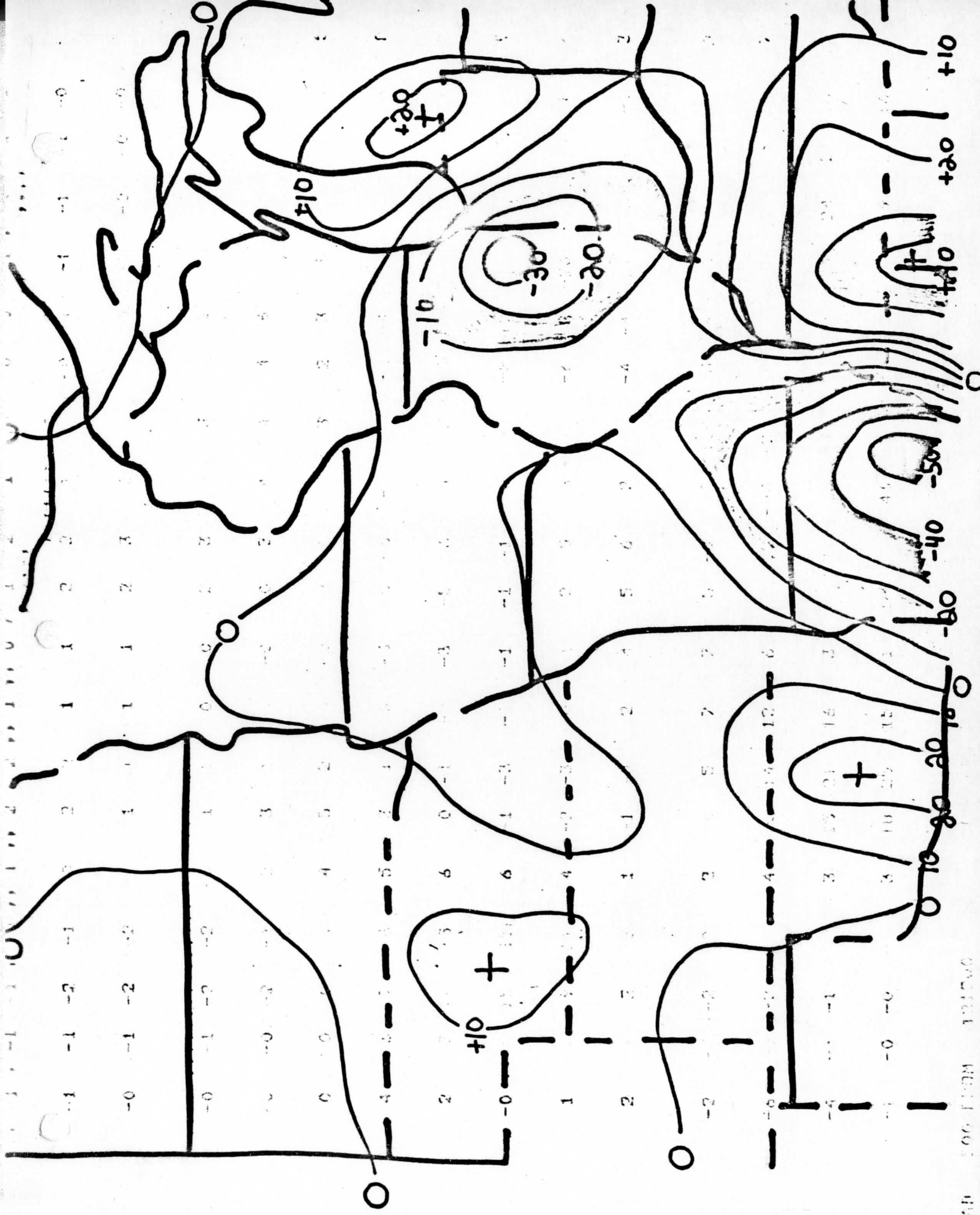




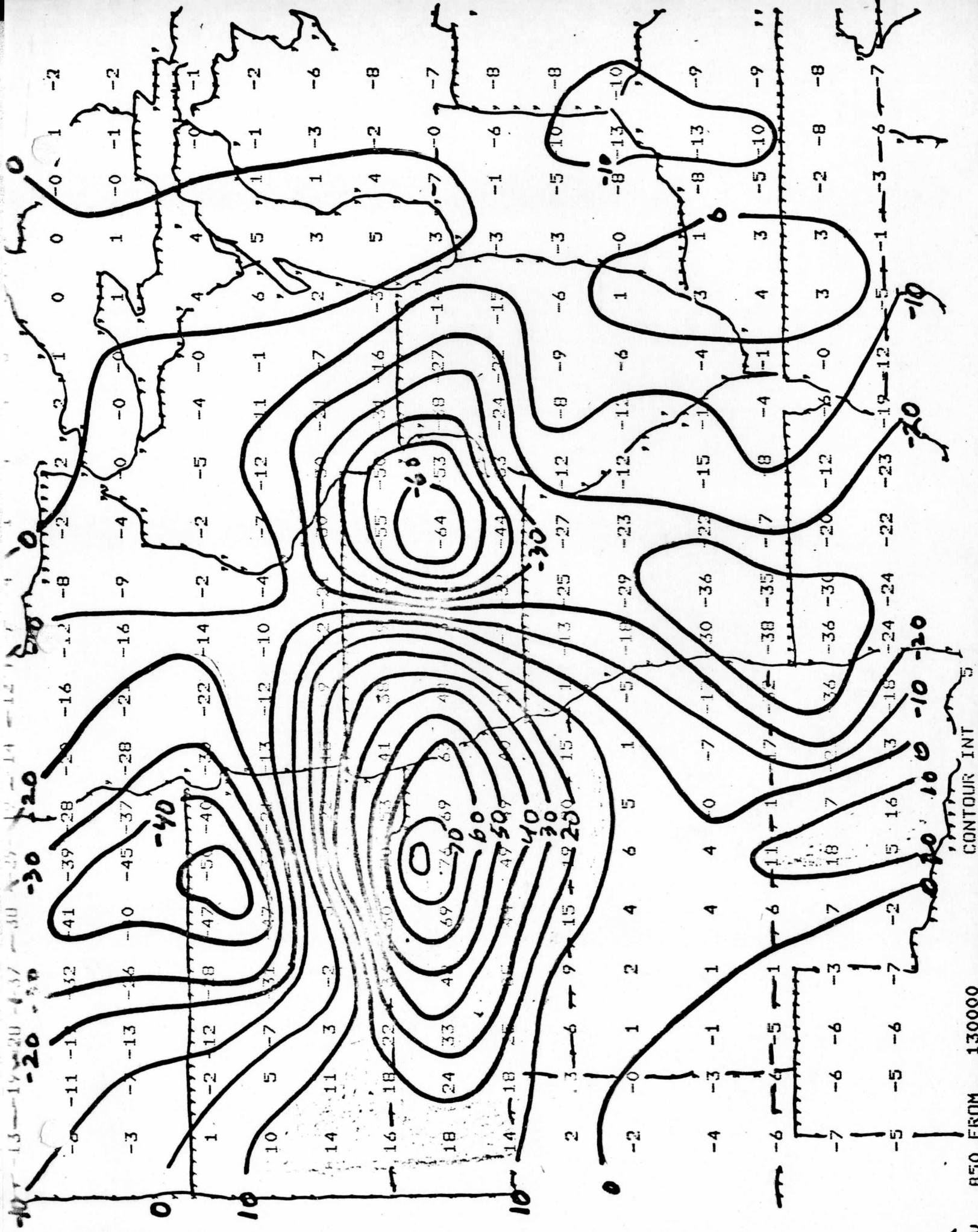


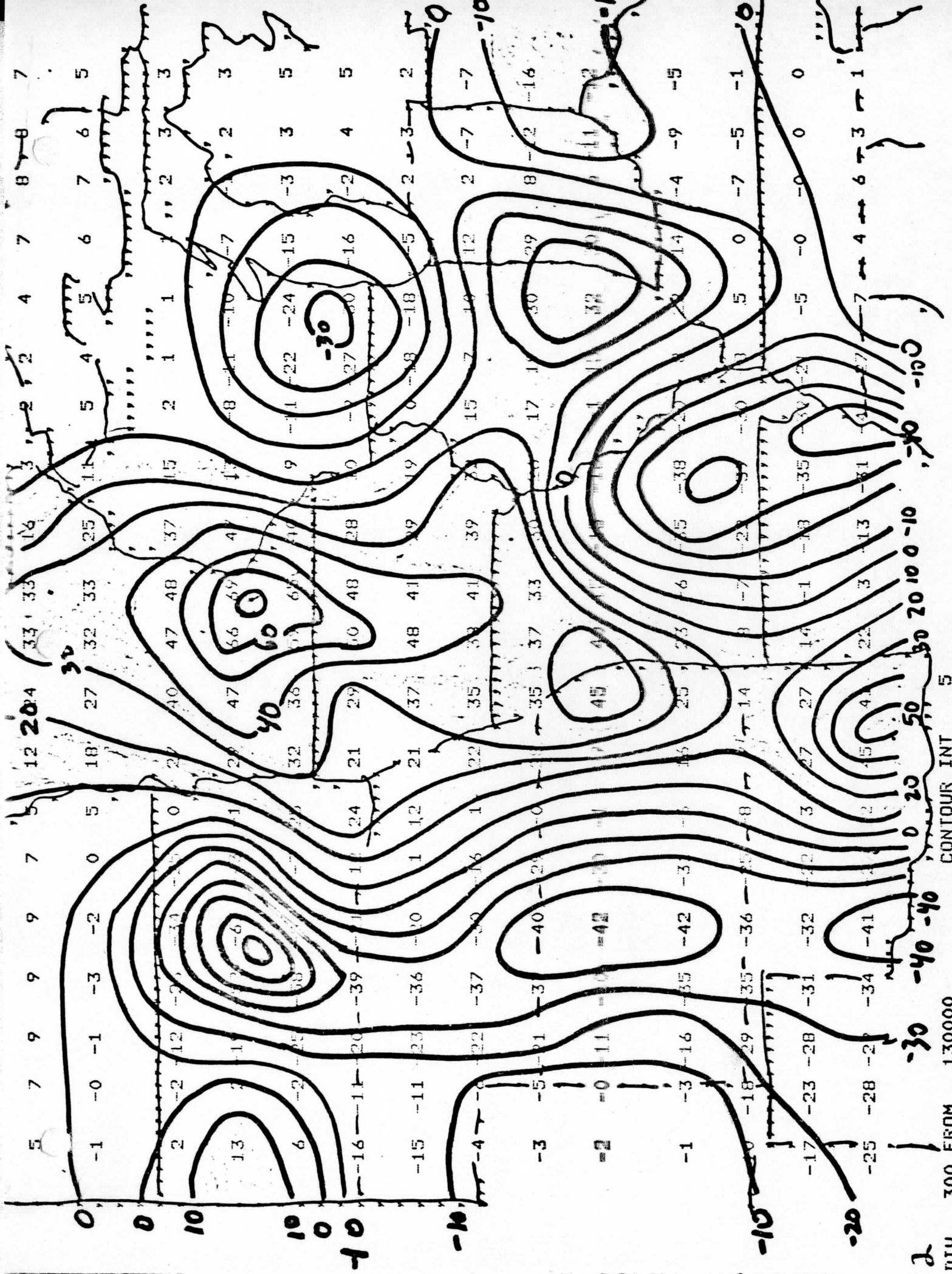








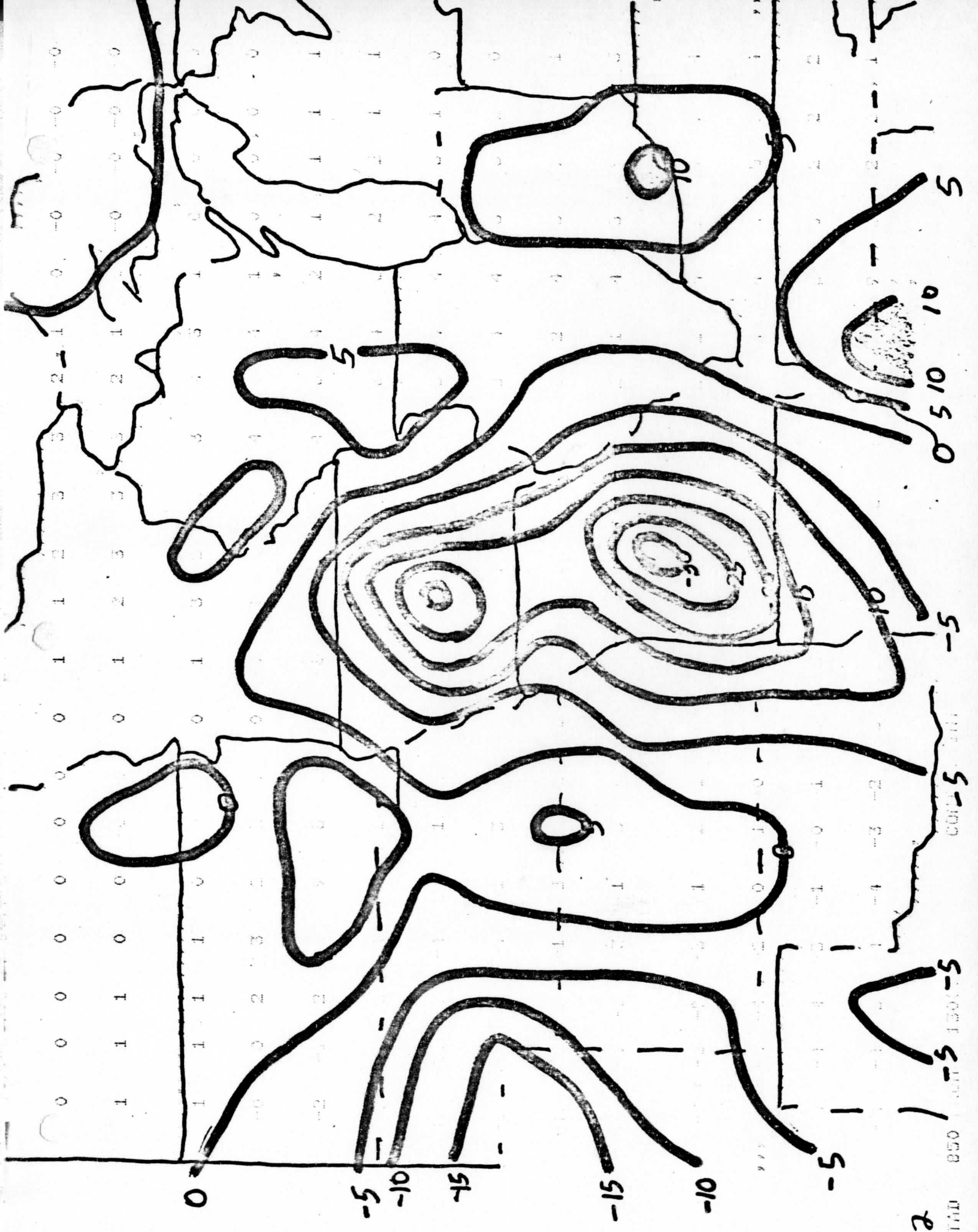


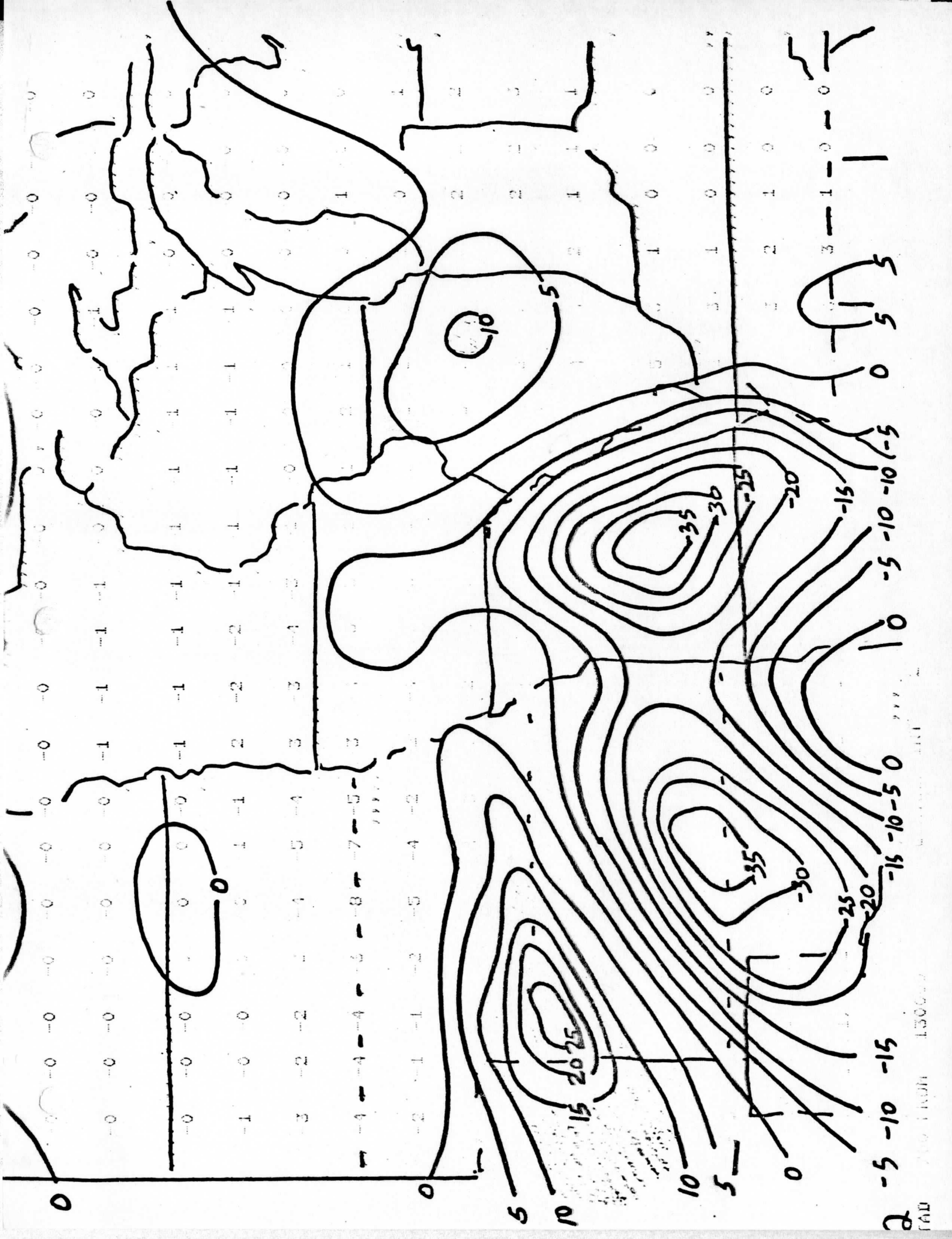


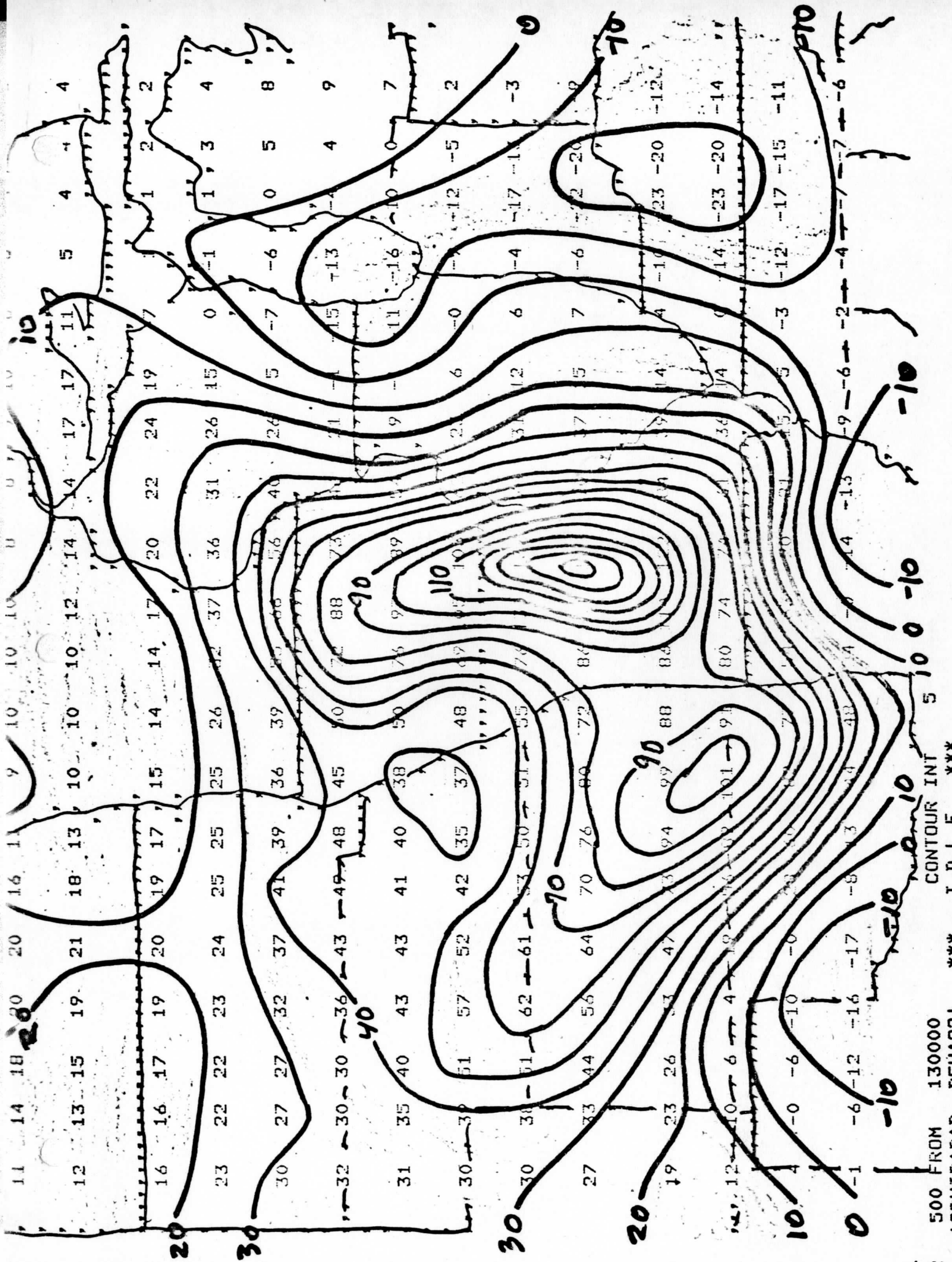
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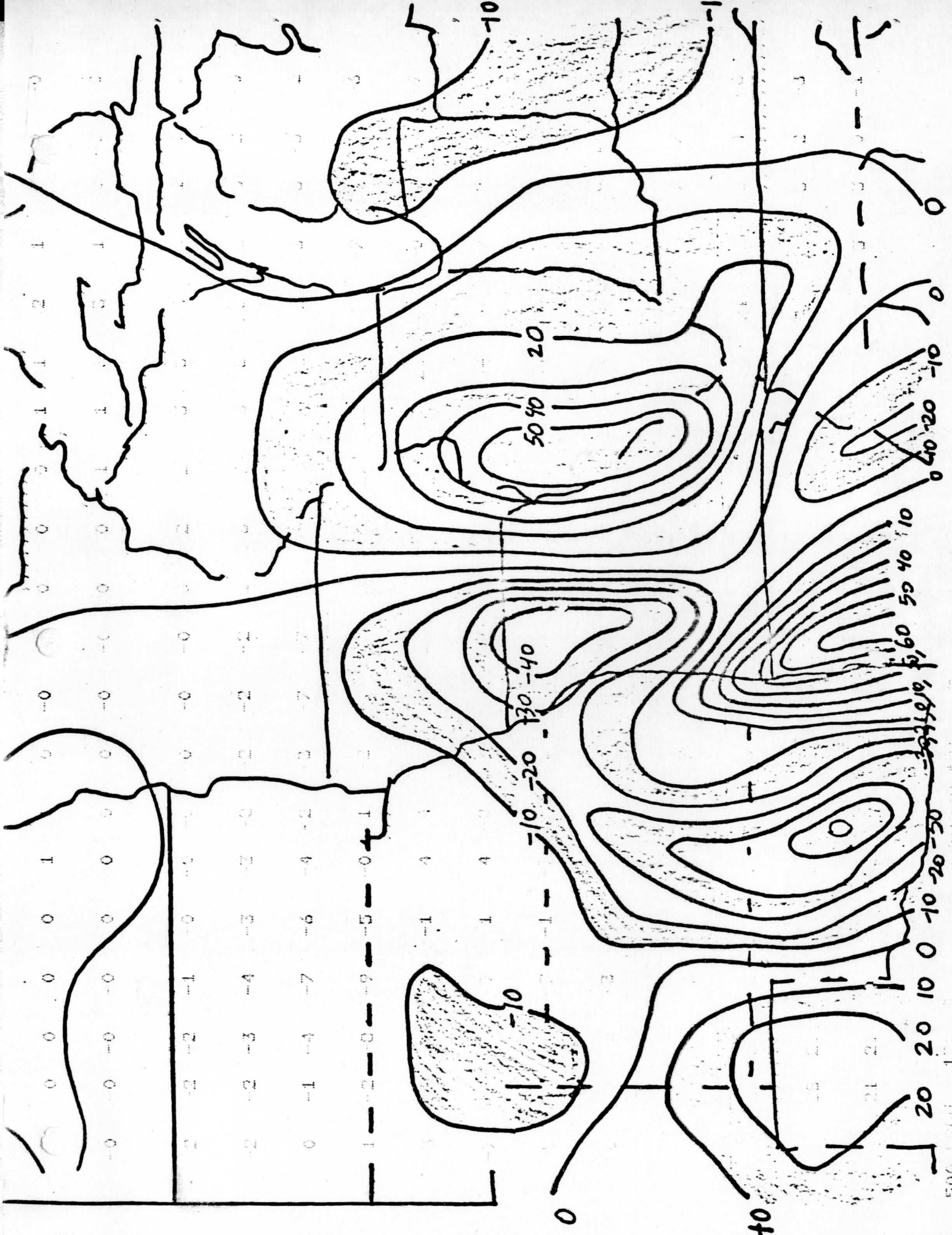
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 CONTOUR INT



APPENDIX D

DISCUSSION AND ASSESSMENT OF THE McIDAS DERIVED FIELDS  
FOR THE MAY 12-13 CASE

APPENDIX E

INDIVIDUAL STUDENT PROJECTS USING McIDAS



- 1) ENHANCED MACRO-SCALE SQUALL-LINE ANALYSIS - MARTIN HOERLING
- 2) INTENSITY ANALYSIS OF HURRICANES DAVID AND FREDERIC USING ENHANCED INFRARED SATELLITE DATA - KEITH BLACKWELL
- 3) HEIGHT ADVECTION ANALYSIS OF THE ~~B~~ MAY 1978 STORM USED AFTER CASE STUDY - JOHN STUWE
- 4) ANALYSIS OF ADDITIONAL ISENTROPIC CHARTS FROM MAY 1978 CASE STUDY - TODD SCHARCK
- 5) VERIFICATION OF STABILITY INDICES FROM MAY 1978 CASE STUDY - PATRICK LAYBE
- 6) MESO-SCALE ANALYSIS OF THE 12 MAY, 1978 STORM - PATRICK THORSON
- 7) ANALYSIS OF STABILITY INDICES FROM MAY 1978 STORM - RUSS SCHNEIDER