

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Numerous people from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, active and retired, aided this research effort. Among them, I thank Dr. Elbert W. “Joe” Friday for opening doors; Earl W. Estelle for his encouragement, memories, and insights; Lawrence J. Krudwig for his irreplaceable guidance and technical briefings; Lee O. Falwell for his documents and clear recollections; George T. Wilcox, for telling me who’s who in the world of NOAA Weather Radio; and Albert E. “Skip” Theberge and his staff at the NOAA Central Library in Silver Spring, Maryland, who helped a forlorn out-of-town researcher more than they know. Herbert L. White, Dissemination Services Manager at National Weather Service offices in Silver Spring, deserves special mention for helping me get some important facts right.

At the Department of Agriculture, Orren E. Cameron and Craig Wulf spent quality time with me explaining how Weather Radio gets built in the real world.

Dr. Peter Ward, chairman of the board of trustees for the Partnership for Public Warning, provided valuable guidance. In addition, my thanks go to syndicated cartoonist Jack Elrod, who kindly shared examples of his *Mark Trail* comic strips for inclusion in this paper.

In the UNC system, my eternal gratitude goes to Professor Jane Brown, without whose frequent, kind interventions neither this thesis nor my degree would have materialized; to Professors Alex Albright and Sherry Southard at East Carolina

University, for getting me into UNC—and to the members of my thesis committee, Ferrel Guillory, Professor Philip Meyer, and Pete Weitzel, for getting me out. Cindy Anderson at the J-School office saved me from a lot of trouble on numerous occasions. Thank you.

I would not have survived graduate school without the help of friends who believed I could do it, and kept telling me so, and pushing me in the right direction. I thank Marie de Jong, whose cherished friendship and selfless ministrations so enriched my time in Chapel Hill; Jo Anne and Jon “the Codger” Olson, for their unstinting friendship and support through some rough times; Jarles and Joni Alberg, for their unfailing wisdom and help; Joseph Wieman and Eric Bucsela, wonderful friends in Washington, DC, for putting up with me (which is to say, for putting me up); and I will always be grateful to Wayne Buchannan for making that call—and to Billy Jean Buchannan for encouraging him to make it.

I dedicate this thesis to my mother and father, who prepared me to weather the ordeal of graduate school, and to my brother Patrick, whose strength and patience I have come increasingly to appreciate and count upon.

William Clifton Nelson
Chapel Hill
November 2002