

CHANGING Weather



THE
STORY OF
JUNE
BACON-BERCEY



THE GOOD AND THE BEAUTIFUL LIBRARY

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June was born in 1928 in Wichita, Kansas. When June was a young girl, schools were unfairly divided, or segregated, based on skin color. African-American children were cruelly denied access to opportunities that some of their Caucasian peers seemed to take for granted. America had a lot yet to learn about equality, but this did not stop June.





June went on to study at the University of Kansas and later at the University of California in Los Angeles, where she was advised by a respected advisor to drop meteorology and pursue home economics instead.



It was not common for women to study science in 1950s America, and it was unheard of for an African-American woman to do so.

It was a few short months after being hired when she would be asked to fill the suddenly vacant weather position. On her first broadcast, she forecasted a heat wave which she calculated would arrive within the next 24 hours. When she was proven correct the next day, the permanent position—as well as a place in history as the first female African-American broadcast meteorologist—was hers.





June was a pioneer and trailblazer for women and minorities. About her accomplishments, she said, "Being a black woman, younger than my peers, everything I did I had to excel in, just to be on an even level.

"I didn't resent that," she continued. "I loved it."

