

**By Jan Schultz**

***The Imperial Republican***

This week 10 years ago, this area was in worse shape for dryness and drought.

That's hard to believe with what seems to be one of the worst summers ever for heat and lack of rain.

"Moisture records prove first six months are driest on record" reads the headline in the Aug. 1, 2002 Imperial Republican.

And, that meant records that had been kept for 108 years.

For the first six months of 2002, just 2.94 inches of moisture were recorded even though moisture in some form fell 25 times.

On most occasions in the first half of that year, the rain or snow only measured .10 of an inch or less.

In comparison, for the first six months of this year, 7.68 inches of moisture has fallen here. And, during June and July, Imperial recorded 20 days with temperatures at 100 degrees or higher, likely contributing to the low moisture statistics.

It was also pretty dry in 1968, too, when records show just 4.31 inches of moisture recorded the first six months, and 10.43 for the year.