WHILE THE REGION sweltered this week in the hottest July weather since meteorological records began at Shannon, a freak storm left the village of Kildimo covered in hailstones on Tuesday evening.

As temperatures soared to 31.6 degrees centigrade 700 bales of hay were burnt and seven cattle were killed in a thunderstorm in Kildimo.

High winds changed directions several times and heavy rain gave way to hailstones, which according to Mr. Jack Griffin of "The Seven Sisters" licensed premises, "were nearly half an inch thick. Motorists had to park their cars in case windshields would be broken", he said.

Mrs. Dora Tracey, who saw her prized rose trees almost uprooted, said that the tempest began at about 8 p.m. and lasted half an hour.

Strongest

"It was the strongest storm I ever saw," she told me. "We got everything except snow. Half a mile down the road the sun was still shining."

The storm, belonging to Mrs. Nora Grif- fin, Ballynacarriga, was brought by lightning, and four cattle were killed.

Mr. John Nash of Bally- carriga, who lost three cattle, said the weather is worse.

Meanwhile, the Meteoro- logical Office at Shannon pro- nounced that the hot weather caused by warm east and north-easterly winds will continue into next week. An anticyclone which is moving slowly north of the country indicates that the weather will remain settled.

Next week

There is some indication that next week's weather will be unsettled.

Wednesday, when temperatures reached 30.6 degrees centigrade, was the hottest July day since records began at Shannon in 1939.

July 4th, saw the temperature rising to 30.3 Centigrade. In 1939, it reached 36.1. Tuesday was 29.8 degrees.

The hot weather has been a boon to many, but some local businesses are suffering. Limerick victualer, Mr. Louis Philip, reported that in the last three weeks sales of fresh meat had dropped by as much as 50 per cent.

"The sunshine was welcome, but we could do without a break now," said Mr. Philip.

Sympathy

At a meeting of Limerick County Council, a vote of sympathy was passed to the Gubbins family. The chairman, Cllr. Liam Hickey, said that the late Mr. Gubbins was formerly ad- jutant, Mid-Limerick Brigade, Irish Volunteers.