

No. 9  
May 22

A Science Service Feature

? WHY THE WEATHER ?

Dr. Charles F. Brooks,  
Secretary, American Meteorological Society  
says:-

LAKE FOGS COME IN SPRING

Fog is nothing more than a cloud formed at the earth's surface, touching the sea or ground. Seldom is it more than 200 feet in thickness. Like the cloud it results from the temperature of the air falling below the dewpoint, which is the temperature at which the air is fully saturated and below which some of the moisture must separate out. The moisture condenses on the particles of dust which are always present in the atmosphere.

The usual fogs of the Great Lakes in spring are caused when warm, humid air floats over the cool surface, and loses heat to the water and further lowers its temperature by mixing with the colder air which it replaces. The most striking example, of course, is where the warm airs from over the Gulf Stream drift across the Labrador Current.

But the Great Lakes can do nearly as well. A balmy breeze from the south becomes chilled to a moderate height in passing over the icy water. This makes a fog in which vessels may grope their way, though an observer on a Michigan sand dune could direct their movements, so sharp may the fog top be, no higher than the tops of the funnels.

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( Tomorrow: Watch the Clouds )

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