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A Science Service Feature

July 14

? WHY THE WEATHER ?

Dr. Charles F. Brooks,
Secretary, American Meteorological Society,
tells of:

ST. SWITHIN'S DAY

Tomorrow is St. Swithin's Day. According to the ancient English legend if rain falls during the day it will rain for 40 days. Of course, it sometimes rains on St. Swithin's day, but the 40 unbroken rainy days do not follow. The belief in the adage is fostered by the occasional period of daily showers coincident with a rainy July 15.

St. Swithin, an English ecclesiastic of the 9th century, became Bishop of Winchester, and upon his death was buried at his request just outside the church where water might drop from the eaves on his grave and passersby might tread on it. A century later he was canonized and it was determined to remove the body from the grave to the church. According to the legend the good saint's protest was a rain which delayed the transfer by enduring for 40 days.

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