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July 23

A Science Service Feature

? WHY THE WEATHER ?

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

DOG DAYS

The Dog Days, associated with the greatest heat of the year, an atmosphere frequently muggy, thunderstorms and vacations, begin July 3 and end August 11. Recognition of this particular period of weather had its origin in remote antiquity. The name comes from Sirius, the Dog Star, most brilliant of the fixed stars. The Dog Days comprise the period of the rising of Sirius with the sun, from 20 days before their simultaneous rising to 20 days after, in other words:

When Sirius rising with the sun
Marks the dog days well begun.

Of course, the rising of the Dog Star does not in itself influence weather, though many people attribute to it this malign influence. But its rising with the sun about July 23, midway of the 40 day period, is an excellent marker for the interval of the year when disagreeable hot weather conditions are most apt to prevail, particularly heat accompanied by dampness.

(Tomorrow: Summer Southeaster)

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