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? WHY THE WEATHER ?

Dr. Charles F. Brooks,
Secretary, American Meteorological Society,
discusses:

LAST DAY OF A HOT SPELL

The last day of a hot spell is usually the hardest to endure, for in addition to the cumulative effects of hot weather the temperature and humidity are highest, and the wind is weakest. The atmospheric pressure is about at its lowest, which is the chief reason why the breeze which started the hot wave has died down. Much suffering results, for to anyone in a perspiration a good wind of fifteen miles an hour is nearly twice as cooling as a light breeze of but four.

On such days cities like Boston, where the wind is off-shore, get much hotter than the interior. A place near sea-level is usually warmer than one at even a moderate elevation. Furthermore, the very presence of the cool ocean near by becomes a liability rather than an asset as the land wind weakens. The overflow of some of the expanded air from the heated land to the cool water increases the pressure just off-shore while it decreases it just inland. The resulting tendency for a sea-breeze to set in just balances the pressure gradient causing the general breeze from the land, bringing about a dead calm when the sweltering heat is most intense. But by nightfall the sea-breeze may conquer the waning land wind and bring a welcome but dangerous chilling to the overheated people.

(Tomorrow: Eclipse Weather)

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Science Service,
1115 Conn. Ave.,
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