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? WHY THE WEATHER ?

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

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VELO CLOUDS

A summer phenomenon of the seacoast is the velo cloud, which, translated, is "the veil cloud". Locally it is known as "high fog". Such clouds drift in from sea and often in the early morning are seen at a few hundred feet above the ground. The coast of southern California has them frequently, and they are by no means uncommon along the Atlantic seaboard. Those persons who are not weatherwise sometimes mistake the velo for a raincloud and look for a day of foul weather, only to see it dissipated as the sun warms it.

In its original form the velo is sea fog of exceptional thickness, sometimes as much as 1,000 feet. When a warm moist air blows over the cold surface of water it may be cooled to below its dewpoint and some of its moisture is condensed as fog droplets. The fog does not lift to become the velo cloud. When it strikes the heated surface of the land its lower stratum is warmed to such an extent that its temperature rises above the dewpoint, the droplets are evaporated into the air, and it disappears. But the upper stratum remains cool, and, being separated from the ground, thereby becomes a cloud.

(Tomorrow: Summer Ice Caves)

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