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A Science Service Feature

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? WHY THE WEATHER ?

Dr. Charles F. Brooks,  
of Clark University,  
discusses:

CHILLY LAKE AND OCEAN WINDS IN SPRING

As bodies of water always change temperature much more slowly than land masses, spring finds the land surface starting to warm rapidly, while the lakes and oceans have barely reached their coldest and are lagging far behind in the temperature advance. Northern cities on the lake or ocean shores, consequently, are often subject to violent temperature fluctuations in spring and early summer when there occurs a shift from a cold wind off the water to a warm wind off the land, or vice-versa. At Chicago, for instance, such a wind shift may cause a temperature change of 20 or more degrees in a few minutes. At Atlantic City the mercury once fell 23 degrees in six minutes when a wind off the ocean came in. Under such conditions the air temperature at a place changes faster than the ordinary thermometer can show it.

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(Tomorrow: Volcanic Eruptions Produce Cold)

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