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? WHY THE WEATHER ?

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WIND VANES

It is not always easy for the inexperienced person to tell from just what direction a light or moderate wind is blowing; he is likely to ignore the wind unless it is vigorous enough to threaten his hat or impede his walking. If the wind is fairly steady, waves on a lake or pond will readily show the direction from which it is coming. A west wind is a wind blowing from the west, not towards the west. The motion or swaying of trees also serve to indicate wind direction, a flag is still better. When you can look to a wind vane for assistance, remember that the arrow does not fly with the wind as a flag does, or as the arrows on a weather map appear to. The tail of the vane turns the arrow up into the wind so that when the wind is west the arrow points towards the west, and, in the case of the popular cows or roosters adorning vanes on barns, the animal faces the west. In determining the direction of a very light wind, it is sometimes helpful to hold up a moistened finger. Evaporation is most rapid on the side on which the wind blows and hence that side should soon feel coolest. One observer has found a pair of large outstanding ears quite helpful in estimating wind direction. He need only turn about until he feels the wind blowing equally on both ears!

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(Tomorrow: Falling Smoke Trails)

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