

No. 691

A Science Service Feature

July 29

? WHY THE WEATHER ?

By Dr. Charles F. Brooks
of Clark University.

SNOW IN SUMMER

All summer long snow may be seen in the clouds above us, sometimes dropping out in snow smudges or long trails. Except on high mountains or far north, snow occurring at the ground in July, however, is certainly remarkable. Last year on July 2 a baby tornado seems to have started near Wabash, Indiana. A small funnel cloud appeared but did little damage. The whirling, however, produced in the cloud a pressure and temperature probably as low as the pressure and temperature usually found at a height of two or three miles. Snow formed and was dumped out of the funnel cloud over a number of farms. The cloud passed at about eleven o'clock, leaving some patches of snow six feet wide, twelve feet long and eight inches deep. A farmer deposited a snowball in the local bank as security for his story. Though snow may often form at the core of a tornado, it rarely falls but instead is carried aloft by the tremendous updraft. In this case, the funnel cloud must have been weakening and going to pieces and so dropped its snow.

(Tomorrow: The Hottest Ever)

All rights reserved by Science Service

SCIENCE SERVICE,
B and 21st Sts.,
Washington, D.C.