

A Science Service Feature

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? WHY THE WEATHER ?

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By Charles Fitzhugh Talman,
Authority on Meteorology

SLANDERS ABOUT YUMA

Yuma, Arizona, has a dry climate, but not so dry as has sometimes been alleged. I once quoted in a magazine article a somewhat overwrought picture of the aridity prevailing there, from the pen of that usually accurate writer, the late Dr. J. S. Billings, and was properly called to account by the meteorologist in charge of the Yuma weather station.

The same place is rather subject to hot weather, but the following poetic gem of purest ray serene, which appears in the journal "American Speech," is a slander:

The boy stood on the burning deck,
He did not whoop nor holler,
The fire came up and scorched his neck
And singed his paper collar.

His comrades said, "Why don't you jump?"
Said he, "Oh, won't you loan a
Man a pair of blankets, I'm
From Yuma, Arizona.

What are the cold (or any rate cool) hard facts about Yuma's climate? My official colleague at that place writes that "its reputation for hotness is world-wide, but not more than half deserved. The aridity is assumed from the small rainfall, naturally but not rightfully."

The humidity is, however, low enough to temper greatly the heat of summer. Thus on one occasion, when the thermometer climbed to 120, there were no heat prostrations, no heat strokes. Work and business went on as usual. The dry heat was quite endurable.

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SCIENCE SERVICE,
21st and B Sts.,
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