

Released on receipt  
but intended for use  
August 22, 1927

A Science Service Feature

? WHY THE WEATHER ? Mailed August 15, 1927

By Charles Fitzhugh Talman,  
Authority on Meteorology

THE FASTEST RAINFALL ON RECORD

A "Why the Weather?" note published last April described a remarkable shower in California in which the rate at which the rain fell set a new world record. The shower occurred in the early morning of April 5, 1926, at Opid's Camp, on the west front of the San Gabriel Range, and 1.02 inches of rain fell in one minute. The previous record for intense rainfall was 2.47 inches in 3 minutes at Porto Bello, Panama, November 29, 1911.

When this event was first reported information was lacking as to the method by which the rain was measured. The following additional detail have now come to hand:

Opid's Camp is a "cooperative" station of the U.S. Weather Bureau and is also one of a group of stations reporting to the Los Angeles County Flood Control Commission. The observer, John T. Opid, is an educated and intelligent man. His equipment includes a Fergusson weighing rain-gauge, which makes a continuous automatic record. By a lucky chance he had set up a second gauge of the same pattern in order to compare it with the station gauge, previous to its installation at another camp some miles away. Thus it happened that the shower was recorded by two gauges, and the records were practically identical.

The instruments were correctly<sup>exposed</sup> as they were located about 75 feet from the nearest tree or other obstruction.

(Printer: Note spelling of "Fergusson," with two s's.)

(All rights reserved by Science Service, Inc.)

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