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? WHY THE WEATHER ?

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By Charles Fitzhugh Talman,
Authority on Meteorology

NAMES OF STORMS

An interesting fact brought to light by the newspaper reports of last September's West India hurricane was that it is the custom in Porto Rico to name such events after the saints on whose days they occur. The recent storm struck Porto Rico on September 13, St. Philip's day, (one of several "St. Philip's days" in the church calendar) and hence is known as "San Felipe". It was, however, the second storm locally called by this name, as shown by the following list of Porto Rico hurricanes:

Santa Ana	July 26, 1825
Los Angeles	August 2, 1837
Santa Elena	August 18, 1851
San Narciso	October 29, 1867
San Felipe (no.1)	September 13, 1876
San Ciriaco	August 8, 1899
San Felipe (no.2)	September 13, 1928

There are various other ways of naming storms. The commonest plan is to name the storm from the place or region of its occurrence or from a place where it raged with special severity. The tornado that caused terrible havoc in southern Missouri, Illinois and Indiana in 1925 is sometimes called the "Midwest Tornado of March 18, 1925," and sometimes the "Murphysboro Tornado." There have been two "St. Louis Tornadoes" and two "Galveston Hurricanes".

A storm at sea is often named after some vessel that passed through the storm or was lost in it. Thus we have the "Royal Charter Storm", "the "Eurydice Squall", the "Iltis Typhoon", and so on. The worst tempest in the history of the British Isles, that of Nov. 26-27, 1703, is known as the "Great Storm"; also as "Defoe's Storm", because Defoe wrote a book about it. Some other storms have been named for persons; including "Saxby's Gale", which raged in eastern Canada Oct. 4, 1869, and was popularly regarded as verifying a long-range prediction by Lieut. Saxby of the Royal Navy. When Clement Wragge was in charge of the Australasian Weather Bureau, a quarter of a century ago, he gave a name to every storm that appeared on the weather map.

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