

A Science Service Feature

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? WHY THE WEATHER ?

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THE PIKE'S PEAK WEATHER STATION

The weather station formerly in operation on the summit of Pike's Peak, Colorado, at an altitude of 14,110 feet, was the loftiest institution of this kind that has ever existed in North America, and at the time it was operated it was the loftiest in the world. The station was established by the U.S. Signal Service and began its work on Nov. 1, 1873. That was long before the days of the cog-railway, which now makes the summit easy of access. Building materials, equipment and supplies were transported to the site on mule-back. A telegraph line was constructed from the station to Colorado Springs, but its maintenance proved both laborious and expensive and its use was eventually abandoned. Regular observations were, however, taken until Sept. 30, 1888, when the station was closed. In September, 1892, it was reopened by the Weather Bureau, which operated it for two years.

The men stationed on Pike's Peak had many thrilling and trying experiences especially in winter. There were terrific gales, during which it was necessary to pile rocks on the roof to keep it from blowing away, and violent thunderstorms, in one of which the station was badly damaged by lightning. The observers all suffered from mountain sickness until they became acclimated.

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