

A Science Service Feature

Released upon receipt
but intended for use
December 5, 1929.

? WHY THE WEATHER ? Mailed November 27, 1929.

By Charles Fitzhugh Talman,
Authority on Meteorology.

THE HIGHEST WEATHER STATION

For more than seven years, beginning in October, 1893, Harvard College maintained, as an adjunct of its large astronomical observatory at Arequipa, Peru, a small weather station on the summit of the neighboring volcano of El Misti, 19,200 feet above sea level. It was the highest scientific station ever established.

As the climbing of this volcano was a difficult mountaineering feat, which usually involved severe mountain sickness, Prof. S.I. Bailey, who founded the station, conceived the bold idea of cutting a trail for mules to the summit and of utilizing these animals in making ascents. This plan was carried out. Building materials and instruments were carried up on muleback, and during the period observations were maintained the observers depended on mules to aid them in making periodical visits to the station for the purpose of rewinding the self-registering instruments, changing the record sheets, etc. Nobody remained permanently at the station, which was visited, as a rule, three times a month.

Once priests from Arequipa accomplished the ascent of the mountain and blessed the station on the summit. Their feat was the more remarkable because they took with them a full set of vestments and other requisites for the religious ceremony, including candles enclosed in glass screens to keep them from being blown out in the high winds.

(All rights reserved by Science Service, Inc.)

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