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A Science Service Feature

? WHY THE WEATHER ?

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UNOFFICIAL WEATHERMEN

An overwhelming majority of professional meteorologists throughout the world are employed by official meteorological services and institutions, but the number not so employed is growing and probably will continue to do so. According to Dr. C.F. Brooks, there are between 50 and 100 men in the United States who make their living out of meteorology but are not employed by the Weather Bureau or other branches of the government. Some of these, including Dr. Brooks himself, teach the subject at universities. A good many more are attached to air transport companies. Some are connected with companies engaged in weather insurance.

The professional "consulting meteorologist" exists, but he is still a rare bird. Probably the most prominent specimen in America is Dr. Ford A. Carpenter, who grew up in the U. S. Weather Bureau but has now been "on his own" for several years in California. One of Carpenter's jobs is to make intensive climatic surveys of agricultural lands in order to determine the most profitable crops they are capable of growing. His procedure is to install automatic weather stations on the land and maintain them in operation for at least a year. The regular Weather Bureau records form the basis of such studies, while his special stations reveal local peculiarities. He also "boosts" climate for the Los Angeles Chamber of Commerce, but his boosting is done in a conservative and conscientious way.

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