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▲ Science Service Feature

? WHY THE WEATHER ?

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REMARKABLE CLOUDBURSTS

Two additions were made this month to the long list of remarkable American cloudbursts. One case, which cost a number of lives, occurred at Nogales, Arizona; the other poured a tremendous flood down Bingham Canyon, Utah, near the world's largest open-pit copper mine.

Several notable cloudbursts of the nineteenth century are described in Greeley's "American Weather." Near Wickenburg, Arizona, a cloudburst caused the Hassayampa River, from being perfectly dry at sunset, August 6, 1881, to be a stream a mile wide and from two to fifteen feet deep at 11 p.m. In thirteen hours the river was again dry.

On June 8, 1885, a cloudburst at Pason de Cuarenta, Mexico, practically destroyed the whole town, drowning more than 170 of its 800 inhabitants.

"It is probable," says Greeley, "that cloudbursts must have occurred near Pittsburgh, Pa., the night of July 25-26, 1874, when 134 lives were lost and property valued at \$500,000 was destroyed."

In the American Journal of Science, vol. 4, 1822, there is a lengthy description of the memorable cloudburst at Catskill, N. Y., July 26, 1819. This storm was remarkable for the enormous gullies it produced. One man stepped from his door into a torrent that had cut a channel ten feet deep. He was swept away by the water and drowned.

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