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Science Service Feature

? WHY THE WEATHER ? Mailed October 9, 1930.

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LAST SUMMER

Now that the remarkable summer of 1930 has passed into history it is interesting to look back upon such episodes as these (part of a larger collection gleaned by the American Meteorological Society):

In New York City two drawbridges over the Harlem River expanded so much from the heat on July 21 that a quarter of an inch of their steel work had to be burned off with an acetylene torch.

In Boston panes of glass in a skylight were believed to have acted as a lens to focus the sun's rays on inflammable materials, starting a fire that partially destroyed the clubhouse of the Squantum Yacht Club.

At Quincy, Ill., a fire was caused by a similar process on a river steamboat, while at Martinsburg, Mo., several automobiles standing in the sun were set on fire by the sun's shining through windshields and igniting the cushions.

On Sunday, July 20, more than a million people went to Coney Island to seek relief from the heat and it was estimated that 20,000 spent the night there, sleeping on the sand.

At State College, Pa., Dr. G.L. Zundel, plant pathologist, reported that on a trip through Franklin County he had found 5 per cent. of the orchards he visited had been partially cooked. In orchards near Scotland, Pa., he found 10 per cent. of the apples on the sunward side of the trees had been baked.

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