

A Science Service Feature

Released upon receipt  
but intended for use  
October 14, 1931

? WHY THE WEATHER ?

Mailed October 7, 1931

By Charles Fitzhugh Talman,  
Authority on Meteorology.

DEATH VALLEY CLIMATE

Death Valley, California, is famous for its heat. At the Weather Bureau station in the valley, located at a place known in official records as Greenland Ranch but now commonly called Furnace Creek Ranch, the shaded thermometer once registered 134 - a figure that remained a "world record" for nine years - while in July and August, 1917, there were 43 consecutive days with maximum temperatures of 120 or higher. Even more terrible to contemplate is the fact that there have been nights at this place when the temperature did not fall below 100!

Temperatures as high as 100 have been registered in every month from March to October, inclusive; but Death Valley is not always hot. Far from it. The nights are, as a rule comfortably - or uncomfortably - cool from October to April. Freezing temperatures have been recorded in every month from October to March, inclusive, and in December, January and February, 1928-29, there were 72 consecutive nights when the temperature fell to the freezing point. The lowest temperature ever registered at the station was 15 above zero.

Rain is decidedly scarce. It falls, on an average, on only seven days in the year and there was once a stretch of 401 consecutive days with no measurable rainfall. The average rainfall for the year is 1.38 inches; less than at any other weather station in the United States.

(All rights reserved by Science Service, Inc.)

-----  
SCIENCE SERVICE  
21st and Constitution Ave.  
Washington, D.C.