

A Science Service Feature

Released upon receipt  
but intended for use  
March 4, 1932

? WHY THE WEATHER ? Mailed February 26, 1932

By Charles Fitzhugh Talman,  
Authority on Meteorology.

OTHER MILD WINTERS

In J. C. Smock's "Climate of New Jersey," published by the state in question in 1888, there is a chronological history of the weather from the year 1607 onward; the greatest amount of attention being given to conditions prevailing in winter along the Delaware River. In view of the remarkable mildness of the past winter in the same part of the country, it is interesting to find in this record notes of many very mild winters in the past; in some cases immediately preceding or following winters of unusual severity.

The winter of 1607-08 is noted as "extremely cold," but in the year 1631 "De Vries arrived in the Delaware about the first of February; the season was so mild that his men could work in the open air in their shirt sleeves." In February, 1714, flowers were seen in the woods.

The winter of 1740-41 was exceptionally cold; "Long Island Sound frozen over three leagues across. Delaware not navigable from December 19th until March 13th." The next winter was mild; "Delaware open during December and January, and no mention of ice in February and March."

The winter of 1754-55 was unusually mild. "Troops sailed from New York to Albany in January and February." In 1755-56, "another mild winter; no mention of ice in the Delaware, and entries and clearances every month."

These contrasts prevail through the record. A few years after Smock's weather chronology was published another writer selected from his list such winters as are sufficiently described to indicate their severity or mildness and found that the severe and mild winters were exactly equal in number.

(All rights reserved by Science Service, Inc.)

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