

Released upon receipt
but intended for use
June 22, 1932

? WHY THE WEATHER ?

Mailed June 15, 1932

By Charles Fitzhugh Talman,
Authority on Meteorology.

"CHINOOK"

Just as Albert Matthews, of Boston, has been for many years the leading historian of the term "Indian summer," and A.W. Read, of the University of Missouri, has lately held a similar position with respect to the term "blizzard," so J. Neilson Barry, secretary of the Trail Seekers' Council, of Oregon, is the man who has delved deepest into the history of the term "chinook," as applied to several varieties of wind in the western United States and Canada.

As stated in previous Why the Weather notes, this term is mostly applied nowadays to a warm, dry wind, identical in its character and mode of origin with the Swiss foehn, blowing down the eastern slopes of the Rocky Mountains, but it was originally the local nickname for a northwesterly wind blowing in summer from the Chinook Indian villages along Baker Bay, on the north shore of the Columbia River, to the stockade of Fort George, on the site of the present city of Astoria. This wind is attended by clear, warm weather. The name has long since ceased to be applied to the wind in question.

Mr. Barry lists four other "chinook" winds, as follows:

1. A northwest wind, bringing clear, warm weather, in the Willamette valley.
2. In later use, a moist west-southwest wind of the Willamette valley, bringing warm, wet weather.
3. At Walla Walla and Palouse, Wash., a disagreeable southwest wind, melting the snow in winter.
4. Montana, Dakotas, etc. The foehn wind of the eastern Rocky Mountain slope.

(All rights reserved by Science Service, Inc.)

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