

A Science Service Feature

Released upon receipt
but intended for use
February 2, 1934

? WHY THE WEATHER ?

Mailed January 26, 1934

HEAVY RAINS

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In view of the recent disastrous flood in southern California, resulting from a 24-hour rainfall of about 7 inches at Los Angeles and doubtless considerably more in surrounding mountain localities, it is interesting to find in the current (October) issue of the Monthly Weather Review a tabulation of the heaviest falls of rain in 24 hours hitherto recorded in the United States. Here is the list:

New Smyrna, Fla., Oct. 9-10, 1924	23.22 inches
Taylor, Tex., Sept. 9-10, 1921	23.11 "
Altapass, N.C., July 15-16, 1916	22.22 "
Alexandria, La., June 15-16, 1886	21.40 "
Elba, Ala., March 14-15, 1929	20.00 "
St. George, Ga., Aug. 28-29, 1911	18.00 "
Squirrel Inn, Calif., Jan 17, 1916	16.81 "

The Taylor, Texas, downpour is mentioned in several recent works on meteorology, but the heavier one at New Smyrna, which now holds the blue ribbon for the United States, though it happened nearly a decade ago, failed to attract the general attention of meteorologists. Unlike most extremely heavy rains in the southeastern states it was not the result of a tropical cyclone.

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