

A Science Service Feature

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? WHY THE WEATHER ? Mailed April 30, 1934

BAD TORNADO YEARS

By Charles Fitzhugh Talman,  
Authority on Meteorology.

In his last annual review of tornadoes in the United States, S.D. Flora, of the U.S. Weather Bureau, says that since the Bureau began its detailed collection of tornado statistics in 1916 the five years in which damage surpassed that reported in 1933 were 1917, 1920, 1924, 1925 and 1927. Each was marked either by tornadoes striking large cities or traveling long paths across states.

He writes:

"In 1917 a tornado that struck Mattoon, Ill., traveled 393 miles in Illinois and Indiana, and left in its wake a property loss of \$2,500,000 and 101 people killed. In 1920 a series of tornadoes in Mississippi, Alabama and Tennessee, on April 20, and one that struck the suburbs of Chicago on March 28, with a loss of \$2,000,000, made that a notable year for tornado damage. In 1925, the famous Tri-State or Murphysboro tornado traveled from southeastern Missouri entirely across Illinois and into Indiana, killed over 700 persons and destroyed property to the extent of \$16,500,000. The St. Louis tornado of September 29, 1927, with a property loss of \$30,000,000 set a new high mark for tornado damage that year."

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