

Editors: Please note correction in last sentence. S.S. 7/5/34

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A Science Service Feature

? WHY THE WEATHER ?

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ABNORMALLY NORMAL WEATHER

By Charles Fitzhugh Talman,  
Authority on Meteorology.

I once received a letter from a magazine editor asking me for an article about "the unusual weather we have been having lately." I looked up the records and found that the weather had indeed been unusual -- but not in the way he supposed. He had jumped to conclusions from a few sporadic weather happenings and was much disconcerted when I reported that, over the country in general, the weather had been running far closer to normal than it usually does. It had been abnormally normal!

There was a real "story" in this exceptional state of affairs, but the editor had set his heart on something different, and the story was never written.

Local record-breaking extremes of temperature and the like for particular dates are often given great prominence in the newspapers. No paper, to my knowledge, has ever "featured" the equally interesting cases of exact normality.

There is genuine news in the statement that "yesterday the average temperature for the 24 hours was exactly normal, for the first time/in the history of the local weather station."

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