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? WHY THE WEATHER ? Mailed Nov. 1, 1934.

DEATH VALLEY MIRAGE

By Charles Fitzhugh Talman  
Authority on Meteorology

At this season tourists throng to Death Valley, which has lately become a winter playground and which was made a "national monument" last year by presidential proclamation. Not the least interesting among the natural wonders to be seen there are the frequent exhibitions of mirage. Frederick Simpich writes of these displays in a current magazine article: "All about is unreality, illusion. Sometimes this illusion is almost convincing. Moving dust, changing lights and shadows enrich the strange, infernal region with infinite fantastic shapes and patterns; castles, streams, and lakes, even waterfalls, you think you see them all. Mirages recur. When motorcars, raising a dust, approach through a distant, low-hanging mirage, the illusion is that of a speedboat kicking up a spray of water."

The Encyclopedia Americana, in its article on Death Valley, says: "Here mirage raises up spectral cities, groves, fields and tree-margined rivers. A low ruin will seem to be hundreds of feet high; arrowweeds are magnified into stately palms; and crows walking on the ground appear as men on horseback."

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21st and Constitution Ave.  
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