A Science Service Feature

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? WHY THE WEATHER ? Mailed Jan. 21, 1935

A SIGNAL SERVICE STORY

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Authority on Meteorology

In those far-off, primitive days when the weather stations of the United States were run by enlisted men of the Signal Corps a good many things happened that would be impossible at existing stations of the Weather Bureau. The story is told of a surprising discovery made by a lieutenant of the Corps while on an inspection tour.

The officer arrived at a certain station and desired, according to custom, to make "comparative barometer readings" for the purpose of testing the accuracy of the local instrument. The observer confessed,with trepidation, that the station barometer was not in the building, and it soon turned out that all the other instruments were equally conspicuous by their absence.

The sergeant had been taking his observations regularly and reporting the results by telegraph to headquarters, but in order to do so he had to make daily visits to a pawn-shop, where, in a period of impecuniosity, he had "hocked" all the Government apparatus!

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