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A Science Service Feature

? WHY THE WEATHER ?

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RAIN MOVES A BOG

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Last October a big Irish bog went traveling. In Ireland a good many bogs are located on the tops of hills and mountains. After heavy rains, water may accumulate under one of them to such an extent that it breaks loose and spreads a deluge of mud over fields and farms in the valley below. In such cases the bog is said to "burst" and the event is called a "bog flow." Cottages have been filled to the roof in these sudden flows and in several cases human lives have been lost.

The recent flow occurred on October 29 at Maghera, County Clare, after a period of unusually heavy rainfall. The bog, 20 acres in extent, burst in the early morning and descended with a deep, rumbling noise. It spread out in the valley below, inundating fields and crops over an area of about six square miles and making several roads impassable. The bog traveled four miles along a front of about 150 yards before coming to rest.

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