

Released upon receipt
but intended for use
May 17, 1935

A Science Service Feature

? WHY THE WEATHER ?

Mailed May 10, 1935

A UNIQUE WEATHER STATION

By Charles Fitzhugh Talman,
Authority on Meteorology

The famous "Kite Station on Lake Constance" has recently been renamed the "Aerological Observatory on Lake Constance." The earlier name had been something of a misnomer for many years.

This unique institution was the outgrowth of experiments conducted at the beginning of the present century by Count Zeppelin, of airship fame, and his scientific adviser Prof. H. Hergesell. In order to measure weather conditions in the air above the lake they sent up kites, with weather instruments attached, from a motor boat. Then, in 1908, the so-called kite station was established at Friedrichshafen, on the shore of the same lake, and provided with a small steamboat, specially equipped for kite-flying.

But experience soon showed that a balloon, attached to the boat by a steel wire, was more manageable than a kite. The kites are still occasionally used, but most of the daily soundings of the upper air are now made with captive balloons. Down to the middle of last year more than 8,000 balloon ascents had been carried out from the boat, which bears the name "Gna" --after one of the messengers of the gods in the northern mythology.

(All rights reserved by Science Service, Inc.)

SCIENCE SERVICE
2101 Constitution Ave.
Washington, D. C.