

A Science Service Feature

Released upon receipt  
but intended for use  
May 23, 1935

? WHY THE WEATHER ?

Mailed May 16, 1935

DUST STORM TALES

By Charles Fitzhugh Talman,  
Authority on Meteorology

The following anecdotes relating to recent dust storms in the Middle West have been gleaned by the Soil Erosion Service of the U. S. Department of Agriculture, which publishes them with the caution that their veracity cannot be vouched for:

Many farmers in the Dalhart section of Texas have devised a novel means of determining the exact condition of the weather. A long heavy log chain is tied on a post about four feet above the ground. When the wind blows hard enough to straighten the chain, then the farmer decides possibly it might be too windy to work so gathers up his family and goes visiting.

A farmer going along a highway was caught in a sandstorm which was so bad that he had to stop his car because he found himself climbing up on the sand in the air. He decided to wait until the worst was over. When the worst had passed and the visibility was such as he could see what had happened, he observed a Stetson hat over in the field on top of a sand dune that was not there before the storm hit. Through curiosity, he investigated. He discovered it on a man's head.

After scratching away a little of the dirt, he asked, "Could I help you out?"

"I don't think that's necessary", the man replied, "I am on my tractor and by tomorrow the wind will come from the other direction and blow the sand away and I can drive out".

(All rights reserved by Science Service, Inc.)

-----  
SCIENCE SERVICE  
2101 Constitution Avenue  
Washington, D. C.