

Released upon receipt
but intended for use
July 29, 1935

A Science Service Feature

? WHY THE WEATHER ?

Mailed July 22, 1935

A MOON WEATHER SIGN

By Charles Fitzhugh Talman,
Authority on Meteorology

The appearance of the "old moon in the arms of the new" is given two opposite interpretations in weather folklore. One is embodied in the following lines from the "Ballad of Sir Patrick Spence":

"Late, late yestreen I saw the new moon
With the old moon in her arm;
And I fear, I fear, my master dear,
We shall have a deadly storm,"

which involve an astronomical "bull," since the new moon is never visible late in the evening. The other interpretation of the phenomenon prevails in parts of England, where, according to Inwards' "Weather Lore," to see the old moon in the arms of the new is reckoned a sign of fine weather. The old moon, thus seen, shines with light reflected from the earth, and some authorities have thought that the intensity of this "earth-shine" might not be altogether unrelated to the weather outlook, but this is quite doubtful.

(Copyright 1935 by Science Service, Inc.)

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