

film review

Formation of Raindrops, 26 minutes, color, sound, 16 mm.

Principal Scientists: Louis J. Battan, the University of Arizona; J. Doyne Sartor, National Center for Atmospheric Research; Patrick Squires, Desert Research Institute, University of Nevada System

Produced by: Educational Development Center, Newton, Mass.

Distributed by: Modern Learning Aids, New York, N. Y., and Universal Education and Visual Arts, New York, N. Y. Prices on request.

Released: 1966

This color film was made in 1964 and treats the formation of raindrops, both by the coalescence and ice processes.

It documents the thinking on these processes, current at that time.

The film contains several well illustrated laboratory demonstrations of water droplet formation as well as measurement of both water droplets and raindrop sizes.

There are several time lapse sequences of clouds and rainfall. The viewer would benefit more from a slower replay of these, to give an opportunity for appreciation of time for precipitation development. Two of the sequences are shown in reverse and this should be corrected.

The ice growth processes are not as thoroughly treated as the condensation-coalescence sections. The microscope-viewed growth sequences for ice crystals are very beautiful, although there are some out-of-focus sections, obviously caused by the limited depth of field of view of the microscope.

One or two of the statements by Dr. Battan toward the end of the film, regarding ice nuclei and ice crystals, might bear editing in view of more recent research findings.

In general, this film makes a clear definitive statement about raindrop formation. The laboratory demonstrations are presented in such a manner that interested high school science students may well be able to duplicate some of them.—*Joseph A. Warburton*

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