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Cover

Cloud over the Magdalena Mountains (elevation 10,700 feet) 17 miles west of Socorro, New Mexico. Two factors contributed to the failure of this cloud to produce rain: (i) the air was abnormally dry, as is indicated by the weight of the cloud base above the mountain; (ii) winds aloft moved the top of the cloud toward the east, producing a shearing action that broke the alignment of the columns in the cloud. See page 407.