Good, clean water in Warm Springs

The chief engineer at the water treatment plant is Roy Vaughn, who came here from Oregon City, Oregon, where he served as chief operator for several years. Prior to that he worked in Richland, Washington, water system for 20 years, as supervisor pumping 320 million gallons of water per day from the Columbia River. Vaughn went to school at the University of Montana, the Clackamas Community College and he also received his No. 3 certificate from Oregon State University.

Steve Courtney, a tribal member is the plant operator attendant. A trainee who went to school at Clackmas Community College in a water works training program. Steve is presently taking on the job training and has been there since last August, he will be taking his test in November.

Kurt Kessecker, another plant operator who has a No. 2 certificate in water works, Kurt came here from Myrtle Creek, Oregon. He attended Linn Benton Community College in Albany, Oregon.

During the summer months Willie Fuentes will be working as grounds maintenance engineer during his break from college studies.

How the water system works as explained by Vaughn. The water is drawn from the Deschuted river at the mouth of Dry Creek through a stainless steel intake filter this filter is equipped with an air line. The line is used to back flesh the line by allowing all the debris away from the filter screen.

The water flows by gravity into the raw water well then pumped by 20 horse power pumps to the raw water header where Aluminum Solphate. Polymer, Corbin Soda Ash and Clorine are added.

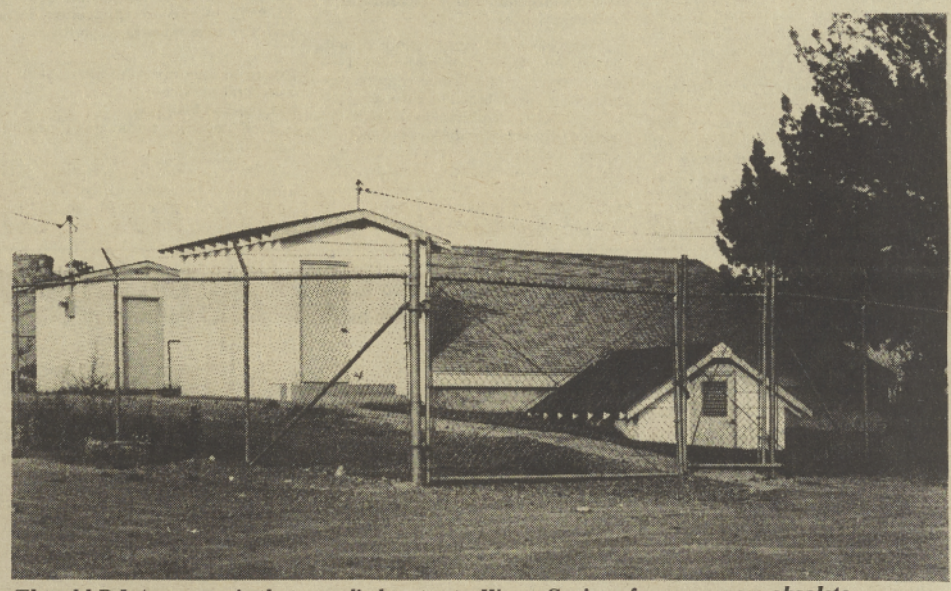
The plant has a pilot filtering system, furnished by the Neptune Micro Floc Co., of Corvallis, Oregon, this filtering system controls the amount of chemicals necessary to produce potable drinking water. The water flows to four infilco decrement filters and this filtering system is the first of its kind in the state of Oregon. It operates on a vacuum system which brings water into each filter bay. The water is filtered through 42 inches o mixed media material, (gravel, sand, etc.). Flourine is added to the water before it is pumped by three 900 horse power pumps to the Tewee Butte storage tank.

The finished water is pumped through an 18 inch high pressure line. The line can stand pressure up to 375 pounds per square inch. Backing the line is a serge anticipater located on the finished water heder. A serge anticipater is a device that detects any malfunction in the pumping system. A relief valve is automaticlly opened to handle the back serge of water that is in the line.

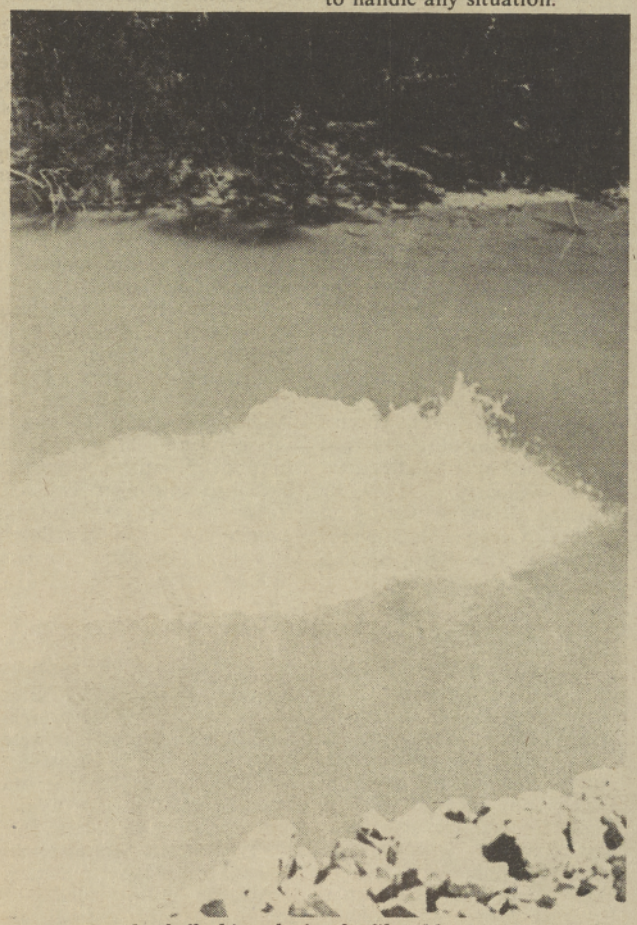
There is 17 miles of new water line now serving Warm Springs and Kah-Nee-Ta. The Tewee Butte tank holds 1.5 million gallons of water. The tank located south of Warm Springs holds 2 million gallons. There are two tanks at Kah-Nee-Ta that hold 1.3 million gallons of water.

There are approximately 6 million gallons of usable water on the reservation, or a three day supply if the system should fail to operate. The only way a shut down could occur is if one of the dams broke causing a wash-out or if a tanker truck wrecked in the river hauling a load of contaminating chemicals, otherwise the system is pretty well equipped to handle any situation.

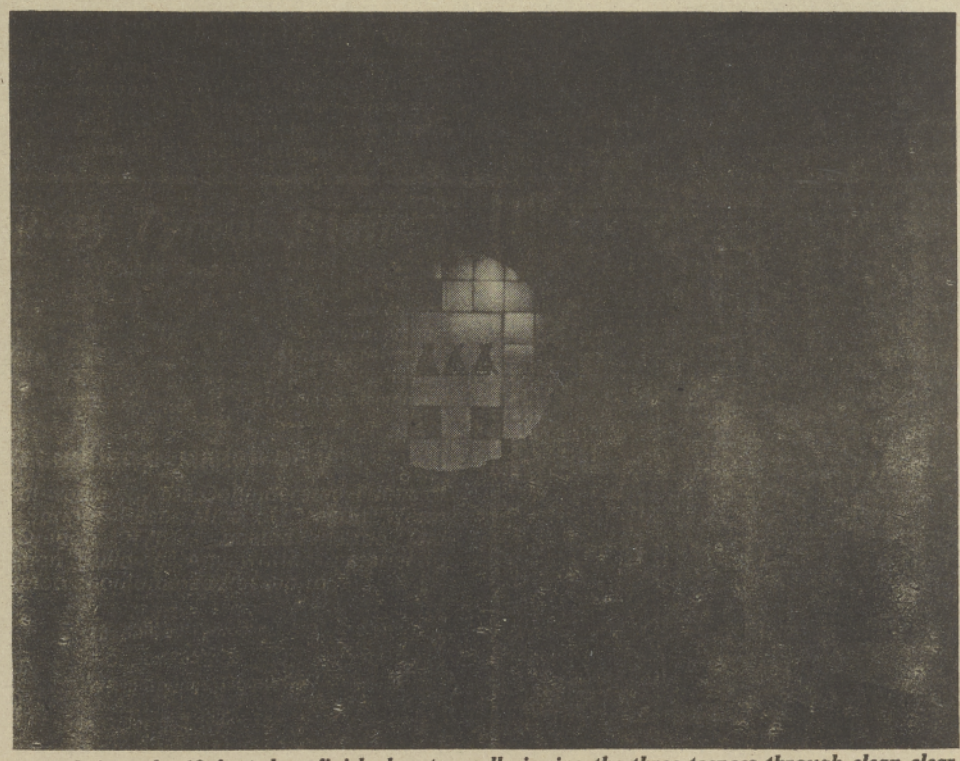
Kurt Kessecker Steve Courtney Roy Vaughn



The old B.I.A. reservoir that supplied water to Warm Springs for years now obsolete.



The air line back flashing the intake filter blowing all the debris away, keeping the filter clean.



A peek into the 12-foot deep finished water well viewing the three teepees through clean clear drinking water.

Spilyay Tymoo photos by Sid