

Water Short Communities Can Learn From U.S. Navy

By Paul F. Ellis
United Press Science Editor
Guantanamo, Cuba, Jan. 18.—(U.P.)—The city of New York and other American communities with a water shortage can learn a few things from the United States navy.

The navy's ships, particularly the big combat vessels, have the water problem at all times—but something is done about it, and American ships have water so pure that it could be injected into your veins with no harm done.

Converts Water
First, the navy has brand new equipment that converts salt water into fresh. It's too expensive for the communities to adopt now—but the technique some day may be practical.

Second, the navy—known for its cleanliness—knows how to conserve water.

On all the big ships, such as the Carrier Franklin D. Roosevelt of the Atlantic fleet which anchored off this island for two days on a West Indies cruise, the most modern fresh water "factory" can be found. The type on the Roosevelt produces up to 160,000—even 200,000—gallons of fresh water each day from salt sea water, sucked up from the ocean.

When the Roosevelt leaves a port it carries 206,000 gallons piped in from land sources—but that lasts only one day or so, and the ship's fresh water system goes into action.

Sucked into Ship
The Roosevelt system has four units, each capable of producing 50,000 gallons of fresh water from sea water daily. The ocean water is sucked into the ship through six-inch pipes that protrude from the bottom of the vessel. It goes into each unit at the rate of 800 gallons a minute. And each unit produces about 40,000 gallons of fresh water a minute.

The cost, according to Cmdr. Raymond Payne, South Bend, Ind., engineering officer of the Roosevelt, is about one cent for 10 gallons. That may sound high for the ordinary water user—but it's the cheapest by far in the cost of making fresh water from salt water. The research in the navy may some day lead even to cheaper costs.

Payne and his division engineer, Lt. Yorick N. Fontenot, are experts on this matter of making fresh water, and they also depend a lot on Chief Petty Officer John L. Smithers, of Bowling Green, Va., who is directly assigned to the water converter system.

Exhaust Steam Used
In the navy system, which was designed and built by Grison Russell, New York, exhaust steam—steam that already has been used—furnishes the heat to boil the salt water. There are numerous steps. The steam goes into a first chamber via tubes, and its heat boils the water, causing it to change to vapor. The vapor passes on to two other similar chambers and finally goes to a distilling condenser, where it turns to liquid. Then the liquid goes through a testing chamber. The water is cooled, and then sent to storage tanks located in the deepest part of the ship.

The whole process does not require three minutes. The water, the purest you ever drank, is used both for the boilers and for drinking, cooking and all other purposes aboard this big ship.

1949 Fruit Crop Said Second Largest Ever

In 1949, United States growers produced the second largest fruit crop on record, according to the weekly fruit and nut crops review prepared by the Oregon State college extension service from United States department of agriculture reports and other data.

The 1949 pear crop was a record high. National production was estimated at two-fifths above the small 1948 crop and about one-fifth above average. In the three Pacific coast states, Bartlett production was half again as large as the 1948 crop and almost a third more than average, the department of agriculture figures showed. Fall and winter pears in the three states were about a fifth more than last year's average crop and these estimates include unusually large amounts of pears not utilized.

The apple crop was more than double that of 1948 and the largest since 1939, the extension service reported. Ten million bushels of apples were left unharvested from the 1949 crop. The bureau of agricultural economics has estimated that in 1949 each person in the nation consumed an average of about 25 pounds of fresh apples, 47 pounds of fresh citrus fruit, and 57 pounds of other fresh fruit. Per capita consumption of all fruits during the year amounted to 216 pounds per person.

Farm Prices Continue Slide In December

Oregon farm prices continued to slide during the month ending December 15, according to the weekly farm review prepared by the Oregon State college extension service from United States department of agriculture reports and other data. This is the third consecutive month in which prices received by Oregon farmers have shown a decline.

Although prices fluctuated somewhat during 1949, the general trend for the entire year was in a downward direction. The general level on December 15 was 12 per cent below a year earlier, and 24 per cent below the peak reached in June 1948. Declines during the year have been general in all of Oregon's great animal and poultry products. Most of the state's principal crops are also bringing prices below those of a year ago. Exceptions are barley and potatoes, rye and hay.

But declines at the retail level lagged over the entire country, according to bureau of labor statistics. Consumers are paying only three per cent less for food than they did a year ago. On November 15, 1949, it took \$2 to buy the same amount of food that \$1 would buy before the war.

Features Slated For Red Tag Days Here

With two special features, including appearances of the American Legion Kilty band from Ashland and a two-day kitchen clinic, added to the many bargains to be offered during Red Tag Days Friday and Saturday, Medford shoppers will be given an interesting two days in the business section, according to Robert Agard, chairman of the chamber of commerce's retail trade committee.

Food stores are cooperating in the January Red Tag observance, Agard said, making it a city-wide event.

The Kilty band will play on downtown streets Saturday afternoon, to call attention to the community March of Dimes dance which will be held at Merrick's ballroom on Friday, January 27.

The kitchen clinic will be conducted by Miss B. J. Christensen, home economist, at the Home Appliance company Friday and Saturday. Included will be a home laundry demonstration, cooking school and a dishwasher and garbage disposal demonstration.

Thank God For Muscle-Rub!

Writes Ruth Chiat, Los Angeles
Advices every sufferer from Rheumatism—Arthritis—Sciatic—Neuritic Pains to try Muscle-Rub

Here's the true story of a woman who took treatments, used all kinds of remedies for her sciatic, neuritic pains without being helped in the slightest degree. Ruth Chiat, 40, of Los Angeles, suffered agony from pains in her hip—knee—calf or leg. The pain at times was so bad that she couldn't sit down. She tried several different medicines, all of which did her no good. She couldn't work. Life was misery for her.

Then one day she saw an advertisement of Muscle-Rub—the doctor's prescription—and in desperation bought a bottle. She used it as directed and in 3 days the pains were relieved and Ruth Chiat was back on the job.

No wonder she advises every rheumatic sufferer to try Muscle-Rub for fast relief. Get a bottle today at PENNY-WISE WESTERN THRIFT And Other Drug Stores

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In the Day's News

By Frank Jenkins

I've just read a piece on the teletype that intrigues me. It's from Washington, and it says: Government scientists have developed a synthetic or artificial mica, relieving U.S. dependence upon imports for that important electrical insulation material. . . Commerce Secretary Sawyer announced it with a declaration that "this discovery is of immense importance to the United States." . . he implied that the development is an addition to national security, since it promises an ample supply of a material that becomes critical in the pinches.

The dispatch adds: "Mica consists of transparent crystals. It is popularly termed isinglass."

A H ME! How that takes us oldsters, especially those of us who came from the Mississippi valley, back into the olden golden days!

MAYBE isinglass is a strategic material now. Maybe it might save our bacon in case of another war. Maybe it will enable us to twiddle our fingers at nations that have plenty of mica in the natural state where we are short of it.

These are problems of the modern time. There was a wonderful period in this nation's history when we didn't give two hoots down a rain-barrel for strategic war materials. In those days we weren't afraid of any other nation. We didn't regard ourselves as the national keeper of any brother. We just went ahead and hoed our own row of corn and let the people of other countries hoe their row. We didn't get the jitters every time we read the international news. As a matter of fact, WE NEVER READ THE INTERNATIONAL NEWS. We regarded such things as silly business.

It was in those days that isinglass REALLY MATTERED. It mattered because it made base-burners possible.

YOU children never heard of a base-burner, of course. Nor, I suppose, did any native son of the Golden West. So I reckon I'd better elucidate.

A base-burner was a squat, pot-bellied stove that burned anthracite—which, for the further enlightenment of Western folk, is hard, slow-burning, clean coal. The fire was in the bottom of the base-burner, and in the upper part was a hopper that could be filled with anthracite of the "nut" size. As the coal burned out at the bottom, more filtered down from the hopper at the top—so that, if you filled the hopper at night, THERE WOULD BE A NICE, WARM FIRE IN THE BASE-BURNER THE NEXT MORNING and the room would be nice and cozy.

THAT doesn't mean anything to you children. You have a plethora of modern gadgets, including furnaces controlled by a thermostat that you set when you go to bed and with no further monkey-business it keeps the house warm as toast all night so that you don't freeze your little toes when you get up to a cold house in the morning.

It was different back when the base-burner was invented. People then got up to houses that were just four degrees colder in the wee small hours of the dark mornings than the North Pole and the only way to relieve the cold was to BUILD A FIRE. By the time the fire was built you

Ashland Club Featured By Kiwanis Magazine

An article in the current issue of The Kiwanis Magazine, the national monthly publication of Kiwanis international, features a story about the Ashland Boys Athletic club, sponsored in Ashland by the Kiwanis club.

Details of the club's operation are told in the article. Other service clubs in Ashland have joined the Kiwanians in sponsoring the athletic organization.

were frozen stiff, but as the stove got to drawing well and became red all over you came slowly back to life and motion.

It was into a world such as this that the base-burner came and changed morning from a terrible ordeal to a pleasant experience.

WHERE does the isinglass come in? Oh, yes, I'd forgotten.

The bottom part of these base-burners was made of little square windows in the cast iron frame of the thing and these windows were filled with isinglass which miraculously resisted the fire and permitted the rosy light of the burning anthracite to come glowing through. It was wonderful in the gloaming, in that magic hour before the kerosene lamps were lighted, and it was even more wonderful when you toasted your toes in front of it the next morning.

Whatever synthetic mica may mean in the modern world, it can't be any hotter stuff, relatively speaking, than isinglass was back in the base-burner days.

Dead line on Classified Ads: 5:30 p.m. for following day; 10 a.m. Monday for Monday; noon Saturday for Sunday a.m.



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