

Blossom Festival King, Queen Entry Deadline March 24

Deadline for entering candidates for king or queen of the Pear Blossom Festival is March 24, Jay Pierce, festival committee president, said yesterday. Candidates must be between 2 and 6 years old.

Pierce discussed the festival organization at the noon luncheon of the Jackson County Chamber of Commerce Roundtable at the Jackson hotel.

Tells Purpose
One purpose of the festival, he said, is to establish a local celebration that will "put the area on the map without mimicking some other celebration."

This year the festival, to be held April 27, will include a parade for children, no motorized vehicles, and no animals larger than a St. Bernard dog. There is no entry fee to enter a float in the parade, it was reported.

Three Prizes
The festival, underwritten completely by Medford merchants, will include three \$50 sweepstake prizes for winning floats. After the parade, the committee will sponsor free movies for children at both Medford theaters, Pierce said.

He added the committee is considering expanding the festival some time in the future into a week end event rather than just a parade.

Civil Rights Bill Clears First Hurdle

Washington—(U.P.)—A watered down version of President Eisenhower's controversial civil rights bill cleared its first major hurdle in Congress yesterday.

The House Judiciary committee approved the measure and recommended its passage by the House.

De-Salting of Sea To Provide Fresh Water Supply Said Nearer

Washington—(U.P.)—Man is moving closer to his ancient dream of de-salting the sea to provide an unlimited supply of fresh water for farms and cities, government scientists said today.

Research on cheap methods of purifying ocean water will take a significant step forward this summer with the construction of three pilot plants on the east and west coasts.

If these plants work as well as designers expect, said David S. Jenkins, head of the Interior Department's office of saline water, "it appears reasonably certain" that the cost of large scale conversion of ocean water will be brought down to about 50 cents per 1,000 gallons.

That would be a major breakthrough in research. The most efficient salt water conversion apparatus now in use, aboard Navy ships and at isolated industrial sites, operates at a cost of about \$2,000 per 1,000 gallons.

Temporary Target
But Jenkins and his colleagues, who have tested scores of different conversion processes since the government research program was launched in 1925, regard the 50 cent figure as only a temporary target.

"We expect to keep on bringing the cost down," he said.

Present costs of fresh water for municipal and industrial use range from only a few cents per 1,000 gallons, in areas situated near an adequate supply, to a high of about 38 cents per 1,000 gallons in a few places where supplies are scarce.

Finding enough water to meet demand already is a major problem in virtually all western states and in many parts of the east. Shortages are so acute in some areas that President Eisenhower recently warned that "water is rapidly becoming our most precious natural resource."

Needs Doubled in 1937
Assistant Secretary Fred G. Aandahl estimates that the 1937 population will need about 433

billion gallons of water a day, about twice the present need.

One plant at San Diego, Calif., will be a "solar still." It will use the free heat of the sun's rays to cause evaporation. Scientists believe this type of plant offers great promise for areas with a hot, sunny climate.

Another type, a "multiple effect" still, will be built at Harbor Island, N.C. Developed by W. L. Badger of Ann Arbor, Mich. It will test an improved version of the distillation process already being used aboard naval vessels. Steam produced in one evaporation tube supplies heat for the next stage, and the process continues through five, six or even ten stages.

Another pilot plant, considered by some scientists to be the most promising, is called the Badger Hickman rotary still. Developed by the Badger Manufacturing Co., of Cambridge, Mass., it is now undergoing a knock down tests at the factory and soon will

be moved to a sea coast site which has not yet been selected.

This still, in which very thin streams of water are forced at high velocity over conical heating plates, is regarded as a possible answer to the problem of salt scale formation which tends to clog the operation of present distillation apparatus. It will turn out about 25,000 gallons of fresh water a day.

Veterans' Widows Urged To Apply for Payments

Washington—(U.P.)—The Veterans Administration urges veterans' widows to apply for the new increased dependents' compensation payments.

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