

### Jordanian Water Supply Is From Roman Systems

By RAY J. MOLONEY  
 Amman, Jordan — (UPI) — When in Jordan you do as the Romans did—at least if you want water.

In a modern tribute to the skill of Roman engineering, a California-born construction engineer, Oliver H. Folsom, 53, is rehabilitating Roman wells, cisterns and canals in a U.S.-backed program to bring water to this barren land.

There is virtually nothing that we could have taught the Romans about the utilization of water supplies," Folsom said. "The policy that we are following is a definite one of seeking out and using the old Roman waterworks because almost invariably their system was the best way to develop the water and their basic engineering concepts are the equal of anything we have to offer today."

The "we" referred to is the Jordan Central Water authority, a government department designed to find and exploit Jordan's scanty water resources.

Is Minister

Although technically a member of the U.S. foreign aid service, Folsom has been assigned to the Jordanian government to head the department and is, in effect, one of the most important ministers in the Jordanian government.

Folsom arrived in Jordan in September, 1960, for a two-year period. In a tribute to his work, Jordanian premier Wasfi Tel appealed to him to remain "in office" for another two years, Folsom agreed.

Beginning his hunt for water in late 1960, and using some \$350,000 of funds earned through sale of U.S. wheat to Jordan, Folsom has uncovered and restored 50 ancient Roman water systems, mostly in the barren sectors of Jordan.

Seek Signs

"In our hunt," said Folsom, "we seek the smallest sign of grass or anything green in the desert. Even a single tuft of bush means that, somewhere near, there is water."

"Almost invariably when we dig down—sometimes several feet—we find Roman remains. Sometimes they have been so wrecked by the passage of years that we cannot use them and we have to build all over again. But, wherever possible, we merely repair and strengthen, and then move on to seek other supplies."

Folsom insisted that those who ignored the Roman methods of trapping and storing water did so at their peril.

"I have worked on many of the major California irrigation schemes, but now I find myself saying time and time again: 'how did the Romans do it? this way? then we shall do it the same way.'"

Failed

"On the few occasions when we have ignored the Roman methods, our new, modern schemes have failed."

About the only way in which modern engineering can improve on the original Roman designs is that Folsom and his men now protect the water supplies.

Folsom said that, traditionally, water is free in the desert territories of Jordan. "Everyone wants water, and no one will refuse it to you if he has it, but similarly no one will take the responsibility for ensuring a continuing water flow," he said.

The Romans, apparently had an organized system to maintain their wells and cisterns, and it was after their

departure that sand and rubble began to drift in and block up the water outlets.

To prevent a recurrence of this, Folsom and his men protect the newly-uncovered water supplies and cover them in, in the hope that even when not regularly attended to they will continue to flow.

The water being obtained from the Roman systems is used entirely for human consumption and maintenance of animals. Supplies found so far are nowhere near sufficient to permit irrigation of land.

Work is proceeding on another 20 Roman ruins and the hunt for more goes on.

CRANES  
 Austin, Tex. — (UPI) — More than 1,000 varieties of birds, including the almost-extinct whooping crane, are found in Texas. The whooping crane make their winter home at the Arkansas national wildlife sanctuary. At last report, there were about 32 of them.

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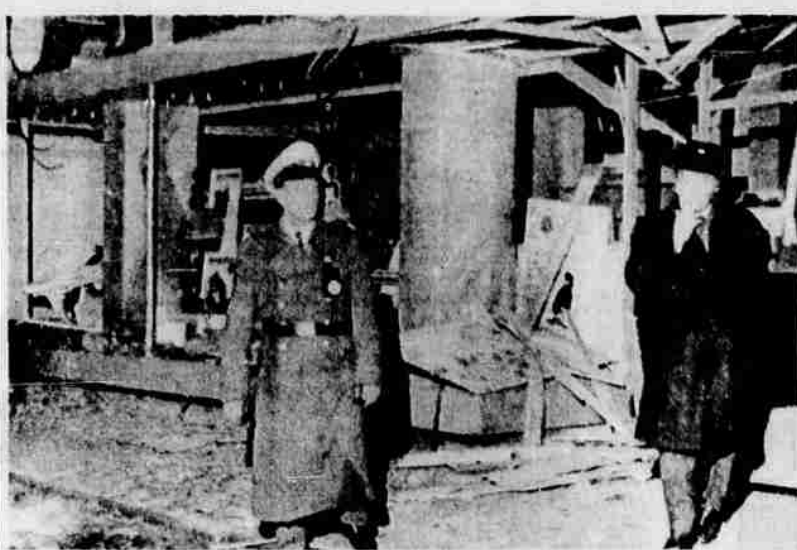
### Medford Men Attend OSU Short Course

Corvallis — William R. Dietrich, Orie S. Moore and Seth Waters of Medford completed a special three-day short course this week in the Oregon State university school of engineering.

The special school for city, county and state sanitarians is offered each year at OSU. Joint sponsors with the university are the state board of health and the Oregon Section, National Association of Sanitarians.

Food service — testing, inspection and epidemiology—drew special attention at this year's school along with work on industrial sanitation, occupational health hazards, and waste disposal. More than 60 sanitarians were enrolled.

MISSOURI U.N.  
 St. Louis — (UPI) — There are 274 students from 61 foreign lands enrolled at St. Louis university here.



**SMASHED FURNISHINGS**—Show windows of the Soviet tourist bureau, "Intourist," were shattered late Tuesday by a bombing. The blast also smashed furnishings in the tourist bureau and damaged surrounding apartments. The West Berlin city government Wednesday condemned the bombing as "only making the situation more difficult." Police thus far have been unable to trace the bombers. (UPI)

### Ruling Affirmed In Fraud Case

Salem—(UPI)—The Oregon Supreme Court Wednesday affirmed a Polk County Circuit Court ruling in a fraud case involving the sale of a cattle ranch.

Elmer H. K. Dorr and Zolinda M. Dorr had appealed the ruling by Judge Arlie G. Walker which denied Dorr's claim of fraud in the exchange with John Martinus Janssen. The lower court had ruled that Dorr lost his right to

damages arising out of the alleged misrepresentation when he sold the property back to Janssen.

**AWAITS FARM VOTES**  
 Birmingham, Ala.—(UPI)—City Commissioner J. T. Waggoner, who got only 1,872 of nearly 45,000 votes cast in the four-man race for mayor, refused to concede Wednesday. "Just wait until the farm vote comes in," he said.

Forty million Americans sleep on mattresses more than 16 years old, says the Latex Foam Rubber council.

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