

Water Shortage Brings On Seesaw Battle Among Farmers, Industry

By ROGER D. GREENE

WASHINGTON, Sept. 27 (AP) — America today is locked in a gigantic seesaw battle over one of nature's abundant resources—water.

With the huge increase in population and the postwar industrial boom, the resulting scarcity of water in many sections of the country finds farmer pitted against

farmer for irrigation water, city against city and state against state for domestic supplies, and industry, biggest consumer of all, struggling to find enough water to survive.

"We have reached a point where water scarcities are becoming more frequent and more numerous. The increasing demand for water supplies, together with increasing pollution of streams, is beginning to cause major concern even in humid areas."

The long-range outlook is far from bright. Experts say that by 1975, an additional 145 billion gallons will be needed daily—equivalent to the flow of about 11 Colorado rivers.

Even the supply we have today is put to hard usage. The water we drink and use for cooking is often "reclaimed" water—filtered and chemically purified—that has run through sewers.

In the upper Ohio watershed, during periods of low river flow, one quart of every gallon of water has been flushed through a sewer, says the Hoover Commission task force.

In Ohio's Mahoning River, along

a 25-mile stretch near Youngstown, so many steel mills and other industrial plants use and reuse the river water that at times it has become too hot (as much as 130 degrees) to be employed for cooling purposes.

Every gallon of the Mahoning's average flow of 500 million gallons daily is drawn into use 3 to 15 times.

For the first time, U.S. industry now uses more water than farm irrigation, and shortages in some sections of the industrial East have caused factories to look elsewhere for better supplies.

It requires 65,000 gallons of water to produce a ton of steel, 320,000 gallons for a ton of aluminum, 800,000 gallons for a ton of synthetic rubber, and 15,000 to make a new automobile. The water is used mostly for cooling.

Scores of far-seeing communities already are expanding their water supplies by building costly pipelines, dams, reservoirs and farm ponds, and are probing deeper into the earth than ever before.

Ohio is drilling 2,000 wells a month. Baltimore has just completed a new reservoir holding 25 billion gallons of water. Dallas will foot the bill itself for a dam-reservoir costing 20 million dollars.

Texas is talking of importing water from the Mississippi River. And some dreamy-eyed Californians have suggested towing icebergs up from the antarctic to bolster California's dwindling water supplies.

Southern California, the nation's fastest growing region, expects to reach a population of 10 million by 1975, but experts say its present water supply will support only 8,100,000.

And in Colorado there's a bitter fight over water between east and west. The western slope country around Grand Junction, booming uranium capital, is battling to prevent Denver from tapping the Colorado River basin via a tunnel through the Rockies.

What is the government doing to alleviate the situation? The story of the Federal Reclamation Bureau's multi-billion-dollar water projects is too long to be recounted here in detail.

But since 1824, when the govern-

ment first entered the reclamation picture, the U.S. Treasury has spent more than 14½ billion dollars on water projects. In addition, Congress has authorized projects totaling 18½ billions. Other projects, proposed but not yet authorized, would bring the grand total to more than 84 billion.

At present the government is spending around three quarters of a billion dollars a year to develop water resources such as flood control, irrigation, navigation and hydroelectric power. Major projects include:

World's four biggest and highest concrete dams—Hoover Dam in Arizona-Nevada (726 feet); Shasta Dam in California (602 feet); Hungry Horse Dam in Montana (564 feet); and Grand Coulee Dam in Washington (550 feet).

World's largest pumping plant—Grand Coulee, 511 million gallons per hour.

World's longest irrigation tunnel—The 13-mile Alva B. Adams Bore in Colorado, which carries water from mountain lakes on the western slope of the Rockies to irrigate farms on the eastern slope.

World's largest irrigation project—Missouri River Basin, over six million acres.

Loud outcries have gone up in the East against funneling so much money for reclamation in the 17 Western states. There have also been bitter complaints against boondoggling "waste" and costly duplication by prestige-hungry rival federal agencies. No less than 25 U.S. agencies have a thumb in the water conservation pie.

But the Federal Reclamation Bureau says once arid Western lands have flourished to such an extent under irrigation that they have paid more than four billion dollars in U.S. income taxes since 1916.

With the magic touch of water, the bureau says, these reclaimed lands now produce crops worth more than \$60 million dollars a year—some 25,700,000 tons of prime fruit, vegetables, meat, dairy products, etc.

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Arab-Asians Fight For Algeria In UN

UNITED NATIONS, N.Y. (AP) — Leaders of the Arab-Asian bloc mobilized forces for a last-ditch effort today to bring Algerian claims for independence from France before the U.N. General Assembly.

Representatives of the 14 nations sponsoring the demand for debate on the issue requested the floor for the afternoon session at which the Assembly was to decide whether to take up the explosive question.

At an earlier private strategy meeting Arab leaders reportedly called for a united front to try to upset the 15-nation Steering Committee's recommendation that the item be kept off the agenda.

The Steering Committee acted after the United States threw its support behind the French contention that Algeria's future is a domestic issue. Chief U.S. Delegate Henry Cabot Lodge Jr. said Algerian nationalists were trying to bring about basic changes in the French republic. He pointed out that unlike the French protectorates of Morocco and Tunisia, Algeria is administratively a part of France.

Iraq and several other Asian states took sharp issue with the U.S.-French stand. They accused France of responsibility for the current strife in Algeria, charging she failed to heed the natives' hopes and aspirations.

Observers believed it doubtful the anti-French group could muster enough votes to upset the Steering Committee's ruling. But most agreed that France faced a tough fight before the 60-nation Assembly.

The five-nation Soviet bloc opposes France's stand.

QUAKE RECORDED
PASADENA (UP) — Seismographs at the California Institute of Technology recorded a "strong" earthquake at 12:34 a.m. today approximately 2000 miles southeast of Pasadena.

Rocket Sled Sets Record

LOS ANGELES (UP) — An unmanned rocket sled reached a record land speed of 1230 miles an hour in a Navy test on the Mojave Desert but scientists said today that record soon will be broken.

W. D. Drinkwater, operations consultant at the Naval Ordnance Test Station at China Lake, Calif., disclosed that the record was set in a routine test.

"Higher speeds are expected in the near future," Drinkwater yesterday told the opening session of a three-day high speed track symposium here.

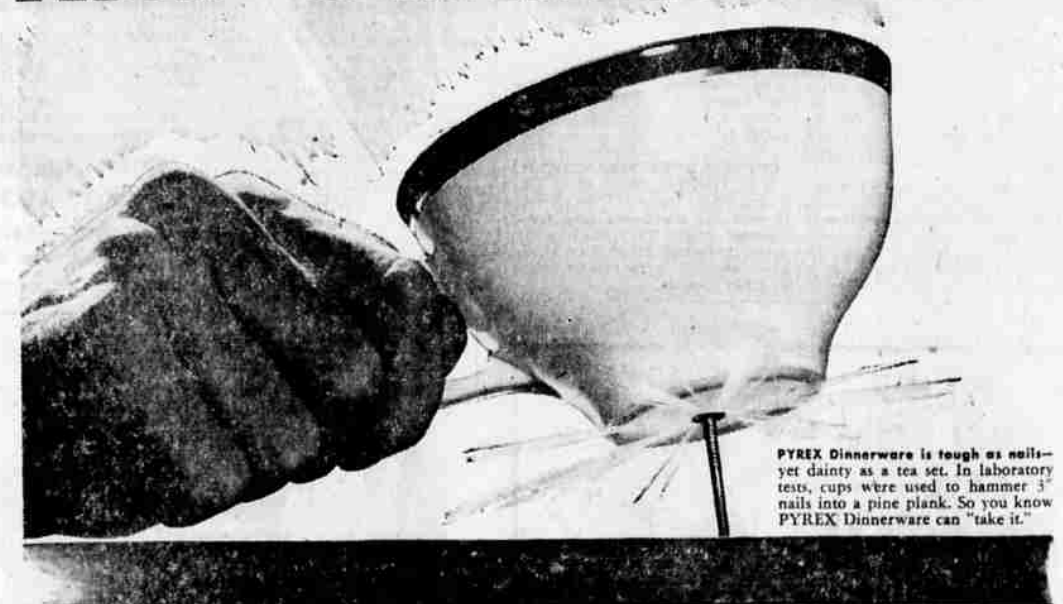
The previous record for an unmanned sled was 1100 miles an hour set on a 10,000-foot track at Edwards Air Force Base last spring.

The Navy sled hit its peak velocity two seconds after 10 rocket motors with a total thrust of 50,000 pounds sent it on its way on steel-shod runners.

The sleds are used in testing airplane armament, pilot escape systems and missile components. Lt. Col. John P. Stapp, research surgeon from the Holloman Air Development Center in New Mexico, also addressed the meeting yesterday. Stapp, who rode a sled while it hit a speed of 632 miles per hour last year, said he next will try to ride a rocket sled at 1900 miles per hour or more. He said he would be lashed on the sled with a wind screen in front of him in the test to study the effect of extreme winds on the human body.

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