

Sanitarians Describe 10 Most Water Polluted Cities In Nation

By ROGER D. GREENE
WASHINGTON (U)—Pollution of U.S. rivers, lakes and harbors is spreading an evil and potentially dangerous blight upon the American scene.

Countless cities and towns flush their raw, untreated sewage into once beautiful streams. Nearly 11,000 industrial plants spew millions of tons of poisonous, corrosive chemicals into the water we drink and brush our teeth with.

Many cities, such as Los Angeles, have closed down their bathing beaches at times because of pollution. In some areas pollution-

stained waters have brought industrial expansion to a virtual halt.

Here, as seen by a panel of sanitation experts who insisted on anonymity, are the nation's "10 most polluted cities"—that is, metropolitan areas where pollution is a major problem.

1. Pittsburgh—Has voted bond issue for treatment works.

2. St. Louis—No sewage treatment.

3. Miami—Putting in big sewage treatment and ocean outfall plant.

4. Kansas City.

5. Omaha—Making progress toward cleanup.

6. Seattle.

7. New York-New Jersey area.

8. Washington, D.C.

9. Charleston, W.Va. (Kanawha Valley area).

10. Youngstown, Ohio (Mahoning River area).

Scientists say even our "second-hand" water—fouled by sewage and recaptured to be used again—is generally safe to drink after going through modern water purification plants.

But 31 million Americans live in cities with no water treatment facilities at all.

In the Ohio River watershed alone, 24 cities have no sewage treatment. And in 23 states, appropriations for water pollution control are less than \$50,000 a year.

Federal health authorities today are gravely concerned about long-range effects on human health stemming from the vast influx of noxious industrial wastes into the nation's waterways.

Says Mark D. Hollis, chief sanitary engineer of the Health, Education and Welfare Department:

"The whole problem in sewage treatment in the past was to break down organic waste. Now in the last 15 years we've got 700,000 new synthetic chemicals—plastics and so on—and they have changed the nature of waste."

"What is the effect on human health? We just don't know. We don't get any immediate acute effects, but we must look to the potential long-range dangers."

"What happens is that you put a lot of these chemicals in streams and they react on one another. The result, in effect, is that our streams have become a giant test tube for what is taking place."

As an example, Hollis said that an influx of two tenths parts per million (PPM) of copper into a stream doesn't affect the fish. Nor does 8 PPM of zinc.

"But if you combine as little as one tenth of that amount of copper and zinc in the stream, you kill all the fish," he said.

Right now a red-hot controversy is brewing over detergents. What is happening to our lakes and streams as a result of waste water steeped with the 2½ billion pounds of household synthetic detergents sold to American housewives annually?

Some health authorities contend that chemicals found in common synthetic household detergents cause frothing and otherwise gum up the works at water treatment and sewage plants, thereby impeding the purification process.

To which the industry replies: "Nonsense!" or, "Prove it!"

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Malin Students Attend College

MALIN—College has claimed numerous young people from this community this fall.

Among those enrolled at Oregon Technical Institute in Klamath Falls are Eldon Johns, son of Mrs. Josephine Johns; Marvin Macken, son of Mr. and Mrs. Don Macken; and Wayne Beck, recently released from military duty.

Among the students attending the University of Oregon at Eugene are Don Lovemore, a sophomore, and his sister, Jean, who was graduated from Malin High School last June.

At Oregon State College students include Ronald McVay, son of Mr. and Mrs. Carl McVay, who has entered as a freshman after one year at OTI; Betty Bunnell, a sophomore, and her sister, Barbara, a freshman; Jacquelyn Saunders, Shirley and Susan Schofield, Donald James, Pat Nation and James Marshall Cornett.

Attending Southern Oregon College at Ashland are Martha McAuliffe, Beverly Martin, Barbara Hevina, Elizabeth McVay, Shirley and Andy Travis.

Boards Seek Water Rights

SACRAMENTO (UPI)—Members of the Oregon and California Klamath River commission, moved yesterday to press for preferential water rights for non-federal water development in the Upper Klamath Basin.

The commissioners, in a strategy session, decided to seek a amendment of a proposed contract between the Bureau of Reclamation and the California Oregon Power Company to read "no Klamath water shall be used by Copco when it may be needed or required for domestic municipal and irrigation purposes on any land in the Upper Klamath Basin."

The proposed contract which continues Copco control of the waters of the Upper Klamath Lake provides the preference only for lands contained in the bureau's project.

Assistant California State Engineer Gerald Jones said there were 300,000 acres of potentially irrigable land in the basin that would not be included in the bureau's project. He said 200,000 acres were in Oregon and 100,000 in California.

George Stephenson, a member of the Oregon commission, said the bureau was trading water held in trust by the two states to the power company for the benefit only of persons in the project area when it should benefit the people of the entire area.

Nelson Reed, chairman of the Oregon commission, said the contract could be "sold to the water users in a minute" if it covers users outside the project.

But Jones said that if the bureau and Copco are unwilling to adopt the revision, the commissions should fight approval of the contract by every possible means.

The commissions also agreed to seek inclusion of a provision that at the end of the contract, not only the Link River Dam should revert to the United States, but also Copco acquired dikes, levees and easements.

The commission meets with the bureau and the company today.

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