

Water Shortage Believed Due To Weather Changes

By ROGER D. GREENE
WASHINGTON (AP) — America's "dust bowl" disaster of the 1930s showed what can happen to a land parched for water.

Today scientists warn that water shortages are becoming a serious problem in many parts of the United States — and will become more acute from year to year.

Why is water getting scarce? Is the weather turning hotter? Is America's once abundant rainfall beginning to dwindle?

Meteorologists say there is little question that winters have been warming up over the last 50 or 60 years, averaging about two degrees in most U.S. cities. Since 1870 the mean annual temperature has risen 4 degrees in Philadelphia and 2 1/2 degrees in Montreal.

That doesn't sound like much of an increase, until you realize that an average annual drop of only 10 degrees would put us into another ice age.

As for rainfall, there are violent regional fluctuations from year to year, but the nationwide average remains almost constant at 39 inches annually—some 4,500 billion gallons a day.

Why, then, isn't there plenty of water as usual?

"Except for recurring droughts our water supply is pretty stable," says Carl G. Paulsen, chief of the U.S. Geological Survey's Water Resources Division. "But it could well become critical with a further vast expansion of population and industry."

Scientists explain that about 70 per cent of the water that falls on the land as rain returns to the atmosphere by evaporation or evapotranspiration action by vegetation. The other 30 per cent—some 1,300 billion gallons a day—is either "consumed" or flows into rivers en route to the sea.

The 1,300 billion gallons is thus the maximum quantity of water "available" in the United States, unless fresh water can be obtained from other sources than normal rainfall.

At present, the U.S. Geological Survey says nationwide usage totals about 200 billion gallons daily. By 1975, it is expected to rise to 400 billion or roughly one third of the total "available" supply.

That's getting uncomfortably close to the limit, considering the vast and unwieldy problem of distributing the water where it is needed.

So it is that scientists, subsidized by government and private industry, are anxiously searching for new sources of supply. The long-range possibilities include:

1. Artificial rain making.
2. Distilling fresh water from the sea.
3. Pollution abatement (since pollution of the nation's streams and lakes robs us of clean water by making it unfit for use).
4. Increased storage capacity (dams, reservoirs, ponds).
5. Recirculation of water, particularly in factories, so that it is used again and again instead of being replaced by fresh supplies.
6. Tightening up on waste and leakage.

The loss from leakage in municipal water systems, for example,

is estimated at 10 to 20 per cent of the total pumpage. Chicago sent leak-hunting squads through its 130-mile maze of underground water supply pipes a few years ago and discovered leaks which were costing the city 10,633,000 gallons a day.

Americans today use more than half again as much water as they did in 1890. Here are some of today's common household water requirements: bathtub or shower, 50 gallons; toilet flush, 4 to 6 gallons; automatic home laundry, 13 to 20 gallons per minute; lawn sprinkler (100 square feet), 1/4 inch of water; 16 gallons; lawn soaker (100 square feet, one inch of water), 64 gallons.

Most Americans in recent years have become familiar with summertime restrictions against lawn sprinkling and car washing. As a further move to save water, the government is now urging farmers to replace open irrigation ditches with evaporation proof pipes.

Industry, the nation's No. 1 water user with an intake of 80 billion gallons a day, is also seeking new ways to cut down its usage.

A steel mill at Fontana, Calif., found it could produce a ton of steel with only 1,700 gallons of recirculated water compared with the nationwide average of 65,000 gallons per ton.

And Bethlehem Steel's plant at Sparrows Point, Md., conserves fresh water by purchasing 65 million gallons of treated sewage water daily from the city of Baltimore.

About two dozen firms in this country, operating under government contracts, are experimenting with various methods of removing the salt from ocean water to make it drinkable. It's still an expensive process.

Rain hungry farmers in our Western Plains still hope that artificial rain making experiments will bring them water from normally rainless skies.

Dwight Kline, U.S. Weather Bureau expert, says the government still has an "open mind" about rain making.

"We've seen rain fall from treated clouds, but we have also treated 200 clouds and the quantity of moisture that reached the ground was practically nil," Kline said.

"There are so many unknowns that we need more basic research to find out if we are on the right trail at all."

Next: When Trouble Strikes.



WEED POLICE CHIEF William Skelton (center) accepts the keys for the new police car from Durwood Gamill, Mallory Chevrolet Company salesman. At left is officer Harold Barnum, who will take over as chief on October 1, when Skelton leaves to accept a position with the California Highway Patrol.

Quotes From The News

By UNITED PRESS

Leon Keyserling, former chief economic adviser to President Truman, on the nation's economy: "We have doubled our national income within the last 15 years and we will double it again during the next 25 years, regardless of whether the Republicans or Democrats are in power."

European Allied Commander Gen. Alfred M. Gruenther, warning against the Russian "smile campaign": "The free world was united by a certain fear that acted like cement. But now that cement is disappearing under the effective Soviet smile campaign."

Dr. Sanford Marcus of San Francisco after being reunited with his baby which was kidnapped Sept. 19: "The baby's time and my wife is fine — so now we're going home and live happily ever after."

A nun at the Quebec City convent where Marie Dionne returned to resume her studies for a religious life: "She just came back and is very happy. Her health is restored and she intends to stay."

Chinese Nationalist Foreign Minister George R. C. Yeh in a United Nations speech on the recent attitude of the Communist world: "The peace tactic chimes in with the desperate hopes of a war weary world so perfectly that the smallest concessions... are being eagerly seized upon as evidence of Soviet sincerity and a change of policy."

A. J. Gock, leading California Republican, on talk of GOP presidential candidates other than President Eisenhower: "Any ink among Republicans of candidacies or succession to the presidency is presumptuous and in very poor taste."

Adlai E. Stevenson in a "great lecture" series at the University of Texas: "Let us keep in mind that prosperity has two dimensions. One is its level and the other is its durability."

Investors Mutual, Inc.
Notice of 60th
Consecutive Quarterly Dividend
On September 15, 1955, the Board of Directors of Investors Mutual, Inc., declared a regular quarterly dividend of thirty-two cents per share derived from investment income, plus a distribution of thirty-two cents per share representing income from realized security profits. The total of forty-nine cents per share is payable September 29 to Investors Mutual shareholders of record September 16.

H. K. Bradford, President
Reba Marx - Martin A. Putnam
Ph. 9215 Klamath Falls, Ore.

Navy Offers Civilian Job

An examination for training officer (military sciences), \$5,440 to \$7,570 a year, is now open for filling positions in the Office of Naval Research at Port Washington, New York, and at various locations throughout the United States. The Civil Service Commission has announced.

No written test is required. Applicants must have had appropriate education and experience. Further information regarding the requirements, and application forms, may be obtained at many post offices throughout the country, or from the U. S. Civil Service Commission, Washington 25, D.C.

Applications will be accepted by the Board of U. S. Civil Service Examiners, Office of Naval Research, Special Devices Center, Port Washington, New York, until further notice.

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G. GIRLS' 2-PC. BOW PRINT SLEEPER 3.50

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