

Country Has Water For All, Conserving It Big Problem Facing Us

By JOE ST. AMANT
United Press International

EL MONTE, Calif. (UPI)—Man does not live on bread alone. He lives on water, too, and is wasting that water in shocking amounts, according to at least one expert.

Young William O. Baker unexpectedly found himself neck-deep in the water problem and took on the role of a kind of Messiah—the "original water worry wart," he calls himself—when he got into the business of building water filtration units for swimming pools.

Baker, 35, who has expanded his filtration business to the municipal level and to the point where he is working on a water system for an entire country—Ceylon—warns that the United States can expect an acute water shortage by 1970 unless it undertakes a program of conservation.

"We must conserve water," the mechanical engineer said, "or some day we'll be without it. Look at the smog problem here in south-

ern California. If we had started worrying about it before World War II, we would not have the serious condition we do. It's the same way with water."

Baker recently visited the Hyperion sewage disposal plant on the southern California coast and took a sip of the water which the plant processes from sewage. "It tasted all right," he said, "but you can't sell people on the idea of drinking it."

The Hyperion plant disposes of this water by flushing it into the Pacific Ocean.

Baker asserts that the same water could be re-injected in the soil at strategic points to replenish the natural wells which are being dried out.

He points out that wells are being polluted by saline solutions from the ocean to a distance of 12 miles on the Pacific coast and to a distance of up to 30 miles on the Atlantic coast because, as wells are drawn on, the pressure underground is reduced and salt water

seeps in.

"All we can do," he said, "is ask God for more rain or take up a re-injection program to force water back into the earth, drilling reverse wells instead of letting it go into the ocean. The cost would not be too high when we think of what is at stake."

Baker notes that from a health standpoint, many municipal water supply systems are approaching the danger-point.

"I don't think health departments have tough enough requirements," he said, noting that the bottled water industry is a major enterprise in southern California.

Service Lists Water Report

HERMISTON, Ore. (AP)—Streams will have only poor to fair irrigation water supplies this summer in the Umatilla-Walla Walla Basin, the Soil Conservation Service said Tuesday night.

At Lakeview, another forecaster said similar conditions pose a threat to 100,000 acres of meadow hay in Lake County.

At the water forecast meeting here, one of a series in the state, Manes Barton of the Soil Conservation Service said:

The mountain snow pack in the Umatilla-Walla Walla Basin measures only 72 per cent of normal. And that snow pack prompted the poor to fair forecast.

Though streams will decline earlier than usual, farmers who get their irrigation water from reservoirs should be in reasonably good condition.

Cold Springs Reservoir is completely full, and another 5,000-acre feet will fill the McKay Reservoir.

At Lakeview, W. T. Frost, Oregon snow survey supervisor, made this report:

Water content in the mountain snow pack is but 42 per cent of normal, and less than one fourth that of a year ago.

As a result, about 100,000 acres of meadow hay are threatened.

Reservoirs, though, have a good carryover of stored water from last year, and that means good news for some 15,000 acres of alfalfa, grain and pasture land normally irrigated with reservoir water.

Some small stock ponds, though, are unusually low, forcing sheepmen to truck in water.

Forest Service officials also warned that there probably will be dangerous forest fire conditions earlier than normal.

This, Baker said, indicates the unsalability of the fluid which comes from the tap.

"Most people don't worry about water," he said, "until it is shut off. We've got to start worrying now."

He pointed out that the average householder cannot afford to install his own filtration unit and said it should be done on the municipal level—and on a much more extensive basis than it is being done now.

Baker is producing a filtration

unit roughly one-fifth smaller than the old sand and gravel type in use since 1847.

His unit employs an element of cylindrical shape made by a polyethylene fabric which can be automatically cleaned. He has reduced the size to the point where one of his new 18-inch diameter units can do the work of two of the old type filtration units, 48 inches in diameter.

He said the answer to the water shortage he forecasts are filters plus other equipment which actually purifies water chemically instead of just removing suspended particles.

"We've got to scare people about this," Baker said, "and I'm doing my best."

Angler Lands Oldtime Trout

Robert A. James of Pendleton, Oregon, knew he had hold of an extraordinary fish when he experienced a savage strike while steelhead angling in Sand Creek tide-water last February. After a grueling battle James beached a gleaming male cutthroat trout that measured better than 20 inches in length and dressed out at 3½ pounds.

Much to James' surprise, a front fin was missing from the fish in addition to having a tag imbedded in its jaw. His curiosity aroused, James sent the tag to the game commission and requested information on this big cutthroat.

James found that he indeed had taken a fish that had run the angler's gauntlet for many years in the Sand Creek drainage and an oldtimer as far as age was concerned. Records disclosed that the big cutthroat was jaw tagged at the Sand Creek rack on November 12, 1949. On that date the trout was making its first spawning run upstream and measured 13 inches in length.

About 18 months previous to the tagging—the spring of 1948—this same cutthroat trout was tallied through the rack on its first downstream run to the sea and was registered as a fingerling about 4 or 5 inches in length. At that time biologists marked the trout by clipping the adipose and right pectoral fin.

Coos Country Bass Fishing Given Boost

One of the attractions that shouldn't be missed by anglers who visit the Oregon Centennial this summer is the fabulous striped bass fishing of the Coos country. So urges Frances H. Ames in "Striper Capital" featured in Outdoor Life for April.

Ames traveled from his home in Lafayette, Ore., to the Coos for the famed May shad run on the North Fork, but after meeting Earl Pennington, owner of Penny's Tackle Box in nearby Coos Bay, he wound up striper fishing.

"The shad aren't hitting yet," Pennington said. "Why not try striped bass?"

Pennington arranged for him to fish with veteran anglers Al Dobbs and Ira Sturdevant of Coos Bay, Bill Safer of Cave Junction, and Sam Todd of Wauna.

With his new friends anchored nearby to show him the ropes, Ames fished the South Fork of the Coos, about 15 miles upriver. Here he saw the fabulous schools of stripers, four-pounders to lunker size, as they moved back and forth with the tides. Baiting their salmon-size hooks with bloodworms, the fishermen cast with the tide, and waited.

Sturdevant hooked and boated a 20-odd-pound beauty, and eventually all in the party landed fish. But Ames was off trying for shad a few days later when Sturdevant boated a 36½-pound striper which he entered with the National Spin Fishing Association as a possible four-pound-line-test record.

Pellets Used In Hatchery

The Oregon Game Commission is going all out in the use of the revolutionary dry fish food pellet in future production of trout, salmon, and other game fish. P. W. Schneider, state game director, said that most hatcheries are now in the process of converting over to use this new fish food in producing this year's lot of fish.

Schneider said that research at commission plants during the past two years definitely proves that this latest development in fish food is superior to the soft food diets, producing trout and salmon of greater body size and weight in much less time at a considerable reduction in cost.

A few bugs still remain to be worked out, Schneider stated, but emphasized that this type of food has developed to such a stage that the problems are relatively minor in importance and not much more serious than the problems experienced with the soft fish foods that have been standard for years.

Experiments are still being conducted at the hatcheries on some species of fish to determine their reactions to the pellets, Schneider said, but those species that have passed the previous tests successfully will in the future be produced on the dry food diet.



THE AGE OLD ART of out-thinking the fish begins with this important lesson on just how to put salmon eggs on a hook. In this picture, taken last fishing season, William Mott, Chemult, shows his son, Freddie, 7, just how to do it. The pair was fishing on Spring Creek.



A GLIMPSE into a fisherman's paradise is about the only way you can describe this last year picture of anglers enjoying the sport along the banks of Spring Creek. A bit crowded, but Spring Creek remains one of the most popular fishing spots in the area.

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