

Klamath Irrigation Prospects Good Despite Poor Snow Pack In Mountains

The outlook for 1963 irrigation water supplies in Klamath County is relatively good for lands served from Upper Klamath Lake and Clear Lake, but only fair for acres watered from Gerber Reservoir, according to a report released today by W. T. Frost, snow survey supervisor for U.S. Department of Agriculture, Soil Conservation Service, cooperating with Oregon State

University and state engineer. Mountain snow pack is extremely poor for this date with no snow to be found below 5,000 feet elevation.

Moisture in the upper watershed soils is very good and will favor runoff from melting snow in the spring.

Water content of the mountain snow cover is 33 per cent of the January average and is only one-fourth of that measured a year ago. Temperatures need to be more nearly normal to permit water storms to deposit snow rather than rain on the watersheds.

Heavy fall rains have recharged the upper watershed soils to about 80 per cent of the total capacity. A year ago these soils were extremely dry under the snow pack and soaked up much of the runoff that melting snow would have provided.

Storage in Upper Klamath Lake is 364,500 acre feet compared with 269,700 a.f. a year ago on Jan. 1. This is an excellent start for the 1963 season.

On the other hand, storage in Gerber and Clear lakes is 29 and 40 per cent below the 15 year average (1943-57). Clear Lake holds 111,500 a.f. compared with 54,100 a.f. a year ago and Gerber holds 27,200 a.f. against only 1,600 last year. These two reservoirs are completely dependent on rain and snowfall and greatly need large amounts of runoff to provide adequate water supplies next summer.

Inflow to Upper Klamath Lake (from preliminary data furnished by Pacific Power and Light Co., Medford, has averaged 131 per cent of the 15 years average since Oct. 1 and flow into Gerber and above normal.

A normal snow pack on Klamath watershed this year should produce excellent water supplies because the watershed soils are well recharged.

Statewide, the early winter outlook for Oregon's 1963 irrigation water supplies is fair. Snow cover, in measurable amounts, is found only at high elevations and surveys there range from 0 to 33 per cent of the usual Jan. 1 snow water amounts. Reservoir storage is much better than last year at this time, and, coupled with good soil moisture conditions over most of the state, is likely to be the safety factor needed to offset a low snow year. Fortunately, there are still two to three months remaining to improve this low snowpack.

The next report on snow surveys and water supply conditions will be issued on Feb. 8.

Strip Opened To Aircraft By Forest

ALTURAS—Bill K. Cooperider, Modoc Forest supervisor, had announced that the Devils Garden Airport is now open to the public for aircraft purposes. "It will not be possible," Cooperider said, "to remove the 'closed airport' markings from the runway before early next summer due to weather conditions."

The opening of this airport to the public is in response to an appeal made in November, 1962, by the Modoc County Chamber of Commerce manager, A. F. Van Horn, and has been made possible through cooperation with the Federal Aviation Agency. Dates during which private aircraft may use the landing strip are Jan. 1 through June 30, and Nov. 1 through Dec. 31. The airport will be closed to public use, except for emergency landings, from July 1 to Oct. 31. During this time the forest service will have one or more air tankers in readiness for immediate use in fire suppression. "Without control tower facilities, the hazards of public use during this period of the summer make dual use prohibitive," Cooperider stated.

The Devils Garden Airport is fenced to exclude cattle and has a locked gate on the road to Alturas. Access during the period of public use may be gained by contacting the Modoc County Sheriff, Alturas.

Cooperider, in discussing public use of the airport, points out that the forest service cannot and will not assume responsibility either for vandalism to parked aircraft or for the usual maintenance requirements of a public airfield. Furthermore, he states that use of the runway by dragsters, go-karts, etc., is prohibited and that such illegal use will be prosecuted to the full extent of the law.

Conditions of the airport are: no lights, no communications, no ground transportation, no fuel, no food. Caution—deer and antelope.

Firms Seek Atom Power

PORTLAND — Five Northwest electric utility companies reported Tuesday they are negotiating with the Washington Public Power Supply System and Bonneville Power Administration for contracts covering the purchase of half the output of the atomic-powered steam-electric plant slated for Hanford.

The five companies are Pacific Power & Light, Portland General Electric, Washington Water Power, Montana Power and Puget Sound Power & Light.

A spokesman said attorneys and officials of the companies and the agencies have held meetings for more than a month, and in Portland almost day and night since Jan. 3, drafting agreements involving equal shares of the 400,000 kilowatts of the output that Congress had required WPPSS to offer to the utility companies.

Earlier meetings with BPA representatives had laid the groundwork for the intensive sessions now in progress, it was reported.

'High Level' Discussion Centers On Arty Topics

WASHINGTON (UPI) — Just about everything has turned up at some point in U.S.-Soviet relations. Now it's the Mona Lisa.

The famous Da Vinci painting figured, somewhat mysteriously, in high-level talks between Secretary of State Dean Rusk and Soviet First Deputy Foreign Minister Vasily V. Kuznetsov here Thursday.

Without saying exactly how all the subjects came up, the State Department said the conversation covered not only general U.S.-Russian relations but the Mona Lisa, the Bolshoi Ballet, the Hermitage Art Museum in Leningrad, and bowling, one of Rusk's sports.

"No business was transacted," a U.S. spokesman said. "They had a general discussion. No details were explored on any subject... they did not get into Cuba. A general reference was made to disarmament. References were made to the hope that we are entering a period in which some outstanding problems might be solved. Both sides expressed the hope that this was the case."

All this summed up pretty closely the current period of U.S.-Soviet relations in the aftermath of the Cuban situation in which both sides appear to be sizing each other up and waiting for the other to show a new policy.

The Kennedy administration had served notice to Russia it wanted the Cuban missile crisis settled.

That now has been wound up after a fashion with the removal of Soviet offensive missiles and bombers from Cuba in November, and a U.S.-Soviet statement this week agreeing to disagree on remaining Cuban issues. These issues include United Nations inspection, which this country never got, and Russia's demand for a Kennedy pledge never to invade Cuba which Kennedy never gave.

Around the world the other issues remained as unsettled as ever.

Disarmament has apparently been one of the main topics of

Drop Noted In Jobless

WASHINGTON (UPI) — Unemployment dropped slightly in the nation last month, the government said today, but indicated the 5.6 per cent jobless rate was disappointing.

A panel of Labor Department experts said the number of unemployed remained unchanged in December from November at 3.8 million, although the seasonally adjusted rate declined to 5.6 per cent compared with 5.8 per cent in November. The unemployment rate in October was 5.5 per cent.

Premo Baby Funeral Set

Funeral services will be Saturday, Jan. 12, from the Burney, Calif., Presbyterian Church for Debra Jean Premo, 4, the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Tom Premo of Chico. Services will be in charge of Clark-Booth and Yardley funeral directors, Sacramento. Interment will be in the Burney Cemetery.

The little girl was critically burned when she tumbled into a bucket of hot water, being used by her father to scrub a floor, two weeks before last Thanksgiving. She was taken to Children's Mercy Hospital, Sacramento, and was believed to be improving when she died Jan. 10.

Her father is a student at Chico State College. The Premo family formerly lived in Klamath Falls. Survivors include her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Tom Premo; grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. Oscar Lowry, Potosi, Calif.; Mrs. Edna M. Premo, Burney; great-grandmother, Mrs. Ethel Premo, Olympia, Wash.; and an uncle, Jerry Premo, San Francisco.

Weather Roundup

Temperatures during the 24 hours ending at 4 a.m. PST today.

Astoria	36	19
Baker	22	-8
Brookings	51	30
Lakeview	25	-1
Medford	42	17
Newport	43	17
North Bend	44	27
Pendleton	25	-8
Portland	37	15
Redmond	31	-2
Salem	39	15
The Dalles	24	8
Chicago	35	27
Los Angeles	61	49
New York	51	40
San Francisco	54	47
Washington	53	39

Northern California: Fair through Saturday.

Baker and La Grande: Fair and cold; high 5-15; low zero to 10 below.

Portland - Vancouver, Willamette Valley: Fair and cold with strong east winds; highs 20 - 25; low 5-10.

Five-Day Forecast

Western Oregon: Temperatures moderating early next week with highs of 15-25 rising to 30s and low 40s and lows of five below to 15 above rising to 15-30; little snow early next week.

Eastern Oregon: Highs zero to 15 rising to 20 next week; lows near all time records... 10 below to 20 below, then moderating; little snow early next week.

Patron Meet Date Changed

MERRILL — Merrill Parents and Patrons will meet for their regular monthly meeting on Jan. 14 at 8 p.m. instead of Jan. 15. The meeting will be held at the elementary school.

Mrs. Robert Trotman, president, stressed the importance of the meeting as a discussion on a science fair for Merrill schools will be held. Guests from Klamath Falls and Henley will be present to answer questions pertaining to the fair.

Many parents have asked about holding a fair in the Merrill schools as all other county schools have participated in past years, so the Parents and Patrons decided to sponsor the event. The Oregon Museum of Science and Industry will furnish all material and ribbons.

Local competition will be held in March, and all parents are urged to attend the meeting and encourage their children to prepare a project. Regional contests will be held in Klamath Falls at a later date, and those winning in the regional contest will have their projects sent to state competition.

'DENNIS THE MENACE'



"IT'S A LITTLE GLASS THING THIS LONG. AND IF IT SAYS YOU'RE SICK, YOU'RE SICK!"

Friendly Whale Frolics With Venturesome Four

LA JOLLA, Calif. (UPI)—Four San Diego amateur photographers had a whale of a time Thursday with a whale.

The four frolicked in the ocean for three hours with their new found friend, photographing it close up, riding on its back and even showering under its spout.

"It was a one-in-a-million experience that every photographer dreams about," said Charles Nicklin Jr., 35, operator of a local diving shop.

He said the 45-foot finback whale was crippled and exhausted because it had been entangled in a nylon line which they were able to release.

Nicklin said he, Alving Santmyer, 33, a diving shop operator; William DeCourt, 24, a design draftsman, and Frank Morejohn, 32, an architectural illustrator, first sighted a whale spout about 1 1/2 miles offshore.

"We thought at first it was sleeping because it lay so still on the surface," Nicklin said. "When we got up close we were so excited we kept dropping film all over the boat."

"As it made no indication of taking off, we suited up and took underwater pictures of it. The line had cut into the whale's hide and he was apparently so exhausted from struggling, he couldn't submerge. He just wallowed there, rocking back and forth."

"He was really big," DeCourt volunteered.

"After shooting pictures for awhile," Nicklin continued, "we took turns riding on its back, clowning around and posing."

"I got a shower sitting near the blowhole when it spouted," DeCourt said.

"It was sort of awesome," Nicklin said, "when we thought of the size of the whale and what he might do to us. We were somewhat afraid to take the line off his tail, because we thought he might do something violent. Finally I dove down and removed the line that had crippled him."

"He waited a bit, gave a spout, waved his tail and off he swam."

Skiers Crowd Shasta Bowl; Snow Said Best In Sierras

MOUNT SHASTA—One of the West's newest winter resorts, Shasta Ski Bowl, has become the hot spot of Northern California ski areas this season with snow conditions rated the best in the Sierra region of the great state of sunshine.

Located at the 7,850-foot level of the spectacular volcanic peak that gives the area its name, Shasta Ski Bowl already has drawn crowds that have broken all previous records on the slopes.

Center of the resort is an ultramodern lodge, accessible via a 15-mile all-weather road through snow-banked forests that reach down to the edge of Pacific Highway 99 at the town of Mount Shasta. Entering the town the alpine setting for the resort is easily anticipated in the mountain chalet architecture of the newer inns and lodgings along the highway.

At the resort at timberline are a chair lift, carrying skiers to the 9,338-foot level, and two rope tows that reach to the 8,050-foot elevation. The facilities can accommodate as many as 2,700 skiers per hour.

The west slope of the peak, which dominates the horizon of Southern Oregon as well as Northern California, boasts a skiing season that normally begins in late November and lasts until early summer. During the spring months, skiers claim, Shasta's corn snow is among the

best in the West. But most of the year the high and dry climate results in a fine powder cover. Last week the average snow depth was 56 inches, and this will build up as the season progresses.

The resort almost became the site of the training camp for the U.S. Olympic ski team this month when slopes of the Rocky Mountain region failed in December to have sufficient snow. When word got out that Shasta was being considered for the Olympic team's runs, the holiday-season rush from Sacramento and San Francisco-Oakland was on. The chic city crowds normally have headed for Lake Tahoe and other Sierra resorts,

but have now learned of the delights of Shasta. In addition to the patronizing of motels and inns and restaurants at Mount Shasta, the overflow has spread north into Yreka and south to Dunsmuir to bring a new boom to these tourist-conscious cities.

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Briefs

MRS. ALVIN BRENNEMAN of Klamath Falls is convalescing from back surgery in Sacred Heart Hospital in Medford where cards will reach her.

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