

Dwindling Water Supply In Nation Underscored By Tax Judge Decision

By United Press International
A thirsty nation, from South Dakota cornfields to California communities to the parched soil of Texas, was alerted Monday to its dwindling water supply.

The decision of a West Texas judge that a farmer was entitled to a tax deduction because he had to "mine" irreplaceable water to grow his crops spelled a new warning that water soon may not be everywhere.

It used to be that when people thought of irrigation they envisioned network of canals and ditches channeling water from rivers and lakes and reservoirs into crop rows.

U.S. District Judge Joseph B. Dooley's ruling pointed up that many farmers and ranchers across the nation use underground water for irrigation.

From cities in Northern Illinois, to cornfields in the South Dakota prairies, to a vast sea in California, city and rural people alike are tapping underground sources for water.

Any Use Acceptable
Actually, from a physical standpoint, it matters little what the water is used for above the ground. Washing dishes depletes the underground reservoir just as much as irrigating sugar beets.

In some parts of the country, such as in Minnesota, the under-

ground water is quickly replenished. In other parts of the nation, plains area, the water is like a naturally deposited mineral and is not replaced.

This was the contention of farmer Marvin Shurbet, Petersburg, Tex. He said the water he used to irrigate his land was not being replaced. Shurbet said such irrigation amounted to "mining" the water.

He claimed it as an income tax deduction.

The judge agreed and noted that Dr. Edward Teller, the famous

physicist, had said "water was being mined" in Shurbet's case.

Water district hydrologist W.L. Broadhurst said the ruling did not mean irrigation water throughout the United States suddenly had become tax deductible.

Must Prove Depletion
"They (litigants in other areas) would have to prove similar circumstances such as we have here where there is no recharge (no return of underground water)," Broadhurst said.

In California, state officials said about 2.5 million acre-feet of water drawn from the ground

annually fall within the area of the Amarillo, Tex., case.

They said best estimates were that tax savings would run "into the millions," but both state and private officials said no exact estimate could be made without extensive legal and engineering study.

The tax saving was estimated at \$6 million for West Texas.

In Nevada, the state owns the ground water and issues permits for any wells. State conservation director Hugh Shamberger said the case probably would not be applicable to Nevada.



SPACE-AGE VEHICLE — A new item was added to the merchandise line of a large automobile agency in San Francisco Tuesday when a two-place Hughes 269A helicopter was placed on the floor for customer approval. The firm, which said the aircraft costs only \$22,500, said it plans to develop a series of helicopters in the San Francisco Bay Area to help spur sales. — UPI Telephoto

Narcotics Raid On 'Beatnik Pad' Uncovers Handful Of Vitamin Pills

SAN FRANCISCO (UPI)—Police swooped down on a "beatnik pad" recently in a raid for "dangerous drugs."

All they found was a handful of vitamin pills and a hypodermic needle.

Whether or not the victims of the raid were taking A, B and C, instead of H (heroin), the red-faced police didn't explain.

But this episode underlines the fact that the beatnik is about as scarce as a Havana cigar these days.

Even in North Beach, its original snoring grounds, that all-but-vanished phenomenon called the Beat Generation represents an era the enduring colony of artists, writers and other noncon-

forming practitioners of the seven lively arts would like to forget.

And these serious Bohemians even have a clean bill of health. "Concerted police action got rid of the beatniks in North Beach," reports Deputy Police Chief Al Nelder. "The present bunch are mostly legitimate artists and no problem. They mind their own business."

Where did the beatniks go? They've scattered to the four winds, some heading for Los Angeles, New York, New Orleans, or Mexico City.

The rest went back to school, or, as a last resort before total starvation or jail for vagrancy, got jobs, where unsympathetic employers insist on shaven faces and a complete set of clothes.

It was much different five years ago when the full tide of publicity broke over North Beach and left upper Grant Avenue buried under the currentless pool of whiskered hipsters, tangle-haired chicks in leotards, vague-eyed "poets," "writers," "painters" and other drifting, untalented flotsam whose common bond was a carefully nurtured outlook that the world was a square drag.

Since then all but one of the original Bohemian hangouts, started by the restless rebels of post World War II, have folded.

For the present colony, now wise as wolves, has learned a hard lesson:

Too many public shenanigans

can turn a ripple of interesting artists into an unstoppable tidal wave of penniless phonies — and right behind it an invasion of the not-so-penniless tourists.

The Bohemians still retain an intense dislike for tourists with their ever-present cameras and the indulgent attitudes of people visiting a zoo.

Enterprising showmen rushed to fill the vacuum left by the Beat Generation exodus, and have opened a conglomeration of rip-roaring night spots along Broadway within rock-throwing distance of artistic upper Grant.

The tourist can find everything from clubs offering New Year's Eve every night, to imitation speakeasies with hourly raids, to Paris-type sidewalk bistros (warmed against the foggy nights by heat lamps, to jazz—blues, ragtime, Dixie, progressive.

BOCA RATON, Fla. (UPI) — Gen. Lucius Clay said Monday there still are "substantial Russian tank forces" in Cuba but he anticipates the withdrawal of Soviet troops soon.

"The Cuban situation will remain relatively quiet, and economic forces will continue to further strain the Castro economy," said the retired general, now board chairman of Continental Can Co.

Clay said he was glad Premier Fidel Castro rejected a proposal for an international inspection team, because the United States must depend upon its own intelligence to guard its security.

Stay Sought By Freeman

SALEM (UPI)—A petition seeking a stay of the Jan. 29 execution date of child slayer Jeannette June Freeman was to be filed in the Oregon Supreme Court today.

Portland attorney Carl Neil said he expected to file the necessary papers before 1 p.m.

Neil said the request for a stay is being filed to allow time for preparation of an appeal to the U.S. Supreme Court.

Miss Freeman, 21, is slated to die in the gas chamber here Jan. 29 for the 1961 slaying of a 6-year-old boy in the Crooked River Gorge in Central Oregon.

Neil said four attorneys were working on the U.S. Supreme Court appeal. They include William M. Holmes of Bend, Jeannette's attorney, Eugene Gressman of Washington, D.C., Philip A. Levin and Neil, both of Portland.

The action will ask the Oregon Supreme Court to stay Miss Freeman's execution date beyond March 15, the date by which the U.S. Supreme Court appeal must be filed, Neil said.

Neil said that while it had been announced the deadline for appealing to the U.S. high court was Jan. 23, by law the deadline date actually was Jan. 14.

He said the appeal deadline had already been extended to March 15.

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