

Health Department Now Carrying Out Program To Clean Up Streams

Progress Being Made in Plan To Clear Creeks, Rivers of Pollution

North Carolina is now making progress in its long-range plans to free its streams—large and small—from sewage pollution.

As explained by R. W. Livingston, senior sanitarian for the district health office, their efforts now are concentrated on the smaller streams with considerable research being done by various agencies towards the best method of clearing up large rivers which carry industrial wastes as well as sewage.

Many of our small creeks and streams, he says, look clear and harmless. This appearance, in many instances, is deceiving, and children who go swimming or the cattle who drink this water are exposing themselves to an accumulation of unsanitary bacteria from sewage lines running from nearby houses into the stream.

There has been a law on the state books, laxly enforced in the past due to wartime conditions, which prohibits untreated sewage from houses to enter streams. In case this stream later flows by a field in which livestock grazes or if, in the opinion of the district health office, this sewage constitutes a nuisance.

The law now is being pointed out to people who have been violating it, most of them not being aware of the law's existence. For the most part, when the matter is brought to the people's attention they begin looking for another means to dispose of their sewage, and the district sanitarian is glad to go over their individual problem and point out a solution, usually offering plans for a workable septic tank with suggestions on how it should be installed.

There have been a few instances of cases being brought to court. This has come about because some people want all the others along their stream to cut off their sewage lines first, or can not understand why the small streams should be cleared up while some of the rivers are filled with pollution.

This latter point, says Mr. Livingston, is a very difficult one to explain.

The major part of the impurities in large North Carolina streams is industrial wastes. Manufacturing plants, when they were first established in this state, were given a special permit by the state legislature—as an inducement to come here—to discharge their waste materials in a river. These plants constitute a major economic asset to the area near them.

However their waste matter has destroyed the fish, the beauty, and made the streams unclean as sources of water for livestock and recreation. This is something the public has been aware of for some time.

Extensive research, explains Mr. Livingston, is being carried on by the industrial plants, the Tennessee Valley Authority and agencies of the state. The major aim of this research is to find a commercial use for this waste matter now going in rivers.

A successful example of what has been done in this line, adds Mr. Livingston, is found in the

In Tough Spot



WITH industries already being sued for nearly a billion dollars in back "portal-to-portal" pay and the U.S. Chamber of Commerce starting a campaign to limit the liabilities, Federal Judge Frank A. Picard (above), Detroit, was faced with deciding the specific amounts each worker should receive. The Judge, in upholding a claim for overtime pay in a 1942 case, opened the gate to union demands dating as far back as 1938. (International)

Waynesville Man In New Military Training Unit

James R. Keener, fireman, second class, USN, son of Mrs. Bixdell of Waynesville, has participated in "Operation Duck," the joint Army and Navy amphibious training exercises held on the Southern California Coast, while serving aboard the attack transport USS Benville.

Twenty thousand Army, Navy, and Marine personnel, 500 planes, and 60 ships were engaged in the operation which was concluded with the landing of the Sixth Army's Second Infantry Division on San Clemente Island, and the California mainland, near the mouth of Aliso Canyon, Oceanside, Calif.

Copperhill section of Tennessee. There the mines were emitting their waste material—acids in a gaseous state—through the chimneys and killing vegetation for miles around. Research workers attacked the problem, found a profitable use for the acids, and now this "waste" matter is an asset rather than a liability.

It is impossible to say just when a solution to Western North Carolina's industrial waste problem will be found, but it is encouraging to know that something definite is being done on it, points out the sanitarian.

In the meantime the people of this area are asked to cooperate in the program to clean up the small streams. The health, beauty, and economic future of Western North Carolina depends, in a large measure, on its success.

Sgt. Frank Head Is Home On Leave From Alaska

Sgt. Frank Head arrived in Waynesville Tuesday night from Alaska to spend a 60-day leave prior to reporting to Scott Field, Belleville, Ill. He is the son of Henry Head.

Sgt. Head entered the army on Jan. 14, 1943. He took basic training in the Air Corps at Keeler Field, Miss., and spent a year

overseas during the war as a member of the 502nd Bomber (B-29) group, 20th Air Force, based on Guam and Saipan.

After returning to the U. S. in November, 1945, he re-enlisted and later was sent to Alaska, arriving there Aug. 4 of this year. He was assigned as an engine specialist with the 46th Reconnaissance (photographic) squadron at Ladd Field, Fairbanks, and during his time there saw the temperature drop as low as 68 degrees below zero.

His unit in Alaska received a commendation from Major Gen.

Umstead Will Take Oath Of Office In Capital

RALEIGH—(AP)—William B. Umstead of Durham, recently appointed by Governor Cherry to the U. S. senate succeeding the late Senator Josiah W. Bailey, said that he would take the oath of office at Washington Friday.

The new senator called on Governor Cherry to invite him to the ceremony, and the governor said that although he is busy making preparations for the convening of the general assembly on January 8, he "might go".

Umstead left for Washington on Wednesday in order to attend a Democratic party caucus on Thursday. He said that he would return to North Carolina on Saturday and Sunday and would remain for a week or 10 days.

While in Washington, Umstead said that he would stay at the Wil-

son Hotel and that he did not plan to move his family to Washington.

Howard L. Wells Joins USES Office

Howard L. Wells of Bostic, Rutherford county, began work as an interviewer with the U. S. Employment service office in Waynesville on Monday.

Mr. Wells attended the University of North Carolina, taught at Harris high school, and was principal of the Shiloh school in home county. He has worked various government agencies during recent years, including postal accounts division in Raleigh, and last year was a farm program supervisor with the Dept. of Agriculture in Raleigh.

He presently is receiving training in the local Employment office, and shortly will be attending a training course in Raleigh for his permanent appointment.

Adm. Pedro Alvarez first discovered the shipwreck in Brazil in 1500.

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