

Because Treatment Plant Is Obsolete

By LEEDS MORBERLEY
About the best thing you can say for Philadelphia's present water supply is that it isn't as bad as Chester's.

Chester, which draws its supply from the Delaware River, has all the pollution we have here plus the 400,000 gallons of sewage we discharge into the river each day within a 10-mile range of the Torresdale intake. Chief Pollution Source

There is no way of calculating just how much of that discharge actually goes into our drinking water supply. Ellwood J. Turner, chairman of the Interstate Commission on the Delaware River Basin (Necedo), and Judge Chester L. Leach, president of the Schuylkill Valley Restoration Association, declare it represents the chief source of pollution in the Torresdale intake—greater than all other sources combined.

Calls for Thorough Treatment
The program calls for complete treatment of all Philadelphia's sewage, which will remove probably 90 percent of all solids, the Northeast (Wheatheaf) treatment plant is to be modernized and expanded and new plants are to be built on the lower Schuylkill and lower Delaware Rivers.

Upland Source Favored
There has been talk of going back to the upland source of water ever since the first waterworks was built on the Schuylkill in 1874, the beginning of the 19th century. In fact, it started even before that for Benjamin Franklin in his proposals—after a time that the citizens still were taking their water from wells—tells the story of how the water of the Wissahickon as a source of supply.

As the pollution of the rivers increased and the dosage of chlorine to combat the heavy bacteria content became greater and greater, Philadelphia became more and more dependent on the not-to-distant future they would have to tap a new, distant source.

There have been no less than a dozen surveys and various projects to supply \$300,000 to \$1,000,000. Some advocated going to the mountains, some to the erikson, some the Neshaminy, some the upper Delaware.

Mayor Promised Commission
And in his inaugural address a year ago Mayor Samuel said: "The people of Philadelphia have a right if they so desire to receive a supply of water drawn from upland sources rather than from the Delaware and Schuylkill rivers, regardless of whether or not thousands of acres of forest are to be sacrificed."

The commission has not been given a report yet. The prospects for cleaning up the two rivers, together with the peeing \$100,000,000 in the State Department's works temporarily (due by the war), it looks as if a commission is being quietly shelved.

The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania has authorized a \$25,000,000 bond issue for the purpose of financing the construction of a \$25,000,000 plant at all, and the downstream towns feel it is unfair under the circumstances to make them install additional facilities.

But however delicious the city may become as a result of all the projects now in progress, there is one problem that may some day force the acquisition of a new source of water independent supply. That is storage.

Water Bureau Has Plan
In case some future administration decides it wants to invest in additional capacity, the Water Bureau has a plan, which would cost somewhere between \$75,000,000 and \$100,000,000. It calls for a new pumping station on the Schuylkill River at Yardley, above Trenton and above the tidal influence.

In combination with that, the Lower Neshaminy Creek would be dammed to create a storage basin of 200,000,000 gallons capacity, into which the Delaware water to be pumped. Conduits from the dam would carry water to the Torresdale filters on the Delaware and the Queen in Trenton.

Call for Better Water Plan
More than 300 residents of Horsham Township, Pennsylvania county, organized last night to fight a program for supplying Philadelphia with clean water from the Schuylkill River.

FISH YOUR SPIGOT? PERFECTLY HARMLESS
INQUIRER 4/5/46
Samplings are made from 38 different points and J. J. Jenne said: "There has not been a recent report showing any menace to public health."

WOULD INUNDATE LAND
Their objection was that the construction of a reservoir in adjoining Warrington Township, Bucks county, would inundate about 400 acres of land in Horsham township.

Turner's Ideas Similar
Turner expressed similar sentiments as recently in the Philadelphia Red Cross magazine, published by the Philadelphia Red Zastate Schuylkill, which because of the Schuylkill project for the city to even consider spending anywhere from \$100,000,000 to \$200,000,000 to bring water from a mountain watershed at this time.

Mr. Jenne said last night the town would lose about \$100,000 in tax income, the township is losing \$400,000 a year and the board losing \$118,000 a year.

If a Fish Flaps Out of Your Spigot—So What? It's 'Harmless'—or So Water Bureau Says

Yes, the Water Bureau admitted yesterday, fish do get into the water mains sometimes. But that doesn't mean it is dangerous to drink the water. "It's perfectly harmless," the bureau says.

No Peril, He Says
"Neither the live fish nor the dead fish need cause any concern," he declared reassuringly. "They do not constitute any hygienic peril."

Beiles' Contamination
Jenne confirmed that reservoir water—nor river water—is drawn into the mains at times or heavy demand, but denied that it is contaminated.

Acused by Dr. Doane
The charger was Dr. Joseph C. Doane, medical director of Jewish Hospital and professor of clinical medicine at Temple University School of Medicine.

A Constructive Move for Better Water
Mayor Samuel's appointment of a 20-member Water Commission is a welcome and constructive step toward obtaining something this city has wanted for many years, a better water supply.

Water Commission's Task
The commission's task is two-fold. It will set forth a plan that is expected to improve the quality and quantity, from the present sources, the Delaware and the Schuylkill Rivers. It will, in addition, recommend the most suitable source outside the city, giving details as to the costs.

Water Charges
Director of Public Works Martin J. McLaughlin yesterday termed "entirely wrong" charges by Dr. Joseph A. Langbord, Democratic candidate for Coroner, that raw, contaminated water is being pumped directly into the city's water supply system.

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Priorities Delay Water System Plan

To the Editor:
I read with personal interest in the Record of the Committee of Seventy's criticism of the delay in proceeding with the \$18,000,000 loan for the rehabilitation of the city's water supply, particularly the statement that qualified authorities have advised them that "for some time material has been available for certain important phases of the work."

No Bath, No Beverage From City Water Supply
To the Editor:
This very evening, when I had finished dinner, I went up to my bedroom with the intention of taking a bath. I went into the bathroom and started the water. I then went to my bedroom with the intention of preparing myself for a luxurious hour in the tub. Upon re-entering the bathroom, the odor was almost unbearable. And, because of the stench of the liquid, which our City Council insists on drinking, I went without a bath.

Water, Now I ask you, must be also something. Anyone who values their skin, has no ALTERNATIVE OF LOVE.
46 LOVER OF LIFE
EDWARD G. GAY

City Hall Has Trouble Finding An \$8000-a-Year Executive
The city administration is having trouble filling the job of Water Bureau chief.

Water Board Head
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