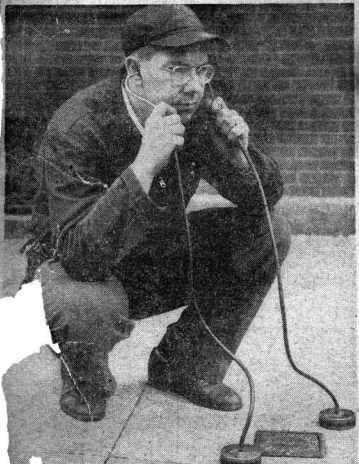


WATER BUREAU HAS ITS OWN DETECTIVE FORCE TO CHECK WASTE



Kunder on the trail of a water main leak. He's in the Bureau of Water's leakage and waste survey. Instrument he's using is called a geophone.



William G. Warrington employs an M-scope to plot the course of an unrecorded water pipe. Its operation is similar to that of a mine detector used during the war.



Troubleshooter Kunder listens to the wild waves. With an trouphone, he can tell whether water pressure is all it should be, also whether water meter is registering.

Water Meter Ownership

IT now appears that when Philadelphia's began metering water it made a major blunder in requiring property-owners to install meters which would forever after be their own.

One consequence has been a wide variety in the types of meters in use, with grave complications in procuring and stocking parts for repair.

Just now thousands of meters are out of service because the purchase parts has been in a legal snarl. That snarl might be the same if the city owned the meters; but then a broken meter would not necessarily mean, as it now does, that a service could be without a meter.

When a gas or electric meter goes bad in Philadelphia, it is simply replaced by another meter. But when a water meter is removed for repair, that meter and no other must be returned. Often there are long delays.

The person who pays for utility pays for the meter in one way or another, even when the utility owns the meter. Too much emphasis seems to have been placed on the property owner's right to be served by the meter he bought and by no other.

Since about half the city's water services are still unmetered, there is still time for a change of policy on meter ownership.

JULY 16, 1947

City Can be Mosquito Free at Small Cost or Trouble

State Director of Plant Industry Tells How New War Insecticides Will Get Rid of Pests in a Hurry

By a Bulletin Staff Correspondent

Harrisburg, May 3.—Philadelphia can rid itself of flies and mosquitoes by going to a little trouble and expense, state officials said today.

The answer to the problem, they declared, is wholesale use of the harmless-to-humans but high powered insecticides developed during World War II.

Within a few years, scores of communities will spray DDT in early summer and be free of the pests for the entire season. Dr. Thomas L. Gorton, director of the Bureau of Plant Industry in the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture, predicted.

Examples Cited

He cited several examples of the effectiveness of light applications of the bug-killer—as low as one pound per acre.

In fact, he said Pennsylvania farmers have had the jump on their city cousins for more than a year. They have been spraying their cattle, barns, barnyards and homes with DDT ever since it was released for public use in 1945.

A practical demonstration of the value of DDT applied to a relatively large area was conducted last summer in Philadelphia, and other insect pests for which the Evening Bulletin staged its first big Fourth of July celebration in Fairmount Park in 1945, the crowds at the evening fireworks and

aquatic displays were pestered by droves of mosquitoes.

Last Fourth of July the Evening Bulletin invited the State Department of Agriculture to demonstrate some of its activities. It responded with an offer to rid the celebration areas of flies and mosquitoes, using DDT.

A giant blower capable of developing a wind stream of 200 miles an hour was mounted on a truck in charge of a crew of trained men.

The blower operated in the early evening of July 3 and early morning of July 4 on both sides of the Schuylkill River, where the fireworks display was to be held, and also in the vicinity of Memorial Hall.

Only 2 Saw a Mosquito

During the fireworks show, a representative of the department questioned one hundred persons on the west bank of the river. He found only two who had seen, felt or heard a mosquito. There were no flies or mosquitoes in the area for weeks afterwards.

Dr. Gorton also told of results last summer in Luzerne County airplane spraying operations. The boroughs of Dupont, Avoca, Duryea and Moosic were free of flies, mosquitoes and other insect pests for the remainder of the summer.

The result was accomplished with a single application of DDT, spread one pound to the acre.

Pumping Station at Queen Lane Will Get Major Facelifting

By JOHN G. McCULLOUGH
Of The Bulletin Staff

The Queen Lane pumping station, for half a century a landmark on the East River Drive below Ridge av at Gustine Lake, is about to experience a major facelifting.

Under plans already approved by the Fairmount Park Commission and the Art Jury, the station's yellow exterior will be coated with red brick and limestone and the towering, 150-foot smokestack will be razed. Water Bureau officials announced yesterday.

This work, the officials explained, is part of a more than \$3,000,000 program for the modernization of the Queen Lane and Lardner's Point pumping stations.

Replacement of the present steam pumps with modern electrical equipment has been recommended by both the Mayor's Water Commission and the City Planning Commission.

Work Is Under Way

Elbert J. Taylor, chief of the Bureau of Water, reported that work was already well under way at both sites and estimated that the project would be completed by the end of this year.

The Queen Lane plant, in service since 1894, pumps water from the Schuylkill for treatment at Queen Lane Filters, Queen Lane and Fox st., and has a rated capacity of 180 million gallons a day.

Mechanical breakdowns, however, have been frequent, officials said. When the existing four steam pumps are replaced with electrically-driven ones, engineers say they expect a daily capacity of more than 200 million gallons. These engineers have forecast savings of as much as \$84,000 yearly through the abandonment of the coal-powered equipment at the station.

In addition to the stack, Taylor said, a sprawling boiler house on the east side of the plant will be demolished, as well as a hedge which screened this part of the station from the park drive. The hedge had been planted at the urging of beauty-conscious motorists who complained that piles of ashes conflicted with the surrounding park.

Water Bureau officials said that they are confident, however, that no such conflicts will be logged when the renovation is completed.

Taylor said that the new design for the building will be in harmony with the surrounding park area and that the huge, arched windows will be replaced with a more functional type. The present coal storage piles along Ridge av., he added, will be removed and the area landscaped.

The Lardner's Point station, at the Delaware River and Devereaux st., Wissinoming, was erected in 1904 and supplies most of the city east of the Schuylkill. It distributes water already treated at the Torresdale Filters, and has had frequent troubles with mechanical failures and breakdowns.

15 Steam Pumps to Go

Here, Taylor said, 15 steam pumps will give way to only six electrically-powered ones. The capacity of the plant, however, will remain at about 210 million gallons a day.

This reduction in the amount of equipment will permit the razing of more than half of the present building as well as the removal of four large smokestacks.

In connection with these improvements, Taylor said, a small pumping station at the Torresdale Filters will be expanded to handle up to 200 million gallons daily. This entire project, he said, already is under contract and will probably be completed within another year.

Philadelphia Water Department
Historical Collection
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