



DOYLE KNOWLES (right), a U.S. Geological Survey engineer from Madison, checks figures with Al Vander Bloemen, a Central State College senior from Manitowoc, who is his field assistant on the Little Plover River water research project. In front of them is an observation well which contains a device for automatically recording water level changes.

LITTLE PLOVER STUDY —

Seek Answers To Water Questions

In a 20-square-mile area in central Portage County, a series of small wells has been sprinkled across the landscape. No water is pumped from these wells for drinking, stock watering or irrigation.

Yet, they may someday help decide how, and by whom, water is to be used in Wisconsin, and perhaps in other parts of the nation.

"The wells are some of the tools in a water study being carried out in the Little Plover River watershed by the U.S. Geological Survey and the Wisconsin Conservation Department.

The aims of the study, which started last summer, were outlined Saturday afternoon at Hardware Mutuals auditorium at a meeting of the Waters Committee of the Wisconsin Conservation Congress.

Cyril Kabat, research coordinator in the Conservation Department, said the purpose is to find out how underground water and stream flows are related. The effects of weather on both will also be studied.

The Little Plover River wasn't chosen for the project merely by chance. Many streams were proposed and rejected.

Reasons for selecting the Little Plover were numerous. First of all, it is a trout stream, and the effects of irrigation on trout streams have long been a bone of contention.

Water-Rich Area
In addition, the stream flows over a uniform layer of water-saturated sand and gravel, from 80 to 100 feet deep. It is a small stream, convenient for study purposes, and its flow is relatively constant.

C. Lee Holt Jr., Madison, district geologist for the Geological Survey, commented that Portage County, with some exceptions, is a water-rich area in a water-rich state.

In the Little Plover watershed, the sand and gravel subsol stores "a tremendous amount of water," he said.

F. T. Schaefer, Madison, district engineer for the Geological Survey, said his work will include a study of the flow in the stream at a number of points.

Flumes will be built, he said, to channel the water and allow greater precision in gauging the flow.

Installation of the flumes may stir up some mud for a day or two, said Schaefer, but will not harm the creek.

Doyle Knowles of Madison, project leader for the Geological Survey, said more than 30 wells have been drilled to bedrock in a four by five mile area. The rectangle in which the geologists are working comprises the valley of the Little Plover from Springville Pond upstream, plus a little territory on the fringes of the watershed.

Knowles said more wells will be drilled later. In addition, precipitation gauges and air and stream temperature devices will be installed.

Pumping Tests
After the instruments have all been put in, pumping tests are planned. Water will be taken from the ground and from the stream,

and the geologists will gauge the effects on underground and surface water levels.

Every stream is different, but Knowles said the information obtained here may make it easier for geologists to study water problems in much larger basins.

Geologists aren't the only ones interested in the Little Plover River. Conservation Department biologists will make some studies, too.

Lewis Posekany of Madison, leader of the rivers survey section in the department, said his group is concerned with the six and one-half acres which make up the stream bed.

Originally, said Posekany, he had regarded the Little Plover as just another trout stream. "I've learned since then that we picked a good trout stream—perhaps a darn good trout stream," he commented.

Last October, he said, surveys indicated the presence of 10,500 trout in three and one-half miles of water.

"We'll have to know what each of these 10,500 trout does when water changes in a stream," said Posekany.

Wants UW Help
Studies of spawning areas, food organisms and migration are contemplated, he said. It is possible, Posekany said, that special studies of springs will be made in conjunction with pumping tests.

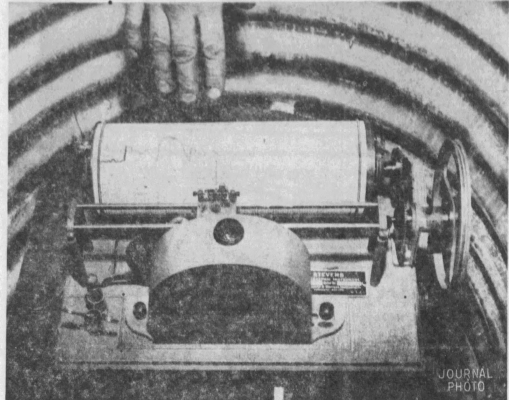
It is doubtful, he commented, that fishermen's creel surveys will be made. Checking anglers is expensive, he said, and "our experience with voluntary reports is very, very sad."

Posekany complained of lack of funds and lack of staff in the Conservation Department to carry out the study. "We're missing the boat," he said, by not getting the University of Wisconsin, irrigators and agriculture in general in on the project.

He said the university has "any number of qualified graduate students and professors" who could help in the study.

Later in the meeting, Holt said water levels in much of Wisconsin declined in recent years because of lack of rainfall.

But heavy precipitation in 1959



UNDERGROUND water level changes are automatically registered on a graph in this observation well in the Little Plover River basin.



AL VANDER BLOEMEN uses a tape to manually check the water level in an observation well near the Little Plover River.

brought up levels in the state from one to 15 feet, he said.

In this area, he said, the rise has been from one to eight feet. As for lakes which had been dropping, "there is a recovery going on, or there was before the ground froze," Holt declared.

Stays Underwater Record 100 Hours

PENSACOLA, Fla. (AP) — A New York housewife who spent a record 100 hours and three minutes underwater suffered nothing worse than dispan hands.

Jane Baldasare climbed out of her windowed, nine-foot deep tank and said, "I feel like I weigh a ton."

She was in the big circular tank from 10:30 a.m. Wednesday until 2:33 p.m. Sunday, eclipsing the 84½-hour record set by Robert Ingollia, Port Jefferson, N.Y.

The weather outside was 45 de-

grees but the water was kept at 95 degrees.

The 24-year-old blonde took liquid nourishment through a tube and slept about 18 hours in the tank.

Hundreds of passers-by looked in on her during the stunt to publicize Pensacola's March of Dimes campaign.

Dispute Termed Misunderstanding

NEW DELHI, India (AP) — Soviet Premier Nikita Khrushchev says the border dispute between India and Red China is "due to some misunderstanding," the Indian Communist weekly New Age reported today.

Khrushchev said neither India nor Red China "pursued aggressive aims or meant to grab each others territory. . . . It is necessary to continue efforts to remove whatever misunderstanding may have arisen and restore good and friendly relations between the two countries."

Exiled Juan Peron Flying To Spain

CIUDAD TRUJILLO, Dominican Republic (AP) — Juan Peron, Argentina's former dictator, today left the Dominican Republic, where he has been living in exile, en route to Spain by chartered plane.

Peron issued a press statement Sunday promising to continue directing the fight of the Peronista party in Argentina. Peron said he was going to Spain to settle some private matters and planned to return to the Dominican Republic soon.

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