



U-D To Probe 3 Rivers For New Pollution Guides

The three branches of the River Rouge, along with the Huron and Saline rivers, will be subjects of a stream pollution research project by the University of Detroit.

U. of D. announced last week it has received a \$100,000 grant for a three-year study from the U.S. Interior Department's Federal Water Pollution Control Administration.

"Simply put, the purpose of the experiments is to determine a more accurate way of measuring [and specifying] the degree of pollution of a stream," said Dr. R.L. Smith, U. of D. associate professor of biology who will direct the project.

He will be assisted by several other scientists and U. of D. graduate students.

SMITH SAID Observerland residents in Farmington, Plymouth, Livonia, Garden City and Westland—where one team members wading in the Rouge waters.

"Heaven knows what they'll think we're up to—but it has nothing to do with salmon," he said.

Dr. Smith gave this explanation of why new methods of measuring pollution are needed:

"IT IS OBVIOUS that one organism may not pollute a stream, while 100 or one million—depending on the organism—may. Or, the organism may indicate, because of its presence, (or environmental sensitivity) the type or degree of pollution, both chemical and organic.

"At present it is not the easiest thing in the world to measure just how polluted a stream is, and further to specify how much pollution is dangerous, undesirable, or simply, bad.

"Another difficulty: The term 'pollution' has not been properly defined. Many scientists have different views of just what 'pollution' is.

"It is generally held, however, that 'pollution' is the introduction of foreign matter into a body of water.

"THIS ISN'T really a satisfactory definition for many scientific and legal purposes. We need a better measuring stick, and that's what we hope to find."

Last year Prof. Smith and his then-U. of D. colleague, Dr. Robert M. Twedt, did some exploratory work along these lines.

"Up until now," Dr. Smith said, "we have determined the pollution of streams by measuring 'indicator bacteria' which can be counted."

"This part of material comes from 'man'. It indicates fecal pollution, which in turn indicates the possibility that there are disease-carrying bacteria, or dangerous contaminants as well.

"In the past, we have tried to establish more exact relationships between these indicators and the disease-carrying bacteria.

"THE PROBLEM is that the actual disease carrying bacteria are hard to measure. Until recently, there has been no satisfactory means of determining the exact number per given amount of water sample.

"We have used other animals, such as snails, worms, etc. to indicate pollution levels. Snails, for example, cannot be found in water of specific pollution.

"The successful exploration for new measuring devices will mean that government will be able to set firm standards required for swimming beaches, drinking water, the survival of animals, etc."

Dr. Smith and Twedt selected this particular area for the research project because it provides a good cross section. The streams pass through cities, villages, towns, rural areas, metropolitan areas and farm lands.

THEY EXPECT to employ new devices recently developed including the Membrane Filter Technique, which is satisfactory for scientific purposes but is difficult to use for routine monitoring of water.

With this technique, the water is filtered, and the bacterial organisms remain on the filter. They are then incubated and colonies counted. Thus the relative number of bacterial organisms can be determined in large amounts of water.

The mechanics of the project offer some interesting statistics. The scientists expect to use 10,000 membrane filters (price tag: \$3,510); 30,000 plastic dishes; 48,000 culture tubes...in addition to other laboratory equipment.

British Mining Town Buried In Polluted Suds

CATTLEFORD, England--This Yorkshire mining town has the washday blues--it's sinking under a sea of suds. The suds pile-foot high in the streets, drifting over sidewalks, choking doorways and burying autos.

The super suds result from pollution. Millions of gallons of dirty water, with a high chemical and detergent content, pour over a notch in a dam, which like a giant washing machine churns out mountains of suds.

Winds whip these among shoppers in the streets, and gangs of sweepers are called out. Because of high chemical content, the suds stain autos, and paint on buildings and ruin women's stockings.

PARIS -- Negotiation between the U.S. and N. Vietnam resumed yesterday morning following a two-day break in discussions.

Before the previous session ended, Ambassador W. Averell Harriman reacted to reports that the U.S. was willing to accept a role for Communists in the political life of S. Vietnam.

"We have never been for a coalition government, and we will never be for a coalition government," stressed Harriman.

PANAMA -- Panamanians went to the polls last weekend but are still waiting to find out who their next president will be. The electoral tribunal has withheld official returns because so many ballots were challenged.

Following an outburst of street fighting the day after the election, the headquarters of the 4,000-man National Guard issued a statement saying it would support whoever is elected.

The National Guard, the nation's only armed force, blocked a recent attempt by the opposition-dominated National Assembly to oust President Marco A. Robles, and the Supreme Court subsequently overruled the assembly's verdict that Robles had violated the constitution by promoting the government candidate for the presidency.

PARIS -- France has been struck with unrest as rebellious students carried on sit-ins at its universities. Premier Georges Pompidou attributes the unrest to a widespread international plot.

"I do not think I am straining in thinking they are aiming at not only creating subversion in Western countries but at causing trouble in Paris even at the moment when our capital has become the meeting place for peace in the Far

East," said Pompidou.

Pompidou, admitting there was fear for unrest, said he would form a committee of professors, students and parents to "propose, if not solutions, at least experiments."

PRAGUE -- Czechoslovakia's new premier, Oldrich Cernik, has pledged continued close cooperation with other Communist nations and economic links with the West as well.

Cernik said individual businesses will soon be free to trade abroad with only loose government guidelines and supervision. The new leaders have been trying to remove barriers between East and West and at the same time assure Moscow that their country will remain Communist despite the liberalization process.

WASHINGTON -- Pakistan has told the U.S. that another 10-year renewal of the super-secret U.S. intelligence base in its northern province would be incompatible with Pakistan's interests.

In the past, the base's electronic devices have been the key eavesdroppers on Soviet military communication and presumably has been used for listening in on Communist China also.

BIRMINGHAM, England -- The Birmingham City Council has called on the government for legislation to restrict the flow of immigrants into the city. A city alderman explained the city had already taken special measures to accommodate huge numbers of immigrants, and it was now up to the national government to solve the problem.

BUCHAREST, Romania -- French President Charles de Gaulle has challenged Communist Romania to march "side by side" with France toward a United Europe of truly independent nations.

De Gaulle, who will end a six-day visit Tuesday, is the first Western chief of state to visit Romania, which has been as big a thorn in Moscow's side as France has been to the West. The general approved of Romania's path of independence and urged Moscow to allow other Eastern European nations to follow suit.

SAIGON -- Mrs. Keith Hyland, American wife of the "duck father king" of S. Vietnam, has been informed that she is a prisoner of the Viet Cong.

Hyland, 54, who made a fortune with a duck feather down factory in Saigon, disappeared last Feb. 8 during the Viet Cong lunar offensive. He was seen being marched off by a group of women armed with rifles.

LONDON -- Striking mechanics virtually shut down Britain's nine major papers last week leaving millions of Britons without newspapers.

The combined loss of newspaper circulation caused by the strike was estimated at 10 million. The only newspaper on the streets in London was the Morning Star, formerly the Communist Daily Worker.

BUENOS AIRES -- A band of would-be bank robbers sentenced themselves to two months hard labor and got nothing for their sweat.

The gang rented a delicatessen store next to a bank, put a "closed for repairs" sign on the door, and went to work tunneling toward the bank vaults. After two months' work, the ferrets had to flee when the police came calling. A bank employee smelled the odor of the crozier sealant torches, became suspicious, and asked the police to investigate.

PRAGUE -- The Czech press reacted with outrage last week to a Soviet attack against Thomas Masaryk, president of the first Czechoslovak republic and the spiritual father of the country.

At the same time, the Slovak youth newspaper, Sema, published new disclosures about the dominant role played by Soviet officials in the wholesale purges in Prague that began after the Communist 1948 take-over.

However, it was the attacks on Masaryk that stirred the deepest anger. The clerical People's party party commented: "This must be declared as a gross falsification of our history and an affront against one of the greatest personalities of our nation ever had."

LONDON -- Prime Minister Wilson won impressive backing from his parliamentary Labour group last week for his prices and income policy as more than 600,000 engineers throughout Britain staged a one-day token strike against that policy.

Wilson seemed to have regained his old fighting spirit as he gained a 205-42 vote in support of his policy.

The strike brought out more than 250,000 in the West Midlands, 150,000 in Manchester, 110,000 in Birmingham, 80,000 in Coventry, 70,000 in Scotland, and 50,000 in Wales.

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