

'What happens when the well goes dry?' Mayor Riley asks

"What happens when the well goes dry?"

That was the rhetorical question posed by California City Mayor James Riley during a press conference held Friday afternoon by the Water Importation for a Stable Environment (WISE) committee in Lancaster.

The conference, held in the American Savings and Loan Association community room, was called by the WISE committee to spotlight the expressed need for supplemental water among retail water purveyors which have contracted with the Antelope Valley-East Kern Water Agency (AVEK).

Participants in the conference emphasized their support of Proposition W, the \$69 million AVEK bond issue on the Nov. 7 ballot.

Several participating officials said that they felt greater emphasis should be given to the fact that only about \$35 million worth of the total bond authorization would be sold during the early years of the project.

Additional bond increments will be sold as needed and as permitted by a policy which holds the AVEK's bonded indebtedness to 7½ per cent of the total assessed valuation of the agency, AVEK officials have pointed out.

WISE President

Presiding at the press conference was Jerry Bigalk, president of the WISE committee.

Kenneth Putnam, division

engineer, Waterworks and Utilities Division, for the Los Angeles County Engineer, said that the county has drilled an Antelope Valley well as far down as 1200 feet and finally abandoned the project because there was insufficient water yield.

Putnam said that he was

not allowed to take a position on the Proposition W, but he stressed the problems being created by the receding water table, which he said has been dropping at an average rate of 7.1 feet per year in the eight county waterworks districts in Antelope Valley.

Putnam said that a thick layer of blue clay in the Valley's underground will not yield water.

'Bottomed Out'

He said several years ago a well "bottomed out" at 600

feet and had to be abandoned.

Water officials present substantiated the fact that the Valley's water table is dropping substantially each year.

Gifford Cole, an Eastside rancher, said that his wells have shown an average drop of 7.4 feet per year in recent years. He said that a well drilled in 1928, when the pumping level was 90 feet down, has now dropped to the 400-foot level.

'Turbulent History'

Mayor Riley conceded that California City had had a "turbulent" history in its relationship with AVEK.

At one time, California City withdrew from the agency, but later asked to be let back in.

Riley expressed surprise that no one has ever asked him:

"Why did you come back in?"

Riley said that the answer is that water is essential to

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Broadway, Penney's OK center plans, Dorn says

Supervisor Warren Dorn said late Friday that he has been authorized to announce that the Broadway-Hale Department stores have effected an agreement with Penney's for the joint development of a shopping plaza involving the major facilities of the Broadway, Penney's and others.

The shopping center will be developed on the property

acquired by the Broadway-Hale firm several years ago on the southwest corner of 10th St. W. and Ave. K.

Dorn, who is chairman of the Board of Supervisors and represents Antelope Valley as part of his Fifth district, said that the shopping plaza will be well situated in the heart of Antelope Valley, just a few blocks south of the Los Angeles County's administrative center.

Dorn applauded the officials of the Broadway-Hale firm and Penneys for their efforts to bring new merchandising facilities to the Antelope Valley to meet the needs of the area's growing population.

Timetable for the new shopping center development was not announced.



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Road project

PWS-0152-0001 Lancaster C of C committee begins flood control study

The Flood Control Committee of the Lancaster Chamber of Commerce has begun a study brought before the public recently by the Antelope Valley Board of Trade are several

... held in observance of the medical center's 17th anniversary.

Guests at the open house will visit a single care patient room identical to that expected to be available in the new wing of the AVH Medical Center about three years from now. All rooms in the new wing will be single care rooms.

Room 369 on Third East will be shown as a mock-up

Water...

the future of California City or any community if it is to be a "viable community."

Although he said that, like Mojave, California City does not have an immediate need for water, it must have the assurance of a future water supply for the people who buy property and build homes there.

He said people can live "without roads, electricity, and television sets, but water is necessary for life itself."

Fred Patterson, manager of the Rosamond Community Services District, said that the yield has decreased in the district's wells. He said one well had sanded in and another was abandoned when it would not yield more than 60 gallons per minute.

"It is very necessary to have imported water," Patterson said.

Wells Abandoned

Herb Spitzer, manager of the Quartz Hill County Water District, reported that 3 wells have been abandoned by the district. He said one new hole was abandoned when it failed to produce.

Larry Cleveland, of the Mojave Public Utilities District, said that although the area has no present water

other patient services, all conveniently arranged.

Oxygen and suction outlets, the nurse call system, electronic drapery controls, the telephone, etc., are included in the enviro-care headwall. The arrangement even features a swing-away bedside cabinet for the patient of tomorrow.

In addition to the enviro-care, Room 369 includes tinted window glass for reduced

(Continued from Page 1)

problem, the district has contracted with AVEK because the "board has the feeling we might need more water in the future."

LA County Waterworks chief Putnam said that at present it costs about \$40 per acre foot to put water into the mains from local wells in the county districts.

He predicted that escalating electrical costs—brought on by the more lift required to bring water to the surface as the water table drops—will boost the cost to about \$50 per acre foot in the next 10 years if imported water is not brought in.

Putnam said that the quality of water is deteriorating as the underground reserve diminishes, bringing about a higher concentration of minerals.

He said that the imported AVEK water will be "very, very good" in quality as compared to some of the well water now being pumped in some of the county's West-side wells.

John Hilgendorf, of the Palm Ranch Irrigation District, said that his district's wells had dropped from a 90-foot to a 400-foot pumping level.

PWS-0152-0002

SPIA election meeting slated

Two Los Angeles City Department of Airports officials will highlight the fall mem-

ture as guest speakers Melvin Erickson, of the city's Board of Airport Commissioners, and

open house is the special procedures room for neurosurgery which will be shown to the public for the first time. In the special procedures room, the public will have its first view of the \$157,000 Mimer III neuro-radiology equipment for diagnosis.

A surgery room set up ready for an operation also will be displayed, as well as the medical center's modern mental health unit.

Other points of interest will be the coronary care unit for heart patients, the cobalt therapy unit for cancer patients, and the SMA 12/60 autoanalyzer in the laboratory which makes blood screening tests by automation.

Members of the Women's Auxiliary and various staff members will serve as tour guides. Following guided tours, tea will be served in the staff dining room with members of the Alpha Chapter Guild as hostesses.

Children under 12, usually not permitted above the

School...

(Continued from Page 1)

eight, and it is lower than the other grade levels.

Meyer cautioned the board to look even further ahead than outlined in the contingency plans.

"It must be remembered that there is a saturation point to be reached when adding staff simply to reduce pupil-teacher ratio will not solve the problem," he noted in his report. "It is at that point that he would be faced with modified day sessions or relocatables (portable classrooms)."

house hours.

Sunday's open house at the Antelope Valley Medical Center will be the first event of its type in the medical center's 11th anniversary in 1970.

Leo Matousek rites conducted

Final rites for Leo Matousek, a long-time resident of Lancaster, were conducted Saturday morning there at St. Mary's Church.

Mr. Matousek died Tuesday at Antelope Valley Medical Center, Lancaster, Oct. 11. He was 61 and lived at Mojave Motel.

The Rosary was said Saturday evening at St. Mary's Chapel, with Rev. James J. Loney officiating then the following morning.

At the time of death, Matousek had been a resident at Reno's Cafe.

He is survived by Daniel, and his estranged wife, Phyllis, who, until recently, was a Boron resident.

Interment was in St. Mary's Cemetery, with St. Mary's arrangements.

Halloween dance

The Lake Hughes Fire Department will hold its first annual Halloween Dance at the Hughes Sportsmen house on the night of Oct. 27 starting at 8 p.m.

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