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GEOLOGY

Old Faithful Has Rival

A GEYSER that rivals Yellowstone's Old Faithful is spouting hot water 150 to 200 feet into the air and promises to be a new tourist attraction.

Located 35 miles east of Lakeview, Ore., the geyser resulted from a search for natural steam for power purposes.

After drilling 1,682 feet and not finding sufficient water on the Charles Crump ranch, the Nevada Thermal Power Company abandoned the project on June 29.

Two days later, a geyser of hot water spouted up through the casing, and present indications lead to the belief that Oregon has a rival to Yellowstone's Old Faithful. While the famous geyser in Wyoming erupts to a height of 120 feet, the southern Oregon spectacular waterspout reaches a height of 150 to 200 feet. Not only that, but the flow is continuous. It erupts at a rate of 67 feet per second, with a flow of 400 to 600 gallons a minute, at a temperature of 200 degrees Fahrenheit at the casing.

Tourists, local residents and the ranch owner himself, who is using the runoff for

irrigating before it drains into Crump Lake through canals, vigorously protested the original decision of the State Engineering Department and the attorney general to cap the spectacular spouter because it was "wasting water" and because no permit had been issued for drilling. Popular opinion won and the attraction is destined to be one of America's tourist meccas, including, as it does, another hot spring 100 yards east and a true geyser about 100 feet to the north.

Water analysis by the state sanitary authority shows 956 solid parts per million parts of water. There is a half part of arsenic per million parts of water.

Thought to be the only perpetual geyser in the world, the state's geologists doubt that it will continue in that category. State engineer Lewis R. Stanley, knowing that the geyser runs through 100 feet of loose, alluvial material at the surface, early in September warned that it might soon cave in and become just a bubbling hot spring.

But Lakeview's geyser is spouting unabated, regardless of adverse forecasts.

Science News Letter, November 28, 1959

PUBLIC HEALTH

Japan's Birth Rate Drops

THE MOST RAPID drop in birth rate ever recorded occurred in Japan during the ten years from 1947 to 1956.

The birth rate fell from 34.3 (per 1,000 population) in 1947 to 18.5 in 1956. It fell further to 17.2 in 1957 but rose again to 18 in 1958.

Japan has a population of about 92,000,000 contained within an area about the size of the state of Montana. Her population density is more than 640 persons per square mile, compared with 58 per square mile in this country. Japan, therefore, faces the dangers involved in overpopulation.

The number of births in Japan seems to have diminished more than might be expected solely from the postponement of marriage and the usual effects of industrialization and city life.

Perhaps more significant were the increased use of modern contraceptive techniques, and early legal abortion and sterilization.

Before 1948, Japanese law forbade abortion except in cases of medical emergency. In 1948, however, the Eugenic Protection Act was passed, aimed at the protection of women whose health would be endangered by childbirth, and at prevention of inferior progeny that might be expected if children were born to unhealthy mothers.

This law, which also permitted extension of birth-control facilities and sterilization for health reasons, was amended in 1949 to allow physicians to make economic factors a consideration in deciding whether a woman's health might be endangered by further childbearing. The 1948 law and its later modifications, however, were centered

on health rather than on population control.

The number of induced abortions in Japan was reported as 246,000 in 1949 and as 1,170,000 in 1955. Sterilization of 42,000 women was reported for 1955. Another indication of the drift of public opinion toward family limitation was a 1955 survey in which nearly two-thirds of those interviewed were in favor of such control.

These statistics were reported in a bulletin issued by the Population Reference Bureau.

Science News Letter, November 28, 1959

ASTRONOMY

"Lost" Meteor Stream Rediscovered in Photos

A "LOST" meteor stream, which gave the spectacular Andromedid heavenly displays of "shooting stars" in 1872 and 1885, has been rediscovered by astronomical detective work using photographic plates.

Three astronomers from Harvard College Observatory and Boston University found 23 meteors during a five-year period that follow the orbit of the comet causing the Andromedid shower. These are the remnants of the swarm, they report in the *Astronomical Journal* (June).

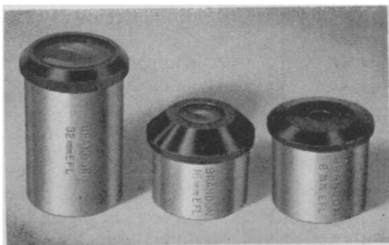
When observed in 1875, the meteor stream was 400,000 miles thick, Drs. Gerald S. Hawkins, Richard B. Southworth and Francis Stenon have calculated. Since then, the swarm has been spread about considerably, resulting in a decline from about 15,000 meteors visible hourly in 1885 to about one every five hours at the present time.

Science News Letter, November 28, 1959

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