

SC Laundromats In A 'Shutdown'

By DALE POLLOCK
Sentinel Staff Writer

Virtually every laundromat owner whose water is supplied by the City of Santa Cruz closed down today, and vowed to remain closed until his water allocations are raised.

Kathy Adams of the Bei-Scott Co. said owners of several laundromats planned the shutdown to demonstrate to the public what they consider unfair water allocations and fines. Adams claimed Bei-Scott alone owes more than \$40,000 in fines for exceeding its allocation of 70 per cent of 1975's water usage. "The only thing we could do when we ran out of water is shut down," said Adams.

Monday morning housewives were startled to find

closed signs on the doors of more than 20 laundromats from the northern city limits up to 41st Avenue. The signs state, "Closed due to insufficient water allotment and heavy water penalties. If you feel we should be allotted enough water to remain open, please call the City Water Department."

City Water Director Morris Allen said he was "shocked that these laundromats would be so irresponsible to come to the end of their allocation and then close their doors." Allen said he had no advance warning of the action.

"We've received several variance applications from laundromats," explained Allen. "They've been reviewed, and more water has been given to them in every case. But we can't allow them to have all the water they want, or you have to allow everyone to have all the water they want."

Don Smith of Smith's Cleaners claimed that city water officials said that doing laundry is not a necessity. "I take offense at that statement. Staying clean is the biggest fighter of disease there is. This is ridiculous. You could close down any business in this town, and that would not affect as many people as the laundromats."

Adams of Bei-Scott also pointed out that low-income and elderly residents who do not own their own machines will suffer a tremendous hardship. "But we have to stay closed," pleaded Adams. "We can't afford the fines. And I'd hate to see it when we do open up. Everything's only geared for 70 per cent use. We'll overload the sewers and electrical circuits."

Adams said Bei-Scott will keep the laundromats closed until Aug. 1 and on weekends after that date. She blamed much of the laundromats' increased usage on out-of-town customers, and city residents who own washing machines, but come to a laundromat to conserve their own water allocation.

There will also be employee layoffs and firings if the laundromats have to say shut, pointed out Adams, stating that Bei-Scott will have to lay off 12 part-time workers. "And most of these are high school students or retired people, and it will be very difficult for them to find other jobs."

Allen has little sympathy for laundromat operators, however. "I feel it's a case of mismanagement on their part. They have not chosen to do anything but business as usual. They should have made better management of water allocated to them by doing some of the things we suggested."

Water department officials suggested reducing the volume per machine, shortening or eliminating rinse cycles, putting flow restrictors in the restrooms, and reducing the hours of operation, rather than eliminating entire days of service. Allen also suggested that operators remove some of the machines to reduce the volume of flow per hour.

Smith claims, however, that even by conserving water, it is difficult for him to remain in business. "I was trying to get an allocation for 250 hundred cubic feet of water, but I only got 86 hundred cubic feet for July of this year. I need at least between 200 and 250 to stay open. What am I going to pay these fines with? I'll be forced out of business."

To try and resolve the impasse, Allen said he will personally review each laundromat's allocation "to see if what we've given them is reasonable. If it's warranted, they will be given more."

Allen remains dismayed at the laundromat operators' tactics, however, saying the Water Department's switchboard had

Laundromat Shutdown Begins Here

FROM PAGE 1

been lit up all morning. "I see no evidence of any cooperative attitude on their part whatsoever. They feel we should allocate them all the water they want, regardless of circumstances. We just don't have that water. If we did what they're asking, we wouldn't have water conservation any more."

Cease-Fire Fails-- Libya Egypt Battle

CAIRO (AP) — Libyan forces routed Egyptian paratroopers from a desert oasis today, the Libyan ambassador to Rome claimed. The report of new fighting followed an announcement that both Arab nations had accepted a cease-fire.

Egyptian President Anwar Sadat ordered a halt Sunday night to all hostilities after meeting with Arab negotiators. A spokesman for Palestinian leader Yasir Arafat announced today in Cairo that a truce had been worked out to end the border conflict that erupted six days ago.

But Libyan Ambassador Kadri El Atrash said in Rome that the Libyans drove Egyptians from the oasis of Al Jaghub 20 miles inside Libya and more than 100 miles south of the Mediterranean Sea. He added that some Egyptians were captured.

Cairo radio said Sunday Egyptian forces had captured the oasis but withdrew when Sadat ordered an end to the fighting.

El Atrash said there could be no cease-fire until Algerian President Houari Boumedienne, who has been acting as mediator, reports back to Libyan leader Moammar Khadafi. Boumedienne left Egypt for Tripoli earlier in the day.

The ambassador said Egypt

had rejected a Libyan appeal for an Arab summit. "Egypt acted to prevent the summit because it might have meant something new in relation to the situation following the Israeli elections," he said.

An Egyptian military spokesman said paratroopers, complying with the cease-fire, withdrew early today from the Libyan oasis of Al Jaghub, about 100 miles south of the Mediterranean coast and 20 miles west of the border.

The spokesman said the soldiers, supported by aircraft, had occupied the oasis Sunday because it was being used as a staging area for sabotage raids on Egypt.

There were conflicting claims regarding battlefield action Sunday. Libya said it downed 14 Egyptian planes and captured one pilot who bailed out. Egypt said it lost two planes in an attack on the Al Adam airbase, south of Tobruk. It also reported air raids aimed at two radar stations and an airfield at another oasis.

The Arab Revolutionary News Agency (ARNA) in the Libyan capital of Tripoli said two Libyans were killed in an Egyptian attack on the Al Kufra oasis at the southern end of the frontier, about 550 miles south of the Mediterranean. The Egyptian spokesman said

Al Kufra's airport was raided after Libya moved planes into the area, threatening Egypt's security.

Long-standing enmity between Libya and Egypt, whose regime is considered relatively moderate among the Arab states, flared into open combat last Tuesday with air strikes and ground clashes along the desert frontier. Each side has claimed it inflicted heavy casualties on the other in almost daily fighting since then. On Sunday, the conservative Arab governments of Kuwait and the United Arab Emirates threw their weight behind efforts to end the fighting.

SV Water 'Shutoff' In Effect

By DENISE SIEBENTHAL
Sentinel Staff Writer

Many Scotts Valley area water customers experienced water shutoffs for several hours today and Friday as the Scotts Valley County Water District moved to combat a recent high use of water.

District Manager Jack Hinds said water was turned off today and Friday for several hours because these are days that outdoor watering is allowed under the conservation ordinance, and it appears outdoor watering is severely draining water supply in this drought period.

Faucets went dry for about 600 customers (or about 40 per cent of the district) on Friday for three hours and water was turned off from 1,100 customers (or about 75 per cent) of the district today from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., Hinds said.

On Friday, customers used about 700,000 gallons of water, while the district only produced 550,000, Hinds added. The same amount of water was used on Thursday.

By comparison, on Saturday and Sunday when outdoor watering is not allowed, customers only used about 525,000 gallons each day and the district gained back a net 50,000 gallons, Hinds figured.

The manager said the district only has 680,000 gallons left in storage today, while normally there is 1.5 million gallons in storage.

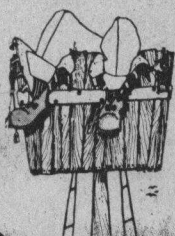
At a meeting of the district's directors tonight at 7 p.m., Hinds said he will suggest to the board that the conservation ordinance be amended to forbid all outdoor watering. The meeting is at the district office, 4860 Scotts Valley Drive.

SEE BACK PAGE



YOU DON'T HAVE TO BE A SAILOR

... to enjoy the Wednesday night sailboat races. Watch the action from the comfort of our heated deck by the water's edge while we pamper you with hot hors d'oeuvres and generous cocktails. Make the "Nest" a habit. It's a really fun place on the Pacific!



**Crow's
Nest**

476-4560

SANTA CRUZ YACHT HARBOR