UA May Have Secret To Cheap Desalting

Since the amount of water that can be held is dependent on the temperature, the air is forced to give up some of its moisture. This is deposited on the collector in a channeling and drains off.

"WE ARE PRODUCING..."

More water would be produced in the summer than in the winter because the water would be heated much hotter and would be more inclined to evaporate.

Hodges estimates the cost of his plant at roughly 25 cents a square foot as compared with perhaps $5 in more conventional systems now being tested.

"So far, the system is working according to the theoretical estimates and we have run into no serious problems," Hodges said.

He has, of course, had to contend with the bugs that develop in any new device.

FINS WERE PLACED in the condenser to make the air vapor source around more and therefore cool faster. There was a problem of air under the plastic cover in the bay which Walter Grice, an engineer, now working with Hodges, solved.

And Hodges plans to use a stronger blower to produce a faster stream of air in the evaporator — and therefore more water.

Hodges got his idea last winter while working with Dr. William Sellers of the institute staff on an instrument to measure the water vapor coming out of the ground.

THE SYSTEM, in this case, used the principle of moving air to pick up the water molecule.

Then he became interested in salt water conversion after attending a lecture on desert survival.

"I wondered how I would get fresh water if I were on a raft at sea," Hodges said.

So he built a small model which successfully distilled fresh water and then experimented with the rooftop model which had 20 feet long. Again the results were very successful.

The young scientist was born in Texas but his family moved to Phoenix when he reached the third grade in school. His father is race horse trainer and owner.

"I WAS NO BOY scientists," Hodges said, looking back on his high school days.

At the university here, he tried electrical engineering for a year, but decided it didn’t suit him. He then moved over to math.

A course under Dr. James F. McDonald in the UA Institute of Atmospheric Physics interested him in meteorology.

And after attending a summer workshop in meteorology, two undergraduates are working on the project — Bruce Crawford and Charles Davis.

Information Unit Further Centralized

Another step was taken this week toward centralizing some of the controlling organizations in the Greater Tucson Information Center at 420 W. Congress St.

Russel L. Suden, business manager of the new center, said today that the Convention Promotions Department has been moved to the Sunshine Club Office at 1340 Miracle Mile. At the same time, the Accounting and Inquiry Department of the Sunshine Club were moved to the building at 420 W. Congress St.

The Convention Bureau being transferred to the Sunshine Club, which will be known as the Sun- shine Club of Greater Tucson and Convention Bureau.

The new combined bureau will continue to operate at 1340 Miracle Mile until construction is completed at the Congress Street address.

New construction and modification of the Congress Street building is progressing according to schedule which calls for completion by early February.

Arthur Brown is architect for the building which is being built by the W. F. Coons Construction Co.