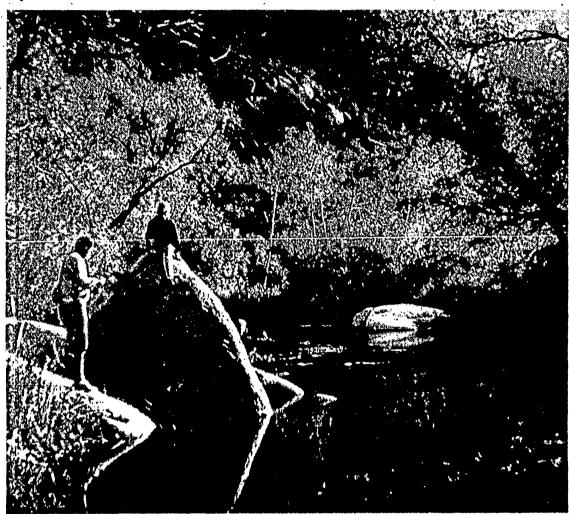
For Better or Worse-Santa Margarita's Due for Change





RAMBLING RIVER—With a warm afternoon sun shining, the Santa Margarita River in Fallbrook

provides a relaxing setting for trout fishermen.

At left a man maneuvers his bait in one of many

big pools while being closely observed by his rock-climbing son. Photo at right shows pool up-

stream in Temecula Canyon, site of a fire last fall.—Evening Tribune Staff Photos

Fire Helps in Higher Water Level of Streams

By HARLON BARTLETT EVENING TRIBUNE OUTGOTS Writer

FALLBROOK-A fire last fall that cooked the surrounding slopes may have changed Santa Margarita River for the better.

Within five years, a man-made change, two dams, will change the river, and whether it's for the better or the worse won't be known for

In any event, they will erase one of the few remaining trout streams in San Diego County. When it goes, only Pauma Creek, Santa Ysabel Creek, Pine Valley Creek and San Luis Rey River will be left.

The Fallbrook Public Utility District and the federal government have been going manoa-mano in the courts for 13 years over construction of a dam.

Now two will be built-a water supply dam for the district north of downtown and a federal flood control dam down stream on Camp

There's still time for several more trips to prowl the wide, sandy pools along the river before the buildozers get into the act, however.

Bill Aguilera, an assistant engineer for the district, estimates it will be "at least two to three years" before the Bureau of Reclamation comes up with the necessary government funds to start work on the district project.

Another two years will be required to com-

plete the dam, which will be located west of where Willow Glen Road meets the river. About 36,500 acre feet of water will be stored behind the dam.

Aguilera said the district anticipates opening the reservoir for boating and fishing.

Until this development becomes fact, Santa Margarita will continue to be a stronghold for stream fishing addicts.

Water level is unusually high for this time of year and Capt. John Roumasset, head of DFG wardens in the county who assisted in stocking trout there two weeks ago, has a theory: "The only thing I can figure is they had a burn there and there's more runoff than usual.

"Streams tend to have more water after a

Aguilera feels last year's heavy rains and a short, relatively cool summer, resulting in good runoff at the headwaters in Riverside County, also is a factor.

Rainbows, running three to the pound, were planted along a two-mile stretch of the river at the end of Willow Glen and, given time, they fan out, some roaming up stream into rugged Temecula Canyon, some west toward De Luz

Unfortunately, access to the upper canyon is blocked by "no trespassing" signs that are so familiar to San Diego outdoorsmen. From where Willow Glen meets the river, you can drive a twisting dirt road up the canyon to a

fork—one road leading to Jack's Gem Mine, the other—to a private residence.

Most fishermen park at this fork and fish the nearby pools. The posted property is only 200 yards upstream. The reason for the signs isn't hard to figure out. Litter is thick on the banks of the accessible portion.

Immediately west of Willow Glen Road, a fence and gate have been erected by the utility district. This is to halt the practice of people driving to the river and depositing their garbage, according to Aguilera. It's still permissible to cross the fence—on foot—to fish.

The clear pools hold more than stocked trout. Tadpoles abound, but, more important, minnows from one to three inches long also flit about. Says Roumasset, "They could be small

"It wouldn't surprise me if they get off a spawn there. They could be this fall's spawn. The department has developed fall spawners. We've heard of spawning in the lower reaches

In all probability, Santa Margarita will be planted again next week by the DFG and, thereafter, periodically through the winter and

To reach the productive section of the river, take U.S. 393 north for about 20 miles beyond Escondido, turn off Mission Road, then take a right on Willow Glen, which winds down into the canvon.

SPORTFISHING

ORTH-125 passengers on three pools caught 80 barracuda. 270 187 miscellaneous. CIPAL PIER-44 passengers and day boats caught 23 barracuda. 27 (188 Abarracuda. 27) NS hall-day bours sury miscellaneous.

IMPERIAL BEACH-32 passengers en

IMPERIAL BEACH-32 passengers en

Martinez Wins Brazil Marathon SAO PAULO, Brazil (AP) - meter marathon race through

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