

## Giving Warning To Speculators

Reports of an incipient land rush into the dry plains of eastern Washington, which eventually are expected to be irrigated by the Columbia Basin project, brought a warning from John C. Page, Commissioner of Reclamation, that lands in the irrigable areas near Grand Coulee dam are subject to heavy penalties if sold at speculative prices.

The penalties provided in the anti-speculation bill recently enacted in connection with Grand Coulee dam and the Columbia Basin project, of which the dam is the principal engineering feature, go with the land, and no water can be obtained from project canals until they are paid.

"It will be to the advantage of anyone who contemplates the purchase of land in the Big Bend country, anticipating that it sometime will be irrigated by the Columbia Basin project, to investigate carefully and fully," Mr. Page warned. "In the first place it will be a good many years yet, even if construction proceeds as rapidly as possible, before the project will be prepared to deliver water to settlers.

"In the second place, the law requires the Secretary of the Interior to obtain an impartial appraisal of

## Competition for Isaak Walton



SUN VALLEY IS ISAAK WALTON'S rendezvous but pretty Elnora Seagle has her own little "hideout" there in a nearby stream where she catches her trout for breakfast or supper . . . whichever suits her whim of the moment.

Already a ski capital during the winter, Sun Valley is rapidly becoming a summer mecca for western sports and the nation's highest prize "day money" rodeo is scheduled for August 14 and 15.

all the project lands at their present day value without any reference to the probable availability of irrigation water in the future. Any land which is to receive water, under this law, either must be sold at this appraised value of dry land or its owner must pay a penalty ranging from half to the entire amount paid in excess of the appraisal, otherwise water will be withheld."

The days are gone when construction of a Federal irrigation project was the signal for the start of a land boom. Speculation in project lands is injurious to the settler who honestly desires to make a home for himself on the new irrigated land and to the government, which is required by law to collect from the settlers over a period of years the cost of the reclamation projects.

The settler who buys raw desert land at the speculator's prices, usually finds himself unable to subjugate the land, to build his lateral

canals, and to plant his first crop. This means failure for the settler and, in turn, failure for the project.

"Many people unfamiliar with the west," Mr. Page said, "do not realize that the job of making the land ready for water after the canals are in is expensive and that it takes time to produce the first crop. When informed that, once it is irrigated, a certain dry farm will be worth \$100 or more an acre, they are tempted to pay prices which would be modest for irrigated land but are exorbitant for the dry, unlevelled, unimproved lands they receive."

## Mountain City Employing 600

Almost 600 men are employed by the Mountain City Copper Company, according to a report by John A. Fulton, director of the Mackay School of Mines. Several more are working at adjacent prospects.

The corporation is milling 500 tons daily, and shipping 100 tons of crude ore and the concentrates.

The shaft is down to the 700-foot level, a station has been completed and crosscutting is under way to reach the ore bodies. Sinking is to be resumed at once to the 900-foot level. The shaft was purposely sunk well away from the mineral zone.

On account of the deplorable condition of the road between Mountain City and Eko all of the ore is going to market by way of Mountain Home, Idaho, and most of the trading is going there also, thus depriving this state of a very large revenue, Mr. Fulton said. — *Falko Daily Free Press.*



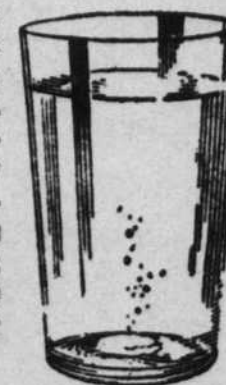
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"WILD MONEY"

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EDWARD  
EVERETT HORTON  
LYNN OVERMAN

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"RUSTLERS'  
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HOP-A-LONG CASSIDY  
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