



THIS BARREN STRETCH of country is the Devil's Homestead area of the Lava Beds National Monument. The peak in the background is Schonchin's Butte. This is typical of much of the semi-arid land of the rugged country within the boundaries.



DEVIL'S HOMESTEAD is an apt name for this rugged stretch of rock in the Lava Beds National Monument. Of recent origin the rock may be as recent as 500 years. Here young Ralph Walker (left) and Danny Kettler pick up the information from one of the many instructional sign posts in the area.



THE TULELAKE NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE lies along the state line road and provides a scenic attraction for those who take the loop route to the Lava Beds. This picture was taken about halfway across the road from 97 to the Lava Beds turnoff. In the spring and fall these immense ponds are filled with millions of migratory waterfowl.

## Water Fight Shaping Up In California Over Use Of Shasta Dam's Storage

By United Press International  
A water fight that may equal the drawn-out Colorado River water suit in importance is getting underway in California.

The battle, before the State Water Rights Board, involves much of the water now being used for irrigation under the Central Valley Project. Actually, it is the water stored behind Shasta Dam, released down the Sacramento River and subsequently pumped from the Delta-Mendota and Contra Costa canals by the Tracy pumping plant.

The federal government, which built the CVP, is asking for rights to the water. Although the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation filed applications for the water rights in 1927, the applications have been shunted from one state bureau to another without action.

The Water Rights Board held a hearing in Sacramento Friday to determine the amount of testimony and the scope of the water rights battle. The taking of testimony will begin September 23 and the hearings are expected to last into 1959.

At Friday's hearing, the chief attorney for the State Department of Water Resources, Mark Nosler, says the State Department is in general support of the federal request for state water rights.

The U.S. Department of Interior representative, John Bennett, says the state could pull the rug out from under the gigantic CVP by refusing to grant the applications. He says the federal government usually doesn't go ahead with major projects without getting the water rights, but this time it did.

Opposing the granting of the water rights are 72 individuals and

groups, consisting mainly of ranchers and other water users.

One large opposing group consists of delta ranchers who have formed into the San Joaquin Delta Water Users Association. At their behest, the San Joaquin County Board of Supervisors also voted to protest the water rights grants.

The Tracy pumps have been pumping about 195,000 acre feet of water per month from the delta. Releases of water from Shasta Dam are supposed to make up any deficiency caused by the pumping.

The delta growers fear that removal of water at Tracy may deplete the delta fresh water content to the extent that salt water will intrude into the channels from San Francisco Bay.

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## Hummingbird Picks Swaying Wire For Nest

MONTAGUE — Every year, for the past six years, Mr. and Mrs. C. B. Kay of Montague entertain a little wild visitor—a tiny hummingbird who always seeks as a shelter and nesting site, some corner of their front porch.

This year, the tiny mother built her nest in the loop of the electric cord used for the front porch light, laid her eggs, hatched and raised her two babies.

Mr. and Mrs. Kay, who have lived all their lives in Montague, are naturally bird lovers, and always see that water dishes are placed about their garden so that the birds may drink and bathe. They put seed and apple and other delicacies out for their little feathered friends, who seem to know that they are always welcome and free from harm.

The "tin" can is about 98 per cent steel.

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