



**YOUNGSTERS** exhibit trout caught in Palmdale Lake, shown in background.

## Water Is the Key to Future Development

The economic development of the Antelope Valley is directly dependent upon the availability of adequate supplies of good, pure, potable water. The Palmdale Irrigation District, which is a locally controlled Agency of the State of California, formed and existing since 1918, is responsible for providing water supplies to a large portion of the South Antelope Valley, approximately 74,000 acres. The district's service area includes all of the City of Palmdale and surrounding areas plus portions of the South Antelope Valley extending east from Palmdale nearly to the San Bernardino County line.

The Palmdale Irrigation District was formed primarily for the purpose of providing irrigation water to the

lands within its boundaries. This function changed during interceding years with the change from an agricultural economy to an industrial economy, which brought about consequential urban and commercial development.

The district is now primarily concerned with supplying the industrial, commercial and domestic water needs of the area within its boundaries, according to Lowell W. Felt, engineer manager. To meet this growing need, the district has developed a very modern and adequate water system which includes more than 81 mi. of water main, 14 operating water wells and 6.5 million gal. of domestic water storage.

In addition, the district obtains a portion of its water

supply from Littlerock Reservoir, which is jointly owned, controlled and operated with the Littlerock Creek Irrigation District. This supply is diverted to Palmdale Reservoir via an 8-mi. canal from whence it is purified and introduced to the district's domestic system. The district's present Water System is adequate to serve all needs and is constantly being expanded to serve new areas as they develop.

The district overlies a very fine underground water basin which contains a very large supply of potable water. However, this underground supply, as is the case in most other areas of Southern California, is being depleted by heavy pumping in many portions of the Antelope Valley.

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