

Edson Lake Landowner Incurs Ire For Subdivision Stance

Special to The Bee

GEORGETOWN, El Dorado Co. — Edson Lake landowner Francis Bacchi has incurred the wrath of some townspeople here with his recent pronouncement that the controversy over the proposed lake development "is fed by four persons ... whose position is based on prejudice more than on the facts of the situation."

Bacchi, who favors the proposed Edson Lake subdivision by Boise Cascade Corp., gave his views last week in a news story in The Sacramento Bee. He was replying to an article by Teresa Lengyel, Georgetown librarian, printed earlier in The Bee. Her article was anti-Boise Cascade.

Clara Mae Mathis of nearby Garden Valley, El Dorado County, declared that Bacchi is wrong in indicating "that only a very few residents of the Georgetown

Divide Public Utility District oppose the establishment of a large housing development around Lake Edson. . . .

Petition Circulated

"I helped to circulate a petition which expressed our views on this matter," Mrs. Mathis reported. "The petition was signed by over 400 registered voters in this district. All of these people were firm in their belief that there should be no large, dense community on the shores of Lake Edson."

Florence Wylie of Georgetown, who with her late husband operated the Georgetown Hotel for eight years, asserted that Bacchi "must be blinded by the big dollar sign."

As to Bacchi's statement about four persons whose position "is based on prejudice more than on the facts," Mrs. Wylie retorted:

"He is so right. We are

prejudiced against the rape of our beautiful wilderness."

Also taking issue with Bacchi's statements was W. H. Gault of Georgetown, a former director of the Georgetown Divide Public Utility District.

Gault said he has tape-recorded proof that "it is not the people, but Boise Cascade and the Bacchis" who have tried to persuade the directors of the district to approve plans before these plans were cleared through the Bureau of Reclamation and the State Water Quality Control Board on the question of possible pollution of the lake.

J. Wilson McKenney, a Georgetown newcomer who publishes the journal Out West here, said he has pledged his support to Mrs. Lengyel's Committee for the Environment.

Blight Danger

"I came here to escape the blight on the cities, to find unspoiled forest and open land, air that's fit to breathe," McKenney noted. "If the land despoilers have their way — and Edson is only a beginning — pollution will blight this ecological paradise just as human waste and apathy have blighted our urban centers.

"A clean environment is worth fighting for; I'm sending in my order for brass knuckles."

Like Mrs. Wylie, McKenney hit at what he called "quick-buck deals."

Mrs. Lengyel, meanwhile, expressed her displeasure over the fact that action on the Lake Edson proposal again has been postponed by the El Dorado County Planning Commission.

She noted that the hearing was postponed from May 14 to May 28 when Boise Cascade representatives failed to appear. The hearing has been postponed again, until June 25, at the request of the corporation.

Boise Cascade has an option on 1,580 acres abutting

Mrs. Lengyel declared Bacchi's statements contained "gross inaccuracies." She also noted that Bacchi had told newspaper reporters that the sale price of the Bacchi properties at Lake Edson was \$385,000.

As to the alleged inaccuracies, Mrs. Lengyel said:

"Mr. Bacchi's charge that 'the protesting group has not given the state agencies involved time to report on their findings . . .' is a reversal of the truth; it is Boise Cascade that has tried to push through approval without even presenting the final report of its septic expert, John 'Timothy' Winneberger.

"We are willing to wait for the experts, whom we are confident will convince Mr. Bacchi of detrimental effects of the proposed subdivision. We will hold him to his promise not to sell to Boise, if this is proved."

Sunne Dalby of Georgetown commented:

"I believe it would be impossible to prove that septic tanks with detergents and enzymes being poured into them every day won't pollute Lake Edson. Where will all that bilge be going? Down to the Sacramento water users?"

Other Georgetown residents voicing protests against Bacchi's statements included L. M. Van Eaton, Nancy A. Lust, Margaret Hiemke, Ray E. McClellan, Georgia A. Little and William L. and Gloria O'Donnell.