

107 YEARS • SINCE

APRIL 16, 1997 - APRIL 22, 1997

# Silt worsening flooding

97.8

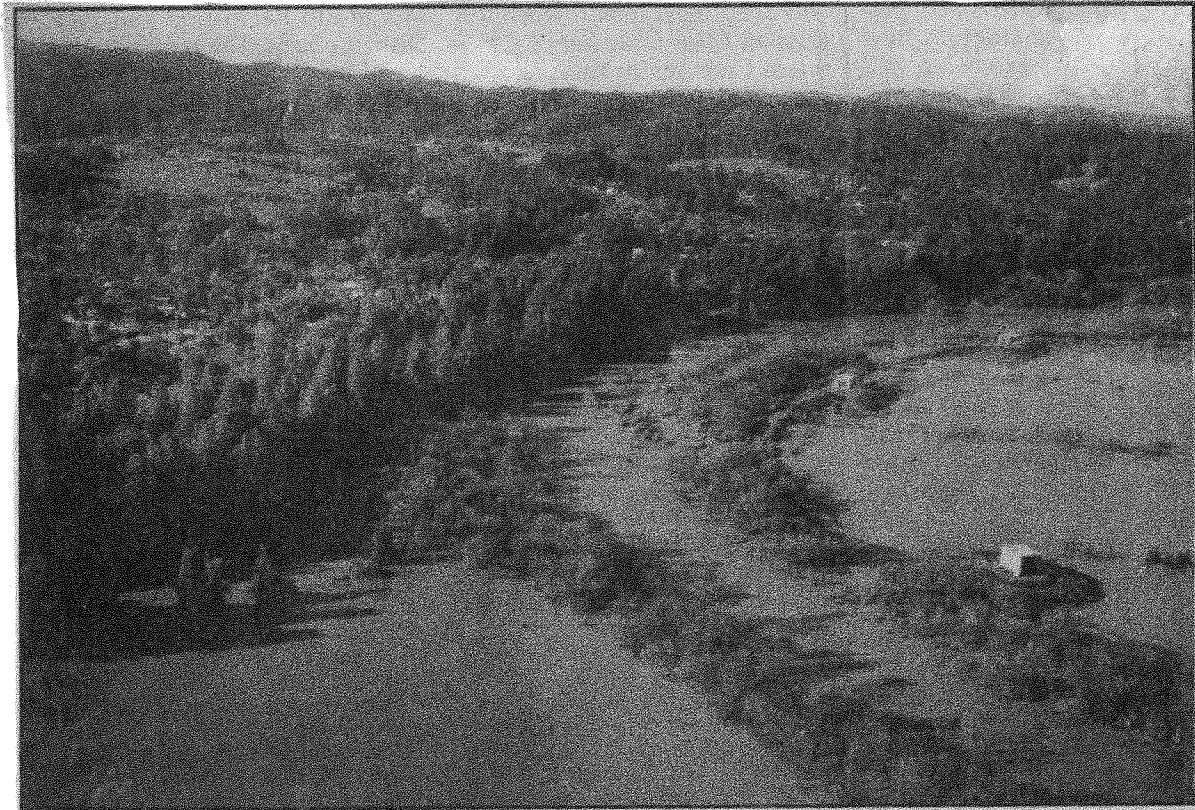
## Laguna is filling up with mud

by Frank Robertson  
Sonoma West Staff Writer

SEBASTOPOL — Expect future Russian River flooding to get worse because of silt piling up in the Laguna de Santa Rosa, according to a report delivered last week to the county Board of Supervisors

Silt build-up is dramatically reducing the Laguna's floodwater storage capacity, creating the potential for more serious downstream flooding, according to a Sonoma County Water Agency report to the board last week.

The report may mark the first time any government agency has publicly worried that the Laguna's floodwater storage capacity is disappearing and making floods worse along the lower Russian River. (Please see *Silt* page A9)



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photo by DR. MARTY GRIFFIN

**WATER WORLD** — When the Russian River flooded last January it overtopped levees at the Sonoma County Water Agency drinking water collectors at Mirabel (above right). When it floods, the River also flows into the Laguna de Santa Rosa by way of Mark West Creek (at left). This aerial photo by Dr. Marty Griffin was taken on January 3 looking downriver just below the Wohler Bridge. Griffin is one of the organizers of the conference on flood dynamics to be held in the Guerneville Veterans hall on April 26.