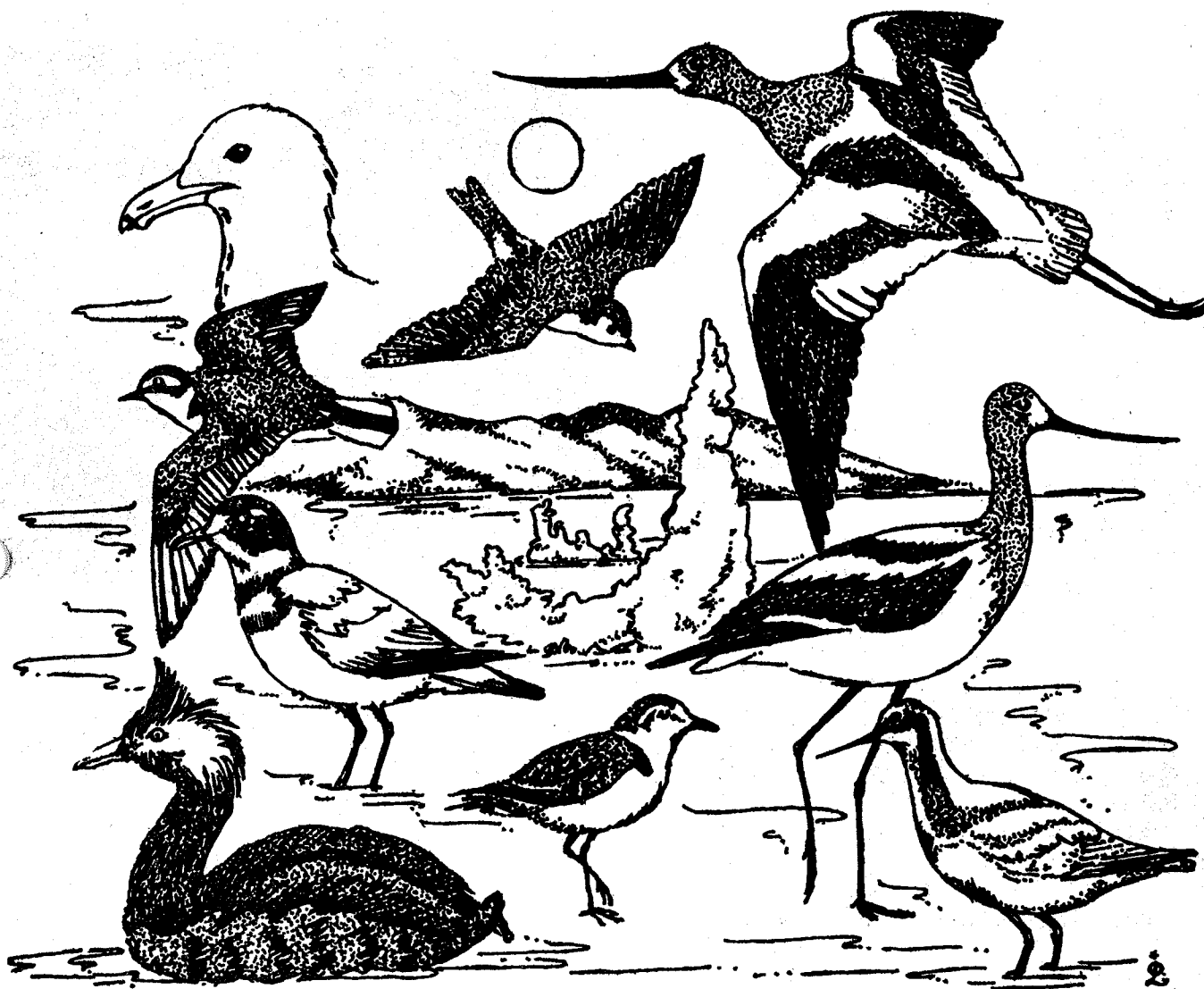


THE MONO LAKE NEWSLETTER

Spring 1983

Vol. 5, No. 4



Negit Reborn

Supreme Court Victory

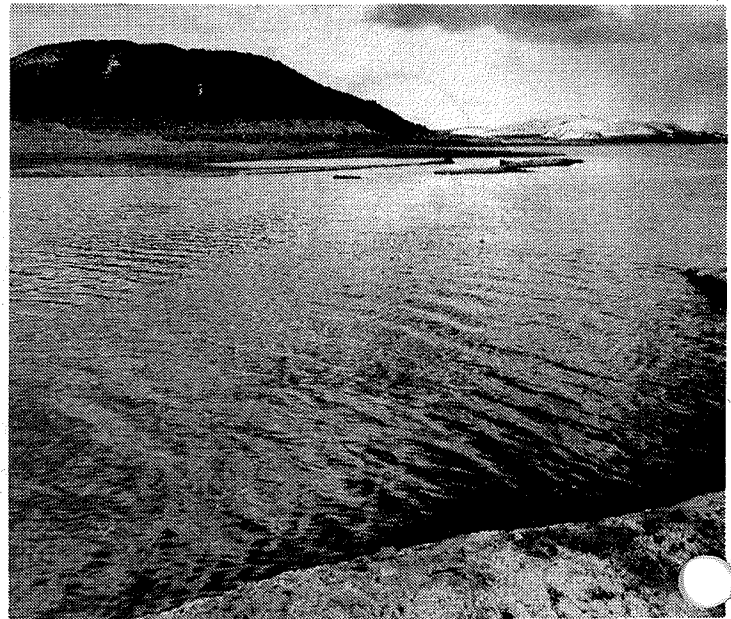
National Monument Hearing

THE MONO LAKE NEWSLETTER

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ON THE COVER: It's spring, and birds flock along Mono's shores while brine shrimp dance in its waters. Depicted on our cover are, clockwise from upper left, California Gull, Violet-green Swallow, American Avocets (in flight and on shore), Wilson's Phalarope, Snowy Plover, Eared Grebe, Killdeer and Snowy Plover in flight. This drawing, by Nevada City artist Lauren Davis, is available on an attractive notecard (see back cover).

Negit is an island again! The rising lake has flooded the landbridge to a depth of at least half a foot. →



Larry Ford

The Mono Lake Committee

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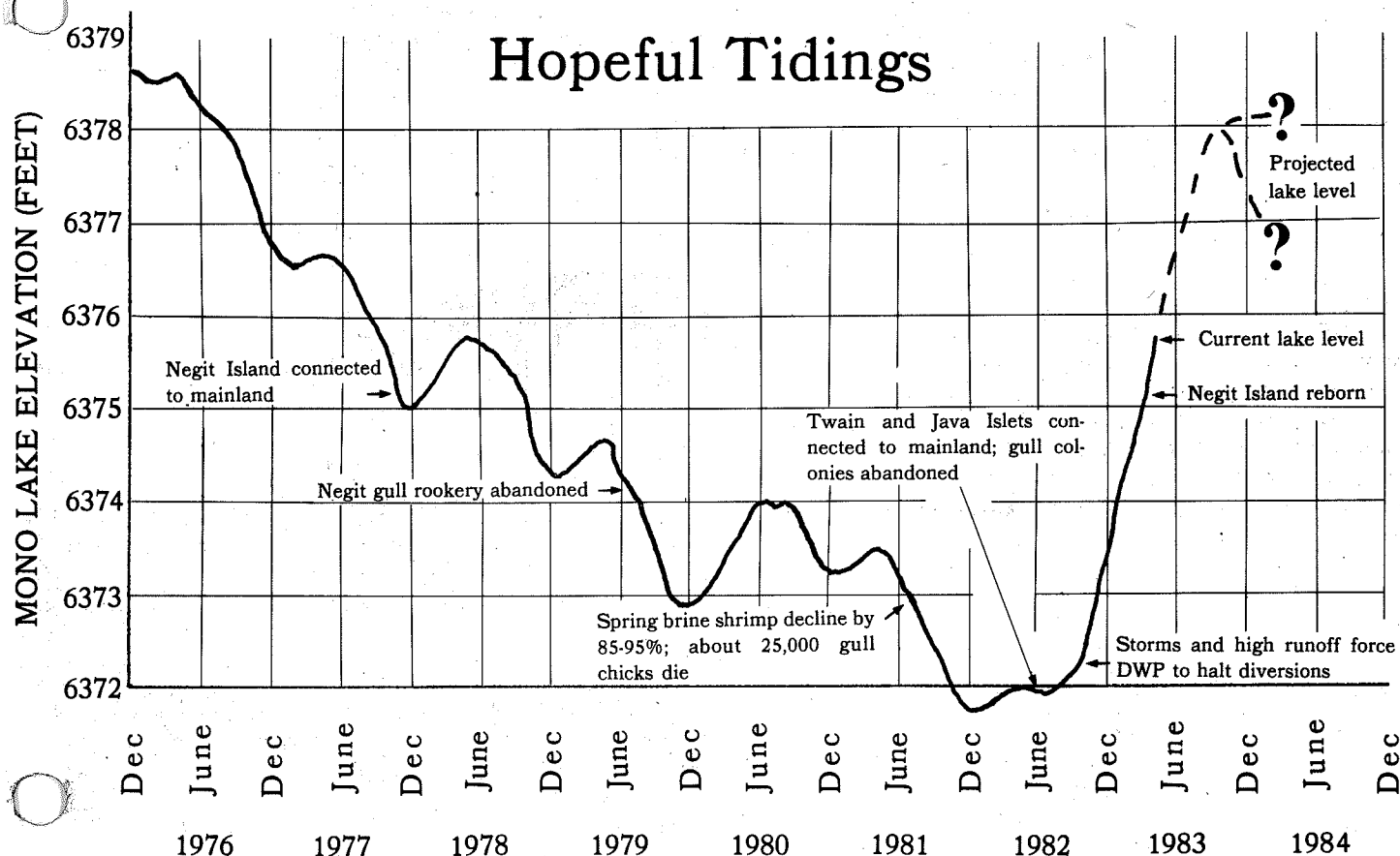
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Golden Gate Audubon Society, Mono Lake Committee, Sierra Club

Mono Lakewatch



In early March, as we shovelled snow from the Information Center, gulls returned to Mono Lake. Circling over the wintry landscape, they saw the rising water flooding shoreline vegetation and creeping across the Negit Island landbridge.

By April, Mono Lake had risen to 6375.6 feet, its highest elevation in 4 1/2 years. A channel 40 yards wide and a foot in depth flooded the landbridge between Negit and the mainland. Hopefully gulls will return to raise their young among the lava and greasewood.

While gulls squabble over real estate, Mono Lake continues to rise. Every day 500 to 600 acre-feet of water rushes past the diversion dams. Since September of last year, the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (DWP) has not been able to divert a drop. By mid-summer, the lake will reach about 6378 feet, its July, 1976 elevation.

Mother Nature has granted Mono Lake a stay of execution. For the second consecutive year, there is more runoff than DWP's aqueduct can handle.

Nature's generosity could not have been timelier. Since gulls have abandoned rookeries on Negit, Twain and Java Islands, estimated numbers of fledging gull chicks have fallen from 27,000 to less than 4,000, and spring brine shrimp have declined by 85-95 percent. Mono Lake's ecosystem was tottering on the brink of disaster.

Now the tide is finally turning. In February, an ecstatic

phone call told of our landmark victory in the California Supreme Court (p. 4). In March, a Congressional subcommittee came to Lee Vining to hold a hearing on the national monument proposal (p. 7).

There is still a long road ahead. DWP will fight every inch of the way. It has yet to relinquish any water it could otherwise divert. Later this year, it will again tap into Mono's tributary streams, and the lake will resume its descent toward oblivion.

Thanks to Mother Nature, Mono Lake is still alive. It's up to us to muster the strength and support to assure her survival.

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Crucial Court Victory For Mono Lake

Public Trust Holds Water

The California Supreme Court has come to the aid of Mono Lake with a landmark decision that reaffirms the public interest in protecting natural resources.

In a 5-1 opinion handed down February 17th, the high court ruled that Mono Lake's defenders can "rely on the public trust doctrine in seeking reconsideration of the allocation of the waters of Mono Basin," and need not "exhaust the administrative remedies" by appealing to the California Water Resources Control Board. The lone dissenter, Justice Frank Richardson, concurred on the public trust, but argued that the case should be brought before the Water Board.

The long-awaited decision overturns a 1981 Superior Court ruling, clearing the way for a trial in federal court.

It has been four long years since the Mono Lake Committee joined the National Audubon Society, Friends of the Earth, the Los Angeles Audubon Society and four Mono Basin landowners in a lawsuit against the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (DWP).

In a succinct, 64-page opinion, the Supreme Court finally agreed that the public trust mandated reconsideration of DWP's Mono Basin diversions and their impact on Mono Lake:

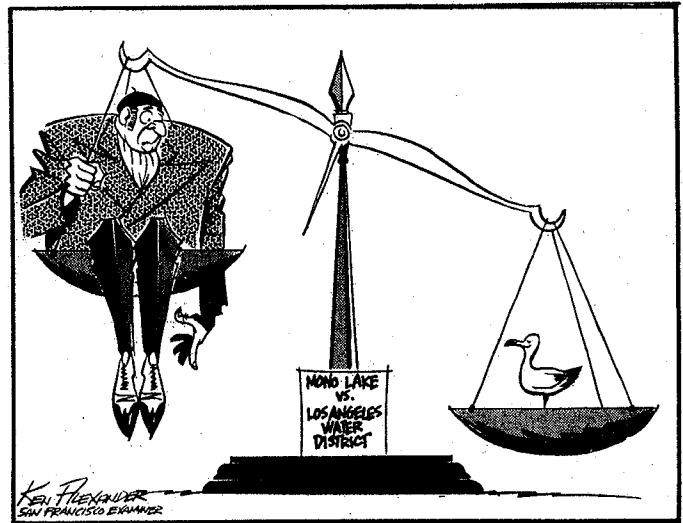
No responsible body has ever determined the impact of diverting the entire flow of the Mono Lake tributaries into the Los Angeles Aqueduct. This is not a case in which the Legislature, the Water Board, or any judicial body has determined that the needs of Los Angeles outweigh the needs of the Mono Basin, that the benefit gained is worth the price. Neither has any responsible body determined whether some lesser taking would better balance the diverse interests. Instead, the DWP acquired rights to the entire flow in 1940 from a water board which believed it lacked both the power and the duty to protect the Mono Lake environment, and continues to exercise those rights in apparent disregard for the resulting damage to the scenery, ecology, and human uses of Mono Lake... It is clear that some responsible body ought to reconsider the allocation of the waters of the Mono Basin.

As a result of this decision, courtwatchers believe the DWP will eventually have to relinquish at least some of the water it now diverts from Mono Lake's tributary streams. "The scales determining what is done with Mono's waters have never had environmental values placed on them," commented Palmer Madden, one of the attorneys for the plaintiffs. "When these values are placed on the scales, Los Angeles is going to lose."

Writing for the majority, Justice Allen E. Broussard called Mono Lake a "scenic and ecological treasure of national significance... The lake's recession obviously diminishes its value as an economic, recreational and scenic resource... Continued diversions threaten to turn it into a desert wasteland..."

On the other side, the Supreme Court recognized "the substantial concerns" of Los Angeles- "the city's need for water, its reliance upon the 1940 board decision, the cost both in terms of money and environmental impact of obtaining water elsewhere... Such concerns must enter into any allocation decision..."

In sum, the court ruled that the public trust obligates the state to protect places like Mono Lake "as far as feasible," even if this means reconsidering past water allocations. However the court also reaffirmed the state's right to allocate water in ways that "unavoidably harm" public trust values, if no reasonable alter-



Cartoon by Ken Alexander, reprinted with permission of the San Francisco Examiner.

natives exist:

The prosperity and habitability of much of this state requires the diversion of great quantities of water... The state must have the power to grant... rights to appropriate water even if diversions harm public trust uses. Approval of such diversion without considering public trust values, however, may result in needless destruction of those values. Accordingly, we believe that before state courts and agencies approve water diversions they should consider the effect of such diversions upon interests protected by the public trust, and attempt, so far as feasible, to avoid or minimize any harm to those interests.

The Public Trust: Ancient Doctrine Comes Of Age

The California Supreme Court's landmark interpretation of the public trust goes beyond raising hopes for saving Mono Lake. It affirms, in the words of Justice Broussard, "the duty of the state to protect the people's common heritage of streams, lakes, marshlands and tidelands."

Why do our waterways need protecting? Because, until this ruling, the state did not give sufficient weight to environmental impacts when granting permits and licenses to water appropriators. In fact, the Water Resources Control Board maintained it was hampered from considering such impacts by a 1921 amendment to the Water Commission Act of 1913, which declared it "the established policy of this state that the use of water for domestic purposes is the highest use of water," and by Article X, Section 2 of the California Constitution, which states that water resources "be put to beneficial use to the fullest extent of which they are capable."

For example, in granting diversion permits to Los Angeles in 1940, the Water Board explained that "it is indeed unfortunate that the City's proposed development will result in decreasing

Editorial Comment On The Supreme Court Decision

One is, finally, one certainty in the long controversy over Los Angeles' right to capture a significant part of its water supply from streams flowing into Mono Lake... The City will no longer be able to take as much as it wants, but only as much as the courts will let it have...

The ruling... emphasizes that major population centers in the state rely heavily on water from distant sources, and that the state could approve allocations harmful to the public trust as a "practical necessity"... We hope that other courts... would respect the Supreme Court's directive that the needs of the city be taken into consideration...

...Los Angeles Times

Clearly something has to give in the 10-year dispute over the diversion of water from the Mono Lake Basin for use in Los Angeles...

Given the scenic and ecological treasures of the basin, we support a reduction in water imports... A balanced solution would call for somewhat more than a 50 percent reduction in water imported from the Mono Basin in all but emergency drought years in Southern California, at which time Los Angeles could take its full allotment. That would allow a very slow buildup of Mono Lake, perhaps taking 40 to 50 years.

The cost -- after accounting for conservation savings -- would total no more than several dollars a year per resident... L.A. can live with that...

...Los Angeles Herald Examiner

It was predictable that eventually the court would rule that environmental damage must be weighed in the judicial scales whenever one region of the state exploits another region's water sources...

Southern California has received a clear message from the court. It is: Develop water resources on the west side of the Sierra without damage to the environment, and do it with all deliberate speed, because your resources on the east side of the mountains are environmentally sensitive and may no longer be available to you.

...San Diego Evening Tribune

This new water doctrine has become necessary, we think, to defend water sources that are being exploited to the point of extinction. But we must hope that implementing decisions by lower courts will not lose sight of the Mono Lake decision's higher priority to human requirements over environmental considerations...

...San Diego Union

This is... a breakthrough in California water law that may go far beyond the Mono Lake controversy... It foretells increased environmentalist clout in water matters: the various canal proposals for the Delta region, for one; the wild and scenic rivers of the North for another...

The distribution of California's water resources, by its very nature, remains as disputatious as ever, but at least a much clarified set of rules has been laid down.

...San Francisco Examiner

It is ironic that Los Angeles brought on the court's adverse ruling by a policy of brinkmanship. For years now, the city has refused to compromise with environmentalists who have tried to get the city to reduce water imports enough to allow the lake level to rise 10 to 15 feet. There was no attempt to stop all Mono Lake diversions. The city would not agree to this moderate request and the suit resulted...

What is apparent is that Los Angeles needs a prod to find a less environmentally damaging source of water. It has that prod now in the Supreme Court ruling.

...Modesto Bee

By establishing a special obligation to consider the environment... the court merely insured that this obligation would persist, no matter how the Legislature changed the laws and no matter how the board chose to interpret them...

The court's decision is neither the invitation to chaos nor the abdication of responsibility that its critics contend. Water rights decision-making will never be easy, and the court has not made it any easier. But it has improved the process immeasurably by insuring that when a decision turns out to be hopelessly wrong, it can be changed.

...Sacramento Bee

the aesthetic advantages of Mono Basin, but there is apparently nothing that this office can do to prevent it... The use to which the City proposes to put the water... is defined by the Water Commission Act as the highest to which water may be applied..."

Obviously such a policy needs reform. It cannot be in the public interest to simply kiss good-bye to Mono and other lakes and streams.

With the California Supreme Court ruling, an ancient and venerable legal doctrine rises to the defense. The "public trust" may be traced to the sixth century Codes of Justinian, which state that "by the law of nature these things are common to mankind--the air, running water, the sea and consequently the shore of the sea." From this Roman origin, English common law evolved the concept that the sovereign owns "all of its navigable waterways and the lands lying beneath them as trustee of a public trust for the benefit of the people."

The California judiciary, from its earliest days, recognized and invoked the public trust to protect commerce and fishing on navigable waters. In 1971, the state supreme court extended the

trust obligation to the preservation of tidelands as "ecological units for scientific study, as open space, as environments which provide food and habitat for birds and marine life, and which favorably affect the scenery and climate of the area"(Marks vs. Whitney, 1971).

With the Mono Lake ruling, the public trust assumes new and greater potency. First, the high court extended the trust to the non-navigable tributaries of navigable waterways. Second, and most importantly, it affirmed the state's power to invoke the trust to revoke previously granted rights, and to enforce the public trust against lands long thought free of its influence.

Time will tell if the public trust can fulfill its promise of "greening" California's water policy.

To obtain a copy of the California Supreme Court's decision, please contact the Mono Lake Committee (P.O. Box 29, Lee Vining, CA 93541). It is an eloquent, inspiring document, destined to become a classic of environmental law.

Behind The Lawsuit: A Special Friend

by Ken LaJoie

Mono Lake is fortunate to have many friends, people who care and unselfishly contributing time and effort to the ongoing effort to save the lake. But, for the past nine years, Mono Lake has had a very special friend, a person few people have ever heard of. This special friend is Tim Such, who has devoted all of his time and energy to developing the legal arguments supporting the public trust doctrine that persuaded the California Supreme Court to rule in Mono Lake's behalf.

Little did Tim expect in 1974 that his term project for an environmental studies class at U.C. Berkeley would expand and become the foundation of a legal decision that has implications far broader than saving Mono Lake. Also there was no way that Tim could anticipate that he would drop out of school and devote so much of his time and energy for the next nine years to the difficult struggle on Mono's behalf. Fortunately, both for Mono Lake and environmental law in general, Tim's affront at the effects of DWP's diversions was matched by his tenacious resolve to do something about it, and by a particularly keen legal instinct that led him to the basic principles at the root of the problem. For years, while living hand to mouth and working part time as a private investigator or as a shelper of books, Tim spent 12-hour days in the Stanford and Berkeley law school libraries researching the legal background of the public trust doctrine, which he traced back to Roman law and English common law.

In 1978, Tim helped convince the prestigious San Francisco

law firm of Morrison and Foerster to come to Mono Lake's defense. Morrison and Foerster contributed \$250,000 in pro bono legal time, and the National Audubon Society and Mono Lake Committee agreed to cover other expenses, including enough financial support to free Tim of the burden of scratching for nickles and dimes to buy a cup of coffee or fix a flat on his bike.

Tim acknowledges a great debt to Tony Rossman and especially Palmer Madden, two professional environmental lawyers who provided encouragement and guidance. Rossman broadened Tim's legal perspective, while Madden supported the "public trust" theory and developed the legal structure in which the case could be presented. Madden and attorney Bruce Dodge artfully presented the case before the California Supreme Court.

But it was Tim's hard work and dedication that laid the philosophical foundation for the legal arguments that carried the day. Fortunately for Mono Lake, his nine years of sacrifice paid off. The friends of Mono Lake extend a heartfelt thanks to Tim for his unselfish dedication.

Ken LaJoie, a geologist with the United States Geological Survey, is another of Mono's unknown friends. In 1974, he came to the lake's aid by organizing the Sierra Club's Mono Lake Task Force. During the succeeding years, he worked closely with Tim Such in developing a legal defense.

Mono Loses Legislative Friend

Mono Lake lost a powerful friend with the death of Congressman Phil Burton of San Francisco April 9th. A co-sponsor of the national monument legislation, Burton was an effective champion of environmental causes. He will be missed.

Audubon Societies Keep Lawsuit Afloat

Mono Lake's friends owe a deep debt of gratitude to the National Audubon Society for continuing to support and fund the public trust lawsuit. Over the past four years, Audubon has raised about \$200,000 for Mono's legal defense. Over half has come from local Audubon chapters, including Los Angeles, Central Sierra, El Dorado, Fresno, Golden Gate, Madrone, Monterey, Marin, Mt. Diablo, Ohlone, Pasadena, Redwood Region, Rogue Valley (Oregon), Santa Barbara, Santa Clara Valley, Santa Monica Bay, Sea and Sage, Sequoia and many others. Special thanks go to Audubon board member George Peyton, who has labored tirelessly on behalf of the lawsuit and Mono Lake's survival.

Mono in the Media

During the winter months, Mono Lake made big splashes in state, national and even international media.

The California Supreme Court decision made the front page of the Los Angeles Times, the San Francisco Examiner and most other California newspapers, and received extensive television and radio coverage as well. A round of features and editorials followed.

Lehman's national monument bill fared almost as well, with broad coverage of its introduction and the Lee Vining hearing.

Feature articles with stunning color photographs graced the pages of the January/February issue of *National Parks* magazine and the March/April issue of *Sierra*.

A prime time television documentary focused on Mono Lake—in West Germany! The hour-long program on California water was very well received in Europe, raising international awareness of Mono's plight.

Even popular fiction and a restaurant review mentioned Mono. In Larry Niven and Jerry Pournelle's *Oath of Fealty*, the lake is saved when a giant iceberg is towed into Santa Monica Bay, all the watery chili in town were banned," opined the L.A. Times, "Mono Lake might be saved."

Lehman Revives Monument Hopes

Lee Vining Hearing

"My mission is to protect Mono Lake," Congressman Richard H. Lehman told over 200 people at a congressional hearing in Lee Vining on March 29th. "It is time to take a small step toward recognizing a rare geological and historic landscape by giving it national monument status."

Lehman (D-Sanger), whose district includes Mono Lake, introduced H.R. 1341 to create a Mono Lake National Monument on February 8, 1983. Among 19 co-sponsors was Congressman Norman Shumway (R-Stockton), who had pressed for similar legislation in the last congress. H.R. 1341, like the earlier Shumway bills, would establish a national monument on federal lands around Mono Lake, and authorize studies on wildlife and water use. Lehman's proposal differs in calling for forest service rather

employs 30-40 people and extracts about 10,000 tons of pumice from the Mono Craters each year, feared it would be "paper-worked to death" with environmental impact reports. Jeff Hansen, a north shore resident and staunch supporter of saving Mono Lake, expressed concern that Lehman's bill will not protect his land from "eventual confiscation" by the government.

A few locals condemned a Mono Lake National Monument outright, contending the federal government has "consistently lied and cheated," and would, down the line, prohibit hunting, snowmobiling, mining and other activities.

Despite their differences, Inyo-Mono residents overwhelmingly supported forest service rather than park service management.

On the other hand, speakers representing the National Parks

"I speak for Mono Lake, a sacred place, since it cannot speak for itself..."

Ruth Brown, Paiute Tribal Elder

than park service management, and includes all of the Mono Craters and part of the Sierran escarpment.

On March 29th, 120 people testified before the House Interior committee on Public Lands and National Parks, which was represented by Congressman Lehman and Congressman James Moody of Wisconsin. Most supported a Mono Lake Monument, though there was disagreement over boundaries and management.

The national monument proposal was criticized by the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power. Although Lehman's bill specifically disclaims any impact on water rights, DWP's Chief Engineer Duane Georgeson argued that its passage would send "a powerful signal" to the courts on Mono Lake's behalf, thereby threatening DWP's diversions from the lake's tributary streams.

Earlier in March, 14 Los Angeles area Congressmen had supported DWP by urging the Subcommittee Chairman, John Seiberling of Ohio, to drop national monument legislation until the lawsuits ran their course. Seiberling was not swayed. "Since all of the Mono Lake bills specifically disclaim any effect on California water rights issues," he responded, "I am still perplexed as to how action by the Congress on such bills would adversely affect the current court case."

"The City of Los Angeles again asks us to wait years on a court decision before taking action on Mono Lake," Lehman said in Lee Vining. "I believe we have already waited too long."

The Mono County Board of Supervisors, Mammoth Lakes Chamber of Commerce, Yosemite Park and Curry Company, Mono Lake Committee, church groups, environmental organizations and most Inyo-Mono participants agreed with Lehman.

"The monument bill is needed sooner rather than later," Mono County Board Chairman Michael Jencks told the subcommittee.

Many Mono Basin residents, however, joined mining interests and northwest shore property owners in advocating a smaller monument that excluded the Mono Craters, private property and land not adjacent to the lake. The U.S. Pumice Company, which

and Conservation Association, Sierra Club, Wilderness Society and Friends of the Earth supported Lehman's proposed national monument boundaries, but were critical of forest service administration. "The overall preservation mandate of the National Park Service," Laura A. Loomis of the National Parks and Conservation Association told the subcommittee, "is more in tune with the needs of Mono Lake than the multiple-use orientation of the Forest Service." Dan Taylor of the National Audubon Society, however, praised the Bureau of Land Management's protection of the South Tufa area, and suggested BLM management.

Among the voices for a larger monument were those of Dr. Kenneth LaJoie, geologist with the United States Geological Service, and Dr. Robert R. Curry, Professor of Environment



Congressman Richard Lehman (center) questions witnesses at the March 29th national monument field hearing in Lee Vining. On the far right is Congressman James Mooney of Wisconsin, one of the monument bill's co-sponsors.

Larry Ford

Geology at the University of California at Santa Cruz. They emphasized the geologic and ecologic uniqueness, not only of the proposed national monument, but of the entire Mono Lake watershed and adjacent drainages. "The ultimate boundaries of the area," Friends of the Earth Chairman David Brower wrote the subcommittee, "should be much larger in recognition of the superlative qualities that deserve protection because of their international importance."

Speaking on behalf of the Mono Lake Committee, Executive Director Ed Grosswiler firmly supported the establishment of a Mono Lake National Monument, but steered clear of the boundary and management debate. He especially praised the provisions in H.R. 1341 for studying the impact of declining water levels, and for studying water supply alternatives available to Los Angeles.

MLC Chairman David Gaines, speaking as a private citizen, advocated compromise to alleviate local concerns, including the deletion of some of the Mono Craters and protection of private property and valid mining claims.

Paiute Tribal Elder Ruth Brown asked that traditional Native American activities, including the gathering of brine fly larvae for food and willows for basketmaking, be permitted within the national monument. "Indians are truly the keepers of Mother Earth," she told the subcommittee. "By supporting Congressman Lehman's bill to make Mono Lake a national monument, we are partly fulfilling our role as keepers."

"I would like it written into the record," Brown added, "that as a Native American I have never sold my land or water... Mother Earth is not for sale... I speak for Mono Lake, a sacred place, since it cannot speak for itself..."

Lehman promised to "carefully review all written and oral

comments" on his Mono Lake National Monument legislation, and "make every effort to reach a fair and reasonable compromise." A Washington D.C. hearing is probable in May, and the bill may pass the House by summer.

"Mono Lake should be recognized by this Congress as a national monument," Lehman concluded. "Whether it becomes a monument to shortsighted, untempered thirsts or remains a monument to natural splendor and unique life systems, only the citizens of Los Angeles, the state of California and the courts have the power to decide."

WHAT YOU CAN DO: It is vital that Mono Lake's friends and supporters take a minute *today* to call, telegram or write their Congressmen and Senators in support of a Mono Lake National Monument:

1. Contact your Congressman. Ask for co-sponsorship and strong support for H.R. 1341 and a Mono Lake National Monument (U.S. House of Representatives, Washington D.C. 20515).
2. Contact Senators Alan Cranston and Pete Wilson (U.S. Senate, Washington D.C. 20510). Your calls and letters may spark action in the Senate, where a bill has not yet been introduced.
3. If your Congressman is one of the following co-sponsors of H.R. 1341, be sure to thank him for his support: Jim Bates, Douglas Bosco, Barbara Boxer, Phillip Burton, Ronald V. Dellums, Don Edwards, Vic Fazio, Tom Lantos, Robert Matsui, Norman Shumway, Pete Stark.
4. Thank Congressman Richard Lehman for coming to Mono Lake's defense.

Evolution of Mono Monument Legislation

In November, 1980, the Mono Lake Committee submitted a proposal for a Mono Lake Tufa National Monument to President Jimmy Carter. Included in the proposal were the northern, eastern and southern shores of the lake, Negit and Paoha Islands, Panum Crater and Black Point. Since these lands were already in federal ownership, Carter had the power to establish the monument without congressional approval. Surprisingly, despite bipartisan support from throughout California, the National Park Service opposed the monument. Less surprising, Los Angeles fought it as well. As a result, Carter left office without taking action.

On June 26, 1981, Congressman Norman Shumway introduced H.R. 4057 to establish a national monument on federal lands around Mono Lake, including Negit and Paoha Islands and the Mono Craters. At a Lee Vining town meeting attended by 24 local residents, most people present opposed the inclusion of the craters, the forested lands east of the craters, and private in-holdings. On February 2, 1982, Shumway introduced H.R. 5424, which excluded these lands, and included only federal land in the immediate vicinity of the lake.

At a hearing before the House Subcommittee on Public Lands and National Parks in Washington D.C. on May 18, 1982, the Mono Lake Committee, Mono County and the Lee Vining Chamber of Commerce testified in favor of H.R. 5424, while the State of California and national environmental groups favored the larger boundaries in H.R. 4057. The Los Angeles Department of Water and Power opposed both bills, arguing they threatened water diversions. Subcommittee Chairman John Seiberling

assailed Los Angeles and DWP officials for taking a "rigid position" on Mono Lake.

On November 19, 1982, Congressman Seiberling toured Mono Lake, and concluded it was deserving of national monument protection. However he also felt that the monument should include the Mono Craters and the Sierra Nevada "viewshed".

No action was taken, and Shumway's bills died with the 1982 Congress.

On February 8, 1983, Congressman Lehman, who now represents Mono County, introduced a new national monument bill, H.R. 1341. His bill proposes including the Mono Craters and part of the Sierran escarpment, but specifies forest service rather than park service administration, and includes language to protect mining, hunting, grazing and other current activities.

Summary of H.R. 1341

1. Establishes Mono Lake National Monument to be administered by Inyo National Forest in accordance with laws generally applicable to national forest system.
2. Prohibits acquisition of mining, mineral and geothermal interests on federal land within the monument boundaries except by donation, exchange or consent of owner.
3. Protects all uses of private property occurring within monument boundaries prior to introduction of bill.
4. Provides that hunting and commercial brine shrimp operations shall be permitted.

Mono Lake Research Bill

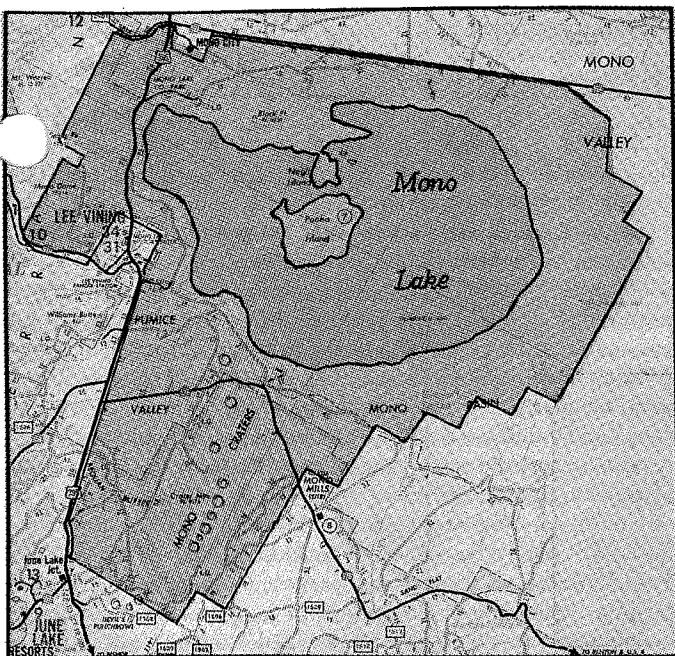
On March 3rd, Assemblyman Norman Waters and 18 co-sponsors introduced A.B. 1614 in the California Assembly to provide \$500,000 for a "scientific study of the effects of water diversions on the Mono Lake ecosystem."

The bill would require California Fish and Game to contract with the University of California and possibly other public and private institutions or individuals to evaluate the effects of declining lake levels, increasing salinity and other limnological changes upon all of the following:

- 1.) The total productivity, seasonality and physiology of brine shrimp, flies and algae living in and around Mono Lake.
- 2.) The numbers, productivity and physiology of breeding and migratory bird populations.
- 3.) The extent and magnitude of dust storms from the relicited bed of Mono Lake and their implications for human health, wildlife, and surrounding vegetation.
- 4.) The lake's hydrology, including groundwater inflow, evaporation and freshwater spring flow and associated habitats.

On April 18, A.B. 1614 passed the Assembly Water, Parks and Wildlife Committee by a 6-0 vote.

WHAT YOU CAN DO: Contact your state assemblyman and senator in support of A.B. 1614.



Boundaries of the Mono Lake National Monument proposed by Congressman Richard Lehman in H.R. 1341. Most local residents, while supportive of the monument concept, favor reducing the boundaries and deleting the Mono Craters.

Resources Chief Unfamiliar With Mono Lake Issue

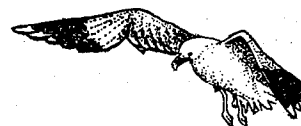
California's new Secretary of Resources, Gordon Van Vleck, claims to be "completely unfamiliar" with the conflict over water diversions at Mono Lake. Van Vleck took over the resources post from Huey Johnson when George Deukmejian became governor.

"I do know that the level of the lake is receding," he told the magazine Western Water in March, "but I really don't know how we should resolve this problem. I've always felt that Los Angeles took the proper and appropriate steps in order to get water down to their city."

In April, MLC Executive Director Ed Grosswiler met with Van Vleck to appraise him of the Mono Lake crisis.

WHAT YOU CAN DO: Write to Van Vleck, explaining Mono Lake's plight and urging him to help us save this precious resource (Department of Resources, 1416 Ninth Street, Sacramento, CA 95814).

5. Provides that individuals holding grazing permits within the monument shall be able to continue to exercise and renew those permits.
6. Provides for construction of a visitor center within the monument adjacent to Highway 395 within three years.
7. Authorizes studies of (a) use of Mono Basin water by Los Angeles and cost of alternatives, and (b) lake level needed to sustain current wildlife populations.
8. States that the monument does not affect water rights, including those of Los Angeles.
9. Repeals a 1936 law which authorizes sale of public land in Mono Basin to Los Angeles for \$1.25 an acre.



Cartoon by Dennis Renault, reprinted with permission from Sacramento Bee.

DWP Seeks To Evade Air Quality Laws

The Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (DWP), in a blatant attempt to evade air quality laws, is pushing a bill to exempt "any article, machine, equipment or contrivance which is used for the production, diversion, storage or conveyance of water" from air quality standards. Using its considerable political muscle, DWP lobbied its bill, S.B. 270, past the California Senate Committee on Government Organization on March 22nd.

Through S.B. 270, DWP hopes to circumvent the Great Basin Unified Air Pollution Control District (APCD), which has demanded permits for DWP's groundwater pumping and surface water diversions in the Owens Valley and the Mono Basin. The APCD maintains that "air contaminants in the form of dust and other particulate matter have been and continue to be blown off the exposed portions of Mono Lake and Owens Dry Lake, causing an intermittent but frequent air pollution problem in the Mono Basin and Owens Valley." DWP, however, has refused to comply, protesting that the APCD could use the permit process to restrict Los Angeles' water supply.

The confrontation came to a head last year, when the APCD withheld permits for DWP's Coso geothermal development until it obtained permits for its water operations. Rather than accepting responsibility for increasing air pollution in the eastern Sierra, DWP is trying to gut California's air quality laws. Tragically, it may succeed.

"This legislation," commented Mono County Board of Supervisors Chairman Mike Jencks, "is nothing more than a bald attempt to evade the good faith and sincere efforts of our regions, our Air Pollution Control Districts and our Boards of Supervisors to enforce air pollution control laws and to preserve our area's air quality."

Mother Nature protested as well. On March 31st, DWP took three legislative aids to the Mono Basin and Owens Valley to prove there is no dust problem... and ran smack into a massive dust storm. Clouds of blinding alkali billowed from Mono's southern, eastern and northeastern shores. In the Owens Valley, dust forced the closure of a six mile stretch of Highway 395. "I've lived here 10 years and I'd never seen anything like it," a DWP official commented. Incredibly, despite the alkali erupting from Mono's shorelines, DWP claimed the dust had little to do with its water operations.

"If DWP is not contributing to the dust problems," responded Congressman Richard Lehman, "then they ought not to fear equal application of the air pollution laws... Regardless of who is to blame for the dust problem it is wrong on principle to deny people equal protection under the law... This legislation will build DWP far more ill will than water diversion ever has because it is the worst possible symbol of tyranny of the majority."

S.B. 270, in sum, would give DWP a carte blanche to pollute the air of the eastern Sierra. It would deprive the APCD of one of its most effective means of maintaining air quality at an acceptable level for residents and visitors. It would impair the enforcement of air quality standards statewide, and open the door for other "special interest" onslaughts on environmental laws.

WHAT YOU CAN DO: We hope to stop S.B. 270 in the California Assembly, but cannot succeed without your help. Please take the time to visit, call, telegram or write your state assemblyman expressing your strong opposition to this special interest legislation. Let's preserve California's strong air quality laws and protect Mono's skies. Defeat S.B. 270!

Geothermal Leases Threaten Mono Basin

Ignoring the concerns of Mono County, the Mono Lake Committee, Congressman Richard Lehman, the Sierra Club and other groups and individuals, the U.S. Bureau of Land Management and Forest Service are determined to lease lands around Mono Lake and in the Mono Craters to geothermal developers.

The Mono Lake Committee does not oppose geothermal if it can be developed without consuming water and disrupting the environment. However we view with grave concern the federal government's pell-mell rush to lease lands without even an environmental impact report or any assurance that environmental values will be respected. In particular, unmoderated geothermal development could compete for water that Mono Lake desperately needs to survive, and bring refinery-type complexes, pipe line, cooling towers and similar industrial intrusions into the Mono Basin. For these reasons, Mono Lake's islands, the Mono Lake Tufa State Reserve, and the proposed Mono Lake National Monument should be protected from geothermal development.

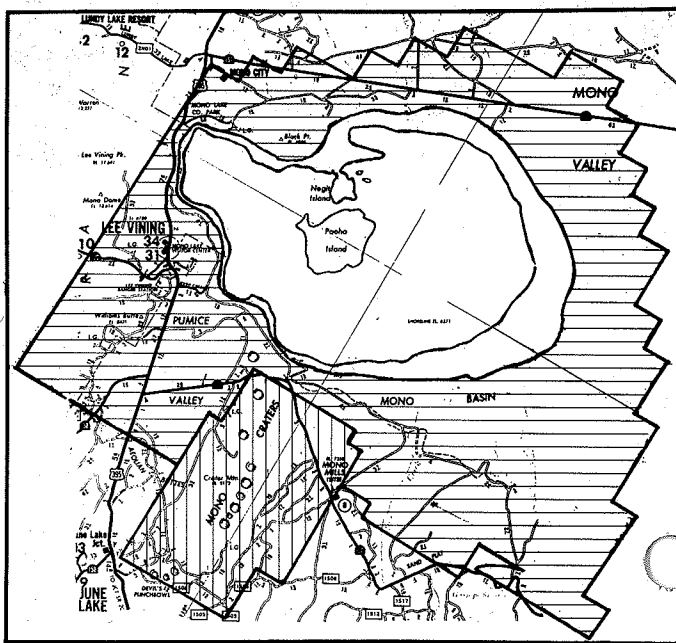
Unfortunately this is not the case. BLM's lease sale includes virtually all federal land around Mono Lake, while the Forest Service sale encompasses the entire Mono Craters and most of Long Valley (near Mammoth Lakes).

One developer has already bid on some of the BLM land, and only a Sierra Club appeal is staying the actual granting of leases. The appeal has been dismissed by BLM State Director Ed Hastey, who maintains that leasing will not significantly affect wildlife, recreation or wilderness values.

However "environmental controls" are not discussed or specified in the leases. And regardless of the controls, geothermal development will impair Mono's national monument qualities.

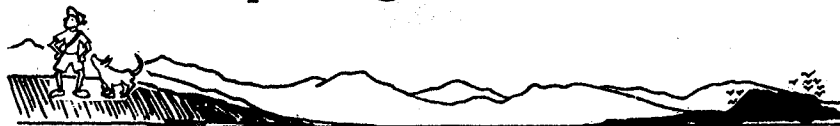
The Sierra Club, with MLC support, is continuing to appeal the BLM lease sale, and may eventually go to court.

Forest Service lease sales in the Mono Craters and Long Valley likewise ignore consumptive water use and esthetic impacts. They are being appealed by Mono County.



Location of BLM (stippled) and Forest Service (cross-hatched) geothermal lease sales in the Mono Basin.

Exploring Black Point



Black Point, which rises like a dark-colored groundswell from Mono Lake's north shore, is the only underwater volcano in the world that is now completely exposed. This unique formation is included in Congressman Richard Lehman's national monument proposal (H.R. 1341).

Thirteen thousand years ago, Black Point sputtered beneath ice-age Mono Lake, never quite breaking the surface. At least four separate eruptions shattered the stillness of the Mono Basin landscape. Upon contact with the lakewater, lava exploded into fountains of steam and ash. Most of the ash spread sideways from the underwater vent, forming a circular volcanic mound.

Black Point's lava chilled so quickly that a rare, uncrystallized basaltic glass was formed. Also unusual are the rounded stream cobbles on its summit, uplifted when the volcano erupted through layers of glacial gravel. During the eruptions, some of these rocks became so hot they partially melted, forming a pumice-like "popped-granite."

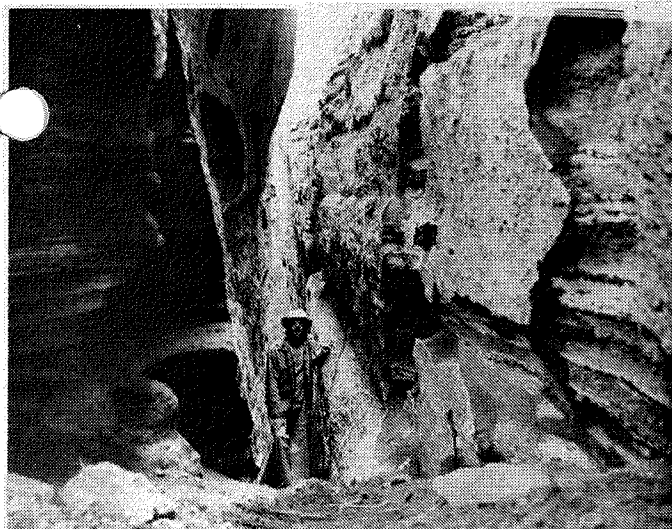
Most spectacular are the deep, narrow fissures that furrow Black Point's summit. Two to three feet wide and 50 to 60 feet in depth, the fissures opened as the volcanic material settled and

cracked. Their walls are bizarrely veneered in bubbly white tufa.

Near the western flank of Black Point, Wilson Creek has cut a vertically-walled wash through 32,000 years of Mono Basin sediments. To geologists, these sediments are an "open book" telling of eruptions, floods, droughts, earthquakes and other earthshaking events.

The rewards of exploring Black Point are not just geological. There are exhilarating views of Mono Lake and the Sierra, sagebrush birds and flowers, and even Great Horned Owls nesting in the fissures.

Allow half a day to hike to Black Point's summit. There is no trail, but the ascent is gentle. It is easiest to start on the dirt road on the volcano's eastern flank. Search for the fissures near the point's southwestern rim. This summer BLM will be installing posts to mark the route. For more information, inquire at the Mono Lake Information Center in Lee Vining.



Tufa-veneered fissures furrow the summit of Black Point.



Wilson Creek

These layered sediments, exposed along Wilson Creek west of Black Point, were deposited beneath the waters of ice-age Mono Lake 12,500 (top) to 23,000 (bottom) years ago. Near the top is a thick, dark layer of ash from the Black Point eruption of 13,000 years ago. Below are light-colored Sierran sediments interspersed with narrow bands of dark-colored ash from eruptions of the Mono Craters.

How Fast Do Tufas Grow?

A paper by Joseph R. Jehl in the January, 1983 issue of *California Geology* presents evidence that tufa may form relatively rapidly.

In January, 1981, Jehl discovered a small, rusted steel drum on Mono Lake's south shore that was heavily encrusted with tufa. Evidently, the U.S. Navy had dropped the drum into the lake in the course of testing explosives in 1964. During the intervening 17 years, tufa grew to a vertical height of 17 inches from its base on the side of the drum. Hence the rate of tufa formation averaged at least an inch per annum.

Jehl speculates that a 30 foot high tufa tower might be formed in as few as 400 years, but concedes this is only guesswork. "The rate of tufa formation at any site," he writes, "is probably highly variable, being affected by the volume, persistence, and solute load of the sublacustrine spring, the nature of the substrate into which the spring emerges, and the chemistry of the lake water. Further, as tufa increases in height it must also increase in breadth, or it will topple. Accordingly, while the volume of tufa deposited may be relatively constant, the increase in height may not."

Hiking Around Mono Lake

by Lora Shank

Few people hike the 40 miles around Mono Lake. Fewer still do so alone. One major obstacle is the east shore, a vast expanse of alkali-coated muck left by the receding lake. "For many miles," wrote Ken Brower, "the lessons were all variations on a theme: how many hundreds of ways can a lake shore dry up?" At South Tufa, the County Park, the west shore, Mono still retains much of its beauty. Not so the east shore, where the water has retreated two or more miles, leaving an eerie deathscape of point-blank alkaline flatness.

In October, of 1981, MLC intern Lora Shank set out alone to circumnavigate the lake. The following is her account of her adventure, her first time backpacking alone.

With my backpack loaded with five quarts of water-- hopefully enough for the three day trek-- I headed south out of Lee Vining. It had rained that morning, but I couldn't let that discourage me. Before I reached Mono's shore, I glimpsed a rainbow, a good omen.

After lunch, I hurriedly passed through the South Tufa grove, as I was eager to set foot on shores where I had never been. Walking was easiest close to the lake, where the sand was wet and hard. Many tiny springs bubbled out of the sand and ran into the lake, luring gulls and other birds.

The first night I camped in a sheltered spot between some tufa and a willow-lined spring. Coyotes yipped in the distance, and I hoped I had not intruded upon their watering hole, for I did not wish them to visit.

After a bone-chilling dawn and a cup of hot coffee, I headed east. Long-billed Curlews, Willits and many other birds I could not identify flocked along the shore and circled overhead.

The sandy beach suddenly ended at a series of pools overgrown with cattails that reflected clusters of crumbling tufa [*Simon Springs on the southeast shore-- ed.*] I had to leap over spring-fed rivulets to keep my boots dry, and was relieved to leave this wetland behind. But little did I know what lay ahead!

Beyond was nothing but white alkaline flatness, the exposed bottom of the shrinking lake. Occasionally I sank into muck to my boot tops. The alkali glared. Toward sunset, the low-angle light softened the harshness of the alkali plain, and I felt a kind of beauty here. But I did not wish to spend the night.

I soon realized, however, that I could not cross the east shore before dark, and reluctantly pitched my tent on the alkali. Owls hooted, but no coyotes howled. When I arose, my water was frozen solid.

The next morning I walked from the alkali into the muck. Springs were emptying into the lake, and the shores were thick with brine flies [*Warm Springs on the eastern shore-- ed.*].

I must have tried to cross the rivulets for an hour or more, sinking in the muck, backtracking, then sinking again. First I moved toward the lake, then gave up and headed for higher ground. It was quite a relief to find solid earth beneath my feet again! [*People have sunk to their waists in this area-- ed.*].

I shied away from the lake until midafternoon, then beelined for Black Point. It was almost dark as I made my way past the County Park to the Mono Inn, where I telephoned the committee for a ride back to Lee Vining.

From South Tufa to the County Park, I saw not a single person. All in all it was a good venture, and I was ecstatic most of the time. I was saddened, however, to see so much of the lake turned into alkali.



Laura Shank's "alkali camp" on Mono's eastern shore.

Mono Lake State Reserve: New Trails, New Rules

The Mono Lake Tufa State Reserve, which attracted over 100,000 people last year, is expanding its interpretive facilities. Exhibit shelters at Navy Beach, Black Point and the Mono Lake County Park will introduce visitors to Mono's wonders. A nature trail at South Tufa will explain the lake's geology and natural history. A 600-foot long boardwalk below the Mono Lake County Park will keep people's feet dry while they view tufa and birds.

State Reserve Rangers David and Janet Carle are conducting interpretive walks at South Tufa every Saturday and Sunday at 11:30 a.m. Beginning June 1st, they will offer walks at both 11:00 a.m. and 2:30 p.m.

In order to protect Mono's natural and scenic features, the State Reserve has been closed to camping, ground fires, rockhounding and collecting, unleashed pets, livestock grazing, defacement of tufa, disturbance of plants and animals, and off-

road vehicle use. In general loaded firearms are prohibited, but waterfowl hunting is still allowed in season in the Simon Springs area and along the northwest shore. In addition, Native Americans may still gather brine fly pupae along the lake's shore.

BLM Trails At Panum Crater, Black Point

Ever searched in vain for Black Point's fissures? This summer the Bureau of Land Management will mark a route to these spectacular if elusive features. It will also coordinate construction of a self-guided interpretive trail on the rim of Panum Crater. Sierra Club volunteers. If time permits, the 20 or so Sierra Club members will also build a trail from Panum to South Tufa.

BLM, which has done an excellent job of protecting South Tufa, will be patrolling the Mono Lake area every day this summer.

The Mono Naturalist

Valleys dodge snowflakes beneath a gray April sky. Slowly and fitfully, old man winter is retreating.

From November until the vernal equinox, several feet of snow blanketed the basin. In the Sierra, 30 foot drifts buried the ranger station at Tioga Pass. Snowfall even exceeded the infamous winter of '69, setting new records.

Yet in the midst of a furious February blizzard, spring announced herself in the form of a lone, wind-blown violet-green swallow. In early March, with the snow deeper than ever, bluebirds and gulls appeared along Mono's shores. By mid month, the songs of cassin's finches, meadowlarks and red-winged blackbirds were proclaiming the change in season. By April, flickers and sapsuckers were courting, robins were carrying nesting material, and red-tailed hawks and great horned owls were patiently incubating eggs.

Miraculously most of the snow around Mono Lake melted away by April. Green shoots lifted their heads through the moist earth. Fuzzy catkins appeared on aspens, portending the green to come.

With the warmer days, insects began to stir. Mayflies fluttered above snow-covered streambanks, and brine flies buzzed along

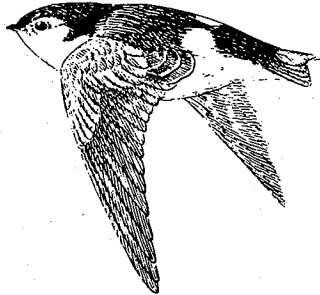
Mono's shores. All during April, legions of Painted Lady butterflies migrated northward through the basin battling headwinds to cross the lake.

The swell of life was contagious, and we, too, delighted and rejoiced in the earth's rebirth. On the equinox, we gathered along Mono Lake's shore to greet the sunrise and celebrate spring's return. It dawned cold and cloudy, and the sky soon filled with snow.

Spring Mono Lake Bird Count

The spring Mono Lake bird count is scheduled for Wednesday, June 15th. We will be censusing all birds within a 15-mile diameter circle centered along Mono Lake's west shore. The count ranges from 6,376 feet at the lake to 12,327 at the summit of Mt. Warren. Experts and novices alike are invited to participate. Hardy hikers are especially needed.

Please meet at the Mono Lake Information Center in Lee Vining at 7 p.m. on Tuesday, June 14th, so we can assign you to a party. Or give us a call in advance. The count will conclude with a pot-luck dinner at dusk on Wednesday.



Expanded At Mono Lake Photographic Exhibition Opens June 15th In San Francisco

The *At Mono Lake* Exhibition arrives at San Francisco's California Academy of Sciences on June 15th. Fifteen new photographs have been added to this history-making collection, which includes the work of Ansel Adams, Brett Weston, Phillip Hyde and many other outstanding artists. Many of the photographers will be available at the June 15th opening to discuss their work and sign copies of the newly-published exhibition catalogue. For more information, please contact the exhibition coordinator, Steve Johnson, at [415] 641-8571.

Grants From Packard Foundation, Conservation Endowment Fund and Zellerbach Support Research and Education

Mono Lake is continuing to receive crucial philanthropic support. The David and Lucile Packard Foundation have contributed \$10,000 to the Marine Sciences Institute of the University of California at Santa Barbara for brine shrimp research. The Conservation Endowment Fund has granted \$5,000 to the Point Reyes Bird Observatory for gull studies. The Zellerbach Family Fund has given \$2,000 to augment a \$10,000 grant from the Fleishaker Foundation for the *At Mono Lake* photographic catalogue. We are deeply indebted to all these foundations.

Mono Lake Field Trips

Both the Mono Lake Committee and the Mono Lake Tufa State Reserve will be conducting free tours at the South Tufa Grove this summer. Special group tours may be arranged by reservation. For more information, call the Mono Lake Committee at (619) 647-6386, or the State Reserve at (619) 647-6331.

Slide Show Update

Our 80-slide program has been improved and updated with many new photographs and a cassette tape narration set to classical music. The program vividly conveys the beauty and importance of Mono Lake and the water conservation alternative to its destruction. We loan the program to groups and schools for up to two weeks without charge, but ask that a \$35 refundable deposit be sent with each request. The show can also be purchased for \$50, discounted to \$40 for non-profit groups and schools (California residents please add 6% sales tax). Please allow three weeks for delivery.

Used Paperbacks, Paper Sacks Wanted

We can sell your used paperbacks to the vacationing throngs at our Mono Lake Information Center, and raise funds for the lake. We prefer fiction, but will accept just about anything that looks saleable. We can also recycle your used grocery bags and paper sacks, and maybe save a few trees. Send to: Mono Lake Committee, P.O. Box 29, Lee Vining, CA 93541. Or, if you wish to ship via UPS, address to: Mono Lake Information Center, Hwy. 395, Lee Vining, CA 93541. Thanks!

MLC News and Activities

Mono Lake Grand Auction in San Francisco June 1st

Two weeks for two at a 440-year old house in Hydra, Greece...with a stairway to the sea!

Deluxe dory trips down the Grand Canyon!

Two weeks for two at a luxurious 3-bedroom villa on a private beach in the Caribbean!

Three days and nights at the Ahwahnee Hotel in Yosemite, including meals!

Private plane trips to Mono Lake with meals, accomodations, and a boat trip to the islands!

These are just a few of more than 70 fantastic items to be auctioned by Justice William N. Newsom of the California Court of Appeals at the Mono Lake Grand Auction in San Francisco June 1st. All of the items, which also include hideaways in Hawaii, West Virginia, Carmel Highlands, Santa Barbara and Bodega Bay, sailing weekends on San Francisco Bay, chauffeured evenings at gourmet restaurants, jewelry, china, fine art and much more, have been donated to help Mono Lake live on.

will be accepting additional items up to the last minute. If you can contribute, please get in touch.

Or bring your check book, mastercharge or visa card, and attend the auction at San Francisco's Fort Mason at 7:30 p.m. on Wednesday evening, June 1st. Tickets are \$25 per couple or \$15 single, and must be purchased in advance due to limited seating. Hors d'oeuvres and wine will be served.

For tickets or more information, please contact Grace de Laet at [415] 398-6744.

L.A.-Mono Bikeathon August 29 - September 3

Whether you are beginner or expert, you are invited to cycle along with the 4th annual Los Angeles to Mono Lake Bikeathon.

The 6-day, 350 mile ride departs from the L.A. Department of Water and Power headquarters on August 29th, and arrives at Mono Lake on September 3rd. Each cyclist carries a small vial of water from DWP's reflecting pool back to its natural destination-Mono Lake. Sponsors pledge a dime, quarter or more per mile to the cyclist of their choice. Last year over 30 cyclists of wide-ranging abilities completed the trip, raising over \$13,000. Sag wagons carry our gear, and we camp along the way. It's fun, publicizes Mono's plight, and raises funds for the lake's defense.

If you would like to join the 1983 bikeathon, or would like more information on this worthwhile adventure, please contact David Takemoto-Weerts at our Sacramento office (926 J St. Bldg., Room 914, Sacramento, CA 95814; [916] 448-1045).

Mono Lake Benefit Run October 2nd

Monomaniacal runners and joggers, mark your calendars! Join us Sunday, October 2nd for an exhilarating 10k (6.2 mile) benefit run on Mono Lake's beautiful north shore. The run will begin from the Mono Lake County Park 5 miles north of Lee Vining at 12 noon. Times will be given at 1, 3 and 5 miles, and water provided at 3 and 5 miles. We'll have awards for the top 3 runners in each division, and T-shirts for everyone. Refreshments will include lite beer from Miller, cookies from Schat's Bakery, soft drinks, oranges, and more!

To enter, please send \$7.00 (\$9.00 day of race) to the Mono Committee, P.O. Box 29, Lee Vining CA 93541.

For more information, call our tireless volunteer race director, Dennis Yamnitsky, at [209] 379-2786. More details in our summer newsletter.

Information Center Readied For Summer

This summer, upwards of 50,000 people will learn of Mono's plight at our Information Center in Lee Vining. Thanks to the help of hardworking monophiles, the center has never looked better.

In March, Todd Berens and Jim Stehn volunteered their time to rewire the center, saving us from electrocution or possibly worse. In addition, the light bulb dangling from the ceiling has been replaced with flourescent lighting that brightly illuminates our displays, book shelves and art gallery.

Another volunteer, Paul Johnson, constructed a skylight above our cave-like Information Center office. He even provided excitement by crashing through the ceiling and showering our office with fiberboard, plaster dust, tools and himself! Fortunately, nobody was hurt, and the gaping hole in the ceiling was in just the right spot. The skylight now brightens our office and spirits.

The front desk has been replaced with a large, solidly constructed glass case donated by Don Banta of the Best Western Lakeview Motel. We plan to use part of the case for a diorama with mounted birds and other natural history specimens. Taxidermist extraordinaire, Anna Martyn, is donating her time to mount birds that have been found dead, but in good condition along Mono's shores.

The glass case is also being used to display our growing assortment of Mono Lake sweatshirts, long-sleeve and toddler size T-shirts, Mono Lake and Yosemite Topo T-shirts, raised relief maps, seagull mobiles, gulliver gulls, new postcards greeting cards, color slides, and Mono Lake seals, patches and pins! Through the sale of these items, we spread the word and raise funds for Mono's defense.

Shelves have been built for the many books we are stocking this summer. We now have an even wider selection on human history, natural history, Native Americans and the environment, and an eclectic collection of fiction, poetry, children's books and miscellany.

This past winter, the roof leaked like a sieve, buckling the floor and warping many displays. We've ripped out offending floor boards, and improvised simple repairs. The displays we've backed with plywood. Some day we'll fix the roof...

Special thanks to interns Dean Cutter and Sam James for helping us get the Information Center in shape. Come visit this summer!

Staff Hellos and Good-Byes

Our new Lee Vining intern, Sam James, arrived at the beginning of April. Sam, an ardent cross-country ski racer, was delighted to find the Sierran snowpack unmelted. He just completed a Ph.D. in ecology at the University of Michigan.

Paul Johnson, who has donated two winters to Mono Lake, migrated north in April to work as a range biologist with BLM. Paul assiduously followed geothermal development, keeping us informed of its potentially serious impacts. We'll miss his fresh bread, friendly spirit and gentle soul, and hope he returns this fall!



A touched-up photograph of Mono Lake graces the cover of a German science fiction magazine. First Pink Floyd, now this!

Accolades

We are indeed grateful to The Grateful Dead and Bill Graham Presents for including Mono Lake as a beneficiary of their March 29-31 benefit shows in San Francisco. Ed Vine, David Shuford and David Winkler helped man our display, answer questions and pass out literature and bumper stickers to the 10,000 concert-goers. What a long, strange trip it's been!

Thanks to the Fresno Audubon Society and the Tehipite Chapter of the Sierra Club for donating all the proceeds from their April 23rd Birdathon to Mono Lake. Over the years, our friends in Fresno have never wavered in their support for our efforts.

Santa Clara Valley Audubon Society members spent two weekends harvesting, hulling, drying, bagging and selling a walnut crop donated by Lynn and Martha Hunton, raising \$549 for the Mono Lake lawsuit.

Mildred Bennett has arranged a special guided tour of the "treasures from the Shanghai Museum" exhibition at San Francisco's Asian Art Museum, all proceeds benefitting the lake. This winter she organized two highly successful benefit trips to view the Elephant Seals at Ano Nuevo. Thank you, Mildred!

In February, Nancy Smith of Bishop toted a Mono Lake display, literature and merchandise to the convention of the San Joaquin Diocese of the Episcopalean Church in Fresno. The "Gulliver Seagulls" sold out!

We are also indebted to the Altacal Audubon Society, Berkeley Garden Club, Cabrillo Section of the Angeles Sierra Club Chapter and Orange County Sierra Singles for generous donations.



Letters

It is tempting to feel that the rising lake levels of 1982 and 1983 bode well for Mono Lake. Looking at the climatic history of the lake basin for the past 100 years, however, we see that this 2-2.5 year "surplus" is not really uncommon. It occurs two or more times in a hundred-year period. As in the 1870-80s, such years of excess are most often interspersed closely with drought periods.

Robert Curry
Professor of Environmental Geology
University of California, Santa Cruz

I am quite pleased that Mono Lake supporters are taking this issue as high as the California Supreme Court. However, I fear that if the DWP is blocked from removing water from the Mono Lake system, they will find another way of destroying some part of our environment. My plea to you is that while in court, you urge the DWP to seek alternative sources, whether it be conservation or development of better irrigation techniques or desalinization processes. This will be the only way that precious water tables and streams in California can be spared. Please keep up the excellent work, and don't give an inch!

Regan McMorris
Salem, Oregon

I see that the Sierra Club is one of your members, therefore I will support the L.A. Dept. of Water and Power.

J. C. Raddatz
Sepulveda

I didn't expect the literature I got from you when I sent in a donation. I must say, you put more into research and less into glossy production than some environmental organizations I am familiar with... Only 4300 members? What could you do with 8600? I am sending your position paper and newsletter on to more potential members...

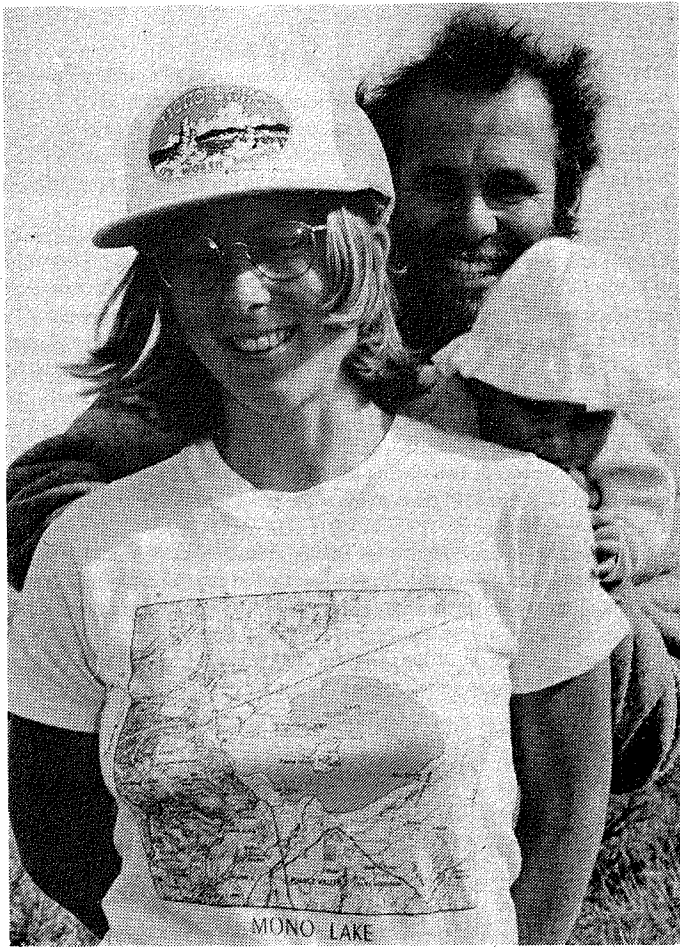
Inyo Ellersieck
Los Angeles

This year we have split our efforts on behalf of Mono Lake. Half the team worked on influencing legislators, and the other half worked on Rain Dances.

Fresno Audubon Society

In view of the fact Los Angeles will stall and stall until time runs out and Mono is as dry as Owens Lake, it would be appreciated if our donation could be used to blast DWP's diversion dams out of existence. We are not violent folks, just impatient.

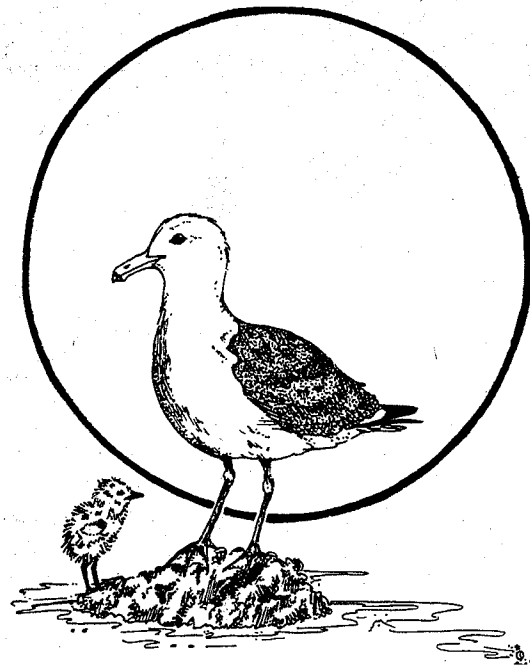
Meg and Will Challis
Retired Monkeywrenchers, Weaverville



Larry Ford

Sally Judy Gaines, backed by David and baby Vireo, models the new 100% cotton Mono Lake Topo T-shirt, available in small, medium, large and x-large. The shirt costs \$9.95.

Mono Lake Cards and Envelopes, by Lauren Davis. Two designs to choose from: Mono Lake Birds (see newsletter cover), or Gull and Chick (right). \$2.50 for packet of 5 cards and envelopes. →



Larry Ford

Lee Vining monophiles Tanzi Hess and Sarah Jewett model our new Mono Lake sweatshirt and long-sleeved T-shirt. The sweatshirt is available in blue only, sizes small, medium and large. The long-sleeved shirt is available in lilac, powder blue and beige, sizes small, medium, large and extra-large. Sweatshirts are \$13.50, long-sleeved shirts \$10.00.

To order, please send total amount plus \$2.50 for postage and handling (California residents please add 6% sales tax) to: *Mono Lake Committee, P.O. Box 29, Lee Vining, CA 93541.*



**The
Mono Lake
Committee**

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