

THE MONO LAKE NEWSLETTER
Spring 1984 **Vol. 6, No. 4**

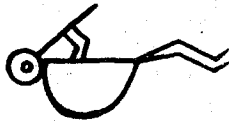


Wilson, Deukmejian Support Scenic Area
The Mono Lake Conference

THE MONO LAKE NEWSLETTER

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ON THE COVER: Spring always brings high winds, but the April 10 blow was especially exciting. Winds gusting at more than 100 mph ripped through the Eastern Sierra, turning Mono Lake into a sea of froth. Larry Ford braved the storm's fury to capture this photograph of waves crashing against north shore tufa.



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I wanted to teach people to listen to the pulse of nature, to partake of the wholeness of life and not forget, under the pressure of their petty destinies, that we are not gods and have not created ourselves, but are children of the earth, part of the cosmos.

...Herman Hesse

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Diversions Resume

Culls have returned from Pacific beaches, bringing the sounds of the sea to Mono's sagebrush shores. Brine shrimp have hatched in the lake's depths, promising plentiful food for hundreds of thousands of birds. The renewal of life is contagious, and we, too, delight in the completion of another journey around the sun.

But will the birds return in years to come? Only if the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power stops diverting every drop it can from Mono Lake's tributary streams.

That is not happening. In late March, despite a massive surplus of Colorado River water and other alternative sources, DWP resumed Mono Basin diversions. In fact, it is spilling water into Owens Lake and the Mojave Desert in order to lower Crowley Lake Reservoir and accommodate Mono Basin water in its aqueduct system. Why? Because the Mono diversions generate the most hydropower, and hence the most revenue, for DWP coffers. The costs exacted on the Mono Lake environment are externalities that DWP ignores—and the rest of us pay for.

When DWP's engineers opened the gates beneath Grant Lake Reservoir and diverted Rush Creek **O**er from Mono to Los Angeles, they affirmed the power of the dollar as the current arbiter of resource use. As far as DWP is concerned, Mono water is a "right" rather than a "privilege," and entails no obligations toward the land from which it comes.

Our challenge, then, goes beyond saving a lake to fostering an awareness of the vital connection between our own well-being and the health of the land. That means holding sacred the fertility of our

soil, the purity of our air and water, our fellow species—brine shrimp among them—and places like Mono Lake where we may listen to the pulse of the *real* world.

Fortunately wet winters have granted Mono Lake a reprieve. Since its low ebb in January 1982, the lake has risen nine vertical feet to match its October 1974 level of 6,380.5 feet. Once again Negit Island's black ramparts reflect from Mono's waters. A mysterious beauty and power have returned to the lakescape.

But DWP has not shared water with Mono Lake voluntarily, and is continuing to take every drop it can. Responding to criticism for resuming diversions in a year when runoff projections range to 110 percent of normal, aqueduct chief LaVal Lund remarked that it would take five years or more for evaporation to reduce the lake back to its 1982 level.

Such a retrogression to the crisis conditions of years past is unacceptable. It is in blatant violation of the spirit of the California Supreme Court's "public trust" decision, which mandates a "balance" between DWP's diversions and the public interest in preserving "an economic, recreational and scenic resource."

Let's keep Mono Lake higher than it is today. As long as the birds return, there is still hope for saving ourselves.

YES ON PROP. 19!

Proposition 19 on the June ballot would provide \$85 million to (1) acquire and restore wetlands in the coastal zone and San Francisco Bay, (2) restore inland waterways for fisheries management, and (3) acquire or enhance essential habitat for rare and endangered species. This is a critical bond measure for preserving what is left of California's wetlands, of which 90 percent has been lost in the past century.

Mono Lake Benefit Trips

CJoin fellow monophiles on a luxury bus trip to Yosemite and Mono Lake (Oct. 5-8, 1984) or on a cruise to southeast Alaska (June 15-29, 1985), and help raise funds to save the lake! Details on p. 15 and back cover.



The Kellogg's Star Wars Tufa Monster (see p. 11).

Jerry Lunsford

Scenic Area Wins Wilson, Deukmejian Support

Reversing positions of opposition, California Senator Pete Wilson and Governor George Deukmejian have endorsed the Mono Basin National Forest Scenic Area legislation. According to Deukmejian, "creation of a scenic area would recognize the beauty and uniqueness of Mono Lake, and allow us to continue effective management of natural resources in this region."

Both Wilson and Deukmejian opposed Congressman Richard Lehman's original national monument proposal on the grounds it might jeopardize Los Angeles' diversions from Mono Lake's tributary streams. New language in the amended bill makes it clear that H.R. 1341 will not affect water rights one way or the other. With this assurance, Wilson and Deukmejian decided to lend their support.

H.R. 1341 now faces its last major hurdle to passage by Congress: the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural

Resources. Its only opposition is from the Forest Service on the grounds it will "result in increased budgetary impact on the federal government."

Passage of the Scenic Area legislation by the Republican Senate hinges on the strong and active support of Senator Wilson. A hearing is expected this spring.

The 67,000-acre National Scenic Area will protect the aesthetic and ecological values of Mono Lake's islands, shores, most of the Mono Craters and part of the Sierra escarpment from geothermal development, timber harvesting, expanded mining operations and other forms of industrial intrusion. It will prohibit their sale to Los Angeles at \$1.25 an acre, repealing a 1936 special-interest law. It will authorize construction of a visitor center and development of campgrounds, trails and interpretive facilities.

*Thanks to everyone who has responded to our action alerts.
Your letters are making the difference!*

BLM Designates Mono Lake "Area of Critical Concern"

Sixteen thousand acres around Mono Lake, including islands, tufa groves, Panum Crater, Black Point and lands exposed by the declining lake level, have been designated an "Area of Critical Environmental Concern," an ACEC, by the federal Bureau of Land Management. The designation requires "special management attention" to protecting and preventing "irreparable damage" to "important historic, cultural or scenic values, fish and wildlife resources, or natural systems or processes." The ACEC will be known as the "Mono Lake Ecological Area."

The 16,000-acre ACEC is scaled down from a 160,032-acre proposal drafted by BLM in 1981. That proposal, which would have included all BLM-administered public land in the Mono Lake watershed, was supported by the California Resources Agency, many legislators, the Mono Lake Committee and environmentalists. It was opposed, however, by the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power, which adamantly argued that there was no "substantial evidence" of any environmental problems whatsoever in the Mono Lake area. When BLM's state director James R. Ruch remained unswayed, DWP took its opposition to Washington, D.C. and the newly appointed BLM Director Robert Burford. Soon thereafter, Ruch was removed from his post and the ACEC was quietly shelved.

Or so it seemed until this March, when BLM suddenly announced the 16,000-acre "Mono Lake Ecological Area." Even DWP was caught by surprise. Despite the fact the designation in no way affects water rights, DWP has filed a protest.

In fact the Mono Lake Ecological Area, by sidestepping the water issue, does not go far enough. Still it is a crucial step that would institute the following measures:

(1) *Wildlife.* BLM will attempt to maintain habitat for at least 30,000 nesting gulls and for large numbers of migratory birds "through methods other than water level manipulation." BLM specifically mentions "blasting channels, digging moats, building islands . . . [and other] necessary steps to mitigate undesirable consequences that might result from further changes in the lake's size or salinity."

(2) *Livestock grazing* will be prohibited on lands exposed by the declining lake level, a move MLC strongly supports (see article on p. 5).

(3) *Recreation* will be "more controlled . . . reducing off-road vehicle use and indiscriminate camping." All vehicle use will be limited to designated roads and trails.

(4) *Mining and geothermal development* will be restricted to protect wildlife and unique geological features.

WHAT YOU CAN DO: Please convey your support for the Mono Lake Ecological Area to State Director Edward L. Hastey (Bureau of Land Management, Federal Office Building, Rm. E-2841, 2800 Cottage Way, Sacramento, CA 95825).

Mono Research Bill Passes

A bill to provide \$250,000 for a "scientific study of the effects of water diversions on the Mono Lake ecosystem" has won approval of the California Legislature. A.B. 1614 is expected to be signed into law by Governor George Deukmejian later this year.

"This bill will provide crucial data that will help resolve the Mono Lake controversy," commented its author, Assemblyman Norman Waters. "We can't let Mono Lake die," added State Senator and principal co-author John Garamendi. "A.B. 1614 will help pinpoint the amount of water Los Angeles must share to help preserve this unique ecosystem."

A.B. 1614, which was supported by both the Mono Lake Committee and the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power, authorizes the California Department of Fish and Game to contract with the University of California and other public and private institutions or individuals to evaluate the effects of declining lake levels, increasing salinity and other 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 relict bed of Mono Lake and their implication for human health, wildlife and surrounding vegetation.
- (4) The lake's hydrology, including groundwater inflow, evaporation and freshwater spring flow.

WHAT YOU CAN DO: Please take a moment to write a note of thanks to David Kennedy (Director, Dept. of Water Resources) and Gordon Van Vleck (Secretary for Resources) for their support (1416 Ninth St., Sacramento, CA 95814). Thanks are also due Assemblyman Norman Waters and Senator John Garamendi (State Capitol, Sacramento, CA 95814). In addition, if your legislator is among the bill's following co-sponsors, please convey your appreciation: Assembly Members Agnos, Baker, Calderon, Campbell, Condit, Cortese, Hannigan, Hauser, Isenberg, Johnston, Margolin, McAllister, Papan, Peake, Seastrand, Sher, Statham and Vicencia, and Senators Boatwright, Marks, Sley and Stiern.

Sheep Threaten Tufa

Sheep, grazing illegally on lands exposed by the receding lake, are damaging Mono's tufa formations and impacting shoreline vegetation.

Last September the Mono Lake Tufa State Reserve cited one of California's largest wool growers for allowing 1,600 sheep to graze on state park property on Mono's southeast shore. Sheep were trampling delicate tufa formations and wreaking havoc on spring-fed marsh and meadow habitats.

Sheep are legally grazed all around Mono Lake, but only above the 1940 shoreline. Both the U.S. Bureau of Land Management and the Mono Lake Tufa State Reserve have barred grazing on the relict lands exposed by Mono's decline. But wool growers have persisted in allowing their flocks to trespass into these sensitive areas.

Grazing could devastate Mono's shoreline habitats. As early as 1882, Israel Russell observed that "owing to overstocking . . . natural pastures are now nearly ruined." A 1981 Council on Environmental Quality publication called grazing "the most potent desertification force, in terms of acreage affected, within the United States." We commend BLM and State Parks for adopting and enforcing a no-grazing policy.

The wool growers, however, are attempting to change this policy and open Mono's shores to grazing. The Mono County prosecutor has yet to press charges on last summer's trespass.

Public Trust Suit Still Stalled

It has been nine months since Judge Lawrence Karlton heard argument on whether the Audubon-Mono Lake Committee-Friends of the Earth public trust lawsuit should be tried in state or federal court. The Los Angeles Department of Water and Power joined the state of California in arguing that Audubon's federal nuisance claim should be dismissed and the case returned to state court. We contended that the case belongs in federal court where it could proceed to an expeditious trial. There is still no hint of when the judge will finally rule.

Karlton apparently feels that the rise in Mono Lake's level has alleviated the case's urgency. In January, when dismissing a related Sierra Club suit (see below), he noted that the recent wet winters had given him leeway, and that settlement of the public trust suit could take several years.

Judge Dismisses Sierra Club Mono Lake Suit

On January 20, a federal judge dismissed the Sierra Club's Mono Lake lawsuit, but left the door open for future litigation. U.S. District Court Judge Lawrence Karlton called the Sierra Club suit "either moot or premature" depending on the outcome of the Audubon-Mono Lake Committee-Friends of the Earth public trust case.

The suit, which was filed against the Secretary of the Interior by the Sierra Club Legal Defense Fund and the Natural Resources Coordinating Council in 1979, asked the federal government to assert "reserved water rights" to "amounts of water sufficient to prevent undue and unnecessary degradation of Mono Lake and Negit Island."

The suit was dismissed "without prejudice," which leaves the door open for refile at a later date. "We are going to carefully watch William Clark and his actions concerning the issue of Mono Lake," commented Sierra Club attorney Larry Silver. "Our decision to refile will be based upon the position of the new secretary and action regarding assertion of federal rights."



Geothermal Lease Sale Overturned

The lease sale of 85,000 acres of public land in southern Mono County for geothermal power development has been overturned by the Interior Board of Land Appeals, the IBLA.

The Mono Lake Committee joined the Sierra Club in protesting the lease sale on the grounds that the Bureau of Land Management failed to adequately consider environmental impacts and water consumption. Unbridled geothermal development could bring refinery-type complexes, pipe lines, cooling towers and similar industrial intrusions into the Mono Lake area, and compete for water the lake desperately needs to survive.

In response to congressional pressure, the lands around Mono Lake and in the Mono Craters were deleted from the lease sale pending the outcome of the National Scenic Area bill (H.R. 1341). On July 19, 1983, over \$6 million was bid on the remaining 85,000 acres, mostly in the Long Valley area east of Mammoth Lakes. The bids amounted to twice what had been anticipated, indicating major industry interest in developing geothermal power in Mono County.

On July 29, 1983, after our appeal was rejected by BLM, the Mono Lake Committee protested to the IBLA, emphasizing the considerable consumptive water demand that geothermal could require (over twice DWP's current average diversion from Mono Lake's tributary streams). The Sierra Club Legal Defense Fund filed a protest at the same time, emphasizing environmental impacts.

This March, the IBLA agreed with most of our concerns, and overturned the lease sale. BLM is left with the choice of either preparing a thorough pre-lease environmental impact statement, or retaining clear authority to deny lessees the right to develop if environmental concerns cannot be adequately mitigated. As Sierra Club lawyer Julie E. McDonald noted, "This is as good a result as we could have hoped for."

DWP To Draft Water Management Plan

The Mono Lake Committee hopes to have a voice in a water management plan being drafted by the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power. Required by the 1983 Urban Water Management Act from all major urban water utilities, the plan must detail alternative water management strategies, including conservation.

Earlier this year, MLC proposed the formation of an advisory committee to assist DWP in preparation of the plan. DWP responded by scheduling public workshops this spring to be followed by hearings on the draft plan. DWP is the first California water agency to involve the public in such a planning process.

MLC believes that common-sense water conservation measures can provide long-term monetary savings to Los Angeles consumers while conserving more than enough water to save Mono Lake.

Inyo Supervisors, DWP Approve Agreement

The acrimonious dispute over the pumping of Owens Valley groundwater took a new turn this spring, when the Inyo County Board of Supervisors approved a five-year agreement with the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power.

Since the completion of the second Los Angeles aqueduct in 1970, DWP has been pumping amounts of water from beneath the floor of this valley, which straddles the Eastern Sierra to the south of Mono Lake. Dismayed by dessicated springs, dying vegetation and a gradual increase in dust storms, the people of Owens Valley have been waging a vigorous battle to reduce the pumping through litigation and the enactment of a groundwater ordinance.

The present agreement purports to settle the issue "by conducting certain groundwater and vegetation studies and through the joint development and adoption of a long-term cooperative groundwater management plan for the Owens Valley." It also claims to "avoid or mitigate" the adverse environmental effects of the pumping. During the next five years, while the studies are being conducted by the United States Geological Survey, Inyo County and DWP, Inyo and DWP will negotiate a yearly pumping and mitigation program. During this period, litigation will be suspended, but can be resumed if the agreement fails.

While the agreement sounds good on the surface, it has one major loophole that has aroused the ire of many Owens Valley residents: if Inyo and DWP cannot agree, DWP will still be able to pump at rates that are known to damage valley vegetation. After heated public outcry on this unfair advantage, Inyo added an additional provision. If the sides fail to agree, Inyo can pull out of the agreement and renew litigation within one year.

Nevertheless, numerous Owens Valley residents still adamantly oppose the agreement in favor of renewing the fight in court. The Owens Valley Committee, a citizens' action group, is suing Inyo County on the ground the agreement requires an environmental impact report. The committee says the agreement gives DWP "everything it could not get from 12 years of litigation."

DWP has offered Inyo County agreements before, but they always required Inyo to give up the water fight in return for fiscal benefits. This agreement is different in that at least it purports to institute *joint* management of groundwater. Whether there will be joint management in practice is another question.

Also different were the parties involved in negotiating this agreement. For the first time the Los Angeles City Council and the water and power commissioners, not just the DWP, negotiated with Inyo County officials. It is just possible that these politicians, unlike the hard-liners at DWP, understand that "negotiate" means "to give as well as to take."

Time will tell whether the city of Los Angeles truly wants to settle a long-standing water problem in an equitable manner, or, as many believe, is attempting to dupe the rural malcontents in the far-off Owens Valley.

MONO LAKE CONFERENCE

A Step Toward Solution?

After two days of talks, panels, workshops and discussions, the March 30-31 UCLA Mono Lake conference concluded on a note of cautious optimism. The conference catalyzed a healthy dialogue between environmentalists, water purveyors, scientists, legal analysts, government officials and experts on water and energy issues. The Mono Lake Committee and the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power, joint sponsors of the conference, both agreed to "maintain the momentum this conference has generated" by continuing to explore avenues for resolving the controversy outside the courtroom.

The purpose of the conference, as explained by the head of UCLA's Public Policy Program, LeRoy Graymer, was to "talk about basic needs, listen to one another . . . and break out of a zero-sum situation." Graymer designed the conference to facilitate communication rather than spark confrontation. Underlying this approach was the hope that once the adversaries understood one another, they could begin to search for solutions.

In recent years this sort of dialogue, which has been given the buzz word "conflict-resolution," has enjoyed a vogue in both business and environmental circles. At the conference, John Kennedy and Susan Carpenter of ACCORD Associates explained how their organization employed this technique in bringing together polarized interests in the dispute over Denver's water supply—an acrimonious, generations-old controversy that bears some similarities to the Mono Lake case. With the active participation of Colorado's governor, the parties were able to define the problem, establish ground rules, identify interests and issues, agree on data, and develop solutions that may eventually resolve the issue in an amenable fashion.

In a recent issue of *Audubon*, Peter Steinhart describes the process as follows:

The dialogue breaks the traditional mold of environmental action. The classic conflicts saw industry and environmentalists rushing to lobby congressmen and agency officials, and then suing if they failed to get their way. The new approach has the adversaries framing a private agreement and then taking it to a government agency for ratification and enforcement.

The conflict-resolution approach does have its critics. For instance, Michael McClosky, executive director of the Sierra Club, does not believe any of the dialogues have benefited the environment: "I think they have reflected an interest in a theory or concern with public relations . . . but there have been no practical results."

The UCLA conference, which was titled *Mono Lake: Beyond the Public Trust Doctrine*, neither confirmed nor repudiated McCloskey's assessment. The participants agreed, however, that conflict-resolution was a productive and worthwhile means of exploring solutions that could take years to find through the courts.

DWP's participation was itself a hopeful sign, although Los Angeles did not soften its position. Chief Engineer Duane Georgeson maintained that Los Angeles needs every drop it can take from the Mono Lake watershed. He emphasized that the impending loss of Colorado River water to Arizona and the defeat of the Peripheral Canal threaten Southern California with water shortages. Reducing DWP's Mono diversions, he said, would unfairly burden Los Angeles with additional dollar and energy costs; Mono's water could be shared with the lake only if the city were fully compensated.

DWP also criticized water conservation and wastewater reclamation as means of reducing the city's consumption of Mono Basin water. It characterized the 1979 Interagency Mono Lake Task Force plan, which recommended proven, common-sense water conservation measures, as unrealistic and biased. Moreover, despite the California Supreme Court's public trust decision, DWP still refused to accept any responsibility for the impact of its diversions on the Mono Lake environment.

MLC executive director Ed Grosswiler conveyed more understanding. "We want to save Mono Lake and we are committed to finding a solution that will accomplish that objective," he told the approximately 200 conferees. "We are also committed to finding a solution that provides adequate water and energy for the city of Los Angeles. Our preference is to develop a solution without having to spend several more years in the courts."

Grosswiler praised the task force for recommending water conservation measures that could meet Los Angeles' water and energy needs while protecting a living Mono Lake. His insightful speech is excerpted on page 8.

Grosswiler emphasized the need for state leadership in developing and facilitating a solution. In his keynote address, however, California water resources director David



Conferees listen to a panel discussion at the UCLA Mono Lake conference.

Jerry Lunford

Kennedy told the conferees that he did "not know what role the state should or will play." Kennedy said the Deukmejian administration was "trying not to take sides," but backed DWP's claim to compensation for lost water and energy supplies. He stressed that there is "no free lunch . . . if the people of the state decide they want to have Mono Lake at a higher level than it would be if the city keeps doing what they are doing, someone will have to foot the bill, and it is quite a bit of money." Moreover Kennedy discounted the potential for water conservation, maintaining that if Los Angeles "has to reduce its diversions, it is fair to conclude that they are going to have to replace the water from Northern California." On a positive note, Kennedy affirmed the administration's support for the Mono Lake research bill (A.B. 1614), and offered assistance in providing technical expertise.

The conferees also tried to assimilate a broad range of technical and sometimes conflicting information from panels of scientists, water and energy experts, and legal analysts. Highlights are summarized on page 9.

But the conference consisted of more than just listening.

For several hours each day conferees divided into small workshops. Under the guidance of facilitators, participants attempted to identify concerns and needs, and develop "policy options and procedural strategies." Time was limited, however, and the workshops produced little more than "wish lists" for resolving the issue.

At the same time, the conferees could see the potential for progress. Conflict-resolution is a process that takes more than a weekend to bear fruit. Mediation of the Colorado water dispute has been proceeding for over a year, and the parties are only now approaching agreement. With patience and hard work, a similar process could save Mono Lake.

The UCLA Mono Lake Conference was funded by grants from Union Oil, Crown Zellerbach Foundation, Hewlett Packard and Mrs. Carol Valentine, as well as by the Mono Lake Committee and the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power. We are grateful to these institutions and individuals for supporting this venture.

MONO LAKE: We Can All Win

Excerpts from the speech presented by Ed Grosswiler, executive director of the Mono Lake Committee, at the UCLA Mono Lake conference:

This program and your participation is one reflection of the visibility of the Mono Lake issue in recent years. You are all aware of the national attention given the lake, focusing on the impending destruction of a unique ecosystem. That destruction appeared imminent in 1982, when the lake's elevation had dropped 46 feet, brine shrimp populations had plunged dramatically and major nesting areas for the California gull were exposed to predators. Then nature intervened and provided the lake a respite: runoff from the extraordinary snowpack of two winters has poured down the dry streambeds, replenishing the lake with fresh water and breathing new life into the ecosystem.

In the midst of this rebirth, the California Supreme Court issued its public trust opinion, charging the people of California to do everything reasonably possible to protect Mono Lake. As a result, the focus has shifted from lamenting the inevitable destruction of a valuable natural resource to an awareness that the lake can be saved.

Fortunately, providing water and energy to Los Angeles and preserving Mono Lake are not mutually exclusive. Both can be accomplished through efficient use and management of our resources.

That's not to say the solution will be easy. Some tough questions must be answered first, and the purpose of this conference is to provide a forum for doing that so we can move forward in developing the solution.

First, what role can the state play? Water is a matter of statewide concern, and Mono Lake is a California resource. Can legislation remove some of the institutional barriers which may exist to developing creative solutions? Would the governor's leadership help find an answer?

Second, how can Los Angeles be compelled to use the water and energy it conserves to reduce Mono diversions? Mono water and energy are the cheapest available to the city. When conservation takes place, the city reduces consumption of its more expensive supplies, not Mono Basin supplies.

Third, how do we replace the energy lost by reducing Mono diversions? Most public debate focuses on water, but the real economic benefit to the city is the hydroelectric power generated by the Mono Basin water as it roars down from the 6,380-foot elevation.

Fourth, what really can be done in the area of conservation? Is the \$5 million expenditure by DWP on water and energy conservation sufficient in a billion-dollar budget? Are there new measures and programs which should be explored?

That brings me to another question, one I get asked often these days: With a Supreme Court victory in hand, why is the Mono Lake Committee exploring resolution of the controversy outside the courtroom?

I'll leave the first four questions to your deliberations, but let me answer the last question. The Mono Lake Committee views this program as a constructive effort to solve a shared problem. The first step is to examine the options that are available. And we are particularly pleased to have the DWP join us in this neutral forum. As the Los Angeles Times wrote in an editorial last November, "Obviously, a prudent balance must be struck, and it is better to strive for it through good faith negotiations than through a renewal of long and contentious actions in the courts."

The time to resolve the controversy is now, when Mono Lake is not in crisis and Los Angeles is not confronting a drought. I believe that Mono Lake is one water battle we can all win.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE PANEL DISCUSSIONS

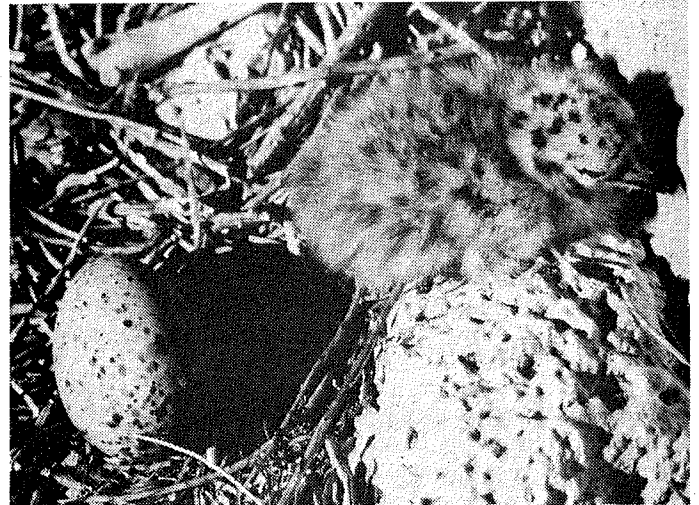
Scientific Panel

Scott Stine, a geographer at U.C. Berkeley, kicked off the scientific panel with exciting new information on Mono Lake's geological history. Negit Island, it now appears, was connected to the mainland under natural conditions roughly 1,500 to 1,100 years ago. At that time the lake was even lower than its 1982 lowstand, but contained a larger volume of water and was hence less saline. This was because Paoha Island did not exist. Paoha, Stine now believes, emerged due to a volcanic eruption only 200 years ago, displacing immense amounts of water and causing the lake to rise. Stine stressed that "we are dealing with a lake that is more saline than it has been in at least 40,000 years, and . . . probably more saline than it has ever been." Stine pointed out that at an average diversion rate of 100,000 acre-feet per year, the lake will fall another 50 vertical feet, salinity will increase to about three times what it is today, and only one small islet will likely remain separated from the mainland.

John Melack, a limnologist at U.C. Santa Barbara, stressed Mono Lake's international scientific value as an "ideal setting for studying the dynamics of ecosystems," and a place where "we can build major scientific advances."

For instance, Melack pointed out that Mono is chemically similar to the early oceans where life evolved, and hence offers "a rare opportunity to look at the kind of environment that earliest forms of life may have been involved in." Worldwide only about six out of the earth's millions of lakes are somewhat similar to Mono, so the lake is "extremely rare." It is also one of the few lakes whose age is measured in hundreds of thousands rather than thousands of years.

Joseph R. Jehl Jr., ornithologist with Hubbs-Sea World Research Institute and DWP consultant, assessed Mono Lake's importance as a "critical habitat" for eight to 10



Biologists disagreed on Negit Island's importance to nesting gulls.

species of invertebrate-feeding water birds. His discussion of the gull situation, however, provoked vigorous debate from other biologists. In particular, Point Reyes Bird Observatory biologist David Shuford disputed Jehl's statements that (1) new islets exposed by the falling lake "contained more suitable nesting habitat than that which was lost on Negit, so the loss of habitat has not been a problem," (2) the formation of new islets "has attracted gulls into the area," causing the population to increase, and (3) the recent rise in the lake has been "worse than the creation of the [Negit Island] land bridge in the first place." Shuford countered that Negit Island was prime nesting habitat, and its loss in 1979 has reduced the number of gull chicks being produced (from 1976 through 1978, Negit supported over 30,000 gulls, about 60 percent of the Mono Lake rookery). Jehl and Shuford did agree that the 1981 gull chick die-off was caused primarily by heat rather than lack of food, but Shuford suggested it was aggravated by the comparative lack of cover on the islets.

Three other biologists, Sheila Mahoney of Florida-Atlantic University, David Herbst of Oregon State University and Gayle Dana of U.C. Santa Barbara, elaborated on the effect of increasing salinity. Mahoney reported that grebes, and probably shorebirds and gulls, will have little if any difficulty coping with increasing salinity as long as the food supply remains abundant, since the brine shrimp on which they feed are far less salty than the lake water. In fact Mahoney has found that the specialized anatomy of the grebes' tongues allows them to squeeze out practically all of the salty lake water. Herbst pointed out that "evidence indicates that reductions in the diversity and productivity of the ecosystem have accompanied the increased salinity and lower lake levels associated with water diversions."



According to UC geographer Scott Stine, Paoha Island may have been uplifted by a volcanic eruption only 200 years ago.

Dana, who has been doing experimental work with Mono's shrimp, reported that salinities of over 120 to 130 ppt (12 to 13 percent) are likely to result in the failure of the shrimp to hatch; if diversions are continued at present rates, such salinity levels will probably be reached in 10 to 15 years.

Two speakers, DWP engineer Bruce Kuebler and U.C. Davis scientist Thomas Cahill, presented contradictory assessments of Mono's dust problem. Kuebler argued that the dust episodes are so infrequent as to be insignificant. Cahill agreed that the episodes are infrequent at present, but have nonetheless produced some of the worst pollution recorded in California, including violations of the federal emergency air quality standard, "which is where you are not supposed to breathe." Cahill also stressed that Mono's dust problem will become much more severe as the lake level drops.

Water and Energy Panel

The water and energy panel, chaired by economist Charles Phelps of the Rand Corp., traced some of the hypothetical consequences of reducing Mono Basin diversions on water and energy supplies statewide. The discussion centered on alternative supplies, and scarcely mentioned the conservation recommendations of the Interagency Task Force.

According to DWP's Duane Georgeson and Metropolitan Water District's James Krieger, reducing Mono diversions would leave Los Angeles with only one option: purchasing more expensive replacement water from the MWD. Both questioned whether replacement water will always be available in light of the growth of Southern California's population and the uncertainty of State Water Project and Colorado River supplies. Georgeson felt that wastewater reclamation offered limited prospects until health standards had been determined. Conservation he decried as impractical because people will only conserve voluntarily in emergency (drought) situations.

Considerable discussion focused on the potential for reducing L.A. water consumption through increasing the cost of water. Zach Willey, economist with the Environmental Defense Fund, ventured that it would require a 50 percent increase in the cost of water to achieve a 17 percent decrease in water usage (L.A. derives an average of 17 percent of its water from the Mono Basin). He added, however, that such an increase is probably not politically feasible.

In contrast to DWP's Georgeson, Willey argued that there are "environmentally acceptable solutions that do not require draconian choices between Mono Lake and San Francisco Bay." For example, approximately a quarter million acre-feet per year of reclamation water is available for non-drinking purposes such as golf courses and cemetery irrigation in Orange and Los Angeles counties alone. Another 400,000 acre-feet per year could be freed for urban Southern California through MWD-financed conservation measures in the Imperial Valley. "There are choices with minimal environmental consequences," Willey concluded. "It is only a question of funding their development."

The remainder of the panel discussion, which included Jan Paul Acton of Rand Corp. and Steven Kasower of the California Department of Water Resources, explored tangential issues, such as the priority of urban and agricultural water uses in light of the public trust doctrine.

Legal Panel

Clifford Lee, deputy attorney general for California, opened the legal session by discussing the California Supreme Court's Mono Lake public trust decision in relation to the state's statutory system for allocating water rights through the State Water Resources Control Board. In essence he viewed the public trust and the SWRCB as "two systems for protecting the uses of water," the former through the courts and the latter through a legislatively mandated agency. The Mono Lake decision strengthens the court's role by requiring the state to consider and, if feasible, protect public trust values of navigable waters (including recreation and ecology), and by permitting the review of previously granted water rights based on public trust considerations. Lee implied that the court's ruling was unnecessary, as the SWRCB already "issues water rights permits subject to the public interest . . . which genuinely includes consideration of in-stream values." He raised two problems with the decision: (1) the potential for wasteful duplication of efforts between the courts and the SWRCB and (2) the question of whether courts can alter permits and licenses without violating the due process of law clause in the U.S. Constitution.

An even more critical view was presented by Adolph Moskowitz, the attorney representing DWP in the Mono Lake litigation. He called the public trust decision "the sort of hybrid a mule is when you cross a mare with a jackass," stressing that it was "a very revolutionary change" that undermines the "certainty and permanence" of California's water permits and licenses. Moskowitz raised a number of rhetorical questions, such as: How can courts balance public trust values without objective standards? Is it desirable to have water rights perpetually subject to the threat of being challenged on the basis of the public trust? Should water rights be immune to modification without compensation? Underlying Moskowitz's rhetoric was the concept that water rights, once granted, should be set in stone regardless of the human or environmental consequences.

In contrast Harrison Dunning, professor of law at U.C. Davis, described the public trust decision as "part of a very broad shift in California water policy." He pointed out that since the mid-1960s there has been a shift from pro-development policies to a balancing of out-of-stream exports with in-stream protection. As examples Dunning cited the wild and scenic rivers system, strong water quality laws, fish and wildlife protection, state-mandated water conservation and the vigorous debate that accompanies every proposal for new water development. The public trust doctrine, he concluded, must not be viewed in isolation, but as a part of our society's evolving sensitivity toward our environment.

Tufa Monsters Invade



Tufa monsters confronted Star Wars robot C3PO during the filming of a Kellogg's cereal commercial at South Tufa this spring. Forty-five technicians, special effects artists, actors and other workmen descended on the lake to film the commercial, which is currently airing on national television. The production, conducted under a special use permit, was closely supervised by state park personnel, and there was no damage to tufa. Still one may ask: is this appropriate use, or tufa exploitation?

Discovering Panum Crater

Panum Crater, Mono's most accessible volcano, is also one of its most interesting, for it is a classic example of a "plug dome" volcano.

To reach Panum, drive 3.2 miles east from U.S 395 on Hwy. 120 (the road to Benton). A small but conspicuous sign marks the 0.7-mile dirt road that leads to the crater.

A short, easy walk leads to the top of Panum Crater's circular pumice ring. The view is expansive. To the west rise the precipitous Sierra Nevada, uplifted by three and one-half million years of faulting. Extensive glacial moraines are conspicuous at the mouths of Sierran canyons.

Panum's pumice ring was formed by explosive eruptions only 640 years ago. Ash was blown as far away as Kings Canyon National Park. Following the formation of the ring, thick, pasty lava rose out of the volcano's throat like toothpaste from a tube, plugging its vent. This jagged plug dome contains large amounts of obsidian (volcanic glass), which forms when lava cools rapidly. Obsidian was fashioned into arrowheads by the region's Indian inhabitants.

Panum Crater is the northernmost volcano in the Monoaters. Twenty volcanic domes rise 2,600 feet above the surrounding plains. Were they not dwarfed by the Sierra Nevada they would be much better known, not only for their height, but for their symmetrical shapes and jagged

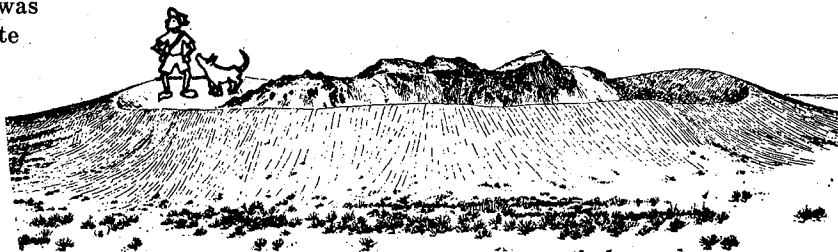
Earth Walkers Bless Lake

They are walking 3,800 miles across the United States to show that people still care about the health of the land, global peace and Native American rights. On April 20, 31 "earth walkers" descended from Conway Summit to Mono's shores. Ranging in age from eight to 67 years, they had already trekked over 300 miles to bring their message of hope to the lake.

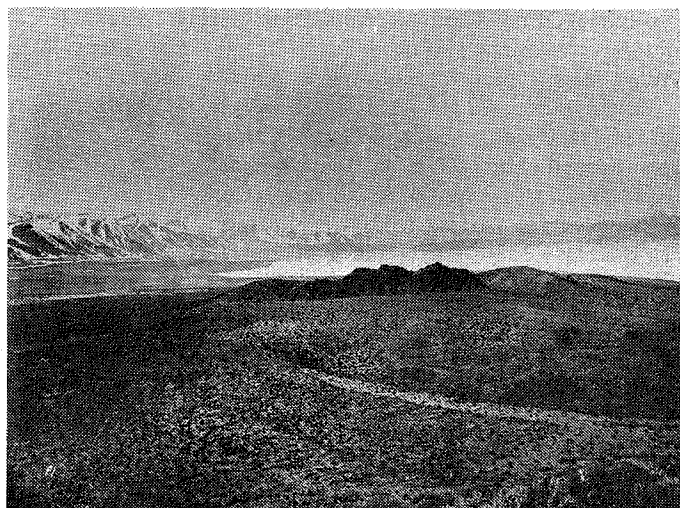
The *Walk for the Earth*, organized by the Native Culture and Ecological Resource Foundation, is "a grassroots display of support for environmental protection, global security and earth awareness." The seven-month trek will take walkers through many "sacred and threatened" places, such as Mono Lake, the Four Corners region and the Black Hills.

"You have people worrying about making \$100,000," explained spokesperson Rosie White, "but unless you do something about the nuclear arms race and land use issues, there will be nothing left."

The walkers followed Mono's shore from Lee Vining to the South Tufa Grove, bringing blessings to the lake and its tributary streams. Then they departed into the Nevada desert and a siege of unseasonably wintry weather. Eventually they will wend their way east through Arizona, Colorado and 12 other states, arriving in Washington, D.C. on Oct. 27.



lava flows. They have erupted in recent centuries and may do so again in our lifetimes.



Timothy O'Sullivan's 1868 photograph of Panum Crater. This photograph, taken during a government survey, is the earliest known of Mono Lake. Subsequently the foreground has been scarred by pumice quarries, and mining threatens the crater itself.

Courtesy of Bancroft Library

MONO NATURALIST: *Where Have the Algae Gone?*

It's the end of April, and the first desert peach blooms are perfuming the air. Catkins have appeared on the aspens. Squirrels are scampering over the tufas. House wrens are babbling welcomes to spring. As in years past, the same recurrent events proclaim the changing seasons.

Yet each year is also unique. This March Mono's waters, usually green with algae, were exceptionally clear. Scientists suspect that the lake, which is stratified into warm surface and cold deep layers during summer, did not thoroughly mix during the fall and winter. Usually frosty autumn weather chills Mono's surface water until it is colder than the deep water; the cold surface water sinks, and the lake mixes from top to bottom. This "turnover" brings nutrients to the surface and fertilizes the algae. This year, however, the turnover may not have occurred, inhibiting algal growth and keeping the lake water relatively clear.

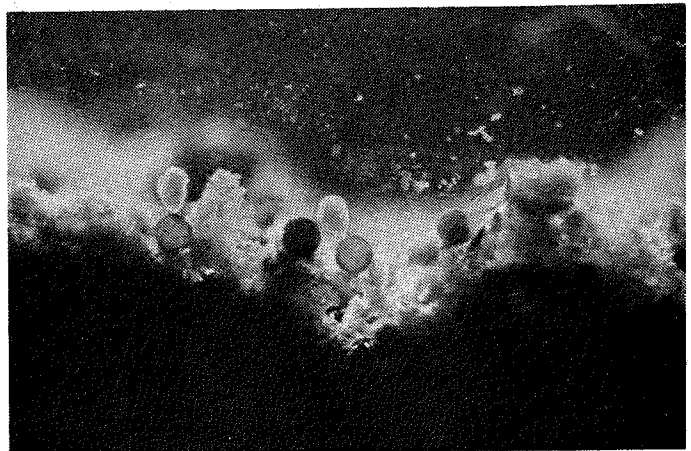
What might have prevented Mono's water from mixing? Speculation focuses on the effect of large freshwater flows released into the lake from upstream reservoirs during the fall and winter. This inflow may have formed a cold but relatively fresh layer above the lake's denser and warmer salty water.

Whatever the cause, Mono was not its pea-soup green self this winter. As a result, the algae-feeding brine shrimp may face food shortages later this year.

Early signs, however, indicate a good shrimp hatch. During March and April, microscopic nauplii escaped from overwintering eggs on the lake bottom, and swarmed to the surface. Grazing on the lake's algae, the nauplii are growing steadily in the gradually warming water. By the summer solstice, they will have fattened into half-inch adults and

begun producing a second, summer generation.

Meanwhile, by the end of April, gulls had already begun laying eggs on the islets northeast of Negit and west of Paoha islands.



Larry Ford

A brine shrimp nauplius, looking like an inflated sack, emerges from its egg on the bottom of the lake. The sack, apparently filled with air, buoys the nauplius to Mono's surface.

Spring Mono Lake Bird Count

The spring Mono Lake bird count is scheduled for Wednesday, June 13. We will be censusing all birds within a 15-mile diameter area centered along Mono Lake's western shore. The count ranges from 6,380 feet at the lake to 12,327 at the summit of Mt. Warren. Call us in Lee Vining at (619) 647-6386 if you would like to help.

Letters

In the last issue of the newsletter it states that the National Scenic Area will protect the Mono Basin from "geothermal development, timber harvesting, expanded mining operations and other forms of industrial intrusion." What does it allow a landowner to do with his land?

My sisters and I inherited 334 acres on the southeast side of the lake. We leased it to Getty Oil for one year for geothermal exploration, but they did not drill. It has been used for 25 years by the Mono Sheep Co. for grazing.

There is interesting history connected with this property. In the early 1930s a group of men from Los Angeles tested the soil and found it excellent for raising sugar beets. They patented several hundred acres from the U.S. government and formed a corporation called the Rush Creek Mutual Ditch Corp. My granduncle was one of these men. Then they dug a ditch from their land toward Rush Creek. I don't know whether it was ever completed, but I found and walked part of it which is still very apparent. Then Los Angeles came along and grabbed the Rush Creek water. My uncle and friends sued, but received nothing. I can remember his saying that if they had enough money to take it to the Supreme Court, they would have won.

Now I would like to find out what's left that we can do with our land.

The National Scenic Area legislation only restricts activities that are clearly detrimental to the scenery or ecology of the Mono Lake area. Geothermal development, for instance, with its attendant industrial structures, power lines, roads, noise and air pollution, is prohibited. Existing grazing activities, however, may continue.

I would like to thank all of the hardworking people in the Mono Lake Committee for their dedicated efforts to save Mono Lake. I will continue to support you, but am very unsure of the National Forest Scenic Area compromise. I think it better to accept *no bill at all* or go for a national wildlife refuge. Once a bill is passed for a scenic area the chances of ever having a national wildlife refuge, national monument or national park will diminish to almost zero.

The Mono Lake Committee supports the Scenic Area compromise because (1) it will protect the scenic values of 67,000 acres around Mono Lake from geothermal development, new mining operations, timber sales and other threats, (2) it will attract thousands of additional visitors as well as magazine and film media, thus spreading the word about Mono's beauty and plight, and (3) it was the best legislation we could get through the current Congress.

MLC News and Activities

Ed Grosswiler Resigns as Executive Director

After two eminently successful years in Los Angeles, Ed Grosswiler has relinquished leadership of the Mono Lake Committee to seek less smoggy pastures in Oregon. During Ed's tenure as executive director, the California Supreme Court handed down the highly favorable "public trust" ruling, the Mono Scenic Area bill passed the House of Representatives, national media focused on Mono's plight, MLC's membership nearly doubled, and the lake rose nine feet! While Ed cannot take credit for all these developments, his able and inspiring leadership dramatically strengthened our organization and increased our chances of saving the lake. He leaves behind a healthy MLC with a capable and dedicated staff. While it will be difficult to fill Ed's shoes, his departure will not diminish our effectiveness.

While we are searching for a new executive director, MLC will be in the very capable hands of associate director Martha Davis. Since joining our staff as legislative representative, Martha has done an outstanding job of communicating our concerns to legislators and government officials, and contributing to the organization of the UCLA conference. In her expanded role as associate director, she will continue to assist our new executive director in developing and implementing strategy, and in administration.

Currently we are seeking executive director candidates, and plan to interview promising applicants by the end of June (see box).

Staff Hellos

Kim Kovacs, a 1983 graduate of UCLA, has joined our Los Angeles office as our new development director. Kim has previously worked as an intern to an Oregon congressman and a legal aide. She will be focusing on membership development, grant proposals and other fund-raising activities.

Ilene Mandelbaum, our new information officer, has migrated to Lee Vining from California's north coast, where she worked on watershed rehabilitation and wildlife habitat management. She has many years experience as an environmental activist and grassroots organizer, including the founding of the *Group for Organic Alternatives to Toxic Sprays (GOATS)*. We are indeed fortunate to have her join our staff.

A notable bonus came with Ilene: her husband Steve "Cedar" Barager, who is interning at our Lee Vining information center. Cedar and co-intern Jerry Lunsford have been crucial to our efforts to get the center in shape for the summer. They have been building shelves and rehabilitating displays while talking to the waxing flow of tourists. Jerry, in particular, did a miraculous job of converting a storeroom into a photographic darkroom, and took many of the pictures in this newsletter.

Interpretive Staff Expanded

This summer a new staffer and three additional interns will enable us to offer a full range of interpretive programs. Ex-intern Katie Quinlan returns for the summer to fill the post of "interpretive coordinator." An outstanding naturalist and teacher with many years experience in environmental education, Katie is ideally qualified. She will be coordinating and expanding our efforts to communicate Mono's values and plight to the lake's thousands of visitors. Assisting Katie will be a flock of five full-time interns and frequent volunteers. If you would like to help as an unpaid volunteer, please call us in Lee Vining.

Ano Nuevo Tours Successful

Open letter to Mildred Bennett by MLC board member Grace de Laet:

Congratulations on a super-fine Ano Nuevo tour for Mono Lake! Your diligence and hard work paid off handsomely, and thanks are in order. It is great to learn you were hopeful of raising \$750, but realized \$863! Both Rick and I were very impressed with the way in which you conducted the trips. Everyone thoroughly enjoyed themselves and learned about Mono Lake as well as elephant seals!

MLC Seeks Executive Director

RESPONSIBILITIES: The executive director has responsibility for implementing policy and strategy, directing staff and interns, and managing finances. Together with the board of directors, the executive director develops policy. Other responsibilities include building political support and ties in Los Angeles, working with the legal team, lobbying in Sacramento and Washington, D.C., developing relationships with news media, and building grassroots support.

QUALIFICATIONS. The successful candidate will have at least five years experience in administration and management of personnel and finances, a familiarity with environmental issues and politics, background in working with the news media, and an overall capability of managing an organization which relies entirely on merchandise sales, membership dues, donations and special events for its funding.

CONDITIONS. Salary range is \$24,000-\$28,000. Fringe benefits include two weeks vacation per year, health insurance and sick leave. The job demands extensive travel throughout California and occasionally to Washington, D.C.

APPLICATION PROCEDURE. Send a resume, including references and salary history, to: Search Committee, Mono Lake Committee, 1355 Westwood Blvd. #6, Los Angeles, CA 90024.

Summer Tours Expanded

This summer we are doubling the number of free tours we are offering Mono Lake's thousands of visitors. From June 9 through early September our capable interns will be leading tours at the South Tufa area (off Hwy. 120) every day at 10 a.m. and 1 p.m. In addition, they will also be conducting tours at the Mono Lake County Park on weekends at 10 a.m. and 1 p.m.

The tours introduce visitors to the geology, biology and human history of the Mono Lake area, and the threats to the lake's aesthetic and ecological values. We strive to present both sides of the controversy, explaining the value of the Mono Basin diversions to Los Angeles, but also examining water conservation and other alternatives. Mostly we let the lake's beauty speak for itself!

Guided Group Field Trips

This summer, thanks to our expanded intern program, we are able to offer free half-day field trips to organized groups. Here is the opportunity to introduce your Audubon chapter, church group, school class or neighborhood gang to Mono's wonders. Led by knowledgeable naturalists, the trips will focus on everything from tufa and volcanoes to birds and brine shrimp. Or the itinerary can be tailored to your group's specific interests or needs. For example, we can cater to a younger audience, emphasize geology, or spend extra time birdwatching.

The group field trips are limited to parties of 15 to 30 people. Arrangements must be made at least two weeks in advance. For more information, please contact our Lee Vining office at P.O. Box 29, Lee Vining, CA 93541; (619) 647-6386.

Another Membership Appeal

This spring we sent appeals to about 45,000 members of Greenpeace, Natural Resources Defense Council, World Wildlife Fund and Defenders of Wildlife as well as lapsed MLC'ers. The appeal included a letter, Mono Lake brochure and remittance envelope.

The mailing was successful, generating approximately 700 new members and raising over \$6,000 in net income. We have found no more effective way to increase our membership—and hence our political strength.

We regret that these mailings reach some people who are already MLC members. The cost of purging lists of MLC'ers is prohibitively high. We trust you'll understand, and pass the information on to a friend.

Can We Trade Your Name?

To obtain names for our membership appeals, we trade our mailing list with other environmental organizations. Most groups will trade on a one-for-one basis. If you do not wish your name traded, however, just let our Mono Lake office know as soon as possible. The right-hand digit on your mailing label code will be change to a "10," and your name and address will be excluded from the lists we trade. If you have already requested that your name not be traded, please check your name label to be sure the right digit is a "10."

Fifth L.A.-Mono Bikeathon

Cyclists young and old, beginner and expert are invited to join our fifth annual Los Angeles-to-Mono Lake Bikeathon.

The six-day, 350-mile ride departs from downtown Los Angeles on Aug. 27. Cyclists carry water from DWP's downtown reflecting pool back to its natural destination—Mono Lake. On Sept. 1, the wheeled monophiles swoop down to Mono's shores, joining bucket walkers in watery celebration of the lake's right to life.

The bikeathoners also raise funds by securing pledges for each mile cycled. Back in 1980, the first bikeathon attracted 10 cyclists and raised approximately \$5,000. Last year 51 riders raised over \$19,000. Our Los Angeles press conference was covered by four L.A. television stations and the Associated Press.

If you would like to join the 1984 bikeathon, contact Steve Osgood at our Los Angeles office as soon as possible (1355 Westwood Blvd., Suite 6, Los Angeles, CA 90024; (213) 477-5754 or 477-8229). The 350-mile ride is not as grueling as it sounds. We average 60-80 miles per day, and "sag wagons" carry all our supplies. This year prizes will be awarded to the cyclists whose pledges bring in the most money to save Mono Lake. Get in touch soon, as we can accommodate no more than 100 riders. Registration deadline is Aug. 10.

Or join us as a sag wagon driver! We still need drivers with vans or trucks to carry gear, refreshments and other amenities.

Business Office Migrates to Sacramento

MLC's business office has moved to Sacramento. Our excellent business manager, Marna Ikenberry, could no longer afford L.A. rents, and we could not afford to lose her services. In addition to keeping our finances in order, Marna is a lucid, knowledgeable spokesperson on behalf of our cause.

More Mono Wares

The sale of T-shirts, posters and other Mono memorabilia helps spread the word and raise funds for saving the lake. This summer we are stocking our Mono Lake Information Center with a variety of new items, including window decals, bandanas, visors, children's hats, stationery, porcelain mugs, salt and pepper shakers, napkin rings, gull mobiles and more! In addition we will have a new color poster and additional T-shirt and cap styles. There will be more books, including an expanded children's section, as well as star charts, maps and posters.

Flowering Plants Needed!

Help us beautify our Mono Lake Information Center by donating flowering plants for transplanting into our plan boxes. Especially suitable are petunias, calendulas, sweet williams, nasturtiums, allysum, zinnias and other summer-blooming annuals. Bring them along when you visit the lake.

Accolades

Many volunteers have helped us ready the Mono Lake Information Center for the summer season. Bob McCone of Mountain Multi-Media in June Lake helped us tape an updated narration for our slide show. Bill Dakin and Rob Felman stopped by to sand and varnish our new display table. Better Business Machines in Bishop cleaned our cash register for free, and Rosanne Higley transported it down and back. Thanks to Leon Mandelbaum of Mandee Shops in New Jersey for donating two manikins for our T-shirt displays, and to Minaret Gallery in Mammoth Lakes for matting and framing without cost our aerial Mono Lake poster.

The information center's slide show is better than ever, thanks to the generous donation of a superb dissolve unit by Marin photographer Ian Tait. Donations of enlargers and darkroom equipment by Harold Swanton and Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Keller have enabled us to add an excellent and useful darkroom.

Over the years the Fresno Audubon Society has been among the lake's staunchest supporters. We are honored to be the recipient of the proceeds from their 1983 Christmas auction.

Our deepest gratitude to Mrs. Palm Stout, who continues to send us generous donations each month. In addition, Mrs. Stout has furnished a canoe to replace the one that was stolen last summer.

ALASKA, HERE WE COME!

You are invited to join fellow MLC members on an exciting cruise from San Francisco to southeast Alaska and Glacier Bay in June of 1985. Not only will you pay a special low fare, but a substantial portion will be a tax-deductible donation to help save Mono Lake!

The new Sitmar liner *Fairsky* will sail from San Francisco on June 15, 1985 for an unforgettable 14-day cruise. Stops at eight ports will allow plenty of time for sight-seeing in Alaska and Canada.

By reserving space now, MLC members can obtain an additional saving for early reservation. Sitmar also has an air/sea program which includes flights from 136 cities around the country. For full details, send a self-addressed, stamped 4"-by-9½" envelope

ALASKA IN '85
c/o Mildred Bennett
2719 Marin Ave.
Berkeley, CA 94708

New Boardwalk

The Mono Lake Tufa State Reserve has installed a 200-yard redwood boardwalk below the Mono Lake County Park on the lake's north shore. The boardwalk crosses a marshy meadow to a group of large tufa towers. It allows visitors, even those in wheelchairs, to reach the tufa without trampling the meadow. The boardwalk is the final project paid for by funds set aside by the state legislature when it established the reserve two years ago.

Photo Workshops

Space is still available for all three of the photo workshops being conducted by professional photographer Larry Ford June 29 to July 1, Aug. 10-12, and Oct. 5-7. The workshops include lectures, slide shows, sunrise and sunset sessions, and trips to photogenic localities off the beaten track.

To enroll, send \$60 (payable to *Tahoe Sierra State Parks Association*) to: Mono Lake Tufa State Reserve, P.O. Box 99, Lee Vining, CA 93541.

Memorial Contribution

We are honored to receive a contribution in memory of Vida Killian Barnes from Delia Barnes Taylor.

July 4 Fireworks Cruise on SF Bay

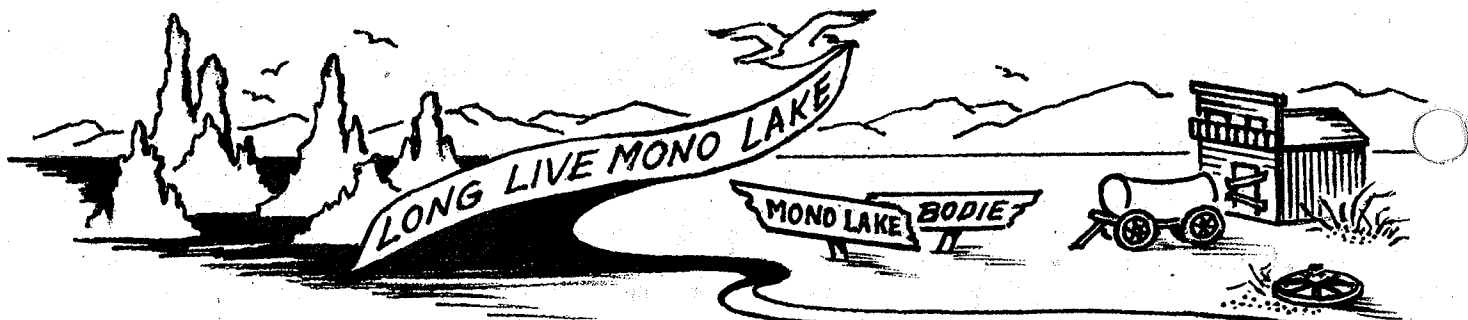
Again this year Mildred Bennett has organized a gala Fourth of July cruise and dinner on San Francisco Bay. Last year all 65 spaces sold out early, so make reservations today! Proceeds will help save Mono Lake.

We will depart aboard the beautiful 75-foot sports yacht *Argo* from St. Francis Yacht Club in San Francisco at 3:30 p.m. As we cruise about the bay, a naturalist will point out the sights and tell us about the birds and animals of the bay. After a sumptuous roast beef buffet supper, we will watch fireworks light up the sky over the bay, and dock at San Francisco about 10:30 p.m.

To reserve your space for this gala cruise send \$48 (by June 2) or \$51 (after June 2) with a self-addressed, stamped envelope to:

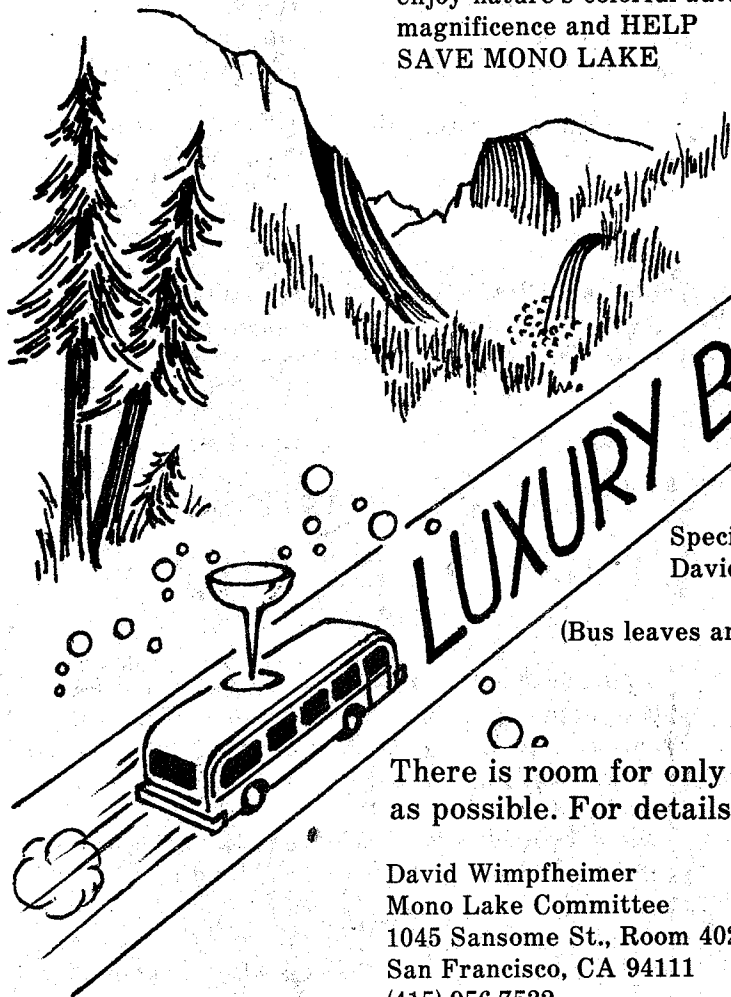
JULY 4 CRUISE
c/o Mildred Bennett
2719 Marin Ave.
Berkeley, CA 94708

Please make checks payable to the *Mono Lake Committee*. If you have questions, call Mildred at (415) 526-1260.



October 5-8, 1984

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SAVE MONO LAKE



LUXURY BUS TOUR TO MONO LAKE

Stay at the world-famous **AHWAHNEE**
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Deluxe guided tour of Mono Lake, visit to the
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Special evening slide program and Mono Lake update by
David Gaines, MLC founder and chairman

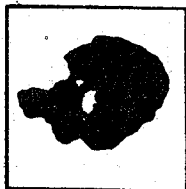
(Bus leaves and returns from San Francisco)

There is room for only 40 people, so reserve your space as soon
as possible. For details, write or call:

David Wimpfheimer
Mono Lake Committee
1045 Sansome St., Room 402
San Francisco, CA 94111
(415) 956-7532

Grace de Laet
MLC Board Member
37 Calhoun Terrace
San Francisco, CA 94133
(415) 398-6744

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