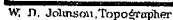


Vol. 6, No. 3

EIGHTH ANNUAL REPORT, 1887. PL. XXIX



I. C. Russell, Geologist.

Scale 1: 250 000.

Contour interval 200 feet - datum mean sea level

# THE MONO LAKE NEWSLETTER

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ON THE COVER. Relief map of ice-age Mono Lake and its tributary glaciers from Israel C. Russell's 19th-century monograph, *Quaternary History of the Mono Basin*. This is how the landscape looked 13,000 years ago, when glaciers descended to Mono's shores and icebergs probably drifted into present-day Nevada. The map, drawn by Willard D. Johnson long before the airplane simplified topographic cartography, is amazingly accurate and detailed. A century has passed since Russell's and Johnson's explorations, yet their work remains the outstanding study of Mono's geography and geology.

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*It is impossible to care for each other more or differently than we care for the earth.*

...Wendell Barry

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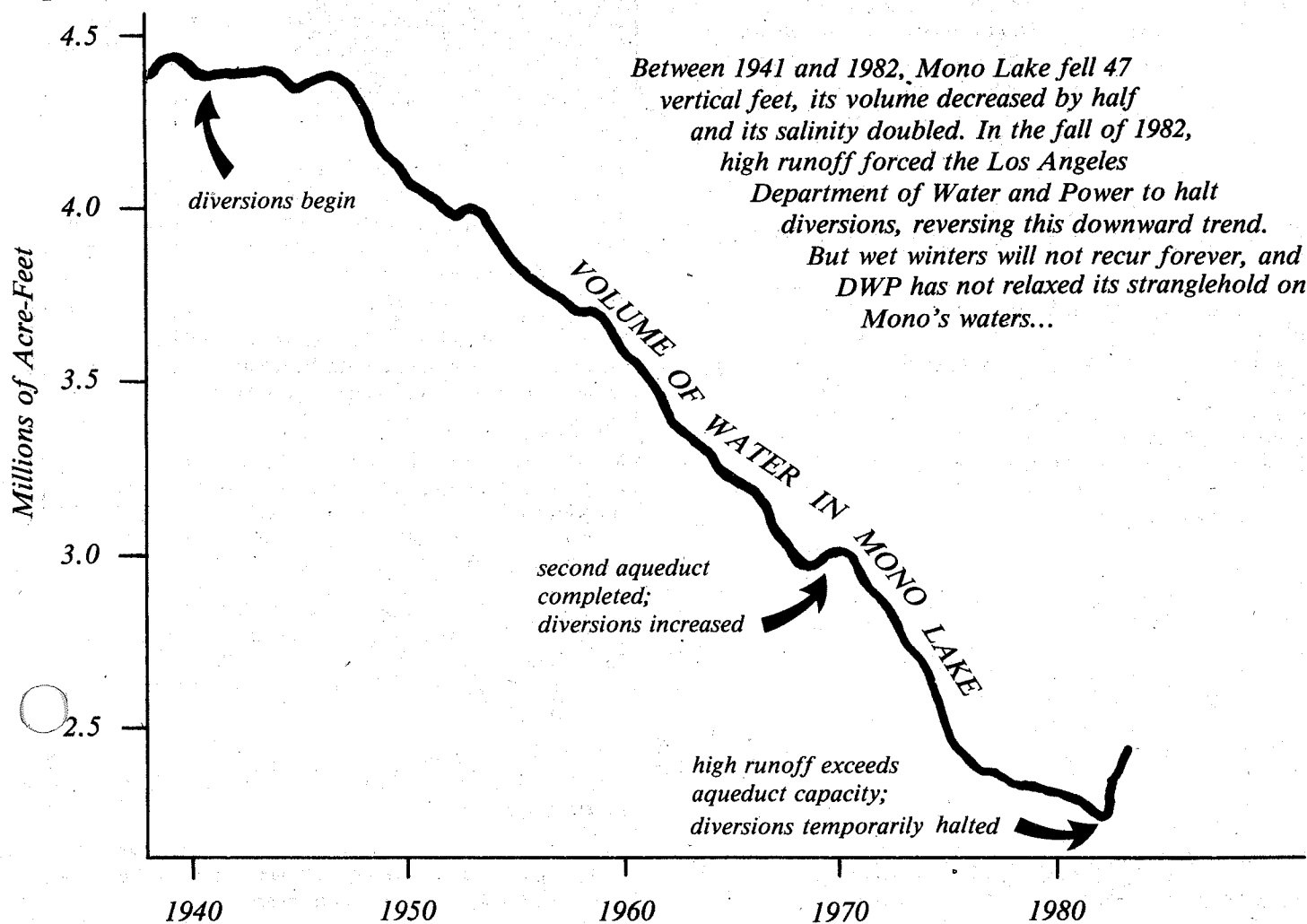
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# Mono Lake Watch



## Long Fight Ahead

The rain gods continue to bless Mono Lake with storm after storm. Precipitation to date is even higher than last year. There is more water than the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (DWP) knows what to do with.

Not that DWP isn't doing its best. It would like to shunt every drop from Mono's tributary streams through its lucrative power plants. But with aqueducts and reservoirs filled to capacity, it has no choice but to let the runoff replenish the lake.

For the past 16 months, DWP has been unable to divert any water from the Mono Basin. The lake has risen to 6,379.5 feet, its July 1975 elevation. It is now eight feet above its low ebb of January 1982, and less than 10 feet below the stabilization elevation advocated by the Interagency Task Force.

The rising water is a welcome reprieve, but will not save the lake. Wet winters will not recur indefinitely. Los Angeles must agree, as the California Supreme Court decreed last February, to "a better balance" between its water-gathering activities and the public interest in preserving "an economic, recreational and scenic resource."

Yet DWP continues to battle for what it considers sacrosanct "property rights" to Mono Basin water, appealing the California high court's public trust decision to the U.S. Supreme Court. It has ignored a Nov. 10 *Los Angeles Times* editorial on "water and the public trust," which urges "good-faith negotiations" to prevent "unacceptable damage" to the environment of Owens Valley, Mono Lake and the Eastern Sierra. On the contrary, DWP, joined by the California Association

of Water Agencies and other no-holds-barred development interests, is using every legal maneuver at its disposal to defend its alleged right to destroy Mono Lake. It looks like a long, expensive and bitter fight ahead.

At issue is not just an ancient lake, but a sustainable, nurturing relationship with our mother earth. We must alter a perception of land that is short-sighted and ultimately suicidal. We must "change the role of *Homo sapiens* from conqueror of the land-community to plain member and citizen of it" (Aldo Leopold). For it is our living planet, not anthropomorphic "property rights," that must be regarded as sacred if our children are to prosper.

Thankfully, the U.S. Supreme Court rejected DWP's appeal, leaving the "public trust" a potent defense for places like Mono Lake. But lawsuits and legislation will be valueless if we fail to foster—among our neighbors, children and ourselves—a reverence for life and the natural world of which we are part.

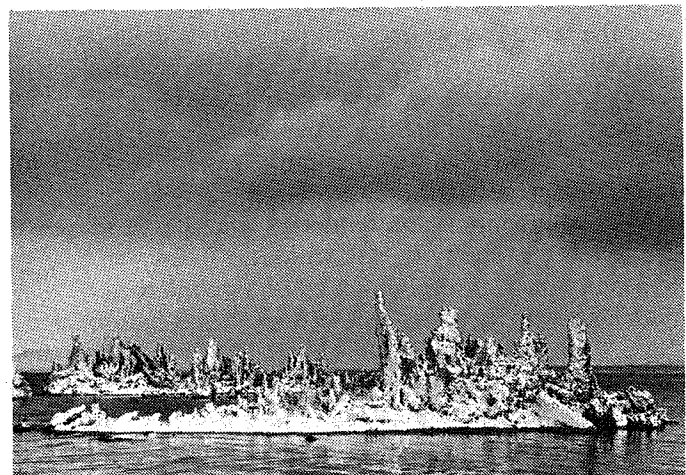
On behalf of life everywhere, we thank you for your faith in our efforts, and wish everyone a joyful, fulfilling and peaceful 1984!

# Mono In The Media

Mono Lake received front page coverage in most California newspapers in November, when the U.S. Supreme Court refused to review the public trust decision. This also prompted a favorable round of editorials. The Nov. 11 *San Diego Tribune*, for instance, in an editorial titled "Restore Mono Lake and Owens Valley," opined that the preservation of the Eastern Sierran environment is worth the additional expense to the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power. Even in Southern California, the tide seems to be turning in Mono's favor.

The *New York Times News* service carried a short but informative article that called Mono Lake "an ecological wonder."

Further afield, Mono Lake ranked an entire page in the *St. Gallen Tagblatt*, a major Swiss newspaper.



Larry Ford

## 1983 In Review

FEBRUARY 3. Senators Dills, Ayala and Roberti introduce S.B. 270, a blatant attempt by DWP to exempt water purveyors from air quality laws and evade responsibility for Owens-Mono dust storms; opposition from MLC and others results in compromise requiring DWP to mitigate dust, but protecting its water-gathering activities.

FEBRUARY 8. Congressman Richard Lehman (D-Sanger) introduces H.R. 1341 to create Mono Lake National Monument; among 19 co-sponsors is Congressman Norman Shumway (R-Stockton), who had pressed for similar legislation in last Congress.

FEBRUARY 17. The California Supreme Court, calling Mono Lake a "scenic and ecological treasure of national significance," rules that the lake's defenders can "rely on the public trust doctrine in seeking reconsideration of the allocation of the waters of the Mono Basin."

MARCH 3. Assemblyman Norman Waters and 18 co-sponsors introduce A.B. 1614 to fund Mono Lake research; the bill, supported by both MLC and Los Angeles, passes State Assembly 65-10 on Aug. 31; it is pending in Senate Natural Resources and Wildlife Committee.

MARCH 29. House Subcommittee on Public Land and National Parks conducts field hearing in Lee Vining on H.R. 1341, Lehman's national monument bill; the monument receives broad support, but is attacked by DWP as a threat to its water rights.

APRIL. Mono's rising water covers land bridge around Negit Island; by year's end, lake rises to 6,379.5 feet, eight feet above its low ebb of January 1982.

MAY-JUNE. Spring brine shrimp numbers are 50 percent higher than in 1981-82, though still well below 1977 densities; brine flies seem more numerous as well.

JUNE 2. Lehman's national monument bill runs into powerful opposition from Deukmejian, Wilson and Reagan administration at Washington, D.C. hearing; a compromise Mono Basin National Forest Scenic Area, acceptable to L.A., passes House July 18; Senator Wilson joins Senator Cranston in requesting Senate hearings early in 1984.

JULY 1. We ask federal court for injunction to maintain Mono Lake at or above 6,378 feet through at least August 1984; DWP and state of California file motions to return case to state court, delaying proceedings; at year's end, court has yet to rule.

JULY 11. The annual census of Mono's California gull colonies estimates 16,300 chicks, three times last year's total, but less than half of the 35,800 estimated in 1976; gulls fail to nest on Negit, possibly due to marooned coyotes.

AUGUST 22. DWP appeals California Supreme Court's public trust decision to U.S. Supreme Court; on Nov. 10, the high court decides to let ruling stand.

JULY-NOVEMBER. Phalaropes, grebes and other migratory birds return in high numbers, thriving on copious shrimp.

# DWP Loses Appeal

The legal battle to save Mono Lake advanced Nov. 7, when the U.S. Supreme Court let stand the California high court's public trust decision.

Last February the California Supreme Court ruled that the public trust obligates the state to protect places like Mono Lake "as far as feasible," even if this means reducing or changing past water allocations. In an eloquent landmark opinion, the justices decreed that "the human and environmental uses of Mono Lake—uses protected by the public trust doctrine—deserve to be taken into account. Such uses should not be destroyed because the state mistakenly thought itself powerless to protect them."

In September, the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power urged the U.S. Supreme Court to review the state court's decision, which it called a "radical" ruling that will have "tremendous economic, human and environmental impacts." DWP contended that the state court in effect had deprived Los Angeles of property rights under the U.S. Constitution by calling into doubt water permits the city had obtained over 40 years ago.

The U.S. high court rejected DWP's appeal without comment or recorded dissent.

The Reagan administration opposed DWP's appeal, but criticized the public trust ruling as "a significant and unwelcome development in the contours of California water law." Justice Department lawyers told the Supreme Court justices that they should "defer to the courts of California on questions of water law that affect only California water users."

The public trust decision has been widely hailed as a crucial advance in California water law. In a Nov. 9 editorial, for instance, the *Riverside Enterprise* opined that the "ruling may force a fundamental reinterpretation of state water law. As it gives added weight to the *public trust*—not dominant weight, but a fair consideration—it is likely to better serve the public good."

## Lawsuit: Still on Hold

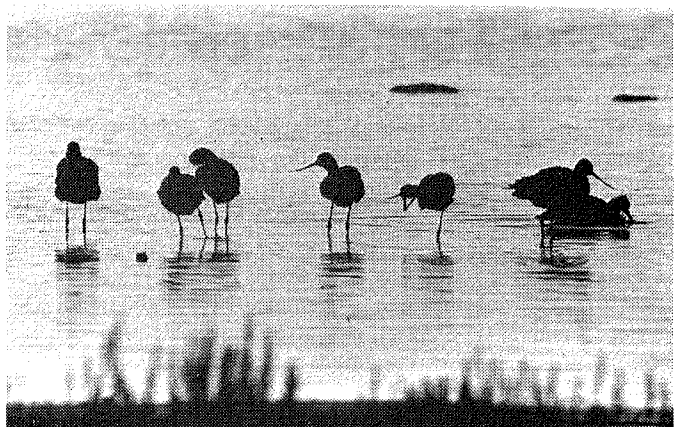
Should the Audubon Society-Mono Lake Committee-Friends of the Earth public trust lawsuit be tried in state or federal court? Should diversions be enjoined to maintain Mono Lake above 6,378 feet while the case is pending? After six months, Federal Superior Court Judge Lawrence Karlton is still grappling with these difficult questions.

Last summer the state of California joined the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power in arguing that the case belongs in state court. We contended it should remain in federal court where it could proceed expeditiously to trial. The issue, which is legally complex, could go either way.

About the same time, we petitioned Judge Karlton for a preliminary injunction to stabilize the lake at a level of 6,378 feet through Aug. 1 of this year.\* Karlton will probably not rule on the injunction until the jurisdictional issue is settled.

A decision is expected any day.

Thanks to another wet winter, Mono Lake is virtually certain to remain above 6,378 feet through next summer even if an injunction is not issued and DWP does not reduce diversions. Nevertheless an injunction would recognize the importance of preserving Mono's public trust values prior to trial.



Larry Ford

## Water Rights Rulings Put Teeth In State's Public Trust Doctrine

STEPHEN GREEN

condensed from the Nov. 20 *Sacramento Bee*

Water rights, the focus of California political fights for more than a century, have suddenly become less sacrosanct as a result of recent court decisions.

The ruling grew out of the continuing legal battle over diversion of streams flowing to Mono Lake. And attorneys for both sides agree a dramatic new legal framework for deciding water rights cases has emerged.

The change involves not only historic rights, but new considerations before any dam or water diversion project is built. It puts new teeth in the state's public trust doctrine, which defines its obligation to protect lakes, rivers and streams.

"Water rights holders don't have something inviolable anymore," said Anne Schneider, a Sacramento attorney who represents the Association of California Water Agencies.

"The ruling obviously strengthens the hand of those who want to preserve the natural water values for recreation and fishery use," added Evan Nossoff of the California Water Resources Control Board.

The change comes "decades late," contended Palmer Madden, the San Francisco attorney who represents the National Audubon Society, Mono Lake Committee and other plaintiffs. "California water law was still back in the 19th century. What is evolving—and it's a process that will be going on for years—is a new legal tool for the courts and the public to protect water resources . . . from unreasonable exploitation."

"Many water permits were issued at a time when water supplies seemed unlimited. Only in this century have we realized the resource is limited and the value started increasing dramatically. But the law has had no vehicle to address the change, nothing to protect in-stream water resources."

Tom Graff of the Environmental Defense Fund, a non-profit conservation advocacy group, called the change a "principle that may some day apply to groundwater basins, air sheds, wilderness and soil erosion."

That's far in the future, he acknowledged. But for now, conservationists have a new hole card in water development issues involving areas as vast as the Delta and as small as a one-farmer hydroelectric project. It's sure to be an issue in efforts to put more dams on rivers, and there could be challenges to the way entire irrigation districts use water.

# Mono Scenic Area Advances in Senate

U.S. Senator Pete Wilson has joined Alan Cranston in asking the Senate Parks Subcommittee on Energy and Natural Resources for an early hearing on H.R. 1341, the "Mono Basin National Forest Scenic Area" bill passes unanimously by the House last July 18.

"Both senators are adding tremendous momentum to the effort to preserve Mono Lake," commented Congressman Richard Lehman (D-Sanger), author of the legislation. "Their request for an early hearing date is a strong indication that the Senate will act quickly."

While a hearing date has not yet been set, Wilson's support virtually assures H.R. 1341 of Senate passage. Wilson opposed Lehman's original national monument legislation, but is backing the scenic area compromise.

The original monument bill generated opposition from Los Angeles, California Governor George Deukmejian, Wilson and the Reagan administration on the grounds it weakened L.A.'s

position in the Mono Lake lawsuit. The compromise change the designation from Mono Lake National Monument to Mono Basin National Forest Scenic Area, deletes an L.A. water use study, adds language clarifying that water rights are unaffected, and creates a local advisory panel.

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 Sierran 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 the development of campgrounds, trails and interpretive facilities.

*Thanks to everyone who wrote to Senator Wilson on behalf of the scenic area. Your letters made the difference!*

## News from Sacramento

MARTHA DAVIS  
MLC Legislative Representative

Having been on the job for three months, I am pleased to report that the Sacramento office is settled happily into its new location, and is preparing for the rapidly approaching start of the 1984 legislative session.

For those who do not know that the office has moved, we are now located at 1228 N. St., #35, Sacramento, CA 95814; (916) 448-1045. One of the many benefits is that we share office space with the Planning and Conservation League, and will have the opportunity to work closely with the league as well as with the Sierra Club and Friends of the River (also located in the same building). I welcome visits from all Mono Lake friends.

I spent the early weeks of November getting the office organized and educating myself on the issues. In the remaining time I have begun laying the groundwork for the committee's upcoming political work in Sacramento.

Two events are worthy of note. In November I attended a two-day environmental symposium sponsored by the Planning and Conservation League in which legislative priorities for 1984 were discussed. Both water and wildlife protection groups listed the Mono Lake Committee's research bill (A.B. 1614, carried by Assemblyman Norman Waters) as a legislative priority. In December MLC Executive Director Ed Grosswiler joined me in making courtesy calls on David Kennedy, director of the Department of Water Resources, and Gordon Duffy, Secretary of Environmental Affairs for the state. Both expressed strong interest in MLC's research bill and our efforts to save Mono Lake.

A.B. 1614 will be the focus of our legislative efforts at the state level. Approved by the Assembly at the end of the 1983 legislative session, the bill has been assigned to the Senate Natural Resources and Wildlife Committee. A hearing date has not yet been set.

## Water and the Legislature 1983

The California Legislature enacted two water conservation bills in 1983. A.B. 797 by Assemblyman Klehs (D-Alameda) requires urban water districts to prepare water conservation plans. This law does not actually require water conservation, nor does it address agricultural water use, which consumes 85 percent of the state's developed supply. Still it is a step in right direction.

A.B. 2135, carried by Assemblyman Peace (D-Chula Vista), requires the installation of water conserving faucets in all public restrooms beginning in 1985. This will save thousands of acre-feet of water and millions of kilowatt-hours of energy over the coming years.

The legislature also passed a bill that would have recovered administrative costs for applicants for new water rights, but it was vetoed by Governor Deukmejian at the behest of the Farm Bureau.

Regarding the State Water Project, there was much talk but little action. Early this year the Department of Water Resources is expected to unveil another plan. Will it be the "son of the Peripheral Canal"? Or will it move toward water conservation and reclamation as viable alternatives to the destruction of our remaining lakes, rivers and wetlands?

## ENDANGERED SPECIES

For the first time California residents have the opportunity to give money directly to the protection of the state's rare and endangered species. All you have to do is mark the check-off box on your 1983 income tax return. The money will go to a special fund reserved solely for the conservation and enhancement of California's rare and endangered species. years of budget cuts in these protection programs, your contribution will make a tremendous difference in the state's ability to protect its dwindling wildlife population.



## UCLA Mono Lake Conference

*Mono Lake: Looking Beyond the Supreme Court Decision* is the subject of a two-day conference at the University of California at Los Angeles March 30-31. The conference will bring together environmentalists, water purveyors, legal analysts and experts on water and energy issues in a series of panels, workshops and discussions. The goal is to establish meaningful dialogues, define the issues and develop strategies that could lead to a resolution of the Mono Lake controversy outside the courtroom.

Among the participants will be: David Kennedy, director of the California Department of Water Resources; Clifford Lee, California Deputy Attorney General, Environmental Division; Charles Phelps, senior research economist, Rand Corp.; Duane Georgeson, chief engineer, Los Angeles Department of Water and Power; Ed Grosswiler, executive director, Mono Lake Committee.

The UCLA conference is sponsored by the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power and the Mono Lake Committee.

For further information, please contact: Lily Knutson, UCLA Extension, Public Policy Program, 10995 Le Conte Ave., Room 711, Los Angeles, CA 90024; (213) 825-7886. We have been advised that there will be an attendance fee of approximately \$35 for Friday and \$60 for both days.

## Walk for the Earth 1984

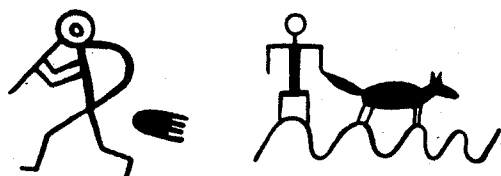
Mono Lake is one of the threatened and sacred places to be visited by participants in the *Walk for the Earth 1984* during a 3,800-mile trek from California to Washington, D.C.

The walk, organized by the non-profit Native Culture and Ecology Research Foundation, is envisaged as "a grassroots display of support for environmental protection, global security and earth awareness."

The earth-walkers will depart from Point Reyes National Seashore on April 1, and arrive at Mono Lake on Saturday, April 21. On Sunday, April 22, the Mono Lake Committee will host a celebration and potluck picnic at the Lee Vining park. MLC'ers and friends are encouraged to participate. Everyone is also invited to accompany the earth-walkers on their 18-mile trek from Bridgeport over Conway Summit to Mono Lake.

From Mono, the earth-walkers will head east through Nevada, Arizona, Colorado and 12 other states, arriving in Washington, D.C. on Oct. 27.

For more information, contact: Native Culture and Ecology Research Foundation, 2311 Mavis Circle, Tallahassee, FL 32301; (904) 224-4899.



## Memorial Contribution

We are honored to receive a contribution in memory of Phil Tyler from Thomas and Sara Armstrong.

## Mono Lake Documentary

*Water Wars: The Battle of Mono Lake*, a documentary produced by University of California graduate film students Maria Taylor and Dan Wohlfeiler, has been awarded first place in the student division by the Television Academy of Arts and Sciences.

The 39-minute color documentary examines the Mono Lake controversy in a dispassionate, informative yet lively fashion. Interviews with everyone from Mono Lake old-timers to DWP brass are especially effective at conveying the issue in its political, economic, social and ecological complexity. Only a few minor factual errors and the lack of evocative scenic shots prevent *Water Wars* from being completely satisfying. Still it is very well done, and can be highly recommended to anyone interested in Mono Lake.

*Water Wars* may be rented (\$36) or purchased (\$410) from: U.C. Extension Media Center, 2223 Fulton St., Berkeley, CA 94920; (415) 642-5578 (rental) or 642-0460 (purchase).

## Grammar Schoolers Study Mono

Dear MLC'ers,

Thank you for making our trip to Mono Lake the most successful class outdoor education trip I have ever planned. That's saying a lot because I have been doing this for years. We met all of my goals: the class grew closer together while we shared a common experience in the outdoors, we learned a lot about Mono Lake, and the students have been motivated to help.

The children are currently writing stories, poems and essays on Mono Lake. Next week they will have a choice of writing an editorial or a letter. The local newspaper featured a photo of our Mono Lake play. We will have a short spot on a local TV show, and will tell of our visit to its shores.

I'm enclosing a \$25 check to help out in your work using money the class has earned fund raising, and also a "test" I gave recently. Four students got 100 percent and 20 out of 29 got an A or B.

MARLA SHEARMAN

Grades 4-5, Valley Oak School, Davis

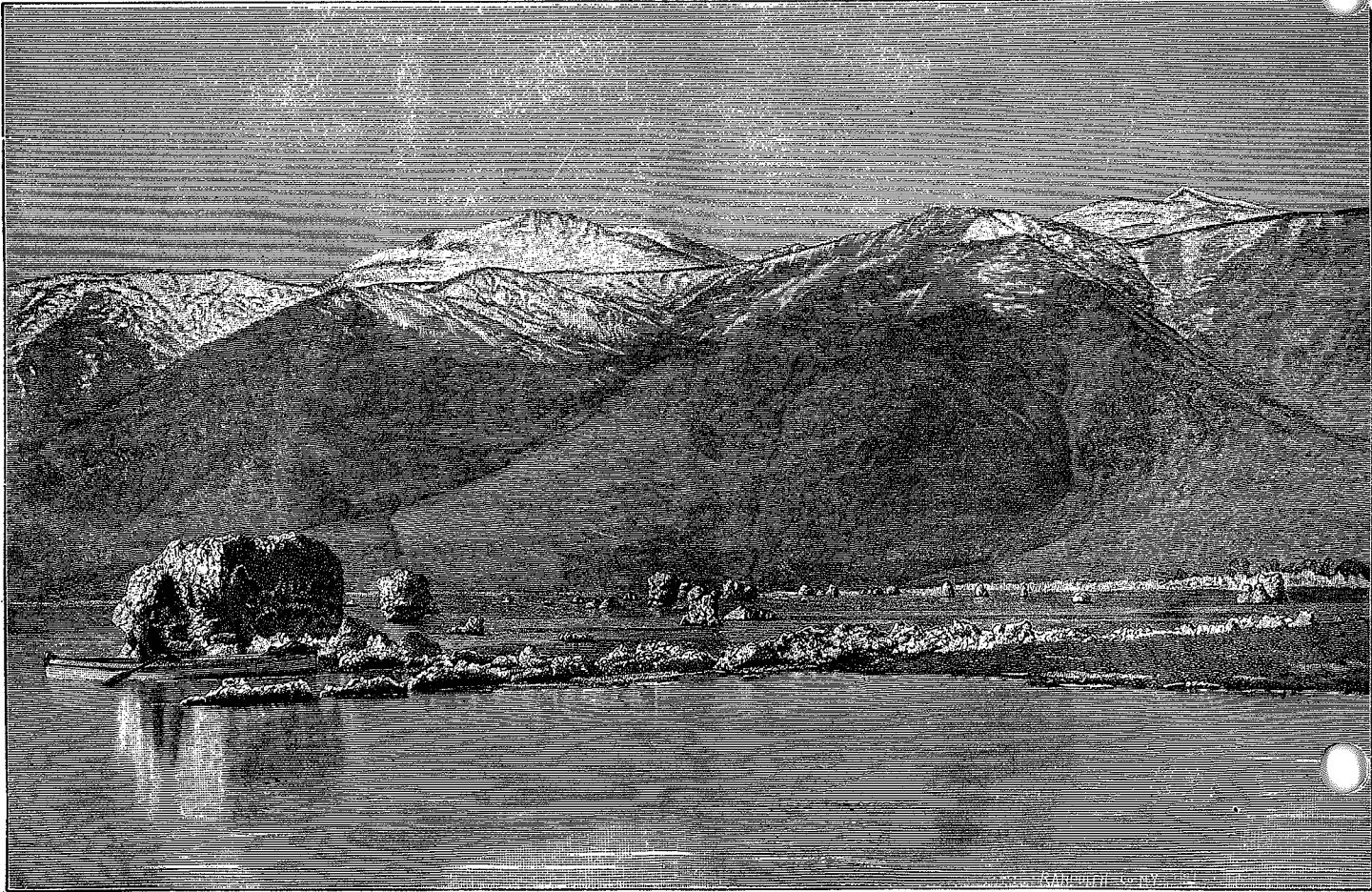


Davis grammar schoolers performing play about Mono Lake. From left to right are the Great Horned Owl, Eared Grebe, Brine Fly, Mono Lake, Algae, Coyote and "David Gaines" (with binoculars).

# Israel C. Russell: Mono's Poet-Geologist

U. S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

EIGHTH ANNUAL REPORT



TUFA TOWERS IN LAKE MONO.

From a photograph.

*Tufa towers on Mono's west shore, from Russell's Quaternary History.*

A century has passed since one of America's most brilliant geologists, Israel C. Russell, last walked Mono's shores. In 1877 he gave up a professorship at a midwestern university to explore the Great Basin. Russell saw grandeur where others saw desolation, and forged a literary style equal to that vision. His *Quaternary History of the Mono Valley* blends science with prose so vivid and powerful that residents at the time paid to reprint the study as an enticement to tourists.

In 1881, under the employ of the fledgling United States Geological Survey, Russell beheld Mono Lake for the first time. "No prosaic description," he wrote, "can portray the grandeur of 50 miles of rugged mountains, rising beyond a placid lake in which each sharply cut peak, each shadowy precipice, and each purple gorge is reflected." For the next three years he studied the Mono Basin and the neighboring Lahontan (Pyramid Lake) drainage.

No white man before or since has come to know this land more intimately. Russell walked Mono's shores, camped on its islands, ascended its canyons and climbed its cradling mountains from the vicinity of Bodie to the Mono Craters, from the Anchorite Hills to the crest of the Sierra.

Perhaps it took a geologist to savor "the wonderful transparency of the dry atmosphere," "the brilliant colors of the naked rocks," and the "desolate grandeur" of vast, treeless

vistas. In a masterful introduction to his Mono Basin monograph, Russell invites "the reader to go with me in fancy throughout the area we are to study." We depart from Aurora, then the termination of stagecoach lines and now a deserted ghost town, and enter the basin from the east. Gaining the summit of Cedar Hill, we behold Mono Lake spread before us like "a wide sheet of burnished metal, so even and brilliant is its surface." To the south, "clean and angular against the sky," the White Mountains "have an almost supernatural grandeur . . . they seem spectral mountains, huge and indefinite, suspended in mid-air." The Mono Craters "attract the eye, not only on account of their height and the symmetry of their curving slopes . . . , but also because they form so striking an exception to the prevailing mountain forms in view . . . so fresh is their appearance that the eye lingers about their summits in half expectation of seeing wreaths of vapor or the lurid light of molten lava ascending from their throats." Across the lake the mountains "are aglow with a luminous purple light, while the crests and spires above, resplendant with sunset hues, are sharply outlined against the evening sky."

The naming of Mono's islands reflects Russell's romanticism. "It was suggested," he wrote, "the differences in color might be used, but the writer preferred to record some of the poetic words from the language of the aboriginal inhabitants of the



valley." *Negit*, appropriately, is a Paiute word for *gull*. *Paoha* are "diminutive spirits, having long, wavy hair, that are sometimes seen in the vapor wreaths ascending from hot springs," such as those on the white island.

Russell excelled as scientist as well as writer. From his study of the Eastern Sierra's glacial moraines, he concluded that there had been more than one advance of the glaciers and expansion of Mono Lake. The craters and islands, he realized, must have erupted since the ebb of the ice-age lake, for there are not wave-cut terraces incised in their flanks. Tufa formations he correlated to the action of freshwater springs bubbling up through Mono's carbonated brine. "To this day," reads a recent Ph.D. dissertation, "the outstanding study of the Mono Basin is that of Israel C. Russell."

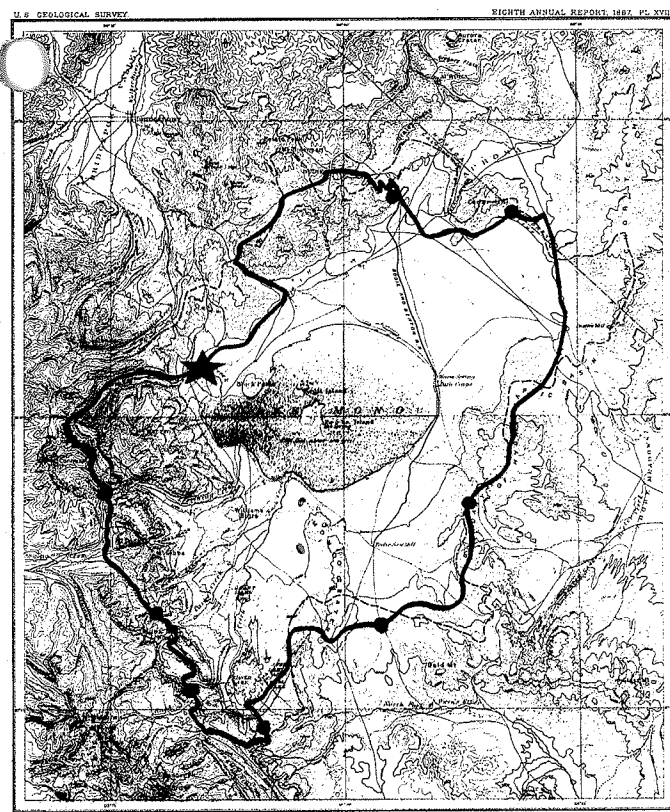
The *Quaternary History of the Mono Valley* is essential reading for all monophiles. Russell's vivid, insightful prose is complemented by photogenic etchings and classic topographic maps by one of the 19th century's finest cartographers, Willard T. Johnson. It is contained in the *Eighth Annual Report of the U.S. Geological Survey*, pages 267-394. You can find a copy in most university libraries.



Where's the lake? The tufa depicted in Russell's monograph (opposite page) are high, dry and a mile from Mono's shore.

## A Russell Centenary Hike Around Mono Basin

STEVE CATTON  
MLC Information Officer



The map that inspired the "Russell Centenary Hike." The dashed line delineates the boundary of the Mono Basin. Superimposed on the old map is a heavy black line showing the route trod by Steve and Debby on their 120-mile circumnavigation of the Mono Lake watershed. The star marks Mono City, their departure point and destination; the circles mark campsites.

The last rays of pink vanished from the White Mountains, leaving their snowy summits a frigid blue-gray. Turning to face the campfire that had been toasting my back, my eyes took in a commanding view. Looking to the west from the crest of Cowtrack Mountain, I could see the entire Mono Lake watershed, on whose rim we were camped.

To the south, beyond the Mono Craters, rose the distinctive pinnacle of 13,000-foot Banner Peak. I pointed out to Debby where we had been three days earlier. As our gaze swept north along 25 miles of jagged Sierran peaks, it took only seconds to retrace the route our feet had taken another three days to cover. Our eyes lingered on the fiery sunset, then searched out the shadowy outline of Black Point above the strangely purple waters of Mono Lake. Beyond lay the hamlet of Mono City, where we had started on foot from my house six days before. Curving in a great arc around to our right, the Bodie Hills, Cedar Hill and the Mono Valley comprised the remainder of the 120-mile circuit we were traversing.

The inspiration for our journey was an original edition of the *Quaternary History of the Mono Valley* by Israel C. Russell, one of the eminent geologists of the 19th century. Leafing through its yellowed pages with their elegant etchings of volcanoes, moraines and tufa towers, I was repeatedly struck by a two-page topographic map showing the hydrographic boundaries of the Mono Lake watershed. Tracing that line linking the highest features cradling Mono Lake, I would match it in my mind's eye to the familiar landmarks I see here every day. Aha, I thought, what better way to spend our vacation than tracing that line as nearly as practicable on foot. And what more fitting time to do it than Russell's centenary.

So one morning in October, Debby and I set out from Mono City up Lundy Canyon, reveling in the crisp autumn air, fall colors and the prospect of nine days in the wilderness. We carried only our lunch and spare clothes, having deposited our heavy packs at our first day's destination near the Tioga Road.

Lundy Canyon's flaming aspens shouted autumn, but higher up wild flowers remained in full bloom. Snow covering parts of the trail betrayed the reason for such a late flower display—the twice-normal snowpack of the previous winter.

Crossing Lundy Pass we enjoyed a spectacular view of Mt. Dana reflected in Saddlebag Lake. At 13,141 feet, Dana is the highest point on Mono Basin's rim. The snow from the first autumn storm looked deeper than we had anticipated, so we decided to duck behind Dana rather than climb over it.

Next morning, by the time we had reached Tioga Pass, our heavy packs reinforced our decision. We let our packs thump to the ground and flopped down beside them to sample the blueberries. Refreshed, we hiked on through Dana Meadows, which smelled strongly of wild onions and harbored an abundance of tiny green frogs. The sun was warm for October, and Debby even took a lunchtime dip in Parker Pass Creek.

Crossing the broad, rolling meadows of Parker Pass, we re-entered the Mono Basin. The tawny fall vegetation contrasted beautifully with the ice-blue shadows on the freshly-whitened peaks. A prairie falcon and golden eagle circled in the cirrus-streaked blue overhead. We pitched camp for the night by a little tarn below the pass, reflecting that this water was bound for Mono Lake.

For over 10 hours we slept soundly, awakening with the first hint of pink on the peaks. As became our pattern, though, we did not get underway until the sun had warmed us. Up the trail, a covey of white-tailed ptarmigan allowed themselves to be photographed from close range. A flock of rosy finches escorted us to the summit of Parker Peak. At 12,681 feet we had reached the highest point on our circuit, and the grandstand view was breathtaking: virtually the entire Mono Basin and Mono Lake spread below us to the east, and magnificent Ritter and Banner peaks to the southwest. A cold wind soon nudged us off the peak and down to Alger Lakes for lunch. That evening we camped by Crest Creek, which we shared with a dipper.

The following day was windy and cold, but we continued to be blessed with blue skies for the entire journey. Ascending 11,000-foot San Joaquin Ridge from Agnew Pass, we were greeted by a dynamic display of cumulus clouds swarming about the stone ramparts of the Ritter Range. A 2,000-foot descent down a steep scree slide brought us into a little hanging valley occupied by Yost Meadow. A strand of sculpted conifer snags led to a grove of golden aspens, where we pitched camp.

But now we were short of food, having stopped short of our cache at June Lake junction. A little gorp and coffee made a lean breakfast. So a restaurant brunch in June Lake was some compensation for being submitted to mechanized human bustle. From June Lake junction, we struck out east into the pumice sands and Jeffrey pines, relieved to be in wilderness again.

Rounding Devil's Punchbowl we tried to imagine what this remarkable landscape of craters, moats, amphitheaters, cones and flows of clinking lava would have looked like when the volcanoes were active. Sore feet and waning daylight brought us to a halt at a clearing in the forest, where coyotes called in the darkness beyond our campfire.

The following day we woke to find our water bottles frozen solid and so much frost on the tent that it yielded a large snowball. This we melted on the fire to supplement our scant supply of drinking water.

Hiking east, occasional gaps in the pines yielded glimpses of Mono Lake and the Mono Craters. Our goal for lunch was Dry Creek, and happily it held clear, cold water. We drank deeply



*Camp on Cowtrack Mountain, Mono Lake and Sierra Nevada in background.*

and soaked our blistered feet, then struggled up Cowtrack Mountain to the magnificent campsite described at the beginning of this article.

Here more than at any other spot we could imagine ourselves with Russell looking out on "the grandeur of 50 miles of rugged mountains, rising beyond a placid lake." We couldn't help but reflect, though, that the wide alkali ring around Mono's shores were not part of Russell's view. It is mute testimony to a man-made "drought" of unprecedented magnitude which has drawn the lake far below what Russell could have envisaged happening over anything less than geologic time.

Descending from Cowtrack Mountain we struck out across the wide sagebrush plain of Mono Valley. Long before we had crossed the 12 miles of prickly sagebrush and greasewood our feet were crying out to stop. But our food and water cache at the far side below Cedar Hill. We practiced a meditation of imagining each painful footfall as blissful, and eventually staggered to our cache in the moonlight.

Next morning a noisy flock of pinon jays awoke us after sun up. Basking on the sand in the warm sunshine, we imagined ourselves on the shoreline of ice-age Lake Mono, whose waves would have been lapping at our feet 13,000 years ago. Harder to conjure were the blue glaciers that would have all but covered the Sierra, reaching all the way down to Mono's shores.

Finally underway, trudging around Cedar Hill along ancient beachlines, we wished we had started before the sun was so hot. We came on traces of the old Trench Canyon to Bodie wagon road, replete with rusted iron and broken glass reminders of the mining days. Then we followed the Bodie and Benton Railroad grade, now overgrown with sagebrush. Its sweeping embankments and stone retaining walls and bridge abutments conjured up images of steam engines straining to haul lumber and firewood to treeless Bodie.

With 20 miles left to hike our last day, we awoke before dawn and were underway by sunrise. At a spring west of Bodie we flushed 20 sage grouse, then spotted a skinny coyote slinking about in hopes of a meal. By this time nothing could be done to ease the pain from Debby's blisters, but she hobbled on without complaining. We ran out of daylight in Bridgeport Canyon with eight miles still to go. By the light of a full moon and with long-eared owls fluttering curiously by, settled into a steady rhythm for the last miles. At 11 p.m., forded Wilson Creek, bee-lined for Mono City and arrived at my door at midnight—exhausted, chilled and footsore, but very pleased with our adventure.

# Mono Lake Memories

RILEY A. GILKEY

My earliest memories, that is real memories, of Mono Lake and vicinity, begin during the summer of 1918. My great aunt and uncle owned the ranch where the present Mono County Park is now located. The ranch house was directly across the road from the present park entrance. The haystack and barn lay just to the south of the still-standing row of poplar trees. These trees still show evidence of being scorched when the house burned some time after 1930.

The ranch was very nearly self-sustaining. They raised chickens, ducks and turkeys, primarily for their own use. Any fowls and eggs surplus to their own needs were sold to the Mono Lake store. They had a small herd of cattle for meat, milk, butter and cheese. Wheat was raised for feed for the fowls, alfalfa hay for the cattle and horses. Their principal cash crops were potatoes and onions, which were generally sold in Bishop or Bridgeport. There was a large potato cellar located between the park and the lake. I have looked for it, but it must have been obliterated when the park was built.

They had a small camping area near the haystack for tourists, campers, fishermen and hunters. The campground consisted of a grassy area with a few fire rings, water and a place to pitch a few tents. The charge was 50 cents per night. If the campers made arrangements the night before, my aunt would prepare a hearty breakfast for 75 cents. If arrangements were made at breakfast, they could get dinner for \$1. They had

many repeat customers among fishermen and hunters, who used the ranch for a base of operations while fishing the various streams and lakes in the mountains and hills. The attached photos were sent to them by a party of fishermen who appear to have enjoyed their stay.



*The Schell Ranch at the site of the present Mono Lake County Park. The photo is captioned "our bed." Mono's northwestern, western and southwestern shores were margined by largely self-sufficient farms and homesteads until the 1930s, when they were purchased or condemned by DWP.*

## The Mono Naturalist

It's January, yet Mono's shores are snowless. Most of the storms brought rain or wet flakes that melted quickly. Nor has there been the usual bone-chilling *poconip* fog that envelops the lake after snowstorms. Compared to last year, it has yet to be a wintry winter.

Despite the relatively mild weather, a thin layer of ice formed over half of Mono's surface during the first calm weeks of the new year. At most an inch or two thick, the ice extended from the west shore to well beyond the islands. It resulted less from subfreezing weather than from the flood of fresh water that has continued to pour into the lake during the past few months—water DWP is unable to divert. Less dense than Mono's brine, this fresh water collects on the surface, where it freezes into ice sheets many square miles in extent. At mid-month, a vigorous southwester broke up the ice, depositing windrows of ice slabs several feet deep along the lake's north shore.

For the first time in seven years, the weather smiled on the annual Mono Lake Christmas Bird Count. Eighteen participants enjoyed a sunny, calm New Year's Day beating the sagebrush, wading through marshes and skiing up mountains. The result: 75 species, a new bird count high!

Especially exciting were almost 2,000 waterfowl, including dra (whistling) swans, Canada, snow and Ross' geese, hundreds of green-winged teal and nine other species of duck. Even at night the haunting cries of geese and swans would echo out of the darkness.

By the time of the count, eared grebes had dwindled to a few hundred diehards. Only a month earlier, around Thanksgiving, the lake had been peppered with at least half a million. What wintering grebes find to eat is mysterious, for shrimp are few and far between.

If grebes fed on algae, their bellies would be full all winter, for this is the time of the algal "bloom." With no shrimp grazing them, the algae multiply until they turn the lake a pea-soup green. Moreover the cold surface water sinks and the lake mixes from top to bottom, bringing nutrients to the surface and fertilizing the multiplying algae. The shrimp overwinter in the bottom muck as eggs, which will hatch in March and hopefully provide plentiful food for this year's crop of hungry gull chicks.

Apparently Mono lures deer as well as birds. Well, one deer at least. This fall a large buck was seen paddling vigorously several hundreds yards off the lake's south shore. Perhaps he was availing himself of the lake's renowned therapeutic properties.

Among the rare bird sightings over the past few months were the following: an adult long-tailed jaeger in August; several parasitic jaegers, two semipalmated sandpipers, ruddy turnstone, three red knots and a lark bunting in September; two red phalaropes in October, six cattle egrets, a white-throated sparrow and a chestnut-collared longspur in November; and northern shrikes, tree sparrows and swamp sparrow in December.

# MLC News and Activities

## Bay Area Office

DAVID WIMPFHEIMER

*Northern California Coordinator*

Six months ago I informed friends that I would be working for the Mono Lake Committee. They wished me well, but regretted that I'd have to move so far away. "No," I replied, "I'll be in the San Francisco office." "Oh," they puzzled, "what happens there?"

Plenty, including fund raising, dealing with printing and mailing companies, educational outreach and, perhaps most important, coordinating with other groups.

Our small office is down the hall from Friends of the Earth, a co-plaintiff in our lawsuit and one of Mono's staunchest supporters. Close ties with FOE, National and Golden Gate Audubon Societies, Sierra Club, Greenpeace, Friends of the River and other friendly Northern California organizations have vastly augmented our effectiveness, and will be crucial in the future.

On the fund-raising front, we have been increasingly successful at gaining foundation grants for education and research. We have also helped coordinate direct-mail appeals which have approximately doubled our membership over the last two years; another is planned this winter. Additionally we assist MLC volunteers in developing and coordinating such fund-raising events as boat trips, tours, art shows and auctions.

We also coordinate with the Bay Area businesses that handle MLC newsletters, action alerts, renewal reminders and other publications and mailings.

Another focus is informing the public about Mono Lake's plight and its significance. Over the past few months, for example, I have represented MLC at the San Francisco Fair at the Moscone Center and the Bay Area Environmental Education Resource Fair, and presented slide programs to groups ranging from high school classes to Audubon societies.

Especially successful was the *At Mono Lake* exhibition at the California Academy of Science, which was organized and coordinated through this office under the direction of Stephen Johnson. Over a quarter of a million people learned of Mono's beauty through this collection of stunning photographs. We were also able to secure grants to publish the *At Mono Lake Catalog*. Revenues from sales will fund future educational programs.

Please stop by when you are in San Francisco. We are still situated at 1045 Sansome Street, but have moved upstairs to cozier, less expensive quarters in Room 402. Or give us a call whenever you need information or assistance, or would like to arrange a slide show in Northern California. Our number is (415) 956-7532.

## Slide Show Travels Across Country

A special cheer to the dozens of people who utilized our slide show to publicize Mono's plight during 1983. The show traveled as far as Utah, Colorado, Michigan, New York, Vermont, Connecticut, Maryland and Alaska. The program is currently being updated, and is still available for up to two weeks without charge (please send a \$35 refundable deposit; allow three weeks for deliver).

## Calendars to Solons

Our 1984 Mono Lake calendars now grace the wall of many a legislative office. The calendars were distributed to California Assemblymen and State Senators, the California delegation to the House of Representatives, members of the House Interior Committee and Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee, and Senators Wilson and Cranston.

## Center Improvements

Our Lee Vining crew is already busy upgrading the Mono Lake Information Center in anticipation of the summer tourist stampede. The precipitous front steps have been an annoyance to non-mountaineers. With the help of Lee Vining Best Western Motel owner Don Banta, we are rebuilding the steps, even providing for wheelchair access.

On the inside, Randy Arnold, Macy's manager and monophile, is volunteering his services to improve our merchandise displays. Fortune 500, here we come!

New Mono Lake trinkets are also on the drawing board: stationery, corduroy hats, canvas carrying bags, gull mobiles, coyote dolls, key rings, a new color poster, a 1985 calendar, membership decals, and on and on!

## Staff Good-byes

After two productive years, Marty O'Malley has left to pursue other career objectives. Marty was instrumental in securing substantial foundation support for Mono Lake, especially for research and education. He also coordinated many membership appeals and other development and fund-raising efforts. His expertise and energy will be missed.

Steve Catton is leaving our Mono Lake office to pursue nuclear disarmament work in Washington, D.C. Steve was outstanding as information officer and all-around resource person, especially during the recurrent "we've too much to do" crises. We envy the group that secures his services.



Steve Catton

Cross-country skier near Conway Summit above Mono Lake. Our Mono Lake Information Center in Lee Vining has information on cross-country ski trips for novice and expert. Give us a call to check on snow conditions!

## Interns Needed at the Lake

Our interpretive activities, which include the Mono Lake Information center, free public field trips and slide programs, are sustained by dedicated interns who work for room and a modest monthly stipend. This year we want to convince more of Mono's several hundred thousand visitors to become involved in saving the lake and caring for our planet. But we need help.

Please consider spending two months or more as an intern at Mono Lake. Interns spend 40 hours a week on tasks ranging from presenting slide shows and leading field trips to staffing our information center and answering mail. The work is sometimes prosaic, but always satisfying. Requirements: an interest in environmental issues and natural history, general office skills and the ability to communicate effectively with the general public. Prior knowledge of the Mono Lake situation is helpful, and a car is highly desirable.

Interns receive free housing in Lee Vining plus a stipend of \$275 per month. After two months, the stipend increases to \$340 per month.

Two intern positions are available March-May (mainly office work). Additional summer positions begin in June.

Interested? Please send a resume outlining your education, experience, special skills, references, etc. to our Mono Lake office. Tell us the dates you would be available. If you have questions, please feel free to give us a call.

## Birdathon Raises \$60,000

The 1983 Point Reyes Bird Observatory-Mono Lake Committee Birdathon was even more successful than last year. In fact proceeds are expected to reach \$60,000! Several hundred dedicated birders were out and hooting before dawn in search of owls and as many other species as they could find in a day. Net proceeds were divided between PRBO and the Mono Lake Committee.

The Point Reyes Bird Observatory, a non-profit research and educational organization, has been studying Mono Lake's birds since 1977. PRBO biologists are continuing the gull research initiated by David Winkler in 1976.

## Foundation Misnomer

In our fall newsletter we erroneously referred to the Atlantic Richfield Foundation as the Arco Foundation. Atlantic Richfield has been instrumental in funding the crucial gull research being conducted by the Point Reyes Bird Observatory.

Your newsletter is my favorite environmental publication. I find in it a desire for truth as well as for protection of the lake. I appreciate your statement in the autumn issue that a definite causal relationship has yet to be established between the shrinking lake and trends in gull, shrimp and fly populations.

It there is such a relationship seems to be a very reasonable working hypothesis, and it makes sense to be careful with the lake until more is known about it.

TIM ZIMOSKI  
Fresno

## Messages from the Mail Desk

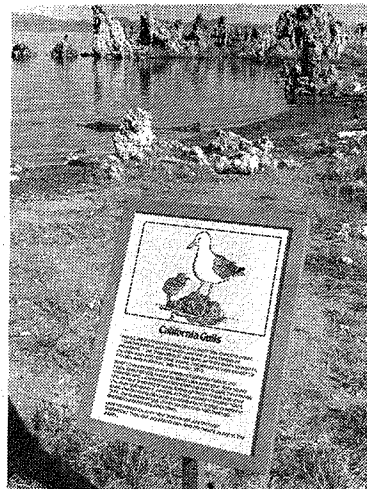
*"How the hell much is a membership renewal? Never mind, I'll spend 20 minutes looking up the amount of the last check. But next time you'd better include that little piece of information."*

We received many such complaints this fall. Our mailing house mistakenly enclosed blank instead of remittance envelopes in many of our renewal appeals. Thanks to everyone who renewed anyway. We also appreciate the returned mailing labels; this saves us time looking up computer numbers.

We will be switching to a more convenient renewal system soon. Your label will be piggybacked onto a card with renewal information. You simply check the appropriate boxes, update or correct your name, address and phone number, and return the card with your check. We then send the cards directly to our computer company.

Many of you have noticed that November renewal checks were not deposited until the end of December. We are sorry for the delay, but had our hands full keeping up with Christmas mail orders. The last bikeathon checks were also delayed. We busy elves were happy to see such an enthusiastic response to our catalog.

A reminder: Tell us if you don't wish your name traded to other groups. We can easily code your label to prevent this. However, the more names we have available, the more names we can receive in trade. Our last membership appeal added over 650 new members, which will greatly increase our effectiveness.



A sign on the new "Mark Twain Nature Trail" constructed by the Mono Lake Tufa State Reserve at South Tufa. Future plans include a boardwalk at the Mono Lake County Park. Most of Mono's shores, however, will be left undeveloped.

## Letters

The heartiest of congratulations from the Salton Sea, Mono's sister lake, on the upholding of the public trust by the United States Supreme Court. The task ahead is to educate the water kingpins . . . that irrigating sidewalks and gutters does not meet the criteria of beneficial use. As the "water war" at Salton Sea begins to take shape, we will look to the Mono Lake decision for our inspiration.

RON ACKERT  
President, Salton Sea Fish and Wildlife Club

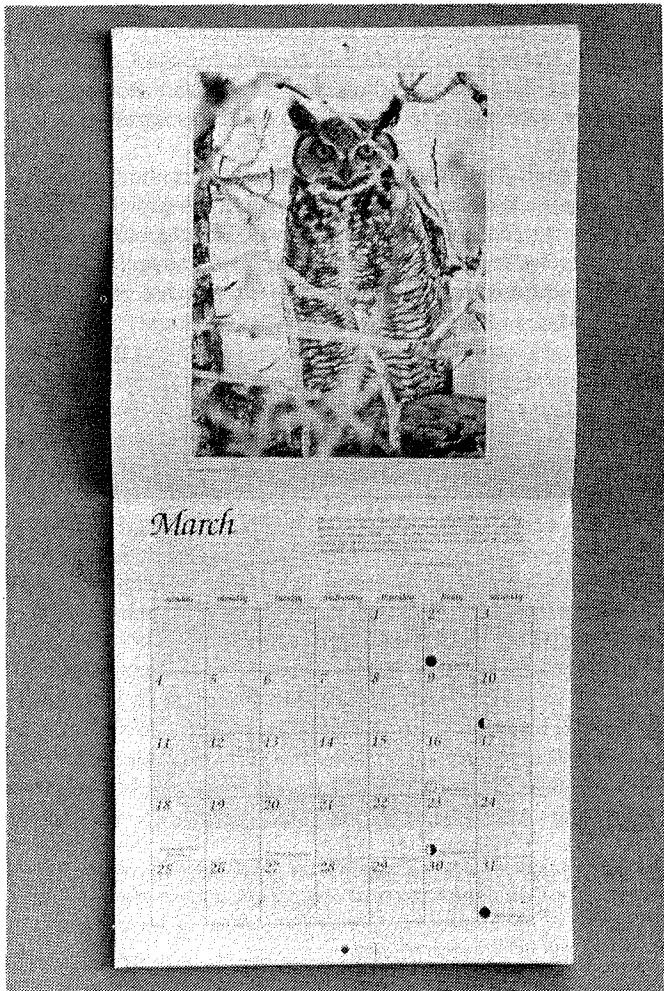


## MLC WISH LIST

### Canoe

Last Summer the 17-foot Grumman aluminum canoe which David Gaines had lent us for the past six years disappeared from Mono Lake's south shore. Over the years hundreds of people had paddled this canoe among Mono's tufa. Hopefully hundreds more will be able to enjoy this magical experience, but we need a canoe! If you have one to donate, loan or sell for a song, please contact our Mono Lake office.

### 30% Off On Calendars



Our Mono Lake calendar has been an artistic and financial success, but like all 1984 calendars, it is already dated. We still have several hundred that we would like to see on monophiles' walls while the year is young. Hence we are offering the calendars at a 30-percent discount. Instead of \$4.95, you pay only \$2.95.

### Enlarger

We presently have to scramble all over Mono County to have black-and-white photographs printed for our newsletters and press releases. Sure would be nice to have our own darkroom in Lee Vining. If you have an enlarger, print drier or other darkroom equipment you would be willing to donate, loan or sell cheaply, please contact our Mono Lake office.

### Mono Lake Bumper Stickers Available - Free!

Help spread the word! Order *Save Mono Lake*, *Long Live Mono Lake* or *I Save Water for Mono Lake* bumper stickers from our Mono Lake office (P.O. Box 29, Lee Vining, CA 93541). The stickers are free to good homes.

### T-shirts Discounted



MLC Executive Director Ed Grosswiler and wife Ginny Burdick model a Yosemite topo and Mono tank top T-shirts. We are overstocked on Yosemite shirts and are phasing out the tank tops, so are offering them at \$1 off the regular price. Yosemite topo shirts are available in dark blue or burgundy, sizes small, medium, large and extra-large. Beige Mono tank tops are available in small, large and extra-large (sorry, no mediums).

*Yosemite Topo T-shirt.* Reg. \$9.95. Now \$8.95.

*Mono Tank Top.* Reg. \$6.95. Now \$5.95.

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.*

## Accolades

Our apologies to the owners of the El Mono Motel in Lee for forgetting to acknowledge their generous support of Bikeathon in our autumn newsletter.

We are grateful to Jerry Meral, executive director of the Planning and Conservation League, for assistance in locating our new Sacramento office and orienting our legislative representative.

Numerous volunteers continue to help educate the public about Mono Lake's plight. Russell Cole gave a talk to the Wilderness Society in Humboldt County. Bob Barnes appeared

on a talk show in the San Joaquin Valley. Jean Dale sold Mono Lake merchandise and distributed literature at a street fair in Ventura. Marc Landgraf and the Ecology Action Club at Cal Poly put together an educational display at a fair in San Luis Obispo. To the many others we have doubtless forgotten, our heartfelt thanks on behalf of the lake.

Finally, we're never out of writing implements, thanks to Mr. and Mrs. Gilbert Longtin, who donated a box of pens engraved with our name and address.

## 1984 Mono Lake Photo Workshops

The Mono Lake Tufa State Reserve will continue its photo workshop series with three sessions in 1984, all by Mono Lake photographer extraordinaire Larry Ford. These courses received rave reviews last year, so enroll early!

Larry Ford spent 15 years doing scenic and wildlife photography for the Scripps Institution of Oceanography before moving to the Mono Basin in 1982. He will provide expert instruction at all levels of photographic skill with an emphasis on composition. Moreover he will also share his extensive and intimate knowledge of Mono Lake's natural history.

The workshops begin Thursday evening with introductions, an orientation lecture, slide show and refreshments. Friday, Saturday and Sunday include sunrise and sunset sessions with midday trips to photogenic areas off the beaten track. On Friday evening photographs shot that morning (Polaroid 35 film) are viewed and discussed.

Three sessions have been scheduled:

**SPRING—JUNE 29, 30 AND JULY 1.** The explosion of wild flowers and the homecoming of raucous California gulls infuses the Mono Basin with new life.

**SUMMER—AUGUST 10, 11, 12.** Long, warm days provide ample time for exploration of the lake and still-flowery mountain canyons, including the ghost town of Bodie.

**FALL—OCTOBER 5, 6, 7.** The aspen and cottonwoods prepare for winter with a blaze of color, close to a million birds visit the lake, and the low sun angles cast Mono's features in a special light.



Larry Ford



Larry Ford

Please enroll me in the ☐ SPRING, ☐ SUMMER, ☐ FALL Mono Lake Photo Workshop. Fee is \$60 per workshop, payable to TAHOE SIERRA STATE PARKS ASSOCIATION. Please enclose fee with registration. Proceeds support the interpretive programs of the Mono Lake Tufa State Reserve.

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

☐ Please send information on motels and campgrounds.

SEND TO: MONO LAKE Tufa STATE RESERVE,  
P.O. BOX 99, LEE VINING, CA 93541.

# Alaska or Mexico, Anyone?

The Mono Lake Committee is considering the sponsorship of one or more cruises as a fund-raising event in 1985. We are just beginning to make plans and would appreciate hearing from interested MLC'ers. Our choices will depend on you.

We are considering (1) a 14-day Alaska cruise that goes to Glacier Bay from San Francisco and visits eight ports in Canada and Alaska, (2) a 14-day transit of the Panama Canal from Los Angeles to San Juan, Puerto Rico with six ports of call, and (3) a 10-day cruise out of L.A. with five ports of call in Mexico. The Alaska cruise would probably take place in late June, Panama in spring and Mexico in early spring or late fall.

The benefits of reserving cruise space through MLC include (1) a group discount from the standard fare, and (2) a tax-deductible donation to the Mono Lake fund (part of the fare). The standard fare is about \$3,500 for the 14-day trips and \$2,200 for 10 days. Actual prices will depend on cabin size and location, number in cabin, discount and so on.

We will be making final plans in early 1984, so if one of these trips is a dream you would like to come true, let us know soon.

I would like to receive information about the following cruise(s):

- ☐ Alaska (14 days), June
- ☐ Trans-Panama Canal (14 days), spring
- ☐ Mexico (10 days), late fall
- ☐ Mexico (10 days), early spring

A self-addressed envelope would be appreciated. Send to: MLC Cruise, c/o M. Bennett, 2719 Marin Ave., Berkeley, CA 94708, or call (415) 526-1260.

## Fund-raising Trips To See Elephant Seals

The Mono Lake Committee is again organizing fund-raising bus trips to see the elephant seals on their breeding grounds at Ano Nuevo State Reserve north of Santa Cruz. The dates are Wednesday, Feb. 8, 15 and 22. The guided tour consists of a 2.5-hour, three-mile hike over sand dunes to observe the males, females and pups. The bus will leave the North Berkeley BART station at 9 a.m. and return at 5:30 p.m. There will be a lunch stop at a beach enroute. Cold beverages will be provided.

The cost is \$17 per person prior to Jan. 29 and \$20 thereafter. Proceeds go to help save Mono Lake, and are tax-deductible. The trips are limited to 40 people each, and last year all space was taken one week before the first date.

Don't miss this opportunity to see one of the world's most dramatic wildlife spectacles! For reservations, send a check payable to the *Mono Lake Fund* to: M. Bennett, 2719 Marin Ave., Berkeley, CA 94708. Please enclose a self-addressed, stamped envelope. If you have questions, call (415) 526-1260. The trips go rain or shine. No refunds.

## A MONO LAKE LEXICON

collected by Dennis McAuliffe et al.

**monism** *n. Philosophy.* A metaphysical system in which reality is conceived as a unified whole Mono Lake.

**monobasic** *adj.* Fundamental to Mono Lake.

**monocarp** *n.* A complaint about Mono Lake: "dead sea" (Samuel Clemens), "saline sump" (DWP).

**monoceros** *n.* A unicorn often seen among Mono Lake's tufa groves.

**monocle** *n.* An eyeglass for viewing Mono Lake.

**monogram** *n.* A message from Mono Lake.

**monograph** *n.* A scholarly book, article or pamphlet on Mono Lake.

**monolith** *n.* A tufa formation.

**monolatry** *n.* The worship of Mono Lake.

**monologue** *n.* A long speech or talk on Mono Lake.

**monomania** *n.* Intense enthusiasm for Mono Lake.

**monophagous** *n.* Eating Mono Lake. Said especially of DWP.

**monophyletic** *adj.* Descended or derived from Mono Lake.

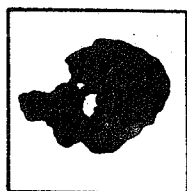
**monorail** *n.* A bitter or abusive rant about Mono Lake.

**monotheism** *n.* The belief that Mono Lake is divine.

**monotrophic** *adj.* Nourished by Mono Lake.

**monothematic** *adj.* On the theme of Mono Lake.

**monovalent** *adj.* With the capacity to interact and unite with Mono Lake.



**The  
Mono Lake  
Committee**

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Lee Vining, California 93541

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