

THE MONO LAKE NEWSLETTER

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"We see it as a moral issue, not just a political issue," explains Father Christopher Kelley, here carrying a placard in the Labor Day Mono Lake Bucket Walk. "The people of Los Angeles must have water to drink; but wastefulness of that precious resource can be curtailed, and much water recycled, so that the volume of water taken from Mono Lake can be reduced. If it costs money, that must be accepted as part of the responsible stewardship of Creation. Maintaining the balance of nature is a responsibility given to us by God. Not to take the necessary steps is irresponsible stewardship; it is waste; it is greed; it is sin."

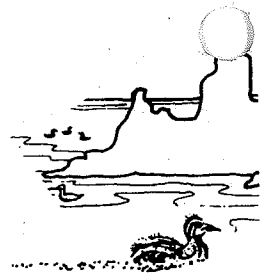
Under the leadership of Father Kelley and St. Timothy's Episcopal Church in Bishop, the Episcopal Diocese of San Joaquin has passed a resolution demanding "immediate Christian moral action to stop the murder of Mono Lake" (see page 4).

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The *Mono Lake Newsletter* features updates on the latest developments affecting Mono Lake's future as well as articles on the natural, geological and human history of Mono and other Great Basin Lakes. We invite your comments and contributions. The newsletter is edited by the Mono Lake Committee in cooperation with the Mono Lake Coalition.



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Fundraising Appeal Successful

MLC Hires Executive Director

Dear MLC Members,

In the four years since Sally Judy, Mark Ross, David Winkler and myself founded the Mono Lake Committee, we have grown from a handful of monophiles to an organization of over 4,000 members in 44 states and several foreign countries. We have made Mono Lake a national issue. Now we have to do more.

At this critical juncture, the Mono Lake Committee is fortunate to have attracted an exceptionally qualified and experienced Executive Director. Ed Grosswiler has spent the past four years in Washington D.C. as Executive Assistant and Press Secretary to Congressman Al Ullman, past chairman of the House Ways and Means Committee. Before that he worked for 12 years as news editor and political reporter with the Associated Press. Ed brings to MLC a broad range of professional experience in media, politics and organizational management complemented by an abiding love for the earth. We are pleased and excited to welcome him aboard.

Ed could not have joined us at a more challenging and critical time. Under his leadership, we will be doing everything possible to publicize Mono Lake's worsening plight and halt water diversions this year.

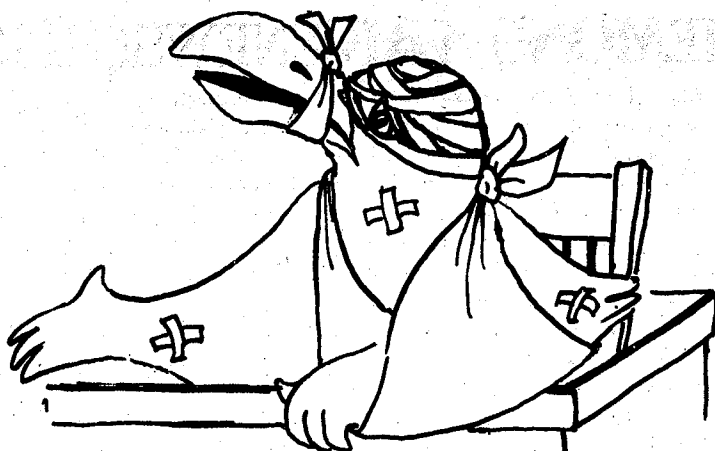
Our spirits and hopes have also been lifted tremendously by two recent events: the California Supreme Court's decision to hear the Mono Lake lawsuit, and *your* exceedingly generous response to our appeal for funds. I can't tell you how wonderful your faith in our efforts makes us feel. When the chips are down, you, the lake's staunchest friends, are willing to put your dollars on the line. On behalf of all of us (not to mention millions of birds and jillions of brine shrimp), I thank you for your continued generous support. We're going to make it count!

As Editor and Chairman of the Board, I will be continuing to do all I can to save Mono Lake. Together we can succeed.

I hope to see you at the lake this summer.

Long Live Mono Lake!

David Gaines



California Supreme Court To Hear Lawsuit

Heartening news! The California Supreme Court has agreed to hear the Audubon-Friends of the Earth-Mono Lake Committee lawsuit this May. In granting this hearing, the high court allowed us to bypass the Court of Appeals . . . an exceptional procedure that will expedite the case.

This decision could not be more welcome. In the three years since the original suit was filed, the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (DWP) has done everything possible to hinder going to trial, and we have suffered . . . of costly and frustrating delays. Now it looks like Mono Lake will finally have its days in court. And not a moment too soon (for more on the suit, see p. 6).

Worried Gulls

Despite the snowy winter, Mono Lake has fallen another 18 inches in the past 12 months to an April elevation of 6,372.0 feet. Twain Islet, where 35% of the California Gulls tried to nest last year, is virtually connected to the mainland. Most ominous of all, few brine shrimp have hatched, boding another famine in the gull colonies.

The brine shrimp situation is being closely monitored by biologists Petra Lenz and Gayle Dana from the Marine Sciences Institute at UC Santa Barbara (see p. 9). As of

press time, it is still uncertain whether this spring's shrimp population will adequately feed the gulls and their chicks. Early signs, however, intimate a repetition of last year's disaster, when shrimp declined by 85-95% and at least 25,000 chicks—95% of the hatch—perished, apparently of starvation.

As if they didn't have enough worries, the gulls are also threatened by coyotes and other mainland predators. Biologist Brett Engstrom, in cooperation with the BLM in Bishop, is patrolling the landbridge to check for signs of predators.

Still Thirsty

Storm after storm rolled through Mono Basin this winter, blanketing the lake's Sierran watershed in deep snow. At the beginning of April, just when we thought spring had arrived, a record-breaking blizzard left another 4-6 feet in the mountains, raising runoff projections to approximately 140% of normal.

Unless DWP relents, however, most of this runoff will be diverted into the Los Angeles Aqueduct. DWP will take every drop the aqueduct can swallow, not because it is needed, but because it generates power and revenue flowing through power plants.

If only DWP would free Mono's streams this year—a year when all California has plenty of water—the lake would rise 2-3 feet and decrease in salinity. Such a drink could help the brine shrimp and save the gulls. Next year may be too late.

Telling It Like It Ain't

But DWP isn't likely to be generous. This winter they enclosed an expensive color brochure with hundreds of thousands of water bills. This slick propaganda piece, paid for by ratepayers, charged National Audubon and the Mono Lake Committee with threatening L.A.'s water supply. The information was slanted and misleading. Mono's supporters, it was claimed, have "greatly exaggerated" the crisis, and are out to gut water and energy supplies to save a few birds. "Mono Lake will never dry up," read the

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brochure, "in about 100 years, the lake will stabilize at 38 square miles of surface area."

Well, maybe . . . , that is, if diversions are not increased or augmented by groundwater pumping. But even so, Mono will become a shrunken chemical sump. It will be mud-slogging miles to the shore. Not a shrimp will animate the lifeless water. Instead of clouds of birds there will be clouds of dust.

The DWP leaflet also attacked the Mono Lake National Monument bill (HR 5424), allegedly for jeopardizing water supplies. In fact, the monument legislation merely authorizes a *study* of alternatives to the Mono Basin diversions. DWP opposes such a study because they know it will reveal the same conclusion reached by the Interagency Task Force in 1979: Mono Lake is being killed by greed, not need (for more on the monument, see p. 5).

Moreover, the DWP brochure ignored Mono Lake's beauty and recreational value, and the common-sense alternative to its destruction: water conservation and wastewater reclamation.

Appealing to Angelenos

We are responding by redoubling our campaign to bring the truth to the people of Los Angeles. Our new Executive Director, Ed Grosswiler, will be working out of our expanded L.A. office. Under his leadership, we will be publicizing Mono's crisis through a series of news conferences and radio and television appearances. We will mount a national grassroots appeal for an immediate, emergency moratorium on diversions. We will carry that appeal to the Los Angeles City Council and Mayor (gubernatorial candidate Tom Bradley). If that fails, we will push the state legislature to curtail diversions before it is too late.

Church Condemns Mono Lake Murder

This February, at the urging of Father Christopher Kelley and the St. Timothy's Episcopal Church in Bishop, the Episcopal Diocese of San Joaquin passed a resolution demanding "immediate Christian moral action to stop the murder of Mono Lake."

"The convention considered the use of the word 'murder' very carefully," said Father Kelley. "But when you deliberately follow a policy resulting in the death of a living community, and you are aware of that, it is murder. That is what the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power is doing to Mono Lake."

This is the third consecutive year that the San Joaquin diocese has passed a resolution on Mono Lake's behalf. Each year the wording has become stronger and the resolution has passed by larger margins. This year the vote was 160 to 6.

"By biblical standards," comments Father Kelley, "we are commanded by God to be the gardeners of the earth, and that term is used in the scriptures. For that reason we feel that Mono Lake is being violated as part of God's creation."

The resolution concludes by demanding, "in the name of God," that "DWP immediately release 85,000 acre-feet of Mono Basin water into the lake per year until the lake returns to, and is maintained at, 6,388 feet."

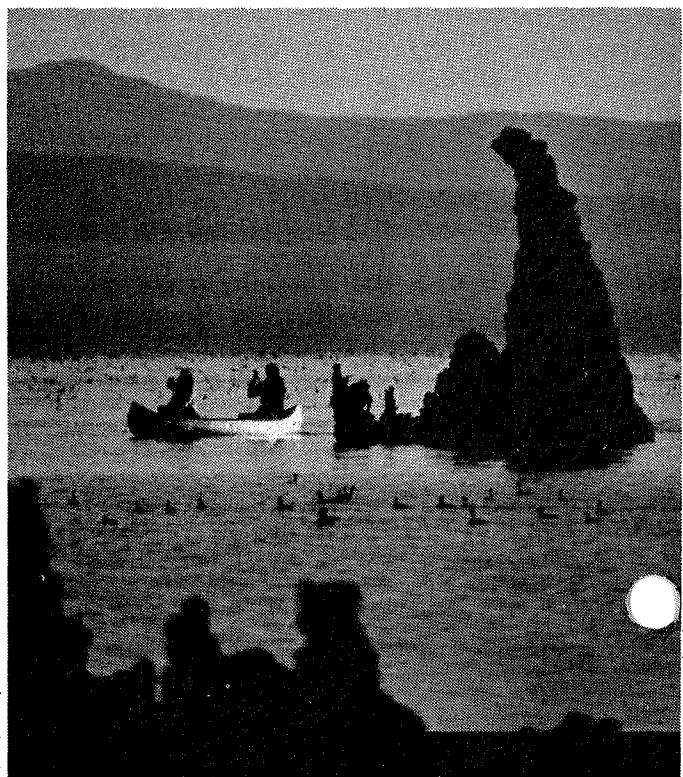
HOW YOU CAN HELP

If you live in the Los Angeles area, please contact your City Councilman and Mayor Tom Bradley (City Hall, Los Angeles, CA 90012). Explain the urgency of the situation, and advocate an immediate emergency moratorium on water diversions this year. Protest the spending of ratepayer's dollars on misleading, biased propaganda. Urge your friends and neighbors to do the same. Keep in touch with our L.A. office for the latest information (213/477-8229).

Wherever you live, write to Tom Bradley and urge him to support the moratorium on water diversions. Alert your state representatives to the need for action if L.A. does not relent.

Tom Bradley on Mono Lake

When Los Angeles Mayor Tom Bradley brought his front-running campaign for the Democratic gubernatorial nomination to Northern California, he was asked about Mono Lake. Bradley refused to say what he had done or thought should be done about the issues, noting instead that it was in the courts and should be decided there (reported in the Chico News and Review).



Michael Dresler

In The Legislature

The National Monument Legislation

by Congressman Norman Shumway

Note: On February 2, 1982, Congressman Norman Shumway (R-Stockton) and James Santini (D-Nevada) introduced a new bill, HR 5424, to establish a Mono Lake National Monument. The Shumway-Santini bill is substantially the same as HR 4057, which Congressman Shumway introduced last June. HR 5424, however, incorporates two changes: (1) the boundaries of the monument have been reduced to exclude private property and active mining claims, e.g., in the Mono Craters area, and (2) language has been added to disclaim any impingement on legal, existing water rights. As of mid-February, 11 representatives had co-sponsored HR 5424, including California's Thomas, Lantos, Stark, Pineta and Panetta. Congressmen Fazio, Dellums, Matsui, Dymally, Brown and Chappie also co-sponsored Shumway's original bill.

Last June, I introduced legislation in Congress which would declare the federal lands in and around Mono Lake a National Monument. The beauty and wonder of this lake merit national recognition and deserve the kind of recreational management that the National Park Service can provide. The tens of thousands of people who visit the area each year overburden present recreational management facilities. The Park Service is set up to handle these kinds of situations more expertly than the Bureau of Land Management.

Since the introduction of this legislation, a storm of controversy has arisen which pits Mono Lake residents, California State administrative offices and a host of concerned environmental groups against one major entity—the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (DWP).

At stake in this controversy is an issue that California is well acquainted with: water rights. DWP fears that in the declaration of Mono Lake as a National Monument, their lawful right to divert water from Mono Lake would somehow be jeopardized. This fear, however, is without foundation. It has never been my intent, nor those who support this bill, to alter in any way Mono Lake water rights as vested under California State law.

This is not to say that the diversion of water is not harmful to the environmental health of Mono Lake; it clearly is. Over the last 40 years, the lake level has dropped approximately 46 feet and the salinity level has increased to a point where scientists believe the lake's ecological life support system is being destroyed.

However, the diversion of Mono Lake water is simply not a matter of federal jurisdiction. It is a state concern and any changes in Mono Lake water rights law will have to be made in Sacramento, not Washington.

So that this issue of water rights can be resolved with finality, I have just recently introduced a new Mono Lake bill (HR 5424) that replicates the first bill except for important new language. This new addition expressly disclaims any intent to impinge upon any legal water rights that currently exist with regard to Mono Lake water diversions. It is my hope and expectation that this language will assuage any fears that Los Angeles might have in the protection of their water rights.

Unfortunately, even with this new proviso in the bill, I doubt that Los Angeles will support the measure. The real objection of DWP is to the public exposure which would surely follow from the creation of a National Monument. The slow death of the lake and continued devastation caused by draining water from the basin is something that DWP would rather the public not be aware of. But our focus should be on the concept of a National Monument for the lake, not on the subterfuge of Mono Lake water rights.

By confining debate to the question of how the federal government can best meet its responsibilities of managing federal lands in this area, we can move toward our goal of resolving the environmental problems at Mono Lake. I am convinced that the establishment of a National Monument at this site is a necessary and critical first step in meeting this objective. National Monument status would complement the recently established Mono Lake Tufa State Reserve by providing for the federal lands in that area a similar kind of resource management to that which is now provided for state lands.

The goal of this bill is to provide for the proper management of federal lands at Mono Lake, and to inaugurate a study of the lake's future. Any controversy with DWP over water rights will have to be addressed in another arena on another day. In the meantime, however, I hope the people of California will agree with me that Mono Lake is indeed a unique resource and needs to be protected.

Hearings To Be Held On Mono Monument Bill

Eight months of effort have finally borne fruit: Congressman John Seiberling (D-Ohio), Chairman of the House Interior Subcommittee on Public Lands and National Parks, will hold hearings on Mono Lake this session. While a date has not been announced, hearings will probably be scheduled for mid-May in Washington D.C. There is still a possibility that field hearings will also be held in California.

MLC's Legislative Representative Tom Cassidy has already journeyed to Washington D.C. twice to garner support for the monument. At the May hearings he will be joined by our Executive Director, other monophiles and representatives from the Lee Vining Chamber of Commerce, Mono County, the State of California, National Audubon, National Parks and Conservation Association, Sierra Club, Friends of the Earth and many other organizations. In addition to supporting HR 5424, we will be pushing for passage of Congressman Shumway's HR 4056, which would block DWP's attempt to acquire every parcel of federal land contiguous to Mono Lake. We will also be opposing Congressman Jerry Patterson's HR 4403, which would confirm DWP's rights to divert water from the Mono Basin regardless of the impact on federal land or Mono Lake.

An effective and productive trip to Washington requires weeks of preparation. We are assembling hundreds of packets containing 15-page statements in support of our positions, copies of National Geographic and Smithsonian articles, and other materials. We are shipping hundreds of Mono Lake posters, guidebooks, position

papers, newsletters and other materials to Washington D.C. We are coordinating closely with a broad coalition of supportive organizations, and seeking the counsel of National Audubon, Sierra Club, Friends of the Earth and other groups with extensive D.C. experience.

But we also depend on you, our membership, to once again write or call your congressmen. The flood of letters that poured in to Washington over the past eight months was largely responsible for Seiberling's decision to hold hearings. Now that hearings are scheduled, we must generate another, even more massive outpouring of broad grassroots support. For this reason, we are writing and telephoning those of you who are constituents of key congressmen, especially those who sit on Seiberling's committee. Please do everything you can to generate letters, mailgrams and phone calls from your community.

Special thanks to Barbara Blake, Sierra Club Southern California representative, and to Mark Palmer, Sierra Club regional Vice-President, for help and guidance on Capitol Hill.

LATE BULLETIN. On April 14th, AB 2884, the Mono Lake research bill, passed the Assembly Water, Parks and Wildlife Committee by a vote of 6-0.

California Legislature Considers Mono Research Bill

On March 1, Assemblyman Norman Waters (D-Plymouth) introduced legislation to fund a three-year Mono Lake research program. AB 2884 would appropriate \$500,000 from the California Environmental License Plate Fund to the California Department of Fish and Game, and mandate Fish and Game to contract with the University of California for the purpose of the study. Research would "evaluate the effects of declining lake levels, increasing salinity, and other limnological changes upon the following:

- (a) The total productivity, seasonality and physiology of brine shrimp, flies and algae living in and around Mono Lake.
 - (b) The numbers, productivity and physiology of breeding and migratory bird populations.
 - (c) The extent and magnitude of dust storms from the relict bed of Mono Lake, and their implications for human health, wildlife and surrounding vegetation.
 - (d) The lake's hydrology, including groundwater inflow, evaporation and freshwater spring flow and associated habitats."
- AB 2884 is expected to pass the Assembly Water, Parks and Wildlife Committee when it is heard on April 14.
- Unfortunately, AB 2884 would not curtail water diversions or stabilize Mono Lake. While MLC encourages research, we support a reduction in diversions while studies are conducted.

In The Courts

Crucial Test for Public Trust

This spring or summer the California Supreme Court will decide whether the "public trust doctrine" can be invoked to limit water diversions and save Mono Lake. The outcome will be of paramount significance, not only for Mono Lake, but for instream protection throughout the arid west.

The public trust doctrine, whose origins can be traced to English and Roman law, has traditionally been used to protect the public interest in navigation, commerce and fishing on navigable waters. We believe the public trust protects recreation, aesthetics, scientific study and wildlife preservation as well, and seek to invoke the doctrine to limit Los Angeles' Mono Basin diversions. This has set the public trust on a collision course with California's existing water-rights system.

At present the State Water Resources Control Board (WRCB), a five-member regulatory agency appointed by the governor, grants permits and licenses to water appropriators based on the "reasonable and beneficial use" test. Section 1240 of the California Water Code states, "the appropriation must be for some useful or beneficial purpose, and when the appropriator . . . ceases to use it for such a purpose the right ceases." "Beneficial use" has traditionally included just about everything from swimming pools to flood irrigation. Los Angeles met the "beneficial use" test long ago, and WRCB has granted the city permits and licenses for its Mono Basin diversions.

Unfortunately, "beneficial use" affords little protection to

wetlands. In fact, an unmoderated "beneficial use" policy will eventually lead to the dessication, not only of Mono Lake, but of virtually all lowland lakes and streams.

That's why we are arguing that the "public trust doctrine" must be applied to protect wildlife, recreation and other public interests in areas that are held by the state in permanent trust for public use. There is no question that Mono Lake, a navigable body of water, belongs in this category.

If the Supreme Court agrees, the case will probably return to federal court for trial, hopefully by autumn. According to a cover story in the January *California Lawyer*, court-watchers give the public trust doctrine "even odds." "The courts," concludes the article, "most likely will balance the interests of the environmentalists and the city of Los Angeles . . . the courts would limit, not terminate, the city's water rights."

For further information on the Mono Lake lawsuit and the public trust doctrine, please see the following articles:

Guy, Martha. 1982. The Public Trust Doctrine in California Water Law. *Hastings Law Journal* 33: 653-687.

Hoff, Jeff. 1982. The Legal Battle Over Mono Lake. *Calif. Lawyer* 28-32: 58.

1980. The Public Trust Doctrine in Natural Resources Law and Management. *U.C. Davis Law Review* 14(2): 181-496. Especially relevant are the papers, "Public Trust Protection For Stream Flows and Lake Levels," by Ralph W. Johnson, and "The Significance of California's Public Trust Easement for California's Water Rights Law," by Harrison C. Dunning.

Threatened With Imminent Harm

Note: The following letter on the Mono Lake lawsuit was sent by California Water Resources Director Ronald Robie to the California Supreme Court in December, 1981. We thank Director Robie for calling the court's attention to the urgency of the crisis.

Dear Chief Justice Bird and Associate Justices:

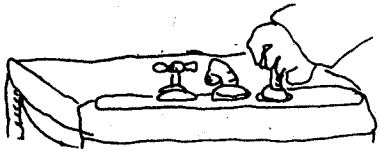
The environment of the Mono Basin is threatened with imminent harm. The loss of the Negit Island rookery and other islets, this year's [1981's] 85-95% reduction from prior recorded levels of the brine shrimp spring hatch which sustains the California Gull population, and the loss of 95% of the 1981 gull chick hatch point to the possibility of a major ecological collapse in 1982.

The Department of Water Resources is very familiar with the issues in this case and with the importance of Mono Lake as a unique element of the natural heritage of this State. The Department was a member and provided staff to the Interagency Task Force on Mono Lake which explored various alternatives available to resolve this problem, and which reported its findings and recommendations in December, 1979, including a reduction of diversions from the Mono Basin.

The main question in this case is the relationship of the public trust doctrine to the State administration of water rights. This question presents issues of major statewide importance involving the fundamental role of the State as trustee of its navigable waters and the right of the people to the use and enjoyment of trust resources.

The Department of Water Resources therefore believes that the immediate resolution of the questions and issues in this case are of critical importance. It therefore respectfully urges that this Court grant the Alternative Writ so that the Court may consider the significant issues in this case.

Sincerely,
Ronald B. Robie

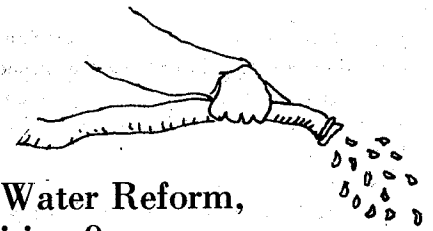


Water Reform Initiative Moves Forward

By the time you receive this newsletter, the California Water Reform Initiative will hopefully have garnered the 500,000 signatures it needs to qualify for the November ballot. Now comes the hard work of passing this crucial landmark legislation.

The Water Reform Initiative evolved from the Governor's Commission on Water Rights Law, which was convened in 1977-78. Under the direction of UC Davis professor Harrison Dunning, the commission called for drastic changes in the way we manage California's dwindling water resources. But special interests prevented the legislature from enacting the commission's recommendations.

Through the Water Reform Initiative, Dunning, the California League of Women Voters, Friends of the River, National Audubon, the Mono Lake Committee and many other water-knowledgeable groups are taking these reforms to the people. They include water conservation, control of groundwater over-pump, and protection for rivers, lakes, bays, estuaries and wetlands. Regardless of the June vote on Prop. 9 (the peripheral canal), the Water Reform Initiative is desperately needed and warrants our support. For more information, please contact: California Water Protection Council, 401 San Miguel Way, Sacramento, CA 95819; (916) 453-0443.



MLC Supports Water Reform, Opposes Proposition 9

At a press conference in front of the William Mulholland Memorial Fountain in Los Angeles, MLC'ers David Takemoto-Weerts and David Gaines explained the committee's opposition to Proposition 9, SB 200 and the Peripheral Canal. "We are supporting common-sense water use in California," said Gaines, holding a low-flow shower head in his hand. "Reforms in state water policy, including a halt to subsidized agricultural water and common-sense conservation measures, could save enough water to make the multi-billion canal project unnecessary . . . and save Mono Lake many times over."

On January 6, the MLC Board of Directors unanimously passed the following resolution opposing Proposition 9:

Whereas Prop. 9 authorizes the expansion of the State Water Project through the construction of the Peripheral Canal and other facilities;

And whereas Prop. 9 fails to mandate needed water policy reforms that should and must precede further water development, in particular, those reforms addressed in the proposed Water Resources Conservation and Efficiency Act (the Water Reform Initiative);

And whereas Prop. 9 fails to address the need to allocate sufficient water to preserve the ecological and recreational values of Mono Lake and other endangered wetland resources;

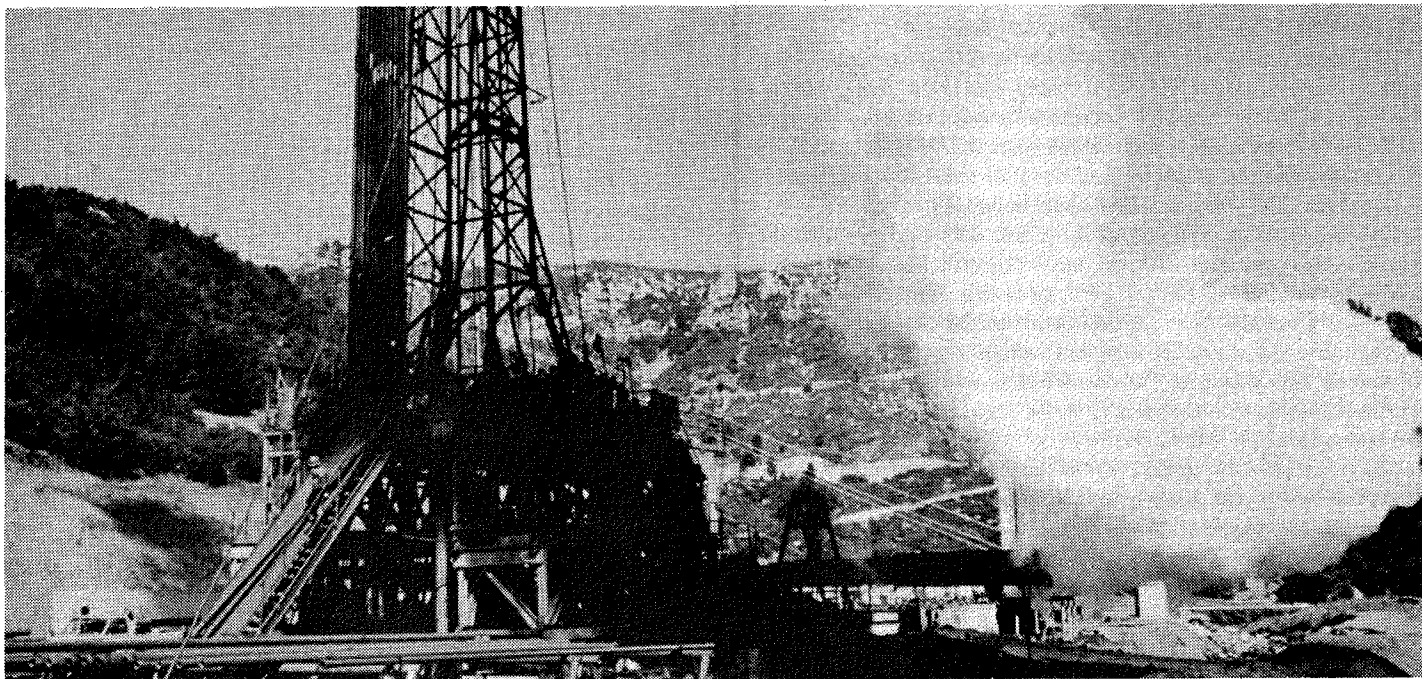
Therefore, be it resolved, that the Mono Lake Committee opposes Prop. 9 and the Peripheral Canal;

And be it further resolved, that the Mono Lake Committee also opposes the Cross Delta Facility or any other expansion of the State Water Project as an alternative to the Peripheral Canal, at least until water policy reforms have been enacted.

We have taken this position after careful consideration of California's water supply situation. We are convinced that prudent, common-sense water management can meet all our foreseeable water demands through the year 2000 without construction of the peripheral canal or other new water projects, and without destroying Mono Lake. This conclusion is factually documented in studies by the California Department of Water Resources (DWR), which, for example, prove that 15% urban water conservation is a readily attainable, cost-effective goal.

We are also convinced that Southern California does not require additional water to make up losses from the Colorado River. California used just over 4.7 million acre-feet of Colorado water in the past 12 months; after 1984 its entitlement will drop to 4.4 million acre-feet, a relatively small loss. Moreover, monumental amounts of Colorado River water are squandered by Imperial Valley agriculture; DWR estimates the waste at over 438,000 acre-feet per year. This is just one more example of how prudent management can solve California's water problems without building more dollar-and-energy expensive, environmentally destructive water projects.

Mono Geothermal Development Poses Serious Problems



On April 6 MLC Intern Paul Johnson appeared before the Mono County Board of Supervisors to present the committee's reservations on the development of geothermal power. Interior Secretary James Watt is pushing the lease of all known geothermal resource potential by the end of this summer, including the Coso area in the southern Owens Valley, the Long Valley area near Crowley Lake, the Mono Craters and Mono Lake itself. About 78,000 acres around Crowley and Mono lakes are now being readied for competitive lease sales.

Our paramount concern is consumptive water use. Dissipating waste heat could consume large quantities of water, reducing hopes for securing adequate supplies for Mono Lake.

When geothermal was first produced in California's Imperial Valley, for example, little consumptive water use was anticipated. Now, with development proceeding, 50,000 acre-feet per year have been approved by the State Water Resources Control Board. As a result, the Salton Sea National Wildlife Refuge and the sea itself are imperiled.

A study conducted by the Hanford Engineering Development Lab for the Department of Energy determined that the cooling water requirements for a geothermal plant are 65 acre-feet/megawatt/year. With a 1,000 megawatt potential in the Mono-Long Valley area, a demand of 65,000 acre-feet of water per year could develop in this area alone. Add to this a similar demand in the Coso Area, and it becomes evident that potential water demand for geothermal development could greatly exceed the needs of Mono Lake.

The most successful bidder on geothermal leases in the Coso area was the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power. Evidently DWP can find water for geothermal even though it can't for Mono Lake.

Other consequences for pell-mell geothermal development are equally sobering:

- Air pollution from plant emissions of hydrogen sulfide, ammonia, methane, mercury, arsenic, boron and other contaminants.
- Power plants, transmission lines, pipes, cooling towers and other industrial intrusions on the landscape.
- Permanent damage to geothermal aquifers as water is extracted and strata settle and compact.
- Water pollution from geothermal fluids high in boron, arsenic, fluorine and other heavy metals.
- Destruction of hot springs and geysers.

All this for an energy source that is expected to last only 15-45 years! Geothermal development would tap residual areas of high temperature left by past volcanic activity. At present this heat is being slowly dissipated in the form of hot springs, steam vents and similar hot spots. Geothermal developers would drill to depths of 2,000 to 15,000 feet to tap this hot water and steam for the production of electrical energy. Once the water and steam were exhausted, however, power production would cease.

Forest Service and BLM environmental impact statements and assessments on geothermal are inadequate, especially with regard to water consumption. In fact, water-related impacts are almost totally neglected. Other potential impacts are dismissed prematurely or not addressed in sufficient detail.

The Mono Lake Committee will support geothermal if it can be developed without disrupting the Mono Basin and eastern Sierran environment, and without consuming additional water. The potential impacts, however, need to be carefully evaluated and reviewed before any additional areas are offered for lease. As there are public lands, there should be ample opportunity for public review and input. Conditions and controls must be placed on lessees to protect the public interest and safeguard the environment.

Ongoing Research

Conservation Endowment Fund, Santa Clara Audubon Fund Mono Research

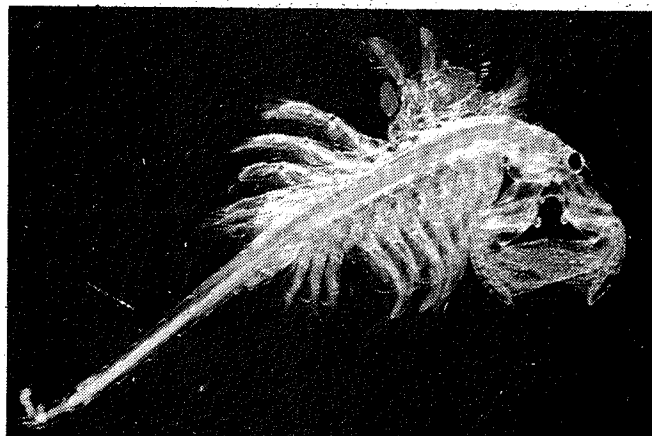
Without the financial assistance of the Conservation Endowment Fund and the Santa Clara Valley Audubon Society, the critical studies now being conducted on Mono Lake's brine shrimp would not have been possible. The Conservation Endowment Fund donated \$5,000 and Santa Clara Valley Audubon \$3,000 toward this vital research.

"By sponsoring brine shrimp research," says Conservation Endowment Fund president John Taft, "we are helping to assure the survival of one of California's most splendid natural treasures. This research will validate what we all know: without immediate public action, the Mono Lake ecosystem will be lost forever."

CEF is also involved in other critical projects, such as protection of the endangered Least Tern and California Condor. They deserve our gratitude and support. For more information, write to: Conservation Endowment Fund, 2357 East Main Street, Ventura, CA 93003.

Special thank you to Terry Hart, for facilitating the Santa Clara Valley Audubon grant.

Where Have All the Brine Shrimp Gone?



Larry Ford

Mono Lake's diminutive brine shrimp make up in numbers what they lack in size. At peak densities, over 50,000 crowd a cubic yard of lakewater, and the overall summer population exceeds four trillion individuals and weighs over six million pounds dry weight. This cornucopia of shrimp nourishes innumerable nesting and migratory birds. Or did until last year.

In 1980 Mono's spring brine shrimp population declined by 50%; in 1981, it declined by 85-95%. What caused shrimp numbers to crash? What will happen this year? In years to come?

Seeking answers to these crucial questions are biologists Petra Lenz and Gayle Dana from the Marine Sciences Institute of UC Santa Barbara. Funded by grants from the Conservation Endowment Fund and the Santa Clara Valley Audubon Society, Lenz and Dana are pursuing a wide range of field and laboratory studies. To quote from their research proposal:

The decline in spring levels of the Mono Lake brine shrimp may be attributed to events tied to the reproductive cycle. Possible causes include interruption of diapause (the overwintering of the shrimp egg), decreased hatching of the egg in the spring, increased mortality during development and decreased egg production. It is suspected that the cause is ultimately linked to changes in the lake induced by water diversions.

The ultimate goals of this study will be to determine the cause of the steady decline of the spring adult brine shrimp abundance and to predict what changes will occur in future years given present water diversions. To achieve these goals we propose to characterize the ecological cycle of the shrimp eggs by monitoring various parameters: time of egg production and settlement, chemical and physical conditions present during diapause, the time of spring egg hatch and subsequent development of the young shrimp stages to adulthood. Experimental research on egg viability, production and hatching will supplement field studies at Mono Lake.

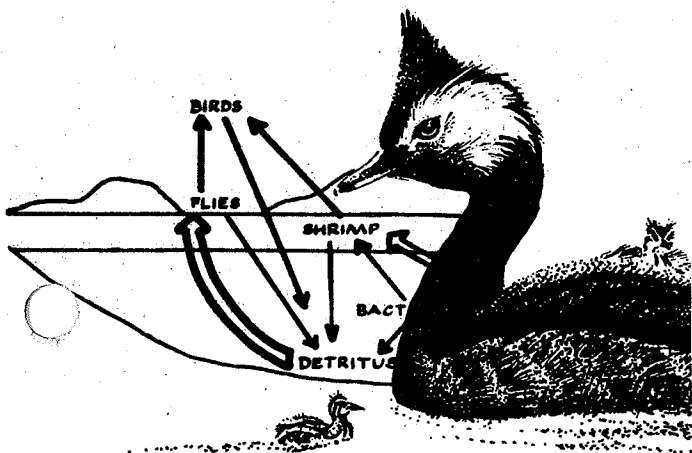
Petra and Gayle's study will furnish scientific information on Mono's ecological health that will bolster the lake's case before the legislature and the courts. We'll have a full report in our next newsletter.

DWP Funds Mono Bird Research

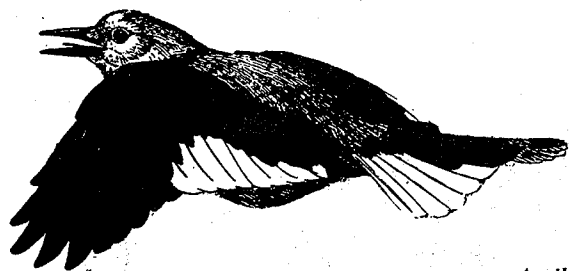
For the second year the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power will be funding research on Mono Lake's California Gulls and migratory birds. The research team will be led by Dr. Joseph R. Jehl, Jr., assistant director of Hubbs-Sea World Research Institute in San Diego. In addition to gathering baseline data, Jehl will be conducting physiological studies to determine the effects of increasing salinity on Mono's birds.

UC Gull Studies To Continue

For the past four years, UC biologist David Winkler has been investigating the reproductive biology of Mono Lake's California Gulls. This year Winkler will be conducting comparative studies of the gulls at Great Salt Lake. Co-worker Virginia Norris will be continuing the research at Mono.



The Mono Naturalist



April 1st.
No foolin'—

One foot of fresh snow.

The wind howls in the stovepipe. Outside, it whips fine powdery snow high into the blue sky and stirs Mono Lake with bold whitecaps. Fresh snow covers the entire basin. Spring's bluff has been called by old man winter.

March did not start out this way. Around the full moon early in the month, days were sunny and the lake glassy calm. However, with the waning moon came snow flurries and windstorms. Then, with the crescent waxing moon, wintry storms swept the basin, culminating in a daylong snowstorm on the last day of the month that raised the Sierran snowpack to near-record levels.

Into March Mono Lake held its silence, hushed by the absence of millions of living beings: no grebes, no gulls, no phalaropes, no brine shrimp, and few brine flies. However, the rich pea green color of its water evidenced a flourishing algal bloom. Change was on its way.

Maybe it was the flocks of bluebirds and handfuls of swallows arriving in mid-February that heralded the beginning of spring? Yet it was the Clark's Nutcrackers building nests in the first week of March that made spring seem definite. By the end of the month they were incubating eggs as snow accumulated on the sides of their nests. Meanwhile, in a bare cottonwood north of the lake, a Great Horned Owl sat patiently on its clutch.

The green world barely got started in March. Gooseberries popped their buds and revealed the first signs of fresh green foliage. Herbs and forbs sent their first shoots skywards. Fuzzy catkins appeared on the aspens, portending the green to come.

March also brought the first stirrings of insect activity. Brine fly adults appeared on muddy spots around Mono's shores. On warm days even a few butterflies fluttered about. Still, to human perception the insect pickings seemed mighty slim for the vanguard of swallows that appeared in mid-February.

The first gulls and grebes arrived in mid-March. Then, just before the big snowstorm, Dowitchers, Yellowlegs, Dunlin and other shorebirds appeared. As many of these shorebirds nest in the arctic, it is no wonder they show up at Mono so early in the spring.

It was not only the sights which marked spring's arrival. The songs of Juncos, Cassin's Finches and Red-winged Blackbirds proclaimed the change in season early in March. Later came the more musical songs of Meadowlarks, Horned Larks and Sage Thrashers. And from high overhead the cries of gulls brought some temporary sense of relief—they are returning!

March is the swing month. The first rites of spring are held in both plant and animal worlds. And though sheltered by technology, humankind still holds rituals in honor of the advent of spring.

On March 21, the vernal equinox, four of us gathered on a hillside above Mono Lake to watch the sunrise in celebration of the sun passing north over the equator.

Spring Mono Lake Bird Count

The spring Mono Lake bird count is scheduled for Friday, May 28 (Memorial Day weekend). We will be censusing all birds within a 15-mile diameter circle centered along Mono Lake's west shore. The count ranges from 6,372 feet at the lake to 12,327 at the summit of Mt. Warren. Experts and novices alike are invited to participate. Hardy hikers are especially needed.

Please meet at the Mono Lake Information Center in Lee Vining at 7 p.m. on Thursday, May 27, so we can assign you to a party (or give us a call in advance). The count will conclude with a pot-luck dinner at dusk on Friday.

Book Review



Earthquakes and Young Volcanoes

by C. Dean Rinehart and Ward C. Smith. Edited by Genny Smith. Two color; illustrated with maps, diagrams and 30 photographs. 64 pages, paper. \$5.95.

The greatest earthquakes along the Eastern Sierra Front during this century struck Mammoth Lakes in late May, 1980. Ninety miles south of Mammoth and a century before, an earthquake of 100 times greater magnitude demolished the town of Lone Pine. North of Mammoth, between Mammoth Mountain and Mono Lake, at least 20 volcanic eruptions have occurred during the last 2,000 years.

This booklet will help you understand what's going on. It relates today's events to the violent jerking and explosions that have been shaking this eastern California region for a long time, and undoubtedly will continue to do so in our lifetimes.

Earthquakes and Young Volcanoes is exceptionally well designed. Volcanic and tectonic features are easy to see in the sharp photographs. Professional geologists Dean Rinehart and Ward C. Smith of the US Geological Survey and Stanford University have written a lucid text. One only wishes the book were longer!

Earthquakes and Young Volcanoes is available from the Mono Lake Committee in Lee Vining for \$6.75 postpaid (Calif. residents please add 36c sales tax).

How to Save Mono Lake



This January, a slide talk at the Ivanhoe Elementary School in Los Angeles led to an essay contest on "how to save Mono Lake." Mono Lake T-shirts, posters and Color-and-Learn Books were awarded to the authors of the best essays. As the following excerpts indicate, the students came up with perceptive solutions:

How to save Mono Lake is simple . . . all we have to do is be very conscious of what you are doing with water.

...Brian Preble, Grade 4

Do not put water on blasting; don't bathe too often; select water conserving plants.

...Sharon Rosengart, Grade 3

If you take a drink of water, don't leave the faucet on.

...Suzy Kerlic, Grade 4

I think we should open the four other streams for awhile until the lake gets enough water. I know that if we all do our part Mono Lake will be beautiful again.

...Jay Wejbe, Grade 5

Collect shower water with buckets to save for plants.

...Melissa Tong, Grade 3

Toilets are like enemies of conservation. To save water from the toilet, you should put a brick or something big in the tank.

...Ronald Lee, Grade 6

Don't play with the water.

...Alecia Trower, Grade 2

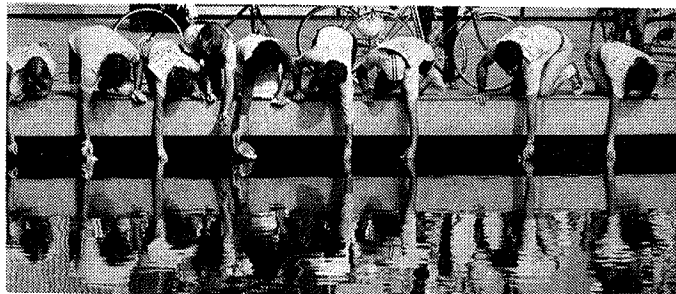
What if Mono Lake dried up? Well, you probably say go to another country. But we can't go country to country getting more water and drying up lakes.

...Bibiana Perry, Grade 5

"It was wonderful," says Barbara DeWitt, organizer of the event, "to have children respond sympathetically to a 'real world' problem, and to strive to do something about it." Janet Wirt's sixth grade class even took up a collection and became MLC members. Many students asked their parents to take them to the lake this summer.

Hopefully, MLC members will be inspired to organize similar programs at local schools. Please contact Barbara DeWitt for help and advice (2440 Moreno Dr., Los Angeles, CA 90039 [213] 666-0843).

1982 Bikeathon Set for August 20-Sept. 4



Katey Barrett

Monomaniacal bicyclists, take heed! Join us on our third 350-mile ride from Los Angeles to Mono Lake. This year we hope to have 20-30 cyclists complete the trip. For more information, please contact our Southern California Coordinator, David Takemoto-Weerts, in Los Angeles (213 477-8229).

We also need volunteers with vans or trucks to carry gear and camping equipment. Later this summer we'll be asking MLC members to pledge support to one or more of the bikeathoners.

DWR Mono Lake Film Available

The California Department of Water Resources has completed an objective and eloquent film, *Ebb Tide at Mono Lake*, that they will loan to groups without charge. The 20-minute, 16mm film received a thunderous ovation at the recent Audubon Western Regional Conference. Mono's scenic grandeur, flocks of birds and even its brine shrimp and flies are beautifully captured, and the narration and editing are excellent. The film gives special attention to the Interagency Task Force and the water conservation alternative to Mono's destruction. It concludes with a cogent plea for resource conservation by California Resources Secretary Huey Johnson.

To borrow a copy of *Ebb Tide at Mono Lake*, please contact the Department of Water Resources in Sacramento. There is no charge. DWR's address is: Department of Water Resources, Graphic Services, P.O. Box 388, Sacramento, CA 95802.

MLC News and Activities

Summer Volunteers Needed at the Lake

We need help staffing the Mono Lake Information Center, conducting field trips and infecting summer visitors with monomania! Last year about 50,000 people from all over the world learned of Mono's plight at our Information Center. Over a thousand attended our free weekend tours.

Volunteers have always been the heart of our summer programs. If you would like to volunteer, please let us know the dates and length of time you will be available.

In addition to volunteers, we are seeking to fill 1-2 full-time internships beginning in September. Interns receive a place to stay and a small monthly stipend. If you (or someone you know) would like to apply, please send a resume to Sally Judy (P.O. Box 29, Lee Vining, CA 93541).

Annual Meeting, Picnic and —Bucket Walk

Join us on Saturday, September 4, for our fourth bucket walk, annual meeting, picnic and communal cry. We will carry water from Lee Vining Creek to Mono Lake, symbolizing our commitment to the lake's preservation. On the same day the L.A. to Mono Lake bikeathoners will be arriving with water scooped from DWP's reflecting pool in downtown Los Angeles. Let's welcome them with hundreds of people! More details in our next newsletter.

In Los Angeles

Our Los Angeles office is expanding! While engaged in spring office-cleaning, staffers Barbara and David Takemoto-Weerts found more space in the ol' office than anyone expected. Please drop by, share a cup of coffee and learn what we are up to. Special thanks to Tim Gray of the Gray Squirrel Canoe and Paddle Co., Paul Hobbs of Viking Sauna Corp., and Glenn Vinzant for generous donations of needed office equipment.

Kudos also to volunteers Roger Bloomer and Susan Hobbs, who were instrumental in getting out legislative action alerts in record time. Thanks also to Bev Strunk for secretarial assistance, and to Edie Gaines and Toby Jurovics for help in distributing and selling Mono Lake merchandise.

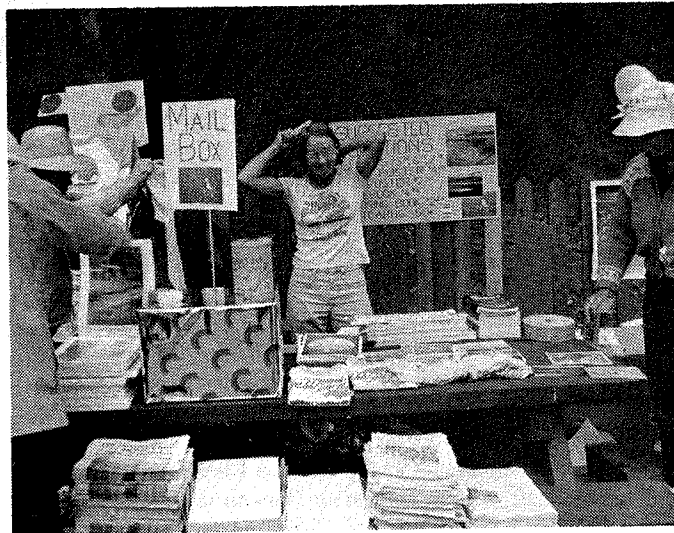
Our Los Angeles office needs additional volunteers. We have jobs for everyone from envelope stuffers to public speakers to salespeople to ...? Please contact us at (213) 477-8229.

Look for the Mono Lake booth at the Third Annual Wildlife Festival at Rancho Arnaz in Ojai, Ventura County, May 21-23. The event will include entertainment, exhibits, workshops, films, etc. If you can come out and help us staff our booth, please contact the L.A. office.

In Northern California

Our able Bay Area Coordinator, Chris Swarth, has departed to study sea birds and mammals on the Farallon Islands off San Francisco. His place is being temporarily filled by Joe Marek, who has moved to the Bay Area to serve as Special Events Coordinator. We hope to bring Chris back on board this autumn.

Joe Marek will be catalyzing a series of awareness and fund-raising events ranging from "Mono Lake Days" and garage sales



Mark Ross

Sally Judy staffed the Mono Lake table at last summer's Angel Island Fundraiser. The mail box was for letters to legislators. You too can help save the lake by organizing awareness and fund-raising events in your community. To find out how, please contact our Special Events Coordinator, Joe Marek, at (415) 428-0651 or 541-9065.

to wine tastings and auctions. But he cannot do it alone. Wherever you live, get in touch and offer your ideas and assistance (415) 428-0251 or 541-9065).

Fund-raising Happenings

In Ventura County a fund-raising drawing netted about \$2,000 for the Mono Lake cause. We owe a great debt of gratitude to Ventura County MLC'ers Scott Ellison, Karen Bialobreski, Gerhard Kapuscik, LuNeal Hailey, Connie Rector Kinnison, Dr. Clint Harper, Doris Miller, John Broz and especially our energetic Ventura County representative Jean Dale. Thanks also to the Rock Creek Winter Lodge, Great Pacific Iron Works and the Chart House for donating prizes. Inspired by Jean's success, we are now embarking on a statewide fund-raising drawing with the Water Reform Initiative people . . . details forthcoming.

Our benefit showing of a Warren Miller ski film in Mammoth Lakes raised about \$500. Thanks to Warren Miller for reducing the rental fee on the film. We are also most grateful to our local newspapers, The Review and Mono Herald, for providing excellent coverage. The Review even donated free advertising space!

An auction sponsored by the Conejo Valley Audubon Society raised about \$300. Special thanks to Eleonora Culver and Helen Wheelock for organizing this event.

If your group would like to organize a fund-raising event, please get in touch with Joe Marek, our Special Events Coordinator, for help and advice.

Dues Increase

Speaking of fund raising, we are raising our membership dues for the "I cannot afford more" category from \$5 to \$8, and for the "regular membership" category from \$10 to \$15. This is our first dues increase in four inflationary years, and we trust you'll understand. It now costs about \$5/year just to service each of our members.

Staff Hellos and Good-byes

New faces grace our Lee Vining office with the arrival of Jim Otta-Jaenecke, his wife, Liz, and their children, Jasmine (19 months) and Mischa (seven weeks). Jim is serving as office manager, which means he does everything from answer mail and empty the trash to talk to reporters and lead field trips. He has previously worked as a park service naturalist in Yosemite and Alaska, and as a book sales manager with the Yosemite Natural History Association. Jim is an able interpreter, knowledgeable in biology and natural history, and is deeply committed to the Mono Lake cause. We are fortunate to have him on our staff.

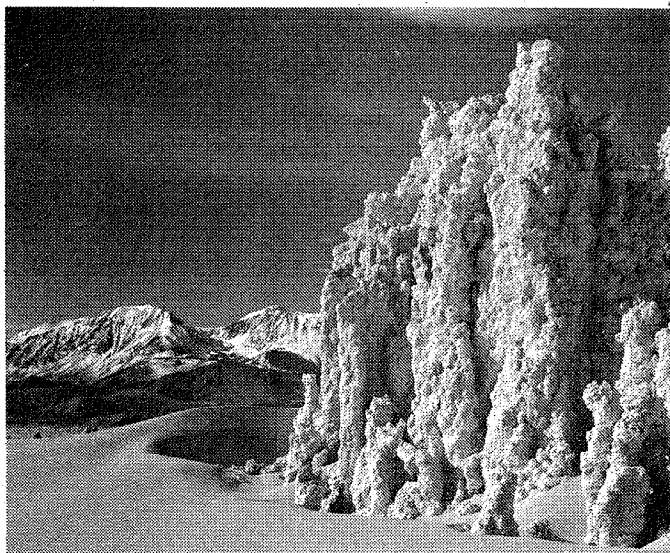
Two MLC'ers have moved on to other endeavors: Michael Dressler to free-lance photography, and Jeanine Koshear to full-time interpretive work. Their dedication, enthusiasm and talents will be sorely missed.

Tufa Awards

This spring's tufa awards go to Lee Vining volunteers Paul Johnson, Brett Engstrom and Viki Lang, for keeping us above a sea of paperwork. In addition, Paul assiduously researched geothermal development, Brett patrolled the landbridge watching for predators, and Viki repainted our art gallery—which now displays her exquisite black-and-white photographs of Mono Lake in winter.

Our grand tufa awards go to The Review in Mammoth Lakes for their unflagging support and the use of their typesetting machine, and to Laurie Jorden for long hours typesetting this (and our past four) newsletters.

Benefit Sale of Mono Lake Photograph



Photographer Viki Lang has donated a special edition of fifty 4x5 contact prints of *Tufa and Sierra*. Each print is mounted on 8x10 museum board, signed and numbered. They may be ordered from the Mono Lake Committee in Lee Vining for \$15 + \$1.50 postage and handling (Calif. residents please add 90¢ sales tax).

Letters

Mono Slide Shows Reach East Coast

Dear Mono Lakers,

So far I have done two shows . . . I will do another this week for the water supply section at the health department in Connecticut, and I have one planned at a local nature center. The director of a local watershed association tells me he's going to set up four more shows . . . Please send more newsletters and handout material!

Ta ta for now and Happy Spring!

Jeff Robins
Vernon, Connecticut

Out of state monophiles, take heed! Wherever you live, you can help awaken America to Mono's plight by presenting slide shows and stimulating local publicity. We're going to need national support to save the lake.

Modern Toilet Needs Redesign

Sir:

After reading the article on Mono Lake in the National Geographic, I share your concerns. There is a very simple way to billions of gallons per year—without rancor, without more expense, and without crimping the life style of people in L.A. Every person must urinate 3-5 times each day. To flush this urine we need less than one-half of a tank of water, but our present toilets use a full tank every time. It is my suggestion we use a mini-flush for liquid waste and a full flush for solid waste.

L.A. may have the legal right to the Mono Basin water, but L.A. does not have the moral right to *waste* this precious water. It is unfortunate that the average person does not understand how he wastes water each time he or she goes to the toilet.

Fon Li

Glen Head, Long Island, New York

Mr. Li's common-sense idea, if adopted statewide, could conserve enough of California's water to save Mono Lake several times over. Even more could be saved by replacing outmoded, water-wasteful toilets with modern, water-efficient models.

Ou est Mono Lake?

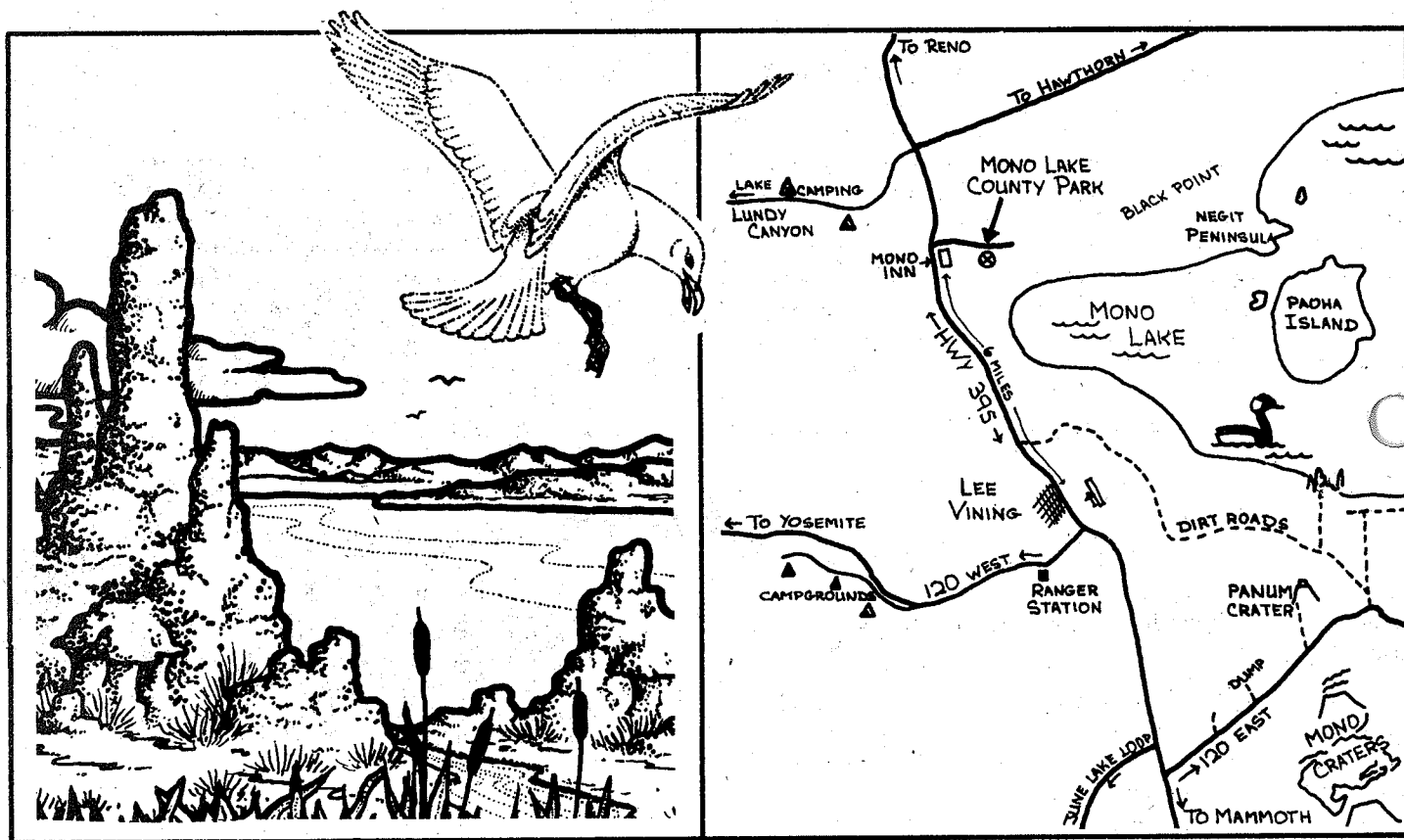
Dear Dave,

Good friends of ours just returned to San Francisco. While near Paris, they became totally lost trying to find their country inn in a blinding rainstorm. Luckily they noticed that the car ahead of them had a SAVE MONO LAKE sticker plastered to its bumper. The driver, a Parisian, spoke little English and they no French, but through Save Mono Lake and sign language, they were reunited with their lodgings. The Parisian had acquired monomania last summer, when he visited the lake. He picked up bumper stickers (T-shirts, posters and books too) at the MLC Information Center.

Grace de Laet
San Francisco

(please post)

Free Natural History Field Trips to MONO LAKE



Spend a day exploring the geology, botany, zoology and human history of Mono Lake. Learn first-hand how water diversions are destroying this irreplaceable natural treasure.

FREE HALF DAY FIELD TRIPS (9 a.m. - 2 p.m.) are conducted every Saturday and Sunday from June 12 through September 19. All ages welcome. Meet at the Mono Lake County Park at 9 a.m. or, if you wish to car pool, at the Mono Lake Information Center in Lee Vining at 8:30 a.m.

WHAT TO BRING: Clothing for any kind of weather, hats, sunscreen, sunglasses, swimsuit, towel, fresh water, lunch, beverage and walking shoes that don't mind getting wet.

LOCAL ACCOMMODATIONS: Forest Service and Mono County campgrounds are situated in Lee Vining and Lundy Canyons. Motels are available in Lee Vining and June Lake.

ANY QUESTIONS? Please contact the Mono Lake Committee, P.O. Box 29, Lee Vining, CA 93541; (714) 647-6386.

Reminder to Renewing Members . . .

We can't thank you enough for enclosing address labels with your renewals and correspondence. This saves us time and frustration on the mail desk!

What has been spoiled through man's fault can be made good again through man's work.

I Ching

Mono Lake Slide Shows

Our new 80-slide program vividly conveys the beauty and importance of Mono Lake and the water conservation alternative to its destruction. A cassette tape commentary and script accompany the slides. We loan the program to groups and schools for up to two weeks without charge, but ask that a \$35 refundable deposit be sent with each request. The show can also be purchased for \$100, discounted to \$80 for non-profit groups and schools (California residents please add 6% sales tax).

We can arrange for a speaker to present the program to groups of 30 or more, provided you contact us six or more weeks in advance.

3,300 Mile Hike

Save Mono Lake Hikeathon

On March 5, toting a 50-lb. pack, Mammoth Lakes resident and monophile Phillip Floyd embarked on a 3,300-mile hike along the Pacific Crest Trail (PCT). "I love being outdoors," said Phil. "I want to hike the entire PCT. I want to hike it for more than just myself, so I decided to do it for Mono Lake."

Phil is asking Mono Lake supporters to pledge a penny, nickel, dime, dollar (or even a fraction of a penny) for each mile he hikes.

Together with his dog, Kam, Phil plans to travel 15-20 miles a day. This May he will be traversing the John Muir Trail on snowshoes and cross-country skis. By September, he will be tramping the Canadian wilds of Vancouver Island.

Phil will be keeping us posted on his progress. His first dispatch arrived by mail in early March . . .

Dear Mono Lakers,

Want to thank you for joining up with me. We're going to make this one heck of a worthwhile project, and we're going to do it together.

Say . . . sorry, but in the day and a half I sought pledges in Mammoth Lakes, I raised only \$2,384.75. Probably should have started earlier, but oh well.

Phil and Kam (the dog)!

Let's thank Phil and help Mono Lake by pledging as much as we can in support on his epic hike!



Phil Floyd is hiking from Mexico to Canada to benefit Mono Lake. He has already raised \$2,384.75 in pledges. Let's make that \$10,000!

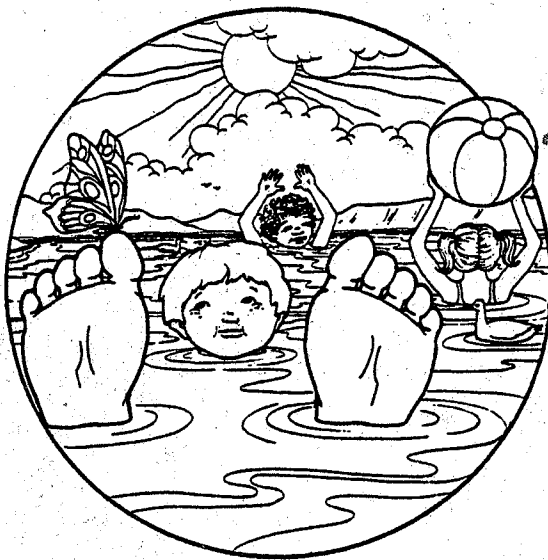
1982 Mexico to Canada Mono Lake Hikeathon Pledge Form

I want to help Mono Lake live on by pledging a contribution for each mile hiked by Phillip M. Floyd during his 1982 Mexico to Canada Hikeathon. The finished hike will total 3,300 miles. Contributions may be directed to the Mono Lake Committee (not tax-deductible) or to the National Audubon Society or Friends of the Earth Foundation (tax-deductible). Every cent will further the fight to save Mono Lake.

Name	Address	Phone	Cents/Mile
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____

Help Mono Lake Make New Friends

Mono Lake needs new friends, and will not begrudge more footprints along its shores, provided we walk lightly. Please encourage everyone you know to visit the lake this summer. Help us publicize our free weekend field trips and our newly renovated Mono Lake Information Center in Lee Vining. We welcome classes and groups as well as individuals. If all Americans knew Mono Lake firsthand, its destruction would be inconceivable.

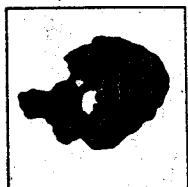


The Mono Lake Committee is no stronger than you, our membership. If we are to save the lake, we need to enlist thousands of new, active monophiles. You can help by asking friends and acquaintances to join, or by sending us the names and addresses of people you know would be interested. We would like to thank you for signing up three (or more) new members or furnishing the names of 15 (or more) latent MLC'ers with a gift of a color poster or a Mono Lake Guidebook (autographed by author David Gaines).

☐ Yes, I can help publicize the free summer field trips and the Mono Lake Information Center. Please send me ____ field trip and ____ information center fliers.

☐ I can sign up at least three new members. Please send me ____ leaflets and membership forms, and (circle one) a color poster or autographed guidebook.

☐ Enclosed are the names and addresses of 15 (or more) acquaintances who I know would be interested in the Mono Lake Committee. Please send me (circle one) a color poster or autographed guidebook.



**The
Mono Lake
Committee**

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