

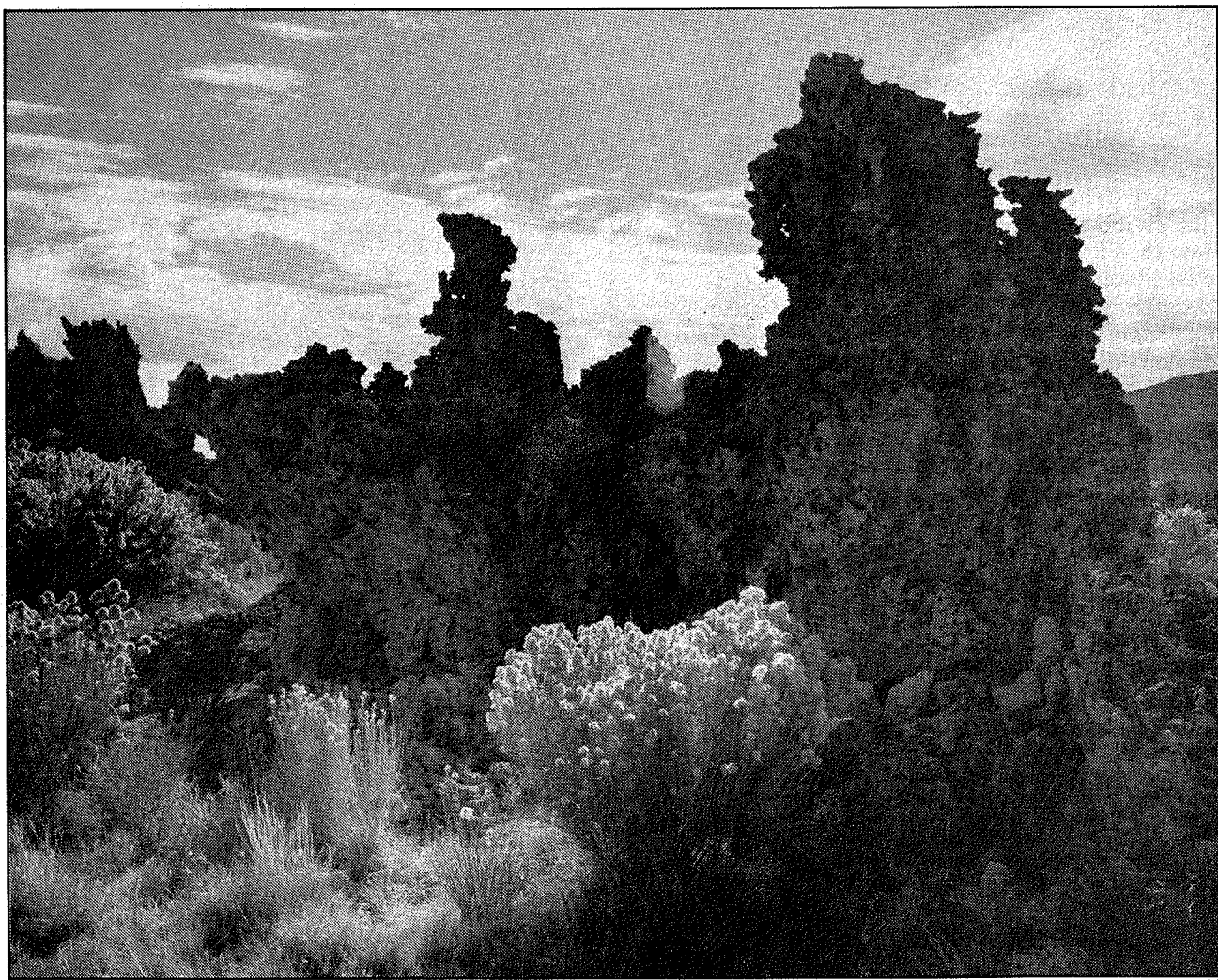
Fall 1990

Vol. 13, No. 2

# MONO <sup>the</sup> LAKE

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N E W S L E T T E R



Stephen Anderson

*Stream Flows Won*

*DWP Appeals Scenic Area Plan*

*Water Marketing*

## MLC's Legal Bills Mount: Your Help Urgently Needed

These past twelve months have been unprecedented in the Mono Lake Committee's history—we have been in court defending the lake and its streams four separate times! While we win victory after victory, the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power continues to use every legal maneuver possible to drain our resources.

After over two months of nearly continuous courtroom action, we are swimming in a sea of legal bills. This fall, you will receive a special litigation appeal because your help is urgently needed. We hope you will give generously, just as you have so many times in the past. With your support we will be able to maintain our strong presence in court, pressing for a renewal of the preliminary injunction for Mono Lake.

## Lake Level Watch

On August 16, Mono Lake stood at 6375.5 feet. The lake's elevation has been dropping slowly since the peak of 6376 feet in mid-May. The lake is expected to decline another half foot by early fall as evaporation continues to exceed inflow. The lake stands approximately a half foot lower than it did at this time last year, and six and a half feet lower than its recent high point in 1986.

The lake level is still a foot and a half short of the court ordered level of 6377 feet from last year's preliminary injunction, and continues to drop despite the court ordered flows down both Rush and Lee Vining Creeks. Precipitation and runoff levels are 55 percent of normal as the Mono Basin is experiencing the driest four year period in this century. The lake received some relief from the drought as mid-July thunderstorms and hail blessed Mono Lake with nearly half an inch of rainfall. Perhaps our raindances helped!

*Karyn Helfrich*

**THE MONO LAKE COMMITTEE** is a non-profit citizen's group dedicated to saving Mono Lake from the excessive diversion of water from its tributary streams. We seek a compromise that will meet the real water needs of Los Angeles and leave our children a living, healthy, and beautiful lake.

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# Saunters By Mono Lake



Jim Millet

*"...the dark  
richer than the light and more blessed  
provided we stay brave  
enough to keep on going in."*

*Wendell Berry*

When I first began photographing the Mono Basin, everything was overexposed. My prints looked like they'd been left in the sun on the dashboard of an abandoned car. I didn't know how to handle contrast. I seemed to have lost all darkness and been left with only the light.

So often that's how the Basin seems—a bowl of light. Alkali glare, sparkling wind-on-water, gleaming tufa, the flash of gulls' wings, bright clouds... I've had to search for the darkness, the blackness. John Muir called the Basin "A land of wonderful contrasts" which implies a balance of opposites. Yet, when you live here, you realize that the light overpowers the dark. The darkness is elusive, there one moment then regressing into the cracks and fissures.

The massive cindered expanse of Black Point calls me—maybe I can find darkness there. On the steep slopes of Black Point nothing can grow. On a summer's day, the cinders radiate so much heat that the volcano seems to still be cooling. It's hard to forget the violent birth of these soils. The dirt looks burnt; underfoot it crunches like mounds of toast crumbs.

As I walk around the front of the point, I notice vertical undulations on the cliff face. Were these ripples caused by wind? They explain why Black Point's face often resembles a zebra's flanks in winter. Snow on the cinder cliff always melts off in bold, vertical stripes within a few hours of falling.

Blazing Stars erupt out of the black sand at the base of point. These bright yellow flowers are well-named because their many stamens explode out of the center of five, pointed petals. They look like delicate comets or meteors trailing light. Each plant is usually alone in a

bare expanse of cinders. I don't know the biological reasons why they pick this place, but I have my own reasons. These stars need the blackness of this soil to shine against.

At my feet crouch stiff little evening primroses, each decorated with small white breast feathers backlit by the afternoon light. I'm downwind from Gull Bath Beach. There are so many feathers fluttering that the ground seems to quiver. In the distance, the Sierra forms a solid wall of shadow approaching from the west making the tiny white feathers seem vulnerable, ephemeral.

The blue glow of dusk mixed with cold air pouring down out of the high country sends me homeward. Then all is nearly black save sharp points of light shining across the lake from town. Now I will be still and wait for the moon.

To the north a coyote calls melodiously to its litter. Their answer is a cacophony of squeals, yaps and barks. Suddenly the air overhead is sliced by the wings of a small band of geese circling toward the wetlands along the lakeshore. Silence returns. A bead of piercing white light tips Cowtrack Mountain. The moon, a day past full, appears, setting bits of obsidian sparkling all around.

I'm surrounded by a luminous scene, the sort which never appears in the Mono Lake Calendar—no film can balance the soft light with the depth of a Great Basin night. Much of what I see is really imagined because its beauty is beyond the limits of my senses to perceive. That kind of darkness—the less you can see, the more you can discover—is a mystery rich with blessings.

*Lauren Davis*

*This may be my last newsletter as I'm leaving the Committee to devote more time to writing books. I've enjoyed having you as readers for the past four years. I hope you will continue your own saunters by Mono Lake.—Lauren*

# Legal Update: We Win Stream Flows!

## *Mono Lake Preliminary Injunction*

On June 14, Judge Terrance Finney of El Dorado County Superior Court issued a history-making decision requiring minimum water flows in four Mono Basin streams. The flows are to restore and maintain fisheries which were destroyed by the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power's (DWP) water diversions.

Judge Finney ruled that DWP must return approximately 60,000 acre-feet of water per year to Rush, Lee Vining, Walker, and Parker creeks to help restore them to their original pre-diversion conditions. These are "interim" flows which will remain in effect until the Department of Fish and Game completes instream flow studies to determine how much water is needed on a permanent basis to preserve fisheries—so far field work for an instream flow study has only been completed for Rush Creek. After the final studies are completed, the State Water Resources Control Board must permanently modify DWP's water diversion licenses to require that these flows be maintained downstream from the diversion dams.

The judge's decision came after a month-long hearing which was ordered by the California Third District Court of Appeals. The Appellate court also ruled that the State Water Board immediately condition DWP's licenses with State Fish and Game Code requirements for water releases below dams for fish. The court stipulated that the flows be sufficient to restore and maintain the fisheries which existed prior to the start of DWP's water diversions in 1941.

In addition to setting minimum flows for all four creeks, Judge Finney set higher "flushing" and "channel maintenance" flows for spring runoff periods. The Court also ordered DWP, MLC, Cal-trout and the Department of Fish and Game (DFG) to reach a written agreement as to any channel modifications that DWP will have to carry out to enable water to go down Parker and Walker creeks. Irrigation diversions on DWP's Cain Ranch property have interfered with the natural channels of these two creeks. An agreement was reached on August 1. Work to prepare the channels to receive water and provide fish habitat is expected to be completed in October or November, at which time the interim release will begin.

At MLC's request, nothing in the order requires DWP to lower Grant Lake Reservoir lower than it stood on April 1, 1989, or to release a greater amount of water than is naturally available. The total amount of water prescribed for the four streams represents nearly all the

runoff available this year. The flow rates ordered by Judge Finney are about twice as high as the rates recommended by DWP and are close to the levels recommended by DFG and MLC.

## *Evidentiary Hearing*

In late spring, MLC staff, lawyers, and consultants had a brief break from litigation and then headed back into Judge Finney's courtroom to begin an evidentiary hearing regarding our preliminary injunction. The current injunction required DWP to raise and maintain Mono Lake at 6377 feet by this past spring. Unfortunately, a third of last year's runoff was diverted to Los Angeles before the injunction took effect and there was not enough remaining runoff to attain the desired level. MLC and National Audubon Society have asked the judge to renew this injunction in order to raise the lake back up to the 6377 foot level as quickly as possible.

During the evidentiary hearing, DWP presented testimony claiming that the existing lake level posed no threat to the ecosystem. MLC and Audubon argued that harm has already been done to the ecosystem and public trust values at Mono Lake. Irreparable harm will occur to the ecosystem if the lake is allowed to remain below 6377 feet—increasing coyote predation on Mono's island-nesting gulls is a recent example. Without the preliminary injunction in place to bring the lake level up, next year will probably be Negit's last season as a nesting sanctuary.

The court was also asked to consider the impacts to people from the lowering lake level. Besides current problems with toxic dust pollution from the exposed lake bed, many recreational opportunities have been lost. The State Lands Commission presented testimony that visitors and Mono Basin locals used to enjoy many water sports on Mono Lake including swimming, water skiing, boat races, boat tours, even horse swimming races! The people of California have never been compensated for the loss of these public trust related recreational values. Testimony in support of a minimum lake level by the Forest Service was barred by DWP because of DWP's appeal of the Final Scenic Area Management Plan and EIS. (See article next page.) Judge Finney has asked for further legal briefing on this issue.

After four weeks of testimony, the evidentiary hearing recessed on August 2 and reconvened on September 4. We hope to hear a decision from Judge Finney on the renewal of the preliminary injunction sometime this fall.

Lauren Davis

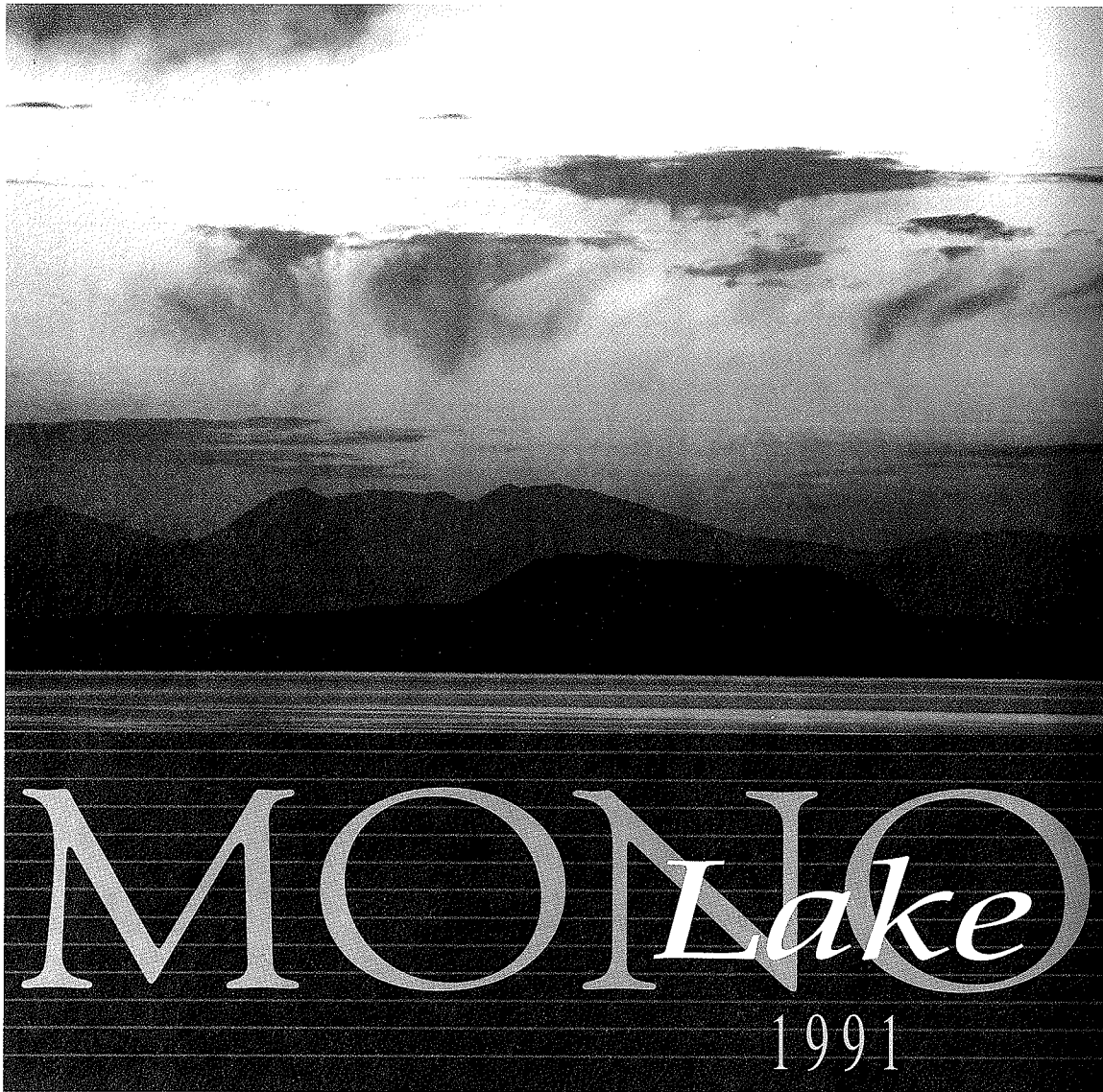
*"The story of the DWP's origins are, by now, the stuff of legend—and screenplays. But, today, the problem is not so much the department's past, as the fact that it too often seems to be living in it. We have in mind the agency's endless, wrong-headed litigation over Mono Lake and its refusal to accept responsibility for the pollution created by its coal-fired Arizona power-generating facilities."*

LA Times Editorial, "Messing Up The Water Works"



WINTER 1991 MONO LAKE COMMITTEE

# *Gift Catalog*



## *Mono Lake Calendar*

This year's Mono Lake Calendar is as stunning as ever. Wildlife, creeks, and the seasonal moods of the Mono Basin are beautifully depicted in full color. \$9.95

*Special discount for volume purchases:*

*buy 2-5, pay only \$8.95 each;*

*buy 6-10, pay \$7.95 each;*

*buy 11 or more, pay only \$6.95 each.*



## Mono Lake...that's wear it's at...

Clockwise left to right:

### *Shorebird T-shirt*

Classic Mono Lake shorebird design in turquoise, coral, jade, black; 100% cotton, sizes S,M,L,XL. \$10.95

### *Brine Shrimp T-shirt*

Mono's dancing brine shrimp adorn this t-shirt. Available in women's "china" style t-shirt (white only) 100% cotton, sized S,M,L,XL (fits large) for \$12.95, or a short-sleeved t-shirt in light blue, 100% cotton, sizes S,M,L,XL for \$10.95

### *"It's Worth Saving" T-Shirts*

Share the message and proclaim your support on a T-shirt, long-sleeved t-shirt, sweatshirt, or kid's T-shirts. **T-shirt**, available in sizes S,M,L,XL; in peach, white, light blue, silver, or mint. 100% cotton. \$10.95

**Long-sleeved t-shirt**, sizes S,M,L,XL; in light blue and white, 100% cotton. \$15.95

**Sweatshirt**, sizes S,M,L,XL; in silver and turquoise. 50/50 poly/cotton blend. \$19.95

**Kid's t-shirt**, sizes S(6-8) and M(10-12); pink and aqua, 50/50 poly/cotton blend. \$7.95

### *Coyote T-shirt*

One of our most popular designs, capturing the desert feel of the Mono Basin. Available in white, 100% cotton, sizes S,M,L,XL. \$10.95

### *Mono Topo T-shirt*

You won't get lost on your next visit with this detailed topographic map design. Available in royal, navy, silver; 100% cotton, sizes S,M,L,XL. \$12.95

### *Sierra Wildflower T-shirt*

This beautiful and incredibly detailed design captures summer wildflowers of the high Sierra in peak bloom. Available in white only, 100% cotton, sizes S,M,L,XL. \$14.95 *new*



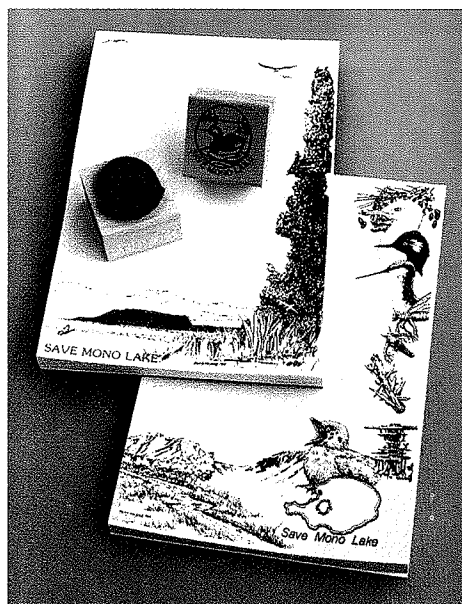
*Because you're in it for the long haul...Mono Lake Bike Bottles*

Exceptional quality, Specialized bike bottles with Mono's brine shrimp dancing across the surface. Small (21 oz.) \$3.95 Large (28 oz.) \$4.95



*Enjoy morning coffee, afternoon tea, or bedtime cocoa in a Mono Lake Mug!*

Handmade in the Eastern Sierra by artist Frances Cholewa, each mug is unique. Choose between the Avocet or Lake designs in these colors: black (black), opalescent purple (opal), or blue/turquoise (2-tone). \$8.95 *new*



## Use Mono Lake Stationery...

*It's the write thing to do!*

### *Mono Lake Stationery*

Two beautiful pen and ink designs by Keith Hansen. Each package contains fifty 5 1/2" x 8 1/2" sheets, plus matching envelopes. Printed on recycled paper. Specify ivory or gray. \$6.95

### *Rubber Stamp*

Stamp your support for Mono Lake everywhere. Design donated by Mike Warner of Wild Bryde. \$4.95

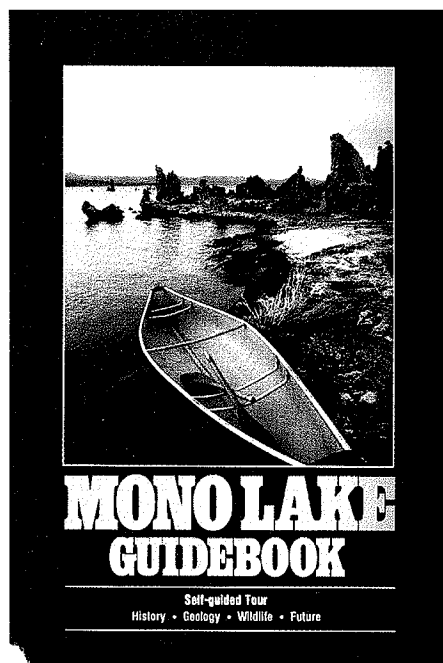


*Tailgate Advertising at it's best... Mono Lake License Plate Holder*

Show your support for Mono Lake on your car. \$3.95

*Help Mono Lake last another million years, at least!*

Put Mono Lake  
in your  
bookshelf.



*The authoritative Mono Lake Guidebook...* by David Gaines

This latest edition (1989), describes the natural history of Mono Lake & the efforts to preserve it. Numerous photographs, drawings, figures, & tables complement the 104 pages of text. \$8.95



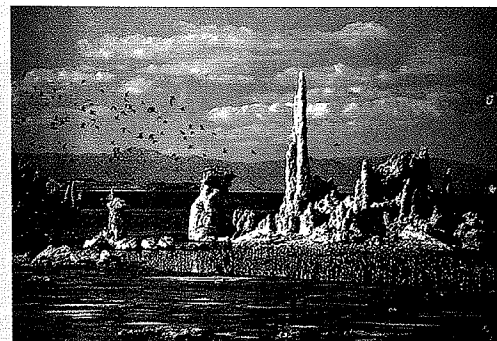
*Mono Lake Storm Poster*

Stephen Johnson's newest poster captures the subtle beauty of Mono Lake on a stormy day. 24" x 36". \$18.95

*...or on  
your wall  
with one  
of our  
beautiful  
posters.*

It is an  
awesome place,  
where the  
total processes  
make you  
wonder nature  
is doing alone  
on the planet.  
You watch  
the passage of  
time, and  
and stars over  
the knife-edged  
horizons,  
and the jagged  
shadows of evening  
reaching beyond  
the lake into  
Sierra and the  
sky beyond.  
You watch the  
birds in their  
annual departures  
and intricate  
acrobatics and  
calling notes,  
and you take  
comfort and joy  
from such order  
and ethical  
persistence.  
It is hard to  
watch this  
spectacle crumble  
to dust.

MONO LAKE



*Tim Snyder Poster*

A classic photo of Mono Lake accompanied by Gray Brechin's eloquent prose. 18" x 24". \$4.95



*Mono Lake Sunrise Poster*

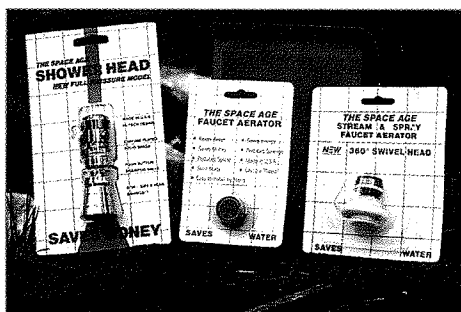
Bring Mono Lake's sunrise to your own home with Kennan Ward's exceptional photography. 24"x 34" \$18.95 *new*



MONO LAKE

*Moonset Over Mono Poster*

The grandeur of a winter morning, with snow-clad Sierra and spires of tufa beautifully reproduced on heavy 100 lb. cover stock. 16" x 20". \$4.95



## Doing Your Part... Conservation Kit

Save water for Mono Lake and \$\$ on your water, energy, and sewer bills. We've tested many different water conservation products and these win our highest ratings.

The Mono Lake Saver Kit includes:

### Water Saver Showerhead

The finest quality chrome-plated, brass showerhead (with turn-off valve) that gives the best shower ever. Cuts consumption by 50% (24,800 gallons/year for a family of four!) and reduces annual heating bills by \$100-\$200. Easy to install. \$14.95

### Water Saver Kitchen Faucet Aerator

Swivel head for spray or stream, uses 2-3 times less water than normal aerators. Dual inside-outside threads will fit most faucets. \$6.95

### Water Saver Bathroom Tap Aerator

Cuts consumption by up to 50% on your bathroom tap. Dual thread design makes this aerator easy to install on standard faucets. \$1.95

### Water Saver Toilet Dams

Two high quality brass dams will fit in your toilet, saving 2 gallons per flush—up to 20,000 gallons per year for a family of four! Comes with 5-year guarantee. Easy to install. \$5.95

### Bumpersticker

#### "I Save Water for Mono Lake"

Join the proud people who are saving water for Mono Lake by proclaiming your support on your car.

### Two Mono Lake Postcards

As soon as you install your water conservation kit, write Governor Deukmejian and Los Angeles Mayor Bradley and urge them to save Mono Lake.

### Buy the Mono Lake Saver Kit for \$25.00 and save \$4.80

plus receive the bumpersticker and postcards.

*All proceeds from your purchases are used  
in our efforts to save Mono Lake.*



### Mono Lake Refrigerator Magnet

Dave Gaines' classic Mono Lake photo reproduced as a 1 1/2" x 2 1/4" magnet. \$.99

### Mono Lake Enamel Pin

Engraved with Rebecca Shearin's haunting nocturnal scene. \$2.50

### Deluxe Decal

This vibrant design captures the magic of a Mono Lake sunrise on a 4" translucent decal. Rebecca Shearin design. \$2.50



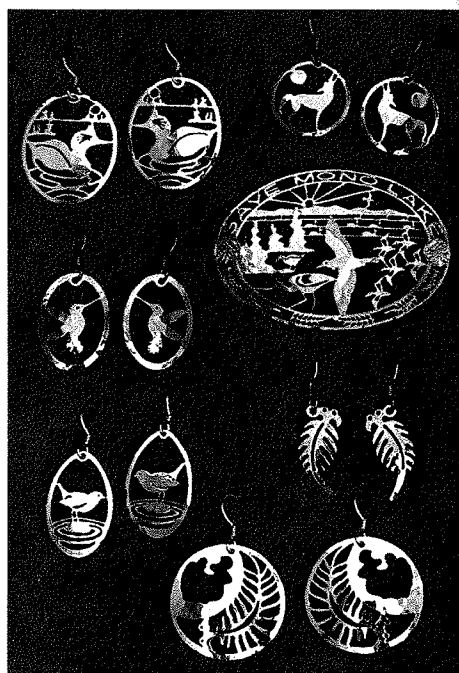
### Wm Spear Pins

These brightly colored pins are beautifully crafted and biologically correct. They complement any wardrobe.

Great Blue Heron	\$14.00
Allen's Hummer	\$ 9.00
Loon	\$14.00
Green-Winged Teal	\$10.00
Nuthatch	\$ 9.00
Red-Winged Blackbird	\$ 8.00
Barnswallow	\$ 8.00
Chickadee	\$ 8.00
Peregrine	\$11.00 <i>new</i>

### Brine Shrimp Pin

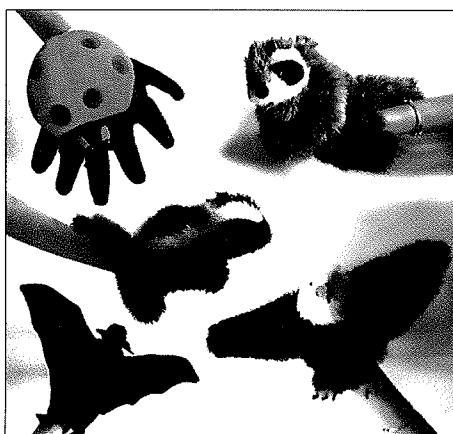
The beauty and quality of a Wm Spear pin, featuring *Artemia monica*, Mono's brine shrimp. \$8.00



### Mono Lake Jewelry by Wild Bryde

Striking new designs and old favorites by Mike Warner. This delicately crafted jewelry captures the beauty of Mono Lake and its inhabitants. All are silver or gold plated and silver earrings have sterling silver ear wires. When ordering, please indicate your choice of gold or silver. Clockwise from left to right:

Grebe & Tufa Earrings	\$16.00	<i>new</i>
Coyote Earrings	\$12.00	
Mono Lake Sunrise Pin	\$24.00	<i>new</i>
Brine Shrimp Earrings	\$10.00	<i>new</i>
Mono Silhouette Earrings	\$18.00	<i>new</i>
Dipper Earrings	\$16.00	
Hummer Earrings	\$12.00	



### Puppets

New this year, whimsical puppets to share with kids and adults. Bat \$15.00, Eagle \$20.00, Skunk \$17.00, Raccoon \$18.00, and Ladybug \$13.00

Ordering Information: Use the enclosed order blank/envelope or phone in your order.

For information or to order by phone, call (619) 647-6595. Send mail orders to: Mono Lake Committee, P.O. Box 29, Lee Vining, CA 93541.

Credits—Photography: Paul Kohlberg; Design: Stephen Johnson, Mary Ford; License plate: Pat Peigne. Printed on recycled paper.



## ○WP Appeals Scenic Area Plan

The Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (DWP) has appealed the Mono Basin National Forest Scenic Area Comprehensive Management Plan (Plan) and final Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). This move was expected by the Forest Service and Mono Lake's supporters as DWP has continually tried to bar the Federal government from litigation and negotiations involving the lake. DWP contends that the Plan violates the California Wilderness Act because the Forest Service identifies a lake level range which is needed to protect the Mono Lake ecosystem. The Forest Service selected a lake level range between 6377' and 6390', with a management level in the midpoint of the range.

DWP feels that the selection of a lake level range interferes with its existing water rights, and thus is contrary to the legislation under which the Scenic Area came into existence. DWP claims that the legislation expressly states that nothing in the Act shall interfere with water rights as recognized by the State of California. DWP also claims that the final EIS for the Plan does not comply with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) in that the EIS fails to consider any realistic range of lake level alternatives.

The MLC believes that the Forest Service's identification of a recommended lake level range does *not* violate the dictates of the legislation. The Forest Service is required to determine a preferred lake level management range, under its mandate to protect the scenic and ecological values of the Scenic Area. Moreover, the Forest Service has riparian water rights under state law that are superior to the DWP's existing water rights. The MLC also declares that the Forest Service did consider a "realistic" and adequate range of lake levels plans in the final EIS.

Numerous parties have filed as interveners in support of the Forest Service and its recommendations. The California Department of Fish and Game, State Lands Commission, Great Basin Air Pollution Control District, and California Garden Clubs will back the Forest Service. Sierra Club Legal Defense Fund is representing the Sierra Club as well as the "Mono Basin Scenic Area Coalition." The Coalition is comprised of environmental organizations with a long-term interest and involvement in the Mono Lake issue such as: the Mono Lake Committee, Mono Lake Foundation, National Audubon Society, Point Reyes Bird Observatory, California Wilderness Coalition, The Wilderness Society, California Native Plant Society, Friends of the River, and local Sierra Club and Audubon chapters. Intervenors will have the opportunity to submit comments on the appeal.

DWP appealed the Plan and EIS to Regional Forester Paul Barker (Pacific Southwest Region). It is likely that the appeal will go to the Chief of the Forest Service for discretionary review, and that DWP will lobby heavily in Washington to change the plan.

Sally Miller

## Coyote Cafe Update

Mono Lake's decline in water level has left only a small channel of water between Negit Island and the landbridge which extends from shore. On the average this channel is less than 150 feet wide and 18 inches deep. This year 11% of Mono Lake's breeding population of California gulls nested on Negit Island. Gull chicks on Negit appeared to be healthy as of early July.

The situation on Pancake Island, an islet northeast of Negit, was a different story. The channel between the island and the landbridge is only about 20 feet wide and only a few inches deep. A researcher from Point Reyes Bird Observatory counted 651 nests on the island in May, but by July the island was completely abandoned and covered with coyote tracks.

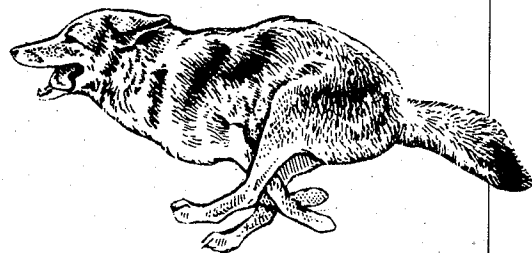
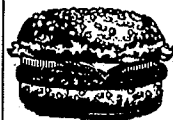
The electric fence which was erected by the Forest Service and volunteers last spring has acted as a temporary barrier to the coyotes heading toward Negit. Added deterrents may have been the small channel of water between Negit and the landbridge, and the human presence (and scent) on the landbridge during the construction and subsequent inspections of the fence. This allowed the gulls to safely establish their nests on Negit. However, fresh coyote tracks were seen going around or through the fence enroute to Negit in late July.

History has shown that a broad expanse of water is the only truly effective barrier to protect the gull colony from predators. The fence may have limited the number of coyotes that were able to cross onto Negit, preventing a catastrophic rout of the gull colony, but it did not totally eliminate predation.

The electric fence will be removed this fall. Its construction was a last ditch measure taken because the lake did not reach the court ordered level of 6377 feet. Thanks to Garrett DeBell, emergency funds were obtained from MCA/Yosemite Curry Company to build the fence. Nancy Upham, Forest Service Scenic Area Manager, said, "The fence is not necessarily a permanent solution because it could affect the visual quality of the Scenic Area. An environmental analysis and public comment period would be needed before any structure could become permanent."

What does the future hold? If the the lake continues to drop, the gull colonies will face certain danger next spring.

Shannon Nelson



Carl Dennis Buell

## LA Drought Response, Part II

Convinced that Los Angeles residents had voluntarily cut their water consumption by more than 15 percent in June, the LA City Council rejected Major Tom Bradley's call to implement Phase II—the mandatory phase—of LA's Emergency Water Conservation Act. Phase II would have required all LA city residential, commercial, and industrial water users to cut consumption by 10%. Failure to do so would have resulted in increasing fines, culminating in flow restrictors and even water shutoff for chronic offenders.

According to LA Department of Water and Power, its water customers voluntarily decreased their water consumption in April by 11%, in May by 12%, in June by 15.5%, in July by 9.8%, and in August by 13%, compared to the same period in 1986. The year 1986 was chosen as the base year because it represented the first year of the current drought cycle in California. LA city officials believed that using 1986 as the base year would not unfairly penalize customers who implemented conservation measures at the beginning of the drought.

DWP disclosed that its conservation figures were based on "normalized" rates. The figures were adjusted to take into account variables such as increasing population, weather conditions, and rainfall amounts. Such figures, according to DWP officials, have "a plus or minus error rate of 5%."

In contrast, actual water use in the City of LA for June 1990, for instance, had decreased only 8% from the same month in 1986. These figures can be precisely measured, based on the actual amount of water DWP tapped from its aqueduct and reservoir system, pumped from its groundwater basins, and imported from the Metropolitan Water District.

Despite the discrepancy in numbers, City Council members called the conservation numbers "impressive" and supported maintaining a voluntary program. Council members were also reluctant to impose a drought surcharge requested by DWP. Such a surcharge was designed to cover an expected revenue shortfall caused by customers conserving and thereby buying less water. (The Mono Lake Committee has long argued that conservation-oriented pricing which rewards conservation and penalizes waste would obviate the need to increase water rates when customers conserve.)

After much debate and public testimony, a motion by Councilwoman Joan Milke-Flores won over the majority of Council members. The motion makes permanent Phase I of the Emergency Water Conservation Act. LA City water customers will be permanently prohibited from hosing down hard surfaces such as driveways and sidewalks. They must also restrict outdoor watering to morning and evening hours only, and must repair all plumbing leaks in their homes and businesses.

The mandatory phase, with accompanying penalties, will only be triggered when monthly conservation rates dip below the 10% "normalized" rate, adjusted for changing population and weather patterns.

In other DWP-related news, Mayor Tom Bradley has appointed Mary Nichols to the five-member DWP Board of Commissioners. Joining Mike Gage and Dorothy Green on the Board, Mary adds the third critical vote to push for more environmentally-sensitive policies at DWP.

Mary Nichols was Governor Jerry Brown's appointee to the State Air Resources Board and served as its chair. She was also an LA City Recreation and Parks Commissioner as well as the regional air quality chair for the Sierra Club in Southern California. Currently, she is senior staff attorney at the Natural Resources Defense Council in Los Angeles.

Betsy Reifsnider

To report violations of the City's water conservation ordinance, DWP has set up a water hotline: (213) 481-5800.

## Studies Planned for the Upper Owens River and Reservoirs

Recognizing the need to use Mono's diverted waters to benefit the "downstream" areas connected by the aqueduct system, MLC has worked to insure that the upcoming stream and reservoir studies included more than just the Mono Basin. Ongoing studies by the California Department of Fish and Game (DFG) and the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) will look at the Upper and Lower Owens River, and Grant and Crowley reservoirs—resources potentially effected by changes in DWP's Mono Basin aqueduct operations.

Since diversions began in 1941, the Upper Owens River has been treated by DWP as a "channel of convenience" to convey exports from the Mono Basin. Water is exported from the basin through a tunnel under the Mono Craters and then dumped into the Upper Owens about 14 miles south of Mono Lake. Flows have varied drastically from 50 to 400 cubic feet per second, resulting in collapsed stream banks and an incised stream channel—conditions unfavorable to a healthy fishery. The DFG study will address the flow management and restoration program needed to revive this valuable trout stream.

In the short term, MLC has asked Judge Finney to make available up to 6,000 acre-feet of Mono's water for the Upper Owens River. The water would be exported only if it is needed to facilitate the fall spawning run from Crowley Reservoir into the river. At the request of Mono County, the Town of Mammoth Lakes, and the MLC, DWP has also agreed to keep Crowley above a minimum elevation for the duration of the runoff year to protect fishery and recreational uses.

Steve Holland and Ilene Mandelbaum

# Water Marketing - A New Piece In The California Water Puzzle

## Part I

*"When we try to pick out anything by itself, we find it hitched to everything else in the universe."  
John Muir*

It would seem that the success or failure of the Mono Lake Committee (MLC) can be gauged by one statistic—the elevation of Mono Lake.

However, Mono Lake is a small part of an increasingly complex state water supply picture. California's water supply is mostly dependent upon sources within the state. This is a water supply that is annually variable, and annually finite. In order to maintain Mono Lake at a healthy level, the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (DWP) will need to reduce their Mono Basin diversions by an average of 70,000 acre feet per year. This represents approximately ten percent of the city's water supply. This entire amount could easily be replaced using methods long advocated by the MLC: conservation and reclamation within the City of Los Angeles, (this summer, LA conservation levels reached 9%, see article page 6).

Another option may soon become available to help diversify replacement water sources for DWP. Water marketing has the potential to contribute to the overall solution for Mono Lake's problems while promoting conservation of water elsewhere in the state. Depending on who defines it, water marketing could include a wide variety of water sales, auctions, or exchanges. As far as preserving Mono Lake is concerned, water marketing basically means selling conserved agricultural water to Los Angeles.

The MLC recognized that water marketing might represent an untapped source of water for environmental preservation and began, through the Mono Lake Group (MLG)\*, to explore this option. For the past two years the MLG, represented by the Environmental Defense Fund, has been negotiating with the Broadview and Firebaugh Canal water districts in the San Joaquin Valley. They hope to enter into a pilot project for the long term transfer of 10,000 acre-feet per year of conserved agricultural water to DWP to help replace Mono Basin diversions. This water would be made available by installing modern irrigation systems of increased efficiency, thus conserving enough water to create a marketable surplus.

Broadview hopes to finance these irrigation improvements with money received from the sale of conserved water to DWP. The district currently contracts with the

Central Valley Project (CVP) for its water. The CVP is owned and operated by the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (BUREC). Broadview has to pump water uphill from the CVP's Delta-Mendota Canal to reach their irrigation system. To the west of the district, at a higher elevation, is the California Aqueduct. This particular section of the aqueduct—referred to as the San Luis Canal—is available to water users having contracts with either the State Water Project or the CVP. Broadview wants to construct a five and one half mile pipeline to connect their irrigation system with the San Luis Canal, and four miles of pipeline to deliver water to the heads of irrigation laterals. When this project is completed the water will reach their system by gravity flow. This will save the district approximately \$300,000 per year in pumping costs. Pressurized pipelines will deliver water to individual fields without the losses from spills, evaporation, or leaks inherent in their current system of ditches and plate valves.

Most importantly, this modern system will help alleviate a serious problem endemic to this part of the Central Valley—selenium contamination of soil and wetlands. Selenium is a trace element which occurs naturally in ancient marine deposits found in the valley. Selenium is naturally present in the soil of many farms supplied by Broadview. It is toxic in high concentrations and has caused birth defects and deaths among duck populations at the Kesterson Reservoir, just north of Broadview/Firebaugh.

Irrigation water applied to fields leaches out selenium present in the soil and percolates it downward. It is then picked up by tile drain lines buried several feet below the surface of the fields. These drain lines capture salts and minerals (including selenium) and drain them off into the San Joaquin River.

A more efficient irrigation system means that less water is applied to the fields, resulting in less drainage runoff and less downstream contamination. This will enable the districts to comply with pollution laws regarding selenium contamination.

This venture could begin within the next two years. Many of the questions concerning the practical aspects of water marketing may be answered by this pioneering project.

### ***Agriculture as Potential Urban Water Source***

Why is California's agricultural sector seen as the main potential source to augment urban water supplies?

Since 85% of California's developed water supply is used by agriculture, it is inevitable that the attention of the state's thirsty metropolitan areas has turned to the

\*The MLG was founded in 1984 to explore possible solutions to the Mono Lake controversy. Facilitated by the UCLA Public Policy Program, the group consists of the Mono Lake Committee, the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (DWP), the DWP Commissioners, the Los Angeles City Council, Los Angeles Mayor Tom Bradley, the U.S. Forest Service, the California Department of Water Resources, and Mono County.

farmlands of the Central Valley. A small fraction of the water devoted to agriculture would go a long way towards alleviating urban water shortages. In fact, according to Assemblyman Phil Isenberg, a 3% savings in agriculture would supply enough water to satisfy 25% of California's urban needs.

### Plumbing

Most current agricultural water systems in California are designed to take water from the Sierra Nevada and/or Cascade mountain ranges and distribute it, in successively smaller increments, to individual farms and fields. How can the Broadview pilot project demonstrate that such systems can be used to transport water to metropolitan areas?

The Broadview Water District is located in western Fresno County. They receive CVP water through the Delta-Mendota Canal. Water allotted to Broadview would be routed around this canal and flow into the California Aqueduct (see map below). DWP could then transfer this water into the Los Angeles aqueduct near Palmdale.

Approval from BUREC, the State Water Resources Control Board and the State Water Project Contractors will be needed for such an inter-agency transfer.

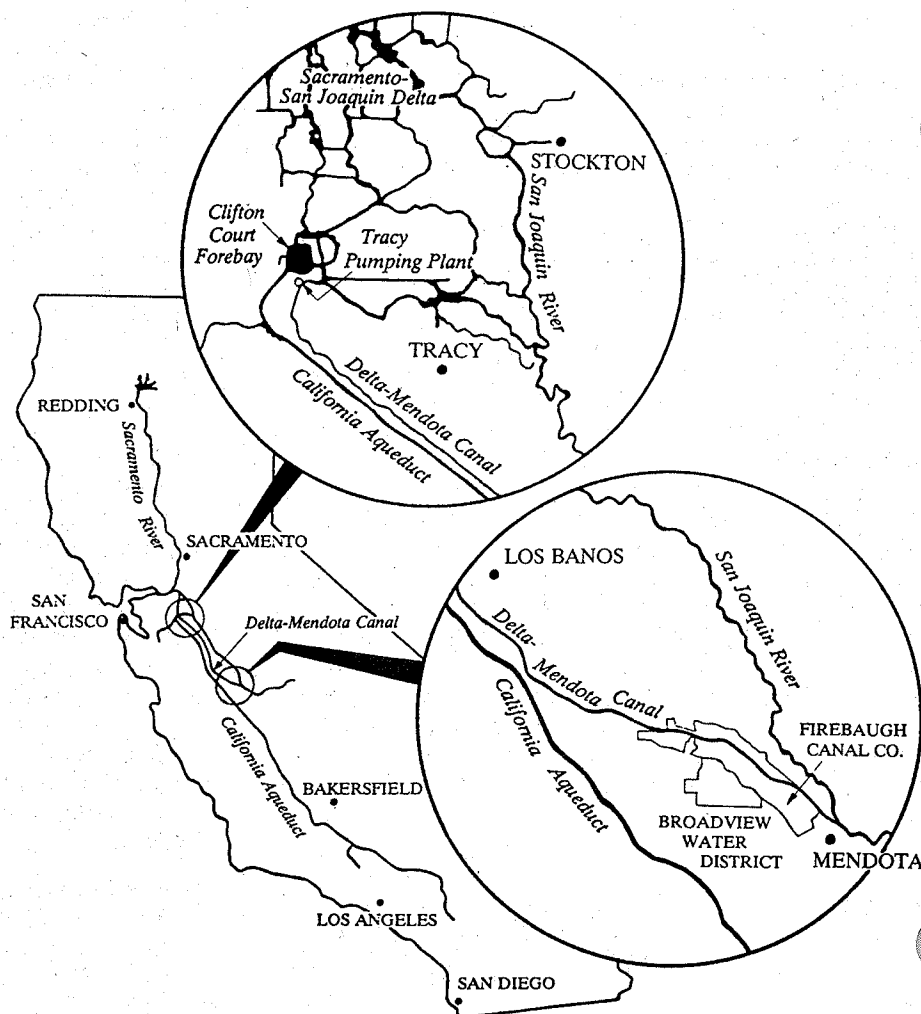
### Law

Current federal water policy has an extremely narrow view of water transfers which tends to confine them within the agricultural sector. What legal obstacles must be surmounted before California water can be traded freely?

Before Broadview can sell water to DWP, their forty year water contract with BUREC must be renewed. The contract needs to include an amendment allowing the sale and transport of the water out of the CVP system. If a CVP contractor has excess water, other CVP contractors usually have first rights to it. Congressional legislation and approval from the State Water Resources Control Board may be necessary to allow Broadview to transfer its conserved water to Los Angeles.

### Concerns of Farmers

David Kennedy, Director of the California Department of Water Resources, has observed that "you don't find



The Broadview water district receives CVP (BUREC) water from Lake Shasta. This water flows down the Sacramento River, and through the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta to Tracy, where it is pumped into the Delta-Mendota Canal. About one mile west of the Tracy CVP pumping plant is the Clifton Court Forebay, a reservoir which is the northern terminus of the State Water Project's California Aqueduct. Should Broadview agree to transfer water to DWP, the district would forego having a specified share of its water pumped into the Delta-Mendota Canal at Tracy. This water would then flow into the Clifton Court Forebay, be transported south in the California Aqueduct, and transferred to the Los Angeles Aqueduct (DWP) near Palmdale. Map compiled by Paul Kohlberg.



people farming for the same reasons that lots of business people are in business. They farm because it's a way of life." Of all factors necessary to agriculture, water is paramount. The many unanswered questions concerning water marketing leave farmers worried that they will lose control of their water resources to urban users. If many farmers have a suspicious view of water marketing, it is because they see it as a threat to their way of life.

The Broadview/Firebaugh districts are uncommonly progressive. They have stepped forward, against the prevailing sentiments of the agricultural sector, to attempt innovative solutions to problems that they share with many Central Valley farmers. Broadview has refused offers from developers to buy their water, preferring to help mitigate environmental problems at Mono Lake.

If Broadview is successful in constructing their proposed system, the resulting increase in water efficiency will allow them to meet their irrigation needs and have a marketable surplus of conserved water. It will also show that water marketing may be able to help agriculture, preserve threatened natural areas such as Mono Lake, and supplement the state's metropolitan water supply at the same time.

Gary J. Nelson

## Mono Basin News In Brief

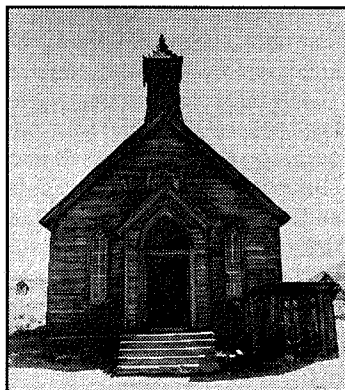
### Bodie Legislation Passes To Limit Mining

Galactic Resources of Canada has continued exploratory drilling for gold in the Bodie Hills adjacent to Bodie State Historic Park. The company has claims on 500 acres of private land and almost 50 square miles of public land, and is currently drilling on both. The historic Bodie Mining District is included within the drilling areas.

Drilling on private land is being conducted with permission from Mono County under a director's review permit, which does not require an environmental impact report. Morrison and Foerster, the law firm working on behalf of a citizen's group called Save Bodie!, recently filed an objection to further drilling under director's review.

Senate Joint Resolution 60, a resolution designed to ask the President and Congress to direct the Secretary of the Interior to withdraw BLM land near Bodie from mining, recently passed in the state assembly. The resolution does not effect private land which is where the majority of the mining exploration is occurring.

Peggy Nicholson



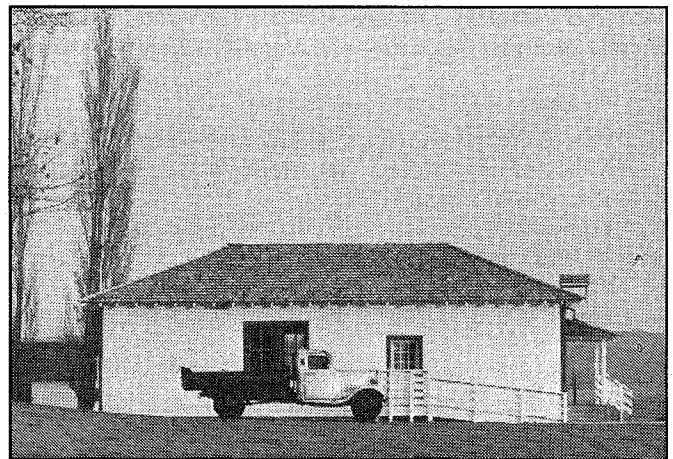
Church at Bodie.  
Photo by Richard Tilgner.

### Conway Ranch Update

In March, the State of California, on behalf of the Department of Fish and Game (DFG), filed a lawsuit against Mono County, claiming that the county supervisors had failed to respond to comments raised by DFG when they approved the Conway Ranch Environmental Impact Report on March 13. The DFG had concerns about wetlands protection, migration corridors, and deer habitat.

On June 17, however, a settlement was reached between the county and DFG. The Conway Ranch Partnership agreed to eliminate structures that were in the migratory deer path. Numerous issues raised by the MLC and others have yet to be satisfactorily addressed.

Geoff McQuilkin



Old Schoolhouse Museum in Hess Park, Lee Vining.  
Photo by Lauren Davis.

### Mono Historical Museum Opens

Many summer visitors to Lee Vining were pleasantly surprised to find that there is now a museum in town! The Mono Basin Historical Society opened the Old Schoolhouse Museum next to Guss Hess Park on Memorial Day weekend. Over eighty people attended the museum's grand opening, and were treated to home-baked cookies and coffee.

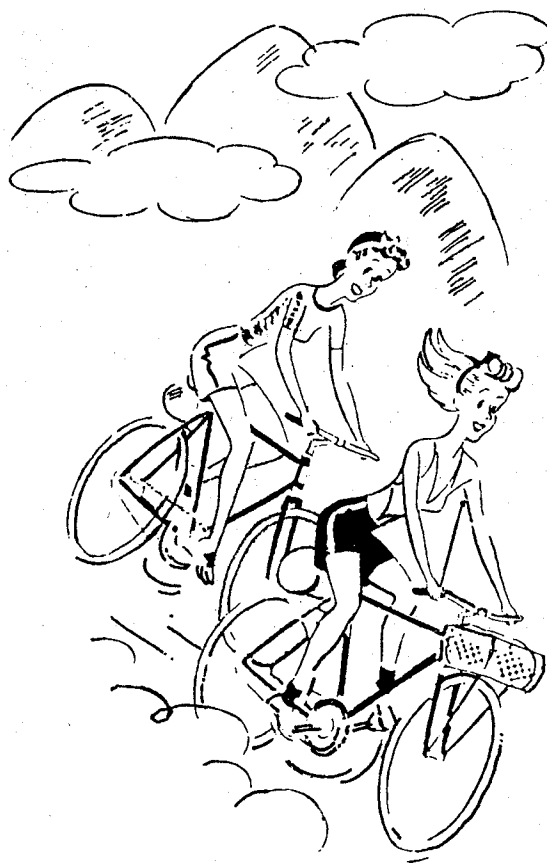
The museum features exhibits on the history of the Mono Basin. The displays have been created thanks to generous donations of artifacts and the hard work of many hands. Funding for the museum has come from membership donations, grants from Mono County, the Skaggs Foundation and the Mono Lake Foundation. Those interested in the rich history of the Mono Basin are invited to join the Society. Memberships are \$5 a year and include a quarterly journal on Mono Basin history. Donations are tax deductible. Checks should be made payable to: The Mono Basin Historical Society, P.O. Box 31, Lee Vining, CA 93541.

Steve Barager

# Two Coeds Went A-Cycling

by Willma (Willis) Gore

*We recently discovered that long-time MLC member, Willma Gore and her friend Ellen, were the first Mono Lake Bike-a-thoners back in the summer of 1942. Well, the Bike-a-thon hadn't been invented yet, but Willma and Ellen decided to ride their balloon-tire bikes from Willma's home in Lone Pine to Mono Lake and back. Here is a reprint of the article Willma wrote about their adventure for the June, 1943 issue of Westways magazine. Willma currently lives on a ranch near Porterville and is still writing for periodicals. She says, "My friend Ellen from UCLA days and I still keep in touch. She and family live in La Canada and, like me, she retains a reverence for Mono as well as a vicarious pleasure knowing that Sierra water still travels by bicycle each year 'back home to Mono'."*



"You're crazy!" everyone said, or at least thought. "A bicycle trip through that country? Don't you know that it's all uphill going?"

"You don't know us; we like it," we answered, unshaken and confident.

"You'll never make it," they said.

"That's what you think," we cried back defiantly.

Women can convince themselves of anything if they talk long enough. Ellen and I, two U.C.L.A. students, had begun in February to fancy ourselves as novice Haliburtons, and by June we were well on the way to romance and adventure on our bicycles.

Investigation showed us that pleasure-seeking bicyclists had never before toured the region along route 395 which runs through Inyo and Mono Counties along the eastern slope of the Sierra Nevada. Topographic maps told us why. Altitudes ranged from 3000 to 9000 feet between Lone Pine, at the foot of Mt. Whitney, and Lake Mary, of the Mammoth group, which is the highest point on the highway between Lone Pine and Mono Lake.

With one eye on books and the other on maps, we miraculously breezed through finals and planned our itinerary. Lone Pine to Mono Lake and back, 270 miles of biking, 12 days.

Suddenly it was Monday morning, June 9, the date we had set as our starting day. We counted our bundles, named our bikes Inyo and Mono, and started off.

The first thing that struck us about the country was the wind. It was blowing a gale, from the north, square in our faces. Had we known then that it would continue to chap our sunburned noses and retard our progress for the entire journey, we might have delayed the trip. We listened to the local weather prophets, however, who maintained that the wind only blows for three days in the same direction, then reverses.

Mentally we crossed our fingers for the sake of our tires. Bicycle tires in the resorts of the Sierra are about as numerous as traffic lights, and we had only one set apiece. If a tire went bad it would mean that our little party would be forced to suffer tremendous embarrassment and humiliation, not to mention expense, by being carted back to Lone Pine on a truck. Our first aid kit for Inyo and Mono contained inch-wide adhesive tape and fingernail polish—for leaks.

After pedaling the first 15 miles we began to remember that neither of us had ridden a bike since grammar school days. We came to the conclusion before night that bicycle riding is an art which leaves the most vivid impression on those who choose to dabble in it at great intervals only.

Glacier Lodge, 55 miles from our starting point, was our goal that first memorable night. It lies back in the mountains at the foot of the Palisade Glacier, and is 4000 feet above the valley floor. Yes, we made it, but our knees seemed to have acquired a permanent bend.

On our second morning, we and the sun hit the breakfast table at the same time, and after hotcakes too numerous to mention, we started to pack Inyo and Mono. Our bundles were remarkable packets. They were small and compact in spite of the fact that they contained all the essentials for a 12-day outing. Wrapped in canvas they were strapped to racks which had been constructed from refrigerator shelves.

It was this second morning that we discovered our first

major calamity. Mono's rear tire was flat! The air up there is free, but it seems that it must be forced through a hose in order to effectively inflate a tire. "Tires don't breathe!" we were told by a disgusted gentleman. After an extended search which we carried on impartially through the trunk of every unlocked car, we were rewarded with a tire pump—vintage '29.

Twenty minutes of pumping and we started down the hill. 4000 feet in 11 miles makes a steep grade. Up, it takes umph. Down, it takes brakes *and* umph. On our trip down from the Lodge that morning we discovered that walking down hill was easier on the bikes than on us, and we worked harder to hold them from rolling away than we ever worked pushing them up hill.

At Bishop's Inyo-Mono Inn, on Wednesday morning at 3:45, a knock stirred us to semi-consciousness.

"*Que pasa?*" we bellowed simultaneously. (That's all either of us remembers of our Spanish, and we use the term on every possible occasion.)

"You left word at the desk that you wanted to be called at 3:45." It was a meek voice on the other side of the door.

"Well, call us at 3:45—sharp."

"It is 3:45—sharp!" The voice was a little impatient and held a suspicious tone.

"Oh," we chorused, rolling out.

"Wait until you get to Sherwin Hill," they had said laughing like Red Riding Hood's wolf. We always laughed, but our laugh became a little nervous when we answered that we could hardly wait. On Thursday morning we woke at 2:30 to the jangle of a borrowed alarm clock, and in spite of the fact that we both felt the need of wheel chairs—with cushions—4:30 found us beginning our climbing push, and we arrived at the summit in two and one half hours; four miles from foot to summit, a climb of 1400 feet.

Here at the summit we looked down over the miles we had covered and down at the miles to be covered. If we turned back here we could coast to Bishop, about 20 miles. Certainly a temptation! So far we had done more pushing than riding. Ahead was another grade. About 800 of the 1400 feet we had just made would be lost in one steep drop. Then the climb would be steady and long to the highest point of our trip, near Mammoth.

At Tom's Place, Ellen caught, cooked, and ate the first trout she had ever seen. She's still talking about it and the fish increases in size with every telling.

Fifth day out, Hot Creek, a few miles below the Mammoth Lake junction, attracted our attention for swimming and bathing purposes. It lies off the main highway, and we turned toward it on what looked to be a deserted side road. Ever so kindly we guided our steeds and parked them on the bank of the creek near a broad, deep bend.

"Get the suits, Ellen," I said, in my special coaxing, commanding tone. "I'll look up and down the stream to see if anyone's coming," I continued, for an excuse.

"The suits are in the bottom under the plates and the toothbrushes, and the maps," she complained. That stopped me. I didn't want to unpack either.

"Well...ah?" I half questioned.

"Fine idea," she agreed emphatically.

It was settled. We wore our birthday suits and were splashing around in the warm water when we heard an excited shout up stream.

"Hey, Bill, I just saw one break water, a whopper. Didn't know they came that big."

"Where?" Bill cried.

"Down stream. Hurry."

We heard; we understood; we ducked. But you can't stay under water indefinitely, and we broke the surface beneath a couple of singing fly lines.

"Surprise!" Ellen called tactfully, and we almost had a couple of mermen. Recovering their equilibrium, they went after some big ones they suddenly remembered having seen up stream.

On an eight mile hike we saw Twin Lakes, Horseshoe, and Mary where early tourists were pushing snow aside to make room for their tents. The hike wasn't enough. That night we were guests of the Mammoth Ski Club at a dance given at Tamarack Lodge. Dressed in our best, levis and sweat shirts, we squared and reeled on into the night.

On we traveled to June Lake junction and around the Loop past June, Silver, and Grant lakes. Here we were guests at the new Fern Creek Lodge where we spent what we called our vacation. This was a day in which we parked our bikes and spent investigating the region on foot.

Friendly tourists were forever stopping, offering us rides, and inquiring if we knew the mileage between this



Willma Willis (seated) and Ellen Lautzenhiser (second from right) on the steps of Westwood Hall, UCLA, in the Spring of 1942 before their trip to Mono Lake.

place and that. Having studied our maps more religiously than we studied for our final exams, we proudly pointed out mountain peaks, gave altitudes and mileages as glibly as service station attendants.

On Monday, June 16, we reached our destination, fantastic, ever changing Mono Lake. The colors, the play of light and shadow lend a mystic atmosphere to this beautiful body of water. We had hardly dared hope to be able to visit its islands, Paoha and Negit, but we had the luck to be taken to them on the following day in the launch *Venita*, and thence into a world far removed from yesterday, today, or tomorrow.

"Well, now have you had enough?" they asked when we returned to Lone Pine. They stared open-mouthed at our charred skins and flying hair. (The wind was still blowing—in our faces.)

"Of course not," we assured them, taking care not to rattle our brittle, cracked lips too loudly. "We're going again soon."

You *are* crazy, plumb crazy!" they repeated and backed off a little way.

"That's a matter of opinion," we insisted.

## Eco-Kids: Environmental Education Materials for Children

For those of you who are searching for educational materials for children which are both entertaining and instructional, we have compiled a list of great possibilities. If you know of tapes and books we should add to this list, let us know!

**"The Banana Slug String Band"**—The zany slugs present their talent on two tapes, *Adventures of the Air Cycle* gives kids a concept of how "everything fits together naturally" as the Nature Man sweeps us across the world on his "Fresh Air Cycle." The second tape, *Dirt Made My Lunch* tells kids how their meals come from soil! The tape includes other environmental concepts such as solar energy, rivers, and eagles. These tapes are as much fun for adults as they are for children.

**Hug the Earth** is an inspirational tape for kids featuring themes such as recycling, responsibility for the earth, and many more. Your children will be left with smiles on their faces and heads full of great ideas.

**Earth Mother Lullabies One, Two, and Three** features Pamala Balingham singing with a voice that is reminiscent of the calming music sung by parents. In addition to her melodic voice one can also hear the sounds of flute, mandolin, guitar, and percussion instruments. These collections include soothing songs from all around the world. **Small Towns and Tiny Faces** is a kid's tape by Sierran folksinger Dakota Sid. It features great songs about old cars, campgrounds, kid fears and critters. Available from Lost Dog Records, 15440 Hwy 174, Grass Valley, CA 95945.

**The Last Bit-Bear: A Fable** from Sandra Robinson is the story of Clover, the last bear of his kind, as he travels in search of new habitat.

**The Grandpa Tree** by Mike Donahue is an elementary tale of the life cycle of a tree illustrated with beautiful line drawings.

**What Makes Everything Go?, Cycles and Faces in all Kinds of Places** are all by Yosemite naturalist Michael Ross.

**What Makes Everything Go?** is an all about energy—what it is, how it works and how we can use it efficiently.

**Cycles** takes kids through the life cycles of apples, bugs, water, calcium, decomposition and more. **Faces in all Kinds of Places** gives us a worm's eye view of flowers.

**My First Nature Book** will keep any kid busy and happy. It has various activities such as making a flower press,

building a caterpillar house and many, many more.

**Under Your Feet** encourages children to look and think about the critters above and below the earth's surface.

**Pagoo**, a hermit crab escorts you through the intricate world of tide pools.

**Star Tales** is a collection of tales about our night sky from North American Native tribes.

**Nature's Detective** teaches a youngster how to use clues (i.e. footprints, feathers, and claw marks) and discover what kind of animals have been there.

**Owl Moon** is a touching story of a girl and her father who go out on a winter owl-watching expedition.

**Earth Makers Tales** features 16 enthralling stories which have been passed down for centuries from one generation to the next. Among the tales are the Native American explanations for thunder, whirlwinds, rainbows and more.

**Common Campground Critters of the West: A Children's Guide** is an excellent guide for older children with wonderful color photographs and descriptions.

**The Eyewitness Books** series by published by Alfred A. Knopf are beautiful color natural history books for older kids. These books are like having a collection of museum specimens in your hand along side clear explanations. So far this series includes: **Pond and River**, **Mammals**, **Bird**, **Rocks and Minerals** and **Tree**.

Many natural history coloring books are available. Here's a few that we know of: **Eagles, Hawks, Falcons and Owls of America**, **Butterflies of the American West** and an excellent series edited by Roger Tory Peterson which includes; **A Field Guide to Mammals Coloring Book**, **A Field Guide to the Birds Coloring Book**, **A Field Guide to Forests Coloring Book**, and **A Field Guide to Wildflowers Coloring Book**.

**Keepers of the Earth: Native American Stories and Environmental Activities for Children** is a new handbook for teachers and parents to use with children five to twelve years old. This manual is unique in its interwoven format of story with information and activity.

For information about children's cassette tapes contact: **Music for Little People**, P.O. Box 1460, Redway, CA 95560, 1-800-346-4445. For information about the books, contact your local bookstore or write to: **Common Ground**, 3829 B Plyersmill Rd., Kensington, MD 20895.

Molli DesBaillets



# MLC News and Activities

## *MLC Adventure Travel Bulletin*

Mildred Bennet, one of our long-time super-members, has organized two wonderful new trips to help people enjoy foreign travel and raise money for Mono Lake.

The first trip is to Costa Rica, February 20-March 5, 1991. This 14-day customized tour will be guided by a professional naturalist who also supervises various biological and conservation projects at the Organization of Tropical Studies at La Selva Research Station. We will visit the tropical and montane forest habitats along the Pacific and Caribbean coasts of Costa Rica. Of special interest in these habitats will be a variety of large mammals, orchids and bromeliads, bizarre and beautiful insects and amphibians, as well as spectacular birds. The cost is \$2270, which includes a donation to help save Mono Lake. Airfare is additional.

The second trip is planned for Indonesia in 1992 aboard one of Society Expedition's cruise ships. With expert guides, we will explore the many facets of this exotic region of the world. Dates, cost and itinerary are not yet determined.

For more information on either of these trips, please contact Mildred at 2719 Marin Ave., Berkeley, CA 94708, (415) 526-1260. If you have suggestions for other places to visit, please let us hear about them.

## *MLC Benefit Concert*

Our deep thanks go to the many people and organizations in the Eastern Sierra who made our benefit concert at Mammoth's Sierra Summer Festival a huge success. "The Untouchables" and "Trouble in Paradise" played for an enthusiastic audience on August 5. Penny Smith of Alpha Air donated ten round-trip tickets from LA to Mammoth for band members. Without Barbara Campbell of the Mammoth Town Council and Stephanie Parker of the Sierra Summer Festival we could never have pulled this event off. Thanks to Jeff Irons, the Town of Mammoth donated lodging for the ten band members for two nights at the Chamonix Condominiums.

The Sierra Summer Festival is an annual event that brings top name entertainment to the Eastern Sierra. Events include classical music, jazz, rock n'roll, country music, international folk music, comedy, musicals, and local theater. To get on their mailing list for announcements contact: Sierra Summer Festival, P.O. Box 7710, Mammoth Lakes, CA 93546 or call (619) 934-1986.

### *A New Home In Los Angeles*

Our Los Angeles office is moving to a new location this fall. The staff is jubilant! The address is: 1207 W. Magnolia, Suite D, Burbank, CA 91506.

## *The Mono Lake Foundation: A Quiet Partner*

The Mono Lake Committee's strongest ally is the Mono Lake Foundation. David Gaines, the Committee's founder, created the Foundation in 1985. Since the Committee had been so focused on legal and political campaigns, there hadn't been time to cultivate Mono Basin educational and research projects. This has been the emphasis of the Foundation: to help preserve the inherent values of the Mono Basin, its history, geology, and aesthetic qualities.

Gaines asked three local residents, who each had a strong interest in conservation and education, to join him on the Foundation's board of directors. Eventually the board grew to its intended size of seven. In the past five years, its dedicated board members have donated many hours of personal time, which keeps the Foundation's overhead remarkably low — just 1%.

A primary emphasis of the Foundation, says Jim Sano, the board president, is to "provide high quality environmental and educational programs on the natural and cultural history of the basin." Each summer, the Foundation presents its own field seminars. Topics for this wide array of weekend excursions include wildlife, bird watching, volcanoes, natural history writing, and canoe tours.

The Foundation also achieves this goal by giving grants for cultural and environmental interpretation and preservation, and scientific research. The Mono Lake Tufa State Reserve built the board walk at the County Park with Foundation funds. The Mono Basin Historical Society recently received a grant for an Indian basketry display. Dr. David Herbst, a local biologist, studies the changes in the brine fly population with funds from the Foundation.

The Mono Lake Committee has received generous grants for the newsletter, litigation, interpretive programs, and other purposes, though none are associated with lobbying. Increased public appreciation of the area, through Foundation tours and classes, benefits the Committee too, and continues to be critical to the Mono Basin's preservation.

Funding comes from a variety of fund-raising and educational activities, however, most of the income is received from individual donors. The Foundation acts as a fiscal agent for the MLC, which means that donations made to the Foundation are tax-deductible because, unlike the Committee, the Foundation does not lobby.

The Mono Lake Foundation holds a unique position. Its orientation to education keeps its focus wide and its potential for growth tremendous. As the Committee comes closer to preserving the lake, the Foundation's expanding Mono Basin interpretive and educational programs will come to the forefront.

We are extremely grateful for the tremendous support the Foundation provides for the Mono Basin's natural and cultural heritage. We thank the Foundation, the board of directors, and especially those of you who have donated generously to make this important work possible.

*Robin Supplee, MLC Spring Intern*

## *New Canoes for MLC Canoe Tours*

Our Mono Lake Foundation/MLC Natural History Canoe Tours have greatly benefited from the addition of two shiny white canoes. We want to thank Marlin and Mary Bayes of Clipper Canoes for giving us a generous discount on the two new fiberglass "Rangers". The purchase and logistics were worked out by Chris Menadier of Saddleback Outfitters in Brea, California.

These beautiful boats have added to the success of our summer canoe tours. The tours have become so popular that guides have been having to turn away visitors. The new canoes have been receiving rave reviews from canoe guides and customers alike.

## *Staff Hellos and Goodbyes*

We're happy to have Steve Holland, our former Lee Vining Office Assistant, return as Ilene's Staff Assistant. After a brief hiatus in San Francisco, Steve has come back to the Mono Basin temporarily to help us get through our demanding court schedule.

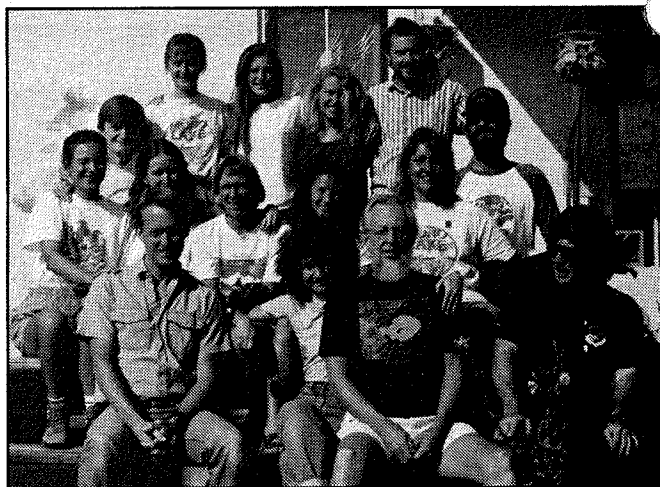
Ilene's side-kick (and husband) Steve "Cedar" Barager has taken a break from his teaching profession to act as our Education and Staff Coordinator. Cedar's skills working with people and constant wacky humor have made the demanding summer season run smoothly.

In spring we said goodbye to Matt Graves and Nancy Zapotocki. Nancy is now working as a US Fish and Wildlife Service Biologist out of Anchorage, Alaska. Matt's holding off from getting a job until he fills the freezer with salmon for the winter. They are both greatly missed.

Stuart Scofield has left the Committee but happily remains in Lee Vining devoting himself to his photography and teaching photographic workshops for the University of California.

Peggy Nicholson left the Assistant Editor position to work full-time at Bodie State Historic Park this summer. She hopes to go back to school to get her teaching credential soon. Thanks for all those late night sessions working on the newsletter Peggy!

Lauren Zittle in our Los Angeles office will be leaving in the fall to pursue a Masters Degree at the Monterey Institute of International Relations. She was a wonderful addition to our office and we miss her.



MLC Summer Staff in Lee Vining: (Back row, from left) Geoff McQuilkin, Shannon Nelson, Molli DesBaillets, Karyn Helfrich, Steve Holland, (Middle row, from left) Melanie Findling, Lauren Davis, Sally Gaines, Sally Miller, Susan Thomas, Cedar Barager, (Front row, from left) Paul Kohlberg, Ilene Mandelbaum, George Larimore, Gary Nelson.

## *Accolades*

Our sincere thanks go to the **Anonymous donor** who presented our Lee Vining office with a \$10,000 gift in July. We were all over-whelmed by your generosity and kindness. With our current astronomical legal fees, we appreciate your support at this time. We also thank **Royal Robbins, Inc.** of Modesto for matching membership contributions from their employees. A big thanks to the **Westridge School French Club** for your heart-felt donation. Thank you **Robert Atlee** for taking staff member Paul Kohlberg up in your plane. We are also grateful to you for donating your own photographs. Many thanks to the **Wilderness Press** for sponsoring our Visitor Center manager Melanie Findling's visit to the American Booksellers Association convention in Las Vegas. We wish to thank **Robert Gregory**, once again, for helping collect bike-a-thon prizes. Your help and dedication seems to be everlasting. The Lee Vining staff wish to thank **Stuart Scofield** and **Susan Thomas** for the temporary use of their MacIntosh computers. We appreciate all our **Letter-writers** who support Mono Lake. We wish we could thank each of you personally because your dedication really makes a difference in legislators' and government officials' opinions of the Mono Lake issue. Thanks!

## *In Memory*

**Mrs. Annie Nilsson** made a major gift to the Mono Lake Foundation in memory of her husband, **Einar Nilsson**. **Ann Carlton** made a donation in memory of **Adam Brockie, Sr.**

## *In Celebration*

**Hazel Anderholm** made a gift in celebration of the marriage of **Daniel Mills** and **Sally Liska**.

## MLC Job Opportunities

All these full-time positions include benefits and need to be filled immediately. Contact either office for copies of job descriptions.

### Mail and Membership Coordinator—Lee Vining

This person is responsible for processing all MLC mail, maintaining our membership list, ordering labels, tallying direct mail returns, and handling special membership correspondence. We are looking for someone who is well-organized, member-friendly and has computer skills.

### Administrative Director—Lee Vining

The Administrative Director is responsible for managing our Lee Vining office and programs. This person hires and supervises Lee Vining staff, interns and programs, develops administrative systems, oversees business operations and management of MLC funds, and coordinates inter/intra office communication. We are looking for someone with administrative and personnel management experience and strong communication, organization and computer skills, including knowledge about computer maintenance. Retail business experience and familiarity with bookkeeping is desirable.

### Editor—Lee Vining or Los Angeles

The editor is responsible for publishing our newsletter, revising and publishing the *Mono Lake Guidebook*, updating the Position Paper, and researching, writing, and editing other articles and educational materials including media packets, slide shows, and information displays. We are looking for someone with experience in writing, editing, designing and publishing periodicals. Must have word processing, desktop publishing (Ventura Publisher preferred) and graphics skills.

### Science Associate (One Year Position)—Lee Vining

The Science Associate is responsible for the organization, analysis, and coordination of scientific information for legal and water board processes. Coordinates and implements field monitoring programs and data collection and analysis. Supervises the maintenance of the research library and files. A degree and field experience in physical or natural sciences is essential. Strong analytical, report writing, and computer skills are also needed.

## Intern Opportunities

Interested in helping save Mono Lake? Then you should become a MLC Intern. Interns do just about everything: operate our Visitor Center, assist with mail and membership work, provide public education, attend meetings and seminars, and provide general support for all MLC operations. They also work on special projects utilizing their talents. The internships run for at least 3 months. Interns receive minimum wage and have low-cost housing available to them in Lee Vining. To apply, please contact Shannon at (619) 647-6595.

# THE MONO LAKE COMMITTEE

## OFFICERS

Martha Davis .....	Executive Director
Sally Gaines and Ed Grosswiler .....	Co-chair
Dave Phillips .....	Treasurer
Helen Green .....	Secretary

## MONO LAKE VISITOR CENTER

P.O. Box 29, Lee Vining, CA 93541  
(619) 647-6595

Steve "Cedar" Barager .....	Education and Staff Coordinator
Lauren Davis .....	Editor
Melanie Findling .....	Visitor Center Manager
Mead Hargis .....	Associate Eastern Sierra Representative
Steve Holland .....	Staff Assistant
Paul Kohlberg .....	Staff Assistant
Ilene Mandelbaum .....	Associate Director
Sally Miller .....	Mail and Membership Coordinator
Gary Nelson .....	Volunteer Librarian
Shannon Nelson .....	Staff Assistant
Molli DesBaillets, Karyn Helfrich, Geoff McQuilkin and Susan Thomas .....	Volunteer Interns
George Larimore .....	Volunteer Beyond Compare

## LOS ANGELES OFFICE

1207 W. Magnolia, Suite D, Burbank, CA 91506  
(213) 477-8229

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Stacy Brown .....	Business Manager
Martha Davis .....	Executive Director
Liz Fishman .....	Special Events Coordinator
Betsy Reifsnider .....	Associate Director

## CORPORATE COUNSEL

John Paul Hollinrake, Attorney-at-Law  
145 South Washington St., Suite F  
Sonoma, CA 95370; (209) 533-2356

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Sally Gaines (co-chair), Lee Vining  
Helen Green, Berkeley  
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Grace de Laet, San Francisco  
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David Phillips, San Francisco  
Genny Smith, Mammoth Lakes

## MONO LAKE FOUNDATION

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Genny Smith, Mammoth Lakes

# 1990 Save Mono Lake Free Drawing

*Your Chance To Win...*

*"Aspens, Northern New Mexico"*

*lithograph signed by Ansel Adams*

*And other great prizes:*

*Yosemite Vacation*

*Mono Lake Summer Weekend*

*REI \$250 gift certificate*

*Mammoth Weekend*

*American River rafting trip*

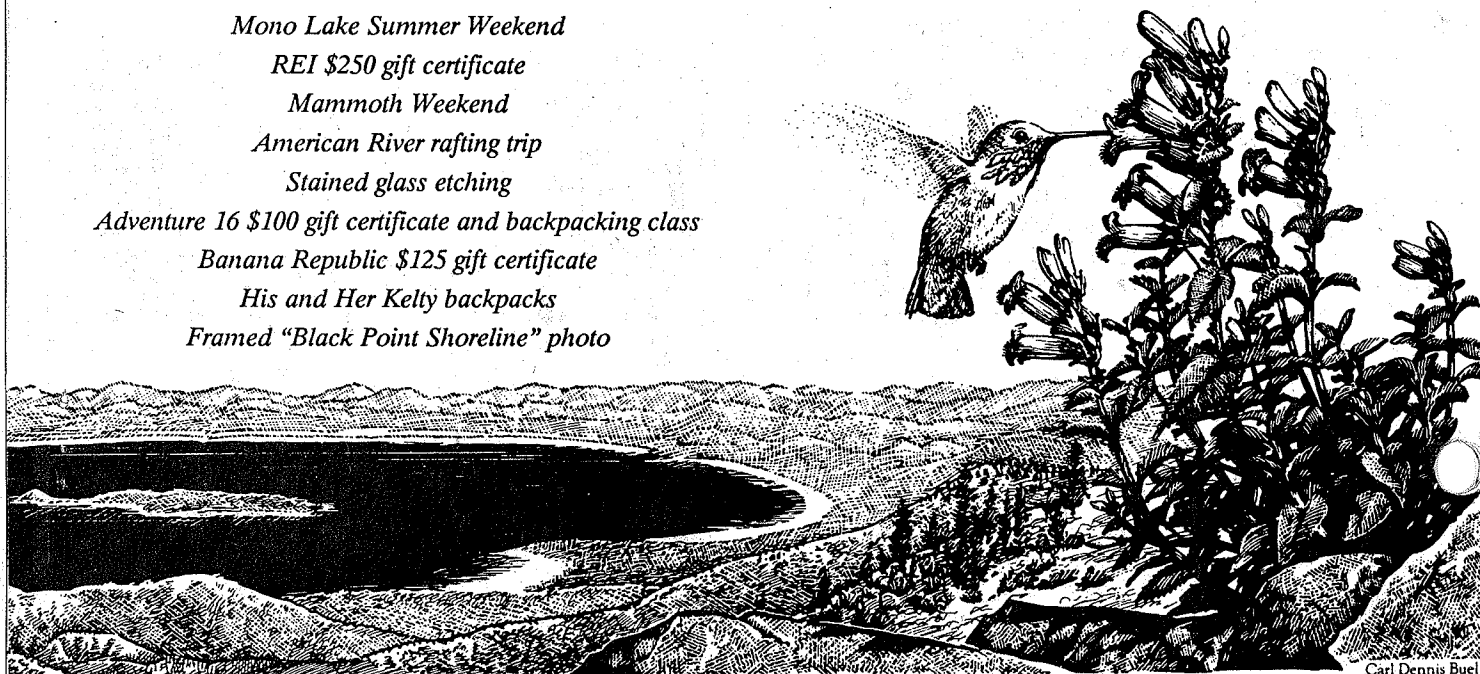
*Stained glass etching*

*Adventure 16 \$100 gift certificate and backpacking class*

*Banana Republic \$125 gift certificate*

*His and Her Kelty backpacks*

*Framed "Black Point Shoreline" photo*



Carl Dennis Buell

*A detailed description of all prizes can be found on the enclosed tickets. The drawing will be held on October 31, 1990. To enter, send the completed ticket stubs, along with a suggested donation of \$20, in the return envelope. Your continued support of the Mono Lake Committee's efforts helps to protect Mono Lake for us all!*

## Join Us!

Still not a Mono Lake Committee member? Join us, and increase our strength and effectiveness. We will keep you informed, through our quarterly newsletter and action alerts, of what's happening and how you can help. Regular membership is \$20/year, or \$30 Sponsor, \$50 Supporting Member, \$100 Monophile, \$250 Defense Trust Member, \$500 Monomaniac, \$8 "I Can't Afford More." Checks should be payable to the Mono Lake Committee, and are not tax-deductible. If you would like your contribution to be tax-deductible, please endorse your check to the Mono Lake Foundation.



**THE  
MONO LAKE  
COMMITTEE**

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