

Summer 1992

Volume 15, Number 1

MONO LAKE

NEWSLETTER



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This Issue's Cover:

Summer is the season of birds and people at Mono Lake. Photographer Althea Edwards captured this family along the lake shore, in the fading light at the end of a summer day. The picture was taken at Mono County Park, north of Lee Vining.

Althea is a native of Los Angeles who has fallen in love with the Mono Basin. She discovered it back in 1983, and now calls it, "One of my very favorite places." She also took the photo on page 3, and has donated several images to the new Mono Lake Committee slide presentation that is showing this summer in our Information Center in Lee Vining.

We appreciate all of those generous photographers who share their work with the Mono Lake Committee, helping us to tell the story of this very special place.

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The Mono Lake Committee is a non-profit citizens' group dedicated to saving Mono Lake from excessive diversion of water from its tributary streams. We seek a solution that will meet the real water needs of Los Angeles and leave our children a living, healthy and beautiful lake.

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This newsletter is partially funded by a grant from the Mono Lake Foundation, a non-profit, tax-exempt organization dedicated to studying and protecting the Mono Lake watershed. The Mono Lake Committee is a lobbying organization and greatly needs your direct contribution. However, if you wish to make a tax deductible contribution to the effort to save Mono Lake, please write your check to "Mono Lake Foundation."



Mono Lake, Up Close And Personal

by Gary Nelson

For some people, the health of Mono Lake is a series of abstract lake elevation numbers, as in "6377 feet above sea level". My view of the crisis is much simpler than that. For me, the "bottom line" is how high my canoe floats above the lake bottom.

I am a canoe guide for the Mono Lake Foundation. Recently, on a warm Saturday morning, I began my fourth season of giving visitors a "gull's eye view" of the lake.

The first trip of the day was typical of most of our voyages. The eager paddler in the boat's bow tried to push off before I had climbed into the stern. Between us, two non-paddling passengers gripped the gunwales tightly, in anticipation of losing their customary relationship to terra firma.

Once away from shore, my passengers slowly shifted their weight from side to side. I could almost read their minds: "Hey, these things don't tip as much as I thought!" For many, this trip on Mono Lake is their first ride in a canoe, perhaps their first time in any boat.

Soon, trailing their fingers through the slippery water, our visitors began to marvel at the incredible amount of life beside and beneath the canoe. "What are all these little things under the water?" "What kind of birds are those?" "How can flies walk on water like that?"

A sense of exhilaration took hold as we floated by spires of tufa. Unlike shore-bound

people in the distance, we could look underwater at the foundations of these offshore towers, suspended as we were, several feet above the lake bottom.

To our left, I pointed out an upwelling of fresh water, almost six feet in diameter. It churned its way to the surface through the salty, still lake water.

Although it is the largest upwelling I have seen on the lake, it gushes from a small tufa rising only two feet from the lake bottom. One can only imagine the awesome quantity of water necessary to create the massive tufa formations which now stand twenty feet above dry land in the South Tufa area.

As they usually do, our passengers marveled at the strangely sculpted shapes of the tufa towers. I reminded them that these formations can only grow underwater, which means that these towering giants represent the skeletons of springs which thrived as recently as 51 years ago, before diversions started Mono Lake on its precipitous decline.

In the three years I have been canoeing at Mono, I have seen many changes. Near our launch point at Navy Beach is a small, eroded terrace which marks the location of the June, 1990 shoreline. It is over 20 horizontal feet above the current shoreline.

As recently as last summer, we canoed through a passage which separated the mainland from an island of tufa almost two acres in size. On this June morning, the island


was landbridged. Many of its delicate tufa structures were suffering the impact of human feet for the first time.

I felt a keen sense of personal loss when our canoe drifted to a stop beside a small tufa block rising only four feet from the lake bottom. This squat rock was overshadowed by one of the most beautiful formations at South Tufa.

Two summers ago, I would always stop at "my friend, the rock" to show people a perfect example of tufa being created. Spring water bubbled up from a six-inch hole in its top, which was covered at that time by almost a foot of lake water. This year, the hole in the rock was high and dry -- a foot above the lake. Spring water no longer flowed from it.

My rock has replumbed itself in response to the dropping water table. Spring water now pours out of its side. Tufa is still being formed, only now it is growing laterally instead of vertically.

To me, the plight of my rock symbolizes the battle to save Mono Lake. Progress is being made, but not always in the direction we desire, and often with imperceptible slowness.

But I remain optimistic about Mono's future. As we paddled back toward Navy Beach on a warm Saturday, I looked forward to the day when canoe tours like this one would float between tufas now trod upon by "landlubbers". 

Share the Mono Lake Canoe Experience. The one-hour tour offers a unique perspective on North America's oldest lake. Call (619) 647-6595 for reservations. Tours are every Saturday and Sunday, at 8:00 AM, 9:30 AM, and 11:00 AM, June 13 through September 13. Adults \$10, Kids \$5. Sorry, no children under 4 years of age.

Lake Views:
An Editorial

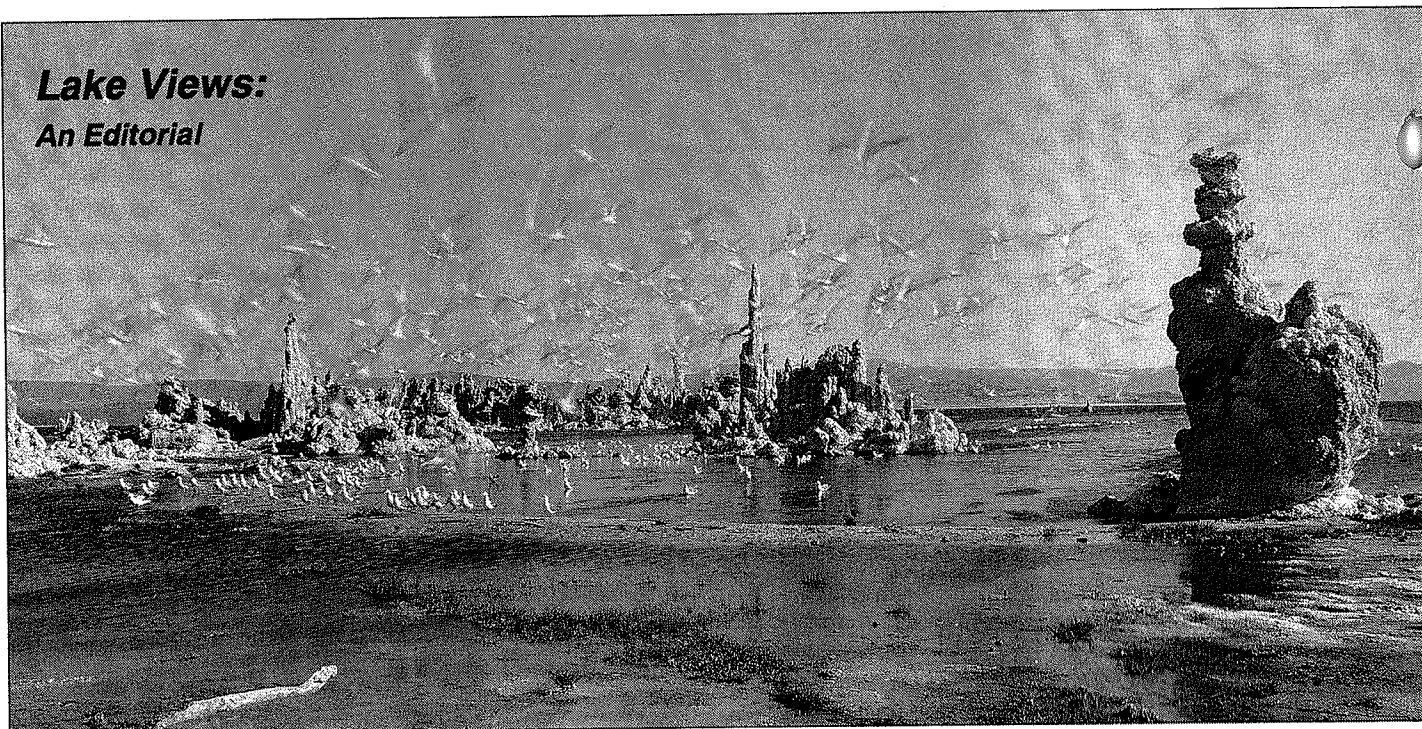


Photo by John D. Mercer

Despite Victories, Little Has Changed

by Bob Schlichting

This Spring, the Mono Lake Committee staffed a number of booths at Earth Day celebrations and fairs. Invariably, people stopping by asked one question.

"How's Mono Lake doing now?"

It's probably a given that most people touring Earth Day exhibits are, already, dedicated environmentalists; nevertheless, it was heartening to discover that most of them knew Mono Lake was in jeopardy.

But the question was also disturbing, for almost everyone seemed shocked when we told them the battle to protect Mono was far from over. Unfortunately, many supporters have retired from the struggle, thinking Mono Lake has been saved.

How is Mono Lake doing? Legally, we seem to be winning. Physically, the lake is losing. Despite all our court victories, conditions continue to deteriorate.

Legally, we are still under a preliminary injunction -- a *temporary* ruling issued in 1991 -- that says the lake should be no lower than 6377 feet above sea level. After listening to testimony over a six-month period, the judge decided Mono Lake needed to be *at least* that high to protect its fragile ecosystem. To this end, all diversions

were temporarily halted.

Today, the lake level sits at approximately 6374.5 -- two-and-a-half feet below that court-ordered minimum.

During last year's involved hearing, attorneys for Los Angeles argued that the Department of Water and Power should continue to divert water from Mono's streams. Even with diversions, they protested, there was no way that the elevation of the lake would fall below 6374, even if California's drought continued.

Fortunately the court rejected that argument. All the water available has been spilling into Mono Lake; yet the level has fallen past DWP's projections.

Despite this winter's over-average rain amounts in Southern California, the six-year drought continues to plague the Eastern Sierra. The Mono Basin only

How is Mono Lake doing? Legally, we seem to be winning. Physically, the lake is losing. Despite all our court victories, conditions continue to deteriorate.

It is a war of attrition that the Department is fighting; as long as Mono Lake's supporters perceive the battle as being won, DWP's tactics can succeed.

received about 70 percent of normal precipitation this season.

Courts have no control over the shortage of moisture. But the reason this drought is having such a devastating effect on Mono Lake is because of DWP's excessive diversions in the past. Mono had been allowed to fall dangerously low even before California's drought began.

That's why the Mono Lake Committee has always fought for a buffer -- an extra margin of water that would protect the lake in dry times like these. Lake levels would fluctuate naturally, but would never fall below that critical 6377 elevation.

If today's level was 6386 instead of 6374 feet, natural conditions could cause Mono Lake to drop without placing the ecosystem in jeopardy. But now increasing salinity is approaching dangerous levels, and once again islands that are critical bird nesting sites are connected to the mainland. If Mono's level continues to drop, the entire ecosystem may soon collapse.

The US Forest Service has issued a Management Plan recommending a lake level range from 6377 to 6390 feet. The

plan is based on a number of scientific studies that advocate such a range to protect Mono Lake.

A nine-foot buffer -- to 6386 -- is called for in the Committee's Six-Point Plan. Our position is consistent with those recommendations -- in fact, our position is a bit conservative.

And what is DWP's position? The Department's General Manager and Chief Engineer, Daniel Waters, contends that no buffer is needed, and that the lake is fine, right where it is, three feet below the court-set minimum.

Unfortunately, the United States Forest Service can only *suggest* a lake level -- their recommendations have no force in law. The California parks department -- which manages the Mono Lake Tufa State Reserve -- also has no control over DWP. The Department of Water and Power would still be diverting water today if not for the actions of the Mono Lake Committee and our ally, the National Audubon Society.

Courts halted Mono Basin diversions in 1989. DWP was ordered to restore four long-dried-up streams and their fisheries to pre-diversion conditions. Water now runs down those creeks and, incidentally, into Mono Lake.


Some stream restoration work has been successfully completed. But DWP seems determined to drag the process out as long as possible. An article on page 6 details our on-going legal fight over creek restoration; the Department,

with its unlimited resources, seems determined to deplete our meager legal fund.

In print, DWP has admitted to already spending over \$12 million in its court battles over Mono Basin water, and still litigation continues. It is a war of attrition that the Department is fighting; as long as Mono Lake's supporters perceive the battle as being won, DWP's tactics can succeed.

We can't let up. Still ahead of us is an expensive, time-consuming set of administrative hearings before the State Water Resources Control Board in Sacramento. They will balance the needs of Mono Lake and its streams against the water needs of Los Angeles. Considering the almost certain legal appeals after a decision is reached in 1993, courts have warned that the process could well last to the end of the decade.

Meanwhile, DWP is as determined as ever to hold onto Mono's water. With Assembly bill 444, the state legislature voted \$60 million to finance replacement water supplies for Los Angeles. For two years, DWP bureaucrats turned their backs on millions rather than agree to protect the lake.

The question remains: "How is Mono Lake doing?" The answer is, "Not well." The struggle to protect it has always depended on grassroots support; we can't afford to become complacent now. Despite our victories, very little seems to have changed. The battle for Mono's survival is far from won. 

Here's what you can do to save Mono Lake:

- **If you're a Mono Lake Committee member, continue your support. The battle is not yet won!**
- **If you're not a member -- join us! There is membership information between pages 12 and 13.**
- **Tell others about the importance of Mono Lake, and write letters to LA Mayor Tom Bradley, 200 North Spring Street, Los Angeles, CA 90012. Urge the city to protect this unique and valuable place!**



Legal Update:

DWP Spends More Time Arguing Over Less

by Bob Schlichting

When the El Dorado Superior Court ordered long-diverted Mono Basin creeks and fisheries restored in 1990, it set up a group called the Restoration Technical Committee (RTC) to oversee the process.

Five parties -- the Mono Lake Committee, the National Audubon Society, California Trout, the Department of Fish and Game, and DWP -- make up the committee. Unfortunately, decisions made by the group have to be unanimous. Divided votes must be resolved by going back to court.

Most votes in the RTC have been 4 to 1, with DWP voting against everyone else.

"It's frustrating," said Ilene Mandelbaum, Mono Lake Committee Associate Director in Lee Vining who works with our legal team. "It costs more to go to court and argue about creek restoration than to actually do the work. Because of DWP's actions, we find ourselves spending more and more time arguing over less and less."

Now attorneys are involved in almost every aspect of the RTC process. They regularly attend each meeting.

Here's a quick synopsis of the past seven months:

the conditions, or at least equivalent conditions, that benefitted the historic fisheries on Mono's creeks. He ordered work to proceed in an expedited manner.



Restoration work on Mono Basin creeks is being planned by Sacramento-based Trihey and Associates, under the direction of the five-member RTC. Here Woody Trihey (left) confers with stream consultants Gary Smith (center) and Scott English (right) over the plan for Lee Vining Creek.

- Back in November, DWP asked El Dorado Superior Court to disband the RTC because of a 4 to 1 vote impasse. Judge Terrence Finney refused, ordering all parties to continue negotiating.
- Weeks of negotiations failed to break the deadlock, so, on January 13, another hearing was held. Judge Finney reaffirmed the plan to restore

- After five more lengthy RTC meetings, all parties returned to court on March 9 and 11. Rejecting the limited proposal supported only by DWP, Judge Finney ordered the immediate implementation of a "global fishery restoration plan" on Lee Vining creek.
- Pilot riparian plantings were installed along Lee Vining Creek at the end of March. Then DWP objected to a temporary irrigation system that would test the watering requirements of the new vegetation until it could become established. After two conference calls between all parties, the court ordered the system installed.
- Since 1985, DWP has used

electroshocking techniques to study changes in fish populations in Rush Creek. (The process temporarily stuns the fish, allowing them to be counted and then returned to the stream.) Despite the fact that it has conducted this study program every spring but two (when the flows were too high), DWP objected to implementing such a plan this spring through the RTC.

The split vote taken on April 28, once again 4 to 1, led to court hearings on May 11 and 12. Over DWP's objections, the court ordered the study program to proceed.

- Restoration work had commenced the first week in May, but bogged down when DWP only provided construction crew for a few hours a day. In court on May 12, Judge Finney warned the Department, "That's not going to cut it." He ordered DWP to provide equipment when needed and for as much time as it takes to get the restoration work done on schedule.
- Then, in a May 22 RTC meeting, DWP refused to vote either for or against the final work plans for Lee Vining creek, choosing instead to abstain.

"The process has bogged down in erroneous arguments," complained the Mono Lake Committee's Mandelbaum. "However, thanks to the RTC's persistence, we have already accomplished much on Walker, Parker, Rush and Lee Vining Creeks."

"The end product will be worth it," Mandelbaum concluded.

MLC Helps LA to Reform Water Rates

by Betsy Reifsnider

Mono Lake Committee Associate Director

In July 1991, Mayor Tom Bradley created a special Blue Ribbon Committee, composed of citizens throughout Los Angeles, to restructure the city's water rates. I am one of the participants, representing the Mono Lake Committee.

The Blue Ribbon Committee was created during last summer's drought, when conservation-minded LA residents cut back their water use by 30 percent. DWP then requested a double-digit rate increase, based on its resulting loss of income. The City Council allowed only a 3.6 percent increase, but angry LA water-users still complained that they were being penalized for conservation. Mayor Bradley formed a citizen's group to reform the city's water rate structure.

There was an historical precedent for the move. Los Angeles once had a declining rate structure in which customers who used the most water paid less per unit — part of a volume discount. In 1977, the first Blue Ribbon Committee reformed this wasteful system, instituting the uniform rate structure in use today. Every water customer, whether a single family homeowner, apartment dweller, or a large industry, paid the same amount per unit.

Now, after almost a year of public hearings, briefings, and debate, today's

Blue Ribbon Committee has recommended that DWP adopt a "marginal cost" approach to pricing its water.

Simply put, "marginal cost" is the expense of obtaining, treating, and distributing the next unit of water to a customer. Marginal cost pricing would encourage DWP to pursue the least expensive alternatives in its planning. For example, investing in a low-flow toilet program that makes more efficient use of existing water supplies is much cheaper than the cost of a new dam.

While marginal cost pricing represents a new way of thinking for water utilities, it has been in wide use in the electric industry for the past 15 years. Environmentalists see it as a way to promote conservation and the efficient use of resources.


Urban water agencies throughout California are closely watching the Los Angeles plan to determine if the pricing policy will work for them.

The Blue Ribbon Committee expects to complete its work by mid-summer. Right now we are putting the finishing touches on a two-tier rate structure which will give customers an economic incentive to conserve. We will also recommend that Los Angeles aggressively pursue conservation and water reclamation projects, create a long-range supply

planning unit within DWP, and address the impact of Metropolitan Water District policies on LA's water supplies.

The Committee's recommendations will be considered by the DWP Commission and the LA City Council who will make the final decision.

Public officials must hear from their constituents if a water rate structure that encourages conservation is to become a reality in Los Angeles. If you live in Los Angeles, please urge support for a marginal cost rate structure. It promotes conservation and water reclamation as the least-costly, most environmentally-appropriate method of water supply. It is a forward-looking approach that more accurately reflects the true cost of water.

Write to your Councilmember and to Mayor Tom Bradley. Both are located at City Hall, 200 North Spring Street, Los Angeles, CA 90012. 

You may obtain a copy of the Interim Report of the Mayor's Blue Ribbon Committee on Water Rates by calling Betsy Reifsnider at the Mono Lake Committee office, (818) 972-2025.



Lake Level Watch:

Lake Approaches Historic Low

1992 has proven to be a sixth year of drought for the Sierra Nevada, California's most important source of water. Despite torrential rains in the southern part of the state, runoff in the Mono Basin is only 60 percent of normal.


At the end of May, Mono Lake stood at 6374.6 feet above sea level. By the end of the year, the lake will drop to 6373.5 feet, only one-and-a-half feet above its

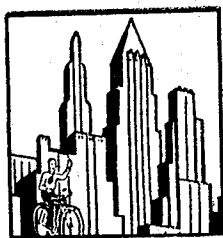
historic low point reached in 1982.

Negit Island, the historic nesting colony of the California Gull, will remain connected to the mainland for the remainder of the nesting season. Last summer, gulls abandoned Negit because of predation from coyotes that crossed over the landbridge.

This year, the gulls have not returned to Negit; researchers from the Point Reyes Bird Observatory counted only four gull nests on the island during the spring nest

count at the end of May.

Over half of Mono's gulls have relocated to Twain Islet, which is separated from the mainland by less than 50 yards of water. Some researchers are concerned that 50 yards of shallow water may not be enough of a barrier to detract coyotes from crossing. Nevertheless, if the lake drops another foot and a half next year, Twain, too, will become landbridged. 



A 13-year Labor Day Tradition:

Bike-A-Thon Begins August 31

This year's Bike-A-Thon marks the thirteenth time

riders have come together to cycle from Los Angeles to Mono Lake.

"It began with nine people," explained Shelly Backlar, Committee Development Director. "Now we have to limit the Bike-A-Thon to only 100 cyclists. Over the years, it has become our most important fundraising event." Last year's ride netted over \$70,000 in donations.

The 1992 Bike-A-Thon runs from August 31 to September 5; to participate, each rider must turn in at least \$250 by August 17. Prizes are awarded to those who bring in additional pledges. Last year's top

fundraiser was Mark Coolidge, who generated \$2,600 for Mono Lake. He earned a cycling vacation from Backroads Bike Tours.

"Last year, we instituted a new feature for those who want to ride but can't commit to the entire week," explained Backlar. "Cyclists can join us for a day or two as their schedules permit. They just have to let us know by the August 17th deadline, and contribute at least \$50 a day."

Reserved campsites are set up along the route. Cyclist's gear is transported by truck from camp to camp, and food, water, and rest stations -- called "SAG stops," for "support and gear" -- are set up every 10 to 15 miles.

The 1992 Bike-A-Thon will be a poignant event, for it is being dedicated to

Tom Lyons, a Mono Lake supporter and cyclist from Palo Alto who recently died of cancer. Tom, 34, first rode in 1988 and quickly became hooked on the annual ritual. His illness in 1990 kept him from completing the entire trip.

Tom rode in last year's Bike-A-Thon, and was awarded a Greg LeMond bicycle frame fork set as the event's second highest fundraiser; he brought in \$2,210 in pledges. This year, Tom's brother will ride the bike that Tom earned. Accompanied by several of Tom's friends, he will bring some of Tom's ashes to Mono Lake.

For a brochure offering additional information about the 1992 Los Angeles to Mono Lake Bike-A-Thon, contact Wade at (818) 972-2025.

Other Highlights of Labor Day in Lee Vining:

Don't Forget Bucket Walk, Annual Meeting!

by Amy Gonzales

On the final day of the Bike-A-Thon, the Mono Lake Committee sponsors another athletic event requiring much less time and effort of its participants. The Mono Lake Bucket Walk is a four-mile downhill march to celebrate Mono's creeks and the fish that inhabit them.

On Saturday, September 5, Bucket Walkers will meet at 9:00 AM at the Old Marina parking area at Mono Lake, one mile north of Lee Vining. Shuttles then transport them to DWP's diversion dam on Lee Vining creek.

Following a short rally, the marchers fill buckets from DWP's diversion pond and walk down to Mono Lake. There they converge with just-arriving Bike-A-Thoners who have ridden from Los Angeles carrying small vials of water. Both groups pour water into the lake in the annual "Rehydration Ceremony."

"Before court decisions changed 50 years of DWP's policies, water seldom flowed down Mono's creeks," explained Shannon Nelson, coordinator of the yearly event. "This reminds people of those dry years, when the only way water made its way from Lee Vining

creek to Mono Lake was by bucket.

"The walk is a powerful way to celebrate the rebirth of Mono's creeks," she concluded.

Annual Meeting Caps Weekend

It's a grassroots answer to a stockholder's meeting. Saturday afternoon, September 5,




Bucket Walkers march to Mono Lake

after the Bike-A-Thon and Bucket Walk, Mono Lake Committee supporters will assemble in County Park for the Fourteenth Annual Picnic and Meeting.

The meeting began as a way for Mono Lake supporters to learn the latest about the fight to save the lake, and to celebrate the year's victories. Committee Executive Director Martha Davis will offer an insider's view of the legal and political battle. Mono County Congressman Rick Lehman has been invited to appear; he championed passage of legislation creating the Mono Basin National Forest Scenic Area. Also expected are Patricia Malberg and John Doolittle, candidates in this fall's election for the 14th district.

While camping is not normally allowed in the County Park, for the meeting, Bike-A-Thon supporters are allowed to pitch tents Saturday. Festivities begin at noon with a picnic; dancing to a live band follows the afternoon meeting.

"The event is open to all Mono Lake supporters," said Martha Davis. "It's a fun way to spend Labor Day, and a great reason to visit Mono Lake." 

Fine Wine Cellar Drawing:

LA's 1st Wine Reception a Hit

Seventy-five Mono Lake Committee supporters recently enjoyed fine wine, hors d'ouvres, music and a bit of motion picture history at the first annual Los Angeles Wine Cellar Drawing reception in Hollywood.

The Wine Cellar Drawing has been a Committee event well-supported in the San Francisco area since 1986. This year, for the first time, separate drawings and receptions were held in both Northern and Southern California.

The San Francisco event had been scheduled for May 1, but was postponed because of civil unrest in the downtown area. The Northern California event was rescheduled for June 12.

The Los Angeles party took place May 15th at the newly-renovated Hollywood Roosevelt Hotel, site of the first Academy Awards presentation in 1929. After viewing displays of early movie memorabilia, guests entered the Academy Room where pianist Jill Dovre entertained.



Richard Katz, Assemblyman from Los Angeles' 39th District, addresses the Mono Lake Committee's first Fine Wine Cellar reception in Hollywood. Approximately 75 people attended the event on May 15.

Mono Lake photographs by Warren Marr were exhibited throughout the room, and Bud Van Roekel of the Maurice Car'rie Winery in Temecula hosted an elaborate tasting of a number of fine wines.

To accompany the large assortment of hors d'ouvres, Callaway Vineyard and Winery also donated a collection of their vintages.


Guest speaker for the event was Assemblyman Richard Katz, one of the co-sponsors of AB 444, a \$60 million fund established by the state legislature to protect Mono Lake. In their addresses, both Assemblyman Katz and Committee

Executive Director Martha Davis expressed concern over The Los Angeles Department of Water and Power's failure to apply for the money.

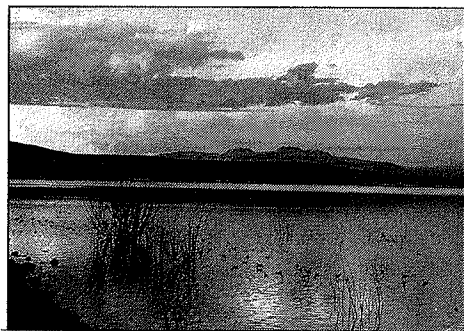
Gini Barrett and Ed Manning, members of the Honorary Committee for the event, chose the winning tickets for the two wine cellars given away in the Los Angeles drawing. Each cellar is valued at \$500 or more.

The first cellar was comprised of 18 wines donated by Jodi Lehman, Herbert Cerwin, and Grace and Alberic deLaet. It was won by **Grace Knoop, of Atherton, California.**

Nancy Cameron of Dallas, Texas won the second cellar, made up of 36 donated wines from William Hill, Clos du Bois, Atlas Peak and Callaway Vineyards.

Special thanks go to all those individuals and corporations whose donations helped make this first event a success, including Dana Friedland of the Hollywood Roosevelt Hotel, Julie McGuire of Callaway, and musician Jill Dovre. 

Winners Announced in Mono Postcard Contest




This Mono Lake sunset by Ilene Mandelbaum will be one of the new color postcards available this summer in the Information Center.

Five photographers had their work selected to appear on a new line of Mono Lake postcards. All had submissions accepted in the photo contest announced this Spring by the Mono Lake Committee.

Winners were **Craig Engle**, from Fairfax, California; **Kerik Kouklis**, a Placerville resident; **Ilene Mandelbaum**, from Lee Vining; **Shirley Anne Richards**, from San Pedro; and **Jim Stroup**, Mammoth Lakes.

Winners receive 100 postcards and

photo credit for their work in exchange for the non-exclusive reproduction rights. Over 150 submissions were received. Judging was done by Mono Lake Committee staff members in Lee Vining.

"The new postcard images of Mono Lake are very striking," said Shannon Nelson, one of the judges. "Mono Lake is so photogenic that making a final decision was difficult. Thanks to everyone who sent entries. We had a number of beautiful ones from which to choose." 

MLC Headquarters Update:

Ready For The Summer Crowds!

by Bob Schlichting

It was a daunting prospect, but Mono Lake Committee volunteers came through. Now, after a flurry of spring time activity, a spruced-up Mono Lake Committee Information Center is ready for the summer crowds, with a major remodel on track for fall.

The process began with a crew of volunteer advisors from **Patagonia**, the Ventura-based mountaineering and clothing manufacturer. Five Patagonia employees spent three days analyzing our store, changing the layout, and showing us how to become more efficient.

Gerrie Raven, a Los Angeles designer who has worked with several museums, helped us revise our educational displays. She also advised us on a new color scheme for the Information Center's interior.

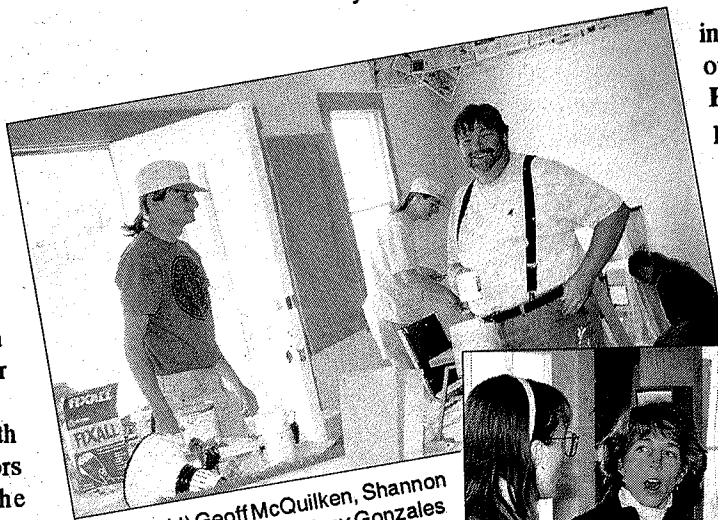
Then, in April, Mono Lake supporters

descended on the 58-year-old building, cleaning, plastering, painting, carpeting, and re-roofing. Heeding the call for volunteers in past newsletters, they donated materials, money, and labor to the project.

Steve Patterson, of Patterson Floor coverings in Redwood City, donated new carpeting for the slide show room. **Allison Lancaster** and **Chris Schaefer** from Palo Alto replaced damaged dry wall and did other carpentry projects, as did local volunteer **Gary Nelson**.

Joe Fuhrman of Bieber Lighting

in Los Angeles gave us bulbs and outdoor lighting fixtures. **Paul Hanson**, from Sacramento, donated potting soil and compost for our new outdoor plantings. So did **Betty Platero**, who also chipped in to help buy new paint. Our picnic table was donated by **B. H. and Louise Hill**, of Mariposa.



(Left to right) Geoff McQuilken, Shannon Nelson, Rick Knepp and Amy Gonzales were part of the crew that remodeled the Information Center in May.



Committee Center Manager Shannon Nelson, far left, discusses remodeling options with a design and merchandising team from Patagonia. From left: Libby Ellis, Karen Palone, Lisa Burgess, and Megan Montgomery. Not shown is Andy Carlson. The Patagonia group spent three days reworking our retail area and educational displays. In addition, Patagonia designed the new T shirt described on page 14.



All 3 photos by Bob Schlichting
Staff member Geoff McQuilken arranges books in the Committee's newly laid-out store.

The Committee boasts an updated, completely revised slide show this summer. **Joe Toyoshima** of Los Angeles gave us a tape deck for it, while **George Howell** in LA donated speakers. Dominguez Hills residents **Arthur and Lilian Skotnes** sent a new screen and tripod.

J. C. And Betty Keator in Pacific Grove donated a cassette deck for the store; **Larry Wagner**, from Sebastopol, gave us speakers; and **Betty Potts** donated other audio equipment.

An unusual gift was a Celestron telescope, donated by **Vern and Mary Lou Judy**. It will be used this summer in our interpretive programs. Eastern Sierra folks **Don Deck**, **Patricia Hunter**, and **Ben Jones** offered a computer, software, and many other wonderful items.

Coming This Fall -- The Big Remodel!

Final plans are being completed on the first phase of our major remodel. Attached to the old Lee Vining building is a ramshackle shed, an early addition that now houses much of our office space; it will be rebuilt. A public rest room will be added, and usable space will be increased by 800 square feet. The added


area will become a new display room.

Final plans are due June 19. We anticipate construction to begin in early fall, as soon as the building permits have been issued.

"It was wonderful how volunteers turned out to help us with this Spring's work," said Center Manager Shannon Nelson, coordinator the remodel project. "But this Fall's project is much more extensive. Once we start construction, we need to finish quickly, before the

winter weather hits. We will be able to use all the volunteers we can get."

Many Mono Lake Committee members have already contacted us to pledge their support. "We will be writing to our volunteers as soon as we have a firm start date and a working schedule," promised Nelson.

If you can offer labor, materials, or building expertise, please contact Shannon Nelson in the Lee Vining office, at (619) 647-6595. 

"Name the Center" Contest Winners Chosen

In the last newsletter, we announced a contest to rename the Mono Lake Committee's Visitor Center. We need a name that differentiates it from the newly opened Forest Service Visitor Center, north of Lee Vining.

Choosing a name was one tough assignment. Our new name needed to explain we were an environmental group without sounding overly militant and chasing people away. But visitors still needed to know there were displays and information inside our center; calling it "Committee Headquarters" made it sound too much like an office building.

In desperation, we started a contest. We offered a prize of a \$25 gift

certificate from our center for the name Committee staffers judged as best -- whether we use it or not.


Over 100 entries were received. Interesting suggestions included: *The Original Mono Lake Visitor Center* from Paul Kephart; *Mono Lake Tufa Taskforce Visitor Center*, from Jean Smith; *6386 Mono Lake*, by Steve Mott, who worked our proposed lake level into the name; and the *Sally Gaines Visitor Center*, from Clay Davis, who chose to honor our board co-chair.

In the end, two entries were chosen. One appears at the right. As you can see, Carol Hawkins, from Campbell, CA, created a logo as well as a name.



Bishop resident Jessie Durant sent in another imaginative entry: *Kuza uue qua'te Bu Bua'amu*, which means *Mono Basin Friends* in Paiute. Both Carol and Jessie will get \$25 gift certificates from the Mono Lake Committee.

Oh, yes. No one suggested the new name that was finally selected -- the *Mono Lake Committee Information Center and Bookstore*.

Okay, it's not a flashy name, but it does tell what we're about. 

Mono Lake Committee Job Openings: Two Staff Positions Now Open in LA

Development Director


The Committee's Los Angeles office is looking for a new full-time Development Director.

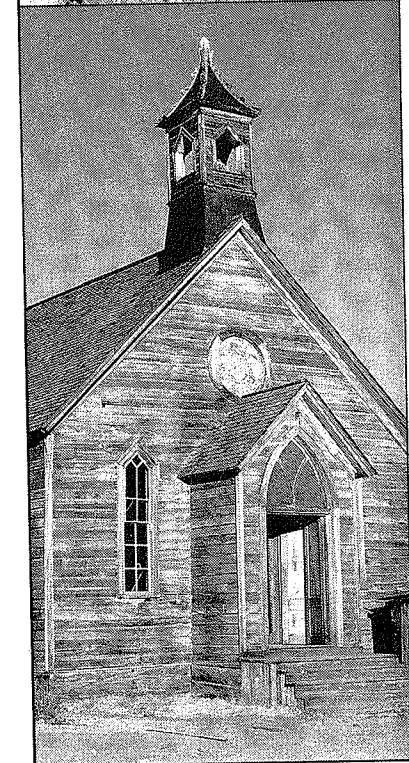
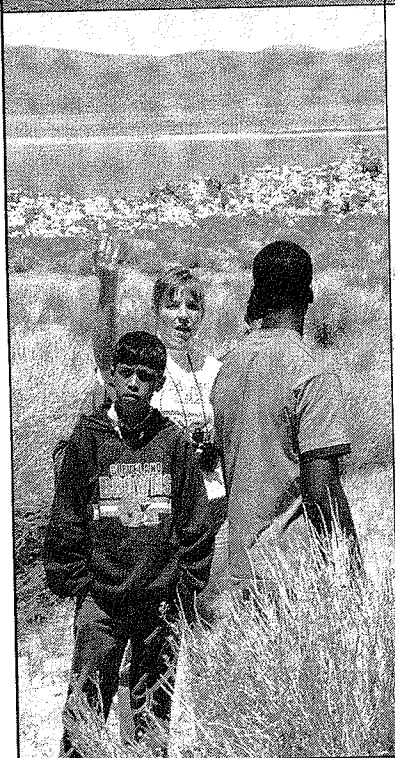
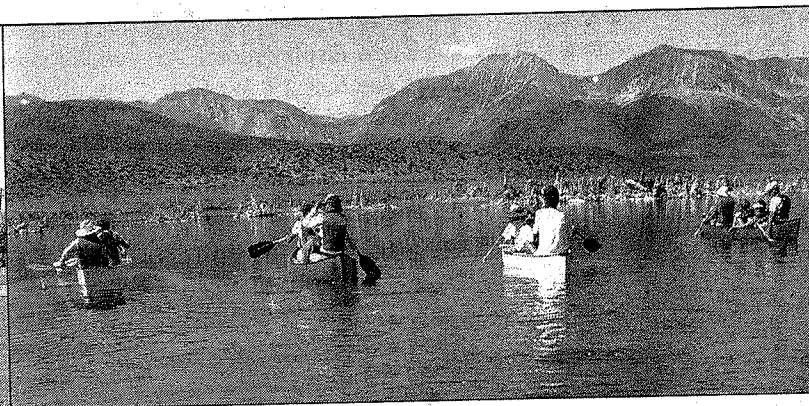
Duties involve planning and implementing the fundraising program for our environmental organization. This includes special events as well as direct mail and capital campaigns. The job also

includes developing and managing our large gift program, as well as supervising the Committee's special consultants. Experience in grant writing, marketing, development, and advertising or public relations is essential. Important also are strong administrative and problem-solving skills. A college degree is required; environmental, non-profit experience would be helpful, as are computer skills.

Development Coordinator

This full-time position in Los Angeles involves the day to day management of such Committee projects as the yearly Bike-A-Thon, Fine Wine Cellar Drawing, and free drawing. We're looking for a creative but detail oriented person, one who enjoys working with many different personalities in group situations. Writing ability and computer skills are a must.

To obtain more information on either position, please contact Betsy Reifsnider at (818) 972-2025 by June 30. 



Summer at Mono

This summer, there's more to see in Lee Vining than ever before! The new, improved **Mono Lake Committee's Information Center and Bookstore** is now open 12 hours a day, offering additional tours, talks, a new slide show presentation and current tourist information. Stop by anytime between 9AM to 9PM daily. Our friendly store offers T shirts, books, gifts, and practical water conservation items.

The Mono Lake Committee offers a **free guide** each evening at 6:00 PM. The 90-minute, one-mile **sunset** unique features of the Mono Basin. Meet your guide at the S

Check at our **Information Center** for the start time of ot adults and kids. Topics include creek restoration, Mono's n water conservation.

Canoe tours take place each weekend at South Tufa fr Make reservations at the Committee's **Information Center**, prices are \$10 for adults, \$5 for kids over four. Boats leave morning at 8:00, 9:30, and 11:00.

Bodie, Yosemite, by Don Jackson; **Canoes**, by Althea Edwards; **all others** by Bob Schlichting

When a group of students received a National Science Foundation grant to study Mono Lake in 1976, it marked the first time the whole ecosystem and its creatures had been studied. Back then, the lake was steadily dropping a foot or two a year because of excessive water diversions by the city of Los Angeles.

Appalled at the sure destruction of this unique and valuable ecosystem, David Gaines and others formed the Mono Lake Committee. Since 1978, this citizens' group has led the fight to protect Mono Lake through legal, legislative, educational and political activities. We seek a solution that will meet the real water needs of Los Angeles and leave our children a living, healthy and beautiful Mono Lake.

For a different inte Mono Basin Scenic Area facility is tentatively open t

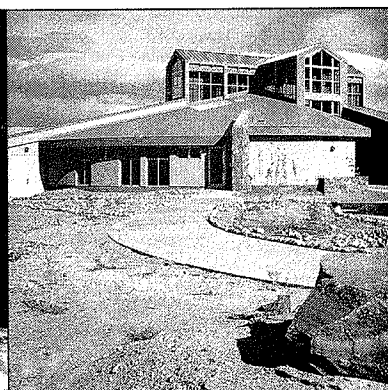
"Coffee with a Ranger" pro

In addition, the **Tufa St** Rangers will be giving Sout programs and other tours.

Yet another attraction through Saturday from no 1922 school house next to of artifacts, photographs, a



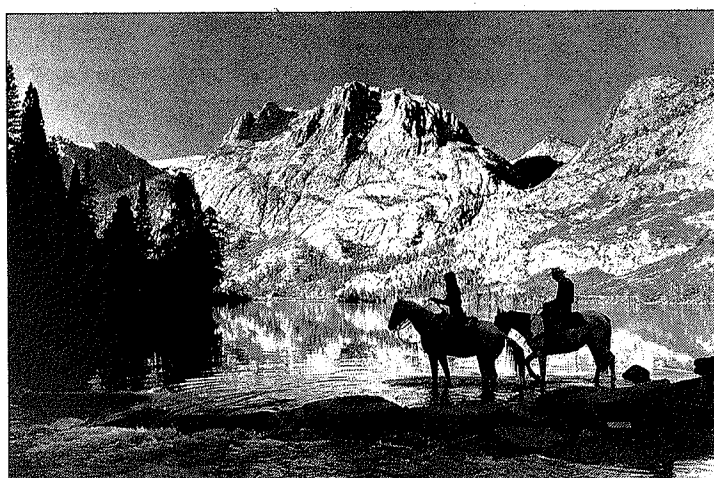
MONO LAKE
VISITOR CENTER



Mono Lake!

Walking tour of South Tufa
walk will introduce you to the
with Tufa parking lot.
new presentations for both
ral history, stargazing, and

June 13 to September 13.
call (619) 647-6595. Tour
every Saturday and Sunday



Silver Lake, by Jim Stroup

retive perspective on the lake, tour the newly-opened
itor Center, just north of Lee Vining. The Forest Service's new
n 9:00 to 5:00, offering displays, a film, patio talks, and a daily
m. Check at the desk for other activities.

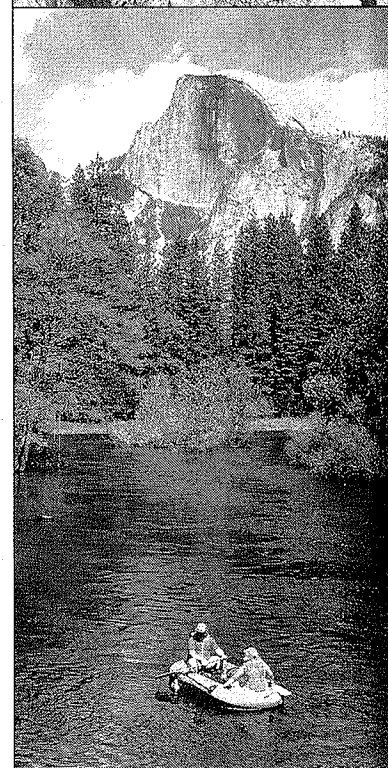
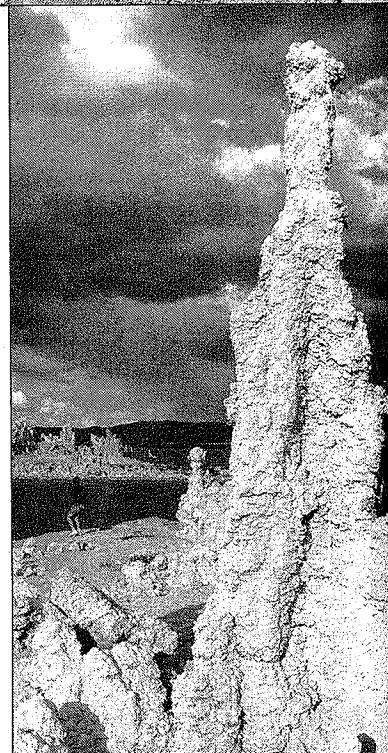
Reserve avoided budget cuts that threatened its staff this year.
ufa walks daily at 10:00 and 1:00, as well as occasional campfire

the Mono Basin Historical Society Museum, open Tuesday
o 6:00 PM. The volunteer organization is housed in a restored
e Vining's Hess Park, and has amassed an impressive collection
exhibits.

Near Mono Lake are other attractive destinations. To the north, the historic town of **Bridgeport**, with its picturesque court house. Also nearby is the ghost town of **Bodie**, a state park open from 9:00 AM to 7:00 PM, with an admission charge of \$5 per car.

The scenic **June Lake Loop** offers spectacular Sierran scenery, as does the **Mammoth Lakes** basin. Across the Owens Valley are the beautiful White Mountains. And Tioga Pass
once again open to breathtaking **Yosemite National Park**.

The **Mono Lake Committee's Information Center and Bookstore** will be happy to fill you in on more details. Call us or stop by for more information!



Book Reviews

CALIFORNIA'S Eastern Sierra A VISITOR'S GUIDE



"The vast acreage folded between the Sierra Nevada crest and the White-Inyo range is so dramatic and infinitely varied that some people wonder why it is not a national park. Fewer places on the planet offer a greater collage of unspoiled environments in so small an area ... this is a land of both subtlety and extremes, a place that sings to the bottom layers of our souls." --Gordon Wiltsie, in his introduction to California's Eastern Sierra: A Visitor's Guide.

This is a guide as unique as the area it celebrates. It was produced with all the care of a high-priced coffee table book,

Guidebook Chronicles A "Collage of Unspoiled Environments"

with hundreds of breathtakingly beautiful, full-color photographs. Yet its size -- about eight by nine inches -- means it can be easily carried in the car or slipped into a backpack.

Over 100 destinations, both scenic and historic, are described from Lone Pine to Bridgeport. The major attractions like Mount Whitney and Mono Lake are here, but also featured are other, less known spots like the Alabama Hills, the ghost town of Cerro Gordo, the waterfalls of Lundy Canyon, or the meadows above Saddlebag Lake. Clear, color maps explain the six areas described.

The text of California's Eastern Sierra is a factual and philosophical joy. Its author, Sue Irwin, knows the Eastern Sierra well. She lives near Crowley Lake with her husband Robert Parker, a climbing guide and photographer.

The book was produced in cooperation with the Eastern Sierra Interpretive Association; Owens Valley residents like plant-expert Mary DeDecker, wildlife

experts John Wehausen and David Babb, museum director and archaeologist William Michael, and photojournalist Gordon Wiltsie also contributed. As a result, Irwin's books has two strong chapters on the history and the natural history of the area.

The book was a two-year labor of love by Cachuma Press, a small publishing house located in California's Santa Ynez valley. The book's editor and publisher, John Evarts, spent over four months assembling the magnificent collection of photographs from some of the country's most acclaimed photographers, such as David Muench, Galen Rowell, Jim Stroup and Larry Ulrich.

Irwin and Evarts set out to celebrate the beauty and rich variety of California's Eastern Sierra. With this book, they have succeeded mightily.

--Reviewed by Bob Schlichting

California's Eastern Sierra, A Visitor's Guide, by Sue Irwin, 1991 by Cachuma Press; paperback, \$15.95



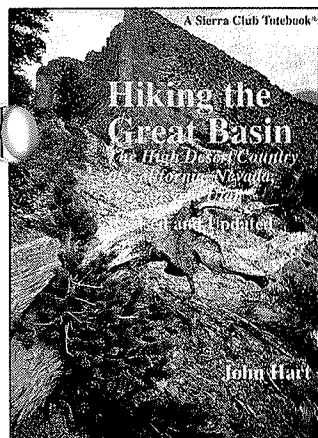
A Committee Exclusive!

The folks at world-famous **Patagonia** created a stunning new T-shirt exclusively for us that instantly became our best seller. Featuring a new logo on the front and a multi-color "shrinking lake" map on the back, the top-quality shirts sport a quote from the landmark 1983 California Supreme Court Public Trust decision!

**99% cotton, available in
ash and white, sizes S, M, L, XL.**

Short sleeves	\$14
Long sleeves	\$19
Extra-heavy sweatshirts (front logo only)	\$24

Book Reviews



Totebook Describes Mysterious Great Basin

Most of us arrive at Mono Lake with the Sierra Nevada in mind. Perhaps our trip

took us over Tioga Pass, or up the Owens Valley; Mono Lake lies just east of Yosemite, just north of Bishop, a bit south of Lake Tahoe. But almost no one heads west to Mono Lake, across the expanse of desert called the Great Basin.

Beginning at Mono's western shore and stretching to the Rockies, the Great Basin offers many special spots for those willing to explore. John Hart's newly-revised book, *Hiking the Great Basin*, does a wonderful job of introducing the reader to this dramatic, arid, and surprising country of which Mono is a part.

Hiking the Great Basin is part of the

Sierra Club Totebook series of sturdily-bound books sized to fit in a backpack pocket. Simple and utilitarian, it provides everything you might hope for in these popular guides.

Hart begins with the land itself, outlining the Great Basin's geography, ecological communities, and its environmental problems. A well-thought-out chapter discusses the particular demands of travel in this area -- extra water, a gas can, and snow chains for getting out of soft sand.

The body of the book gets down to specifics regarding mountains, valleys, roads, and trails. Hart divides the Great Basin into six regions, discusses each one, and outlines specific routes. Maps augment the clear directions, and Hart's fluid writing make you want to set off immediately for a month of back-road wandering.

John Hart realizes that the Great Basin is too vast an area to be captured in a single book; he makes no claim to more than laying a few paths and outlining a few techniques to get the reader started. "I

mean to show what sorts of traveling can be done," he writes, "what kinds of conditions can be met out there, what beauties and what problems this tremendous country contains."

What he shows is enough to excite anybody.

--Reviewed by Geoff McQuilkin

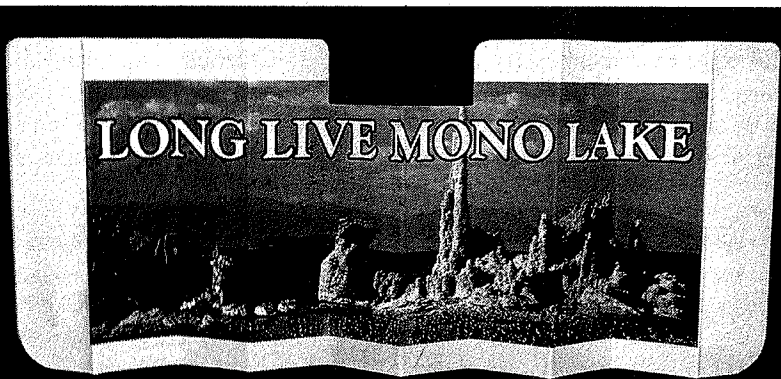
Hiking the Great Basin, by John Hart, revised and updated 1991 by Sierra Club Books; paperback, \$15.00.

Lee Vining Book Signing Announced

Authors **Sue Irwin** and **John Hart** will be at the Mono Lake Committee's Information Center and Bookstore on Saturday, June 27. Beginning at 7:00 PM, they will sign copies of their books, *California's Eastern Sierra*, *A Visitor's Guide* and *Hiking the Great Basin*. In addition, Phil Pister, Eastern Sierra activist and Mono Lake Committee Board member, will give a talk on conservation issues. Refreshments will be served; Randy Arnold from Barefoot Cellars in Geyserville has donated wine for a tasting at the event.

Perfect for the summer season!

Keep your car cool and proclaim your love of Mono Lake! This autoshade comes with a map of the Eastern Sierra on the back -- complete with all the information you need to make your visit to the area truly memorable! **\$7.50**



Special Offer for Summer! Order a shirt and any other item we mention -- books, sunshades, or lots more shirts! -- and pay shipping only on the first shirt (\$3.50)! Hurry, for this offer ends with the release of our Fall catalogue. Just fill out this coupon and mail it in the handy membership envelope on page 8!

Name _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____ County (Required for Sales Tax) _____
Daytime Phone _____ ☐ Master Card ☐ Visa ☐ Check (To Mono Lake Committee)
Card Number _____ Expiration Date _____ Signature _____

Number	Item	Size	Ash /White	Price	Total
	Short sleeve shirt			\$14.00	
	Long Sleeve shirt			\$19.00	
	Sweatshirt			\$24.00	
	Sunshade			\$7.50	
	Book: Eastern Sierra			\$15.95	
	Book: Great Basin			\$15.00	
CA residents add applicable sales tax					
Special shipping rate!					\$3.50
Total:					

Phone orders: call (619) 647-6595



Photo by Bob Schlichting
A monument marks the site of Manzanar, the World War II internment camp for Japanese Americans. This ceremony was part of the yearly pilgrimage that drew over 1,500 people to the Owens Valley location.

Several months after the start of World War II, a presidential order established internment camps for Japanese Americans living in the Western United States. Fifty years later, Congress voted to make a historic

Update:

Manzanar Bill Passes; Pilgrimage Marks Event

by Betsy Reifsnider

landmark at the Eastern Sierra camp called Manzanar.

This April, over 1,500 people took part in an annual pilgrimage to celebrate creation of a Manzanar National Historic Site, after President Bush signed the bill into law.

The proposal by Congressman Mel Levine to designate Manzanar seemed stalled last year. DWP, which owns much of the land in Inyo and Mono Counties including the Manzanar site, balked at turning the land over to the National Park Service. DWP contended that its water-gathering activities in the Eastern Sierra might be compromised if a federal agency gained control of the 600-acre site.


The Department attempted to insert amendments into the Levine bill which would have effectively exempted DWP from complying with the Clean Air and Clean Water Acts throughout the Eastern Sierra, including the Mono Basin.

Alerted to these amendments, the Mono Lake Committee worked with the Manzanar Committee and stopped DWP's proposed changes. An

outpouring of letters from across the country, many from Mono Lake supporters, urged passage of the legislation, and Congress sent the completed bill to the White House exactly 50 years after President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed the Executive Order establishing the camp.

On April 25, people came to Manzanar to celebrate. LA Mayor Tom Bradley, flanked by LA Councilmembers Ruth Galanter and Zev Yaroslavsky, pledged the city's full cooperation in turning the site over to the National Park Service.

DWP has not yet completed the transfer of the land, and, while Manzanar has been designated a National Historic Site, Congress has yet to allocate funds for its restoration and upkeep. Letters are needed once again. *Please write your Member of Congress, US House of Representatives, Washington, DC 20510.*

Ask that sufficient funding be provided to preserve the country's newest Historic Site. Make sure the Manzanar story is never forgotten. 

August Conference Focuses on Sierra

A year ago, the Sacramento Bee printed a series of articles detailing environmental problems in the Sierra. The reports won a Pulitzer Prize for writer Tom Knudsen, and inspired a meeting of concerned activists from around the state.

The SIERRA NOW conference will take place in Sacramento on August 7 through 9. An off-shoot of an earlier Sierra Summit conference sponsored last October by the California Resources Agency, SIERRA NOW will bring

together a coalition of environmentalists, researchers, local elected officials, Sierra residents, and business people. Together they hope to develop what Chairperson Richard Looking calls "a bold new vision for the future of the Sierra -- a vision that is both ecologically and economically sustainable."

The weekend meeting will include panels on such pressing issues as forestry, water, recreation, tourism, and local economic development. Numerous

workshops will be held, along with a celebration of the beauty and diversity of the "Range of Light."

The Mono Lake Committee is helping to plan the conference, which is underwritten by the organization ENVIRONMENT NOW.

SIERRA NOW is open to all interested individuals. For more information, please contact Witcheries and Associates, 116 New Montgomery Street, Suite 220, San Francisco, CA 94105; or telephone (800) 748-6647.

Early Mono Photos Rescued From Trash

Last Fall, near the Southern California town of Chatsworth, Jim Stewart and a couple of friends discovered some old, discarded photographs.

"They were scattered about this abandoned house that was about to be demolished," said Stewart. "Some had already been thrown into a large dumpster on the site."

Recognizing several early photos of the Mono Lake area, Stewart had a photographer friend, Alan Sahakangus, copy them. He sent a set to the Mono Lake Committee.

"Unfortunately, when we went back to the house to retrieve more of the scattered photo collection, the house had been destroyed," said Stewart.

"We don't know who took the pictures," said Sally Miller, Mono Lake Committee Eastern Sierra Representative, "but they show the Eastern Sierra around the 1930's or early '40's."

Such historical photographs help the committee document conditions before diversions of Mono Basin water began. "We can't emphasize enough how valuable such information and photographs are," added Miller. "If you have knowledge or photos from earlier times, please let us know."

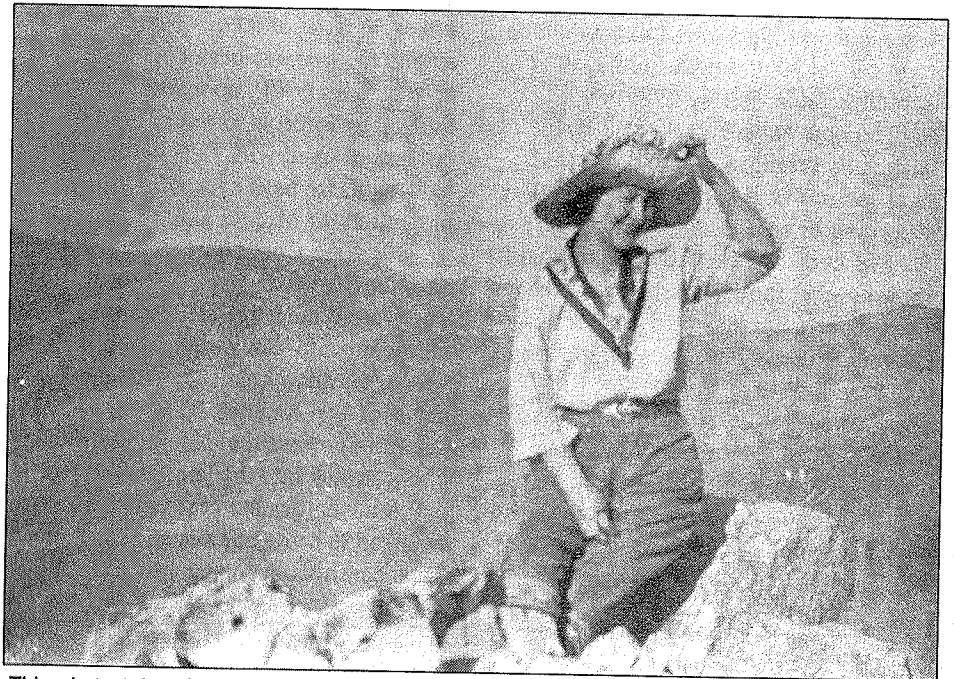
In Celebration

The marriage of Lisa Horn and Ron Nelson of Mammoth Lakes, was honored with a donation from Perris residents Nancy and Lynn Higbee.

Accolades

Ross S. Stein, of Redwood City, made a donation on behalf of environmentalist Genny Smith, who he describes in his note as an "author and activist."

Genny, has been a member of Mono Lake Committee's Board of Directors since 1981. She has always been extremely generous on our behalf. She



This photo taken from the top of Mount Dana was one of those salvaged from the trash in Chatsworth. To the left of the unknown woman, distant Negit Island can be seen, still surrounded by water.

recently donated 50 shares of common stock to the Foundation, and contributed the tuition costs so the Committee's publications editor could attend a newsletter design seminar in Los Angeles.

Michael and Jane Larkin, in Oakland, sent a donation to celebrate their fellow Golden Gate Audubon Society members, Paul and Helen Green. Helen is a Mono Lake Committee Director Emeritus; both she and husband Paul are very active in statewide conservation issues. Helen has ridden in the Mono Lake Bike-A-Thon five times; Paul has ridden three.

friend, Richard Rice, of Los Angeles.

Several memorial gifts were made by Alton and Darlene Throughgood in memory of Mrs. Gazzaniga. Both families live in Santa Barbara.

Frances M. Stephens, 79, of Rio Vista, died in July, 1991. For many years the owner of the B and W Boat Harbor and Resort on the Sacramento River, Mrs. Stephens left part of her estate to the Mono Lake Committee. The native Californian had long been a supporter of environmental causes.

In Memory

Muriel Kaminsky and Frank Dutra, residents of Sacramento, gave a contribution in memory of the late Mrs. Bertha Hixson, their close friend for almost 60 years.

Dr. Christian Finch, a long-time supporter of the Committee, recently moved to Plant City, Florida. He made a memorial donation in honor of his

Wish list: If you have spare time this summer, why not volunteer to help at the Mono Lake Committee? Our Burbank office desperately needs people to help answer phones during the day.

Lee Vining headquarters needs hand and power tools -- drills, sanders, hammers, etc. Got any donations?

Honoring Mono Lake Defense Trust Members

We have always known that saving Mono Lake would be a long, tough fight against incredible odds. But by 1989, we realized how expensive -- and how financially draining -- the protracted legal and political battle against DWP was going to be.

We knew we needed a special fund to ensure that the Committee would have the resources necessary to protect Mono Lake no matter where the struggle might take us.

So we established the Mono Lake Defense Trust. Members of the Trust donate \$250 or more each year to help finance Mono Lake's fight in both the courts and the legislature.

The Trust Fund has been an

invaluable source of support for Mono Lake. Because of these special resources, we have been able to go "toe-to-toe" with DWP, no matter how many times they force us to return to the courtroom. And with each battle we have won, we have secured a little more protection for Mono Lake.

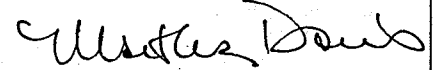
Now the Committee is preparing for an extensive set of governmental hearings. The State Water Resources Control Board in Sacramento will weigh the public trust values of Mono Lake against the water needs of Los Angeles. This will be a daunting process that one judge predicts could stretch into the late 1990's.

Such battles are costly. Add to that the need to bring our side of the Mono Lake controversy to state officials and

legislators, and you can see why we value so highly the special support of our Defense Trust members.

We want you to know them, too. So we are taking this opportunity to acknowledge and thank the following members of the Mono Lake Defense Trust for the exceptional commitment that they have made to the lake's protection. We encourage you to also become a member of the Defense Trust, and join these dedicated individuals in ensuring Mono Lake's permanent protection.

Thank you,



Martha Davis
Executive Director


Suzanne Adams
Jeanne Adams
Akaloa
Col. John Anderson
John Arnold
J. W. Bailey
Richard and Blanca Barrell
Cameron and Katie Barrows
Stephen Bartoletti
Alfred Baxter
Shipley Bayless
Charles Berolzheimer
Ingrid & Jack Bertram
Bob Binneweis
William Bloomer
Deborah & Andrew Bogen
Leonard Bosack
Col. & Mrs. James Boswell
Ken Brunges
Stephen Buckhout
Fred Buhl
Mr. and Mrs. Dale Burger
David Burton, MD
Neil Burton
Pam & Jeff Byard
Robert Carr
Trudy Chang
Tom Charron
Jayni Chase
Joan Chittea
Jim Compton
Jean & Louis Dale

Ruth Danielsen
David Darby
Virginia & Richard Davis
Donald Davis
Grace & Rick de Laet
Janice & Frank Delfino
David Devine
Gwendolyn Dhesi
Michael Dillon
J. G. Dillon
Tom Dodson & Associates
Dennis Duffy
William Edwards
Eunice Elton
Hans Ernst
Frederick Euphrat
Sara Fields Family
Susan & Jim Fousekis
Dennis Frieborn
Brenda & Gerald Ganz
Genny & Ward Smith
Stanley Gold
E. Louise Gooding
Andrew Goodrich
R. Grand
Marcia & Richard Grand
Helen & Paul Green
Ruth Greenberg
David Greene
R. J. Greensfelder
Elsa Grether
Ed Grosswiler

Russell Grove
Peter Hackett, MD
Mervyn Hamlin, MD
Tom Hanton
Mr. & Mrs. Ralph Heintz
Phyllis & Robert Henigson
Don Henley
David Hepler
Mrs. Ward Hinkson
Carolyn & Donald Honer Foundation
Kenneth Hovet
James Howe
Mr. & Mrs. T. Inouye
Robert Jellison
Mary Lou & Vern Judy
R. Lande King
Stephen Knapp
Anna & Larry La Sota
Duncan Laing
Leslie Lampport
Kathryn Langston
Kathy Larramendy
William Lester, III
Rudolph Light
J. S. Livermore
Park & Jim Loughlin
Holly & Tom Love
Betty W. Ludden
Jane W. MacElroy
Palmer Madden
Phillips Marshall
Kathleen Mason

Nick Matulich
 Ursula Mayer
 Kristine McDivitt
 s. H. D. McKay
 John D. McLean
 Susanne & John Methvin
 William & Joyce Miller
 Bill Mitchell
 Edith Monsees
 Christopher Moylan
 Virginia Mudd
 Hallam Murray
 Randy Neverka
 Raquel Newman
 Dr. and Mrs. Thomas Newton
 Lewis Nossal
 Richard Nourafchan
 Francis Odell
 Stephen Osgood
 Paul and Katherine Page
 Kathy Paulus
 Tom Peters & Kate Abbe
 Jesse Phillips
 Eulie Polk

Paul Pratt
 Gloria Raffo
 Ann Reimers
 Arlene Reveal
 Darryl Richman
 John Ricker
 Brenice Riney
 Richard Salz
 Carl, Jeannine & Eric Schiermeyer
 Bob & Peggy Schotz
 Arent Schulyer, Jr.
 Jean Schulz
 Gary Schwarzman
 Joan Seear
 Edwin Simon
 Warren Sinsheimer
 Silas Sinton
 Anthony Sloss
 Douglas Smith
 David Solie
 Jill & Jack Stark
 Doris Statham
 Dwight Strong
 Jerry Stuefloten

James Sungar
 Sylvia Sur
 W. A. Swinerton
 Carol Switzer
 Jan Tarble
 George Tredick
 Carole & Richard Tunley
 Kenneth Turner
 George Turpin
 M. Tyers & C. Evenson
 Sidney and Betsey Tyler
 Gladys Valley
 David Walker
 Barbara Ward
 Peter Watkins
 Jon Webster
 David Wegner
 Michael Weithorn
 Robert West
 Harold and Wendy Youngren-Wier
 Dee & Doug Woodsmall
 Donald Yellen
 David Youmans 

MLC Staff Hellos And Goodbyes

by Amy Gonzales
 Mono Lake Committee Intern

Development Director **Shelly Backlar** is leaving our Burbank office to work for the graduate admissions program at UCLA. For five years, she has directed and expanded our fundraising capabilities. She made the annual Bike-A-Thon a legendary event, and has been everybody's friend, confidante, and problem-solver. She will be missed.

Our new sales manager, **Richard Knepp**, has arrived in our Lee Vining office. Rick hails from the Bay area and has 17 years of broadcasting experience. Perhaps you know him as "Deadair Sinclair." In addition to his sales experience, Rick is also an excellent photographer and we hope to utilize his eye for our remodeled center and its displays.

We happily welcome back a former Committee staffer, **Emily (Harris) Johnson**, who will be working this

summer as a seasonal interpreter for the Mono Lake Foundation. She will be helping with the canoe tours, leading nature walks and giving nature talks.

Geoff McQuilken has switched over from sales manager to Programs Coordinator. Since Geoff has done such a wonderful job with the selection of books, he will continue to choose titles for our store. Stop by the Visitor Center and browse through our diverse summer stock.


This summer, two interns are leaving, but four are arriving. **Mark Lake**, with the Committee for the past year, has left us, but is remaining in Lee Vining. I will be back after a summer of traveling.

A new intern, **Bryan Massey**, has arrived from Atlanta, Georgia. Last summer Bryan worked in California at a children's camp above San Bernardino. He is, thankfully, a skilled computer programmer.

A second intern, **Melissa Kauffman**, is a graduate of Mammoth Lakes High School who is currently attending California State University at Northridge. She has a great deal of experience in retail and volunteer work.

Helen Constantine is a graduate of the University of Puget Sound and currently attends Merritt College in Los Angeles. She has worked as a publishing specialist and has done interpretive work for the Mt. Diablo state park in the East Bay area.

Our fourth intern, **Patrick Mitchell**, grew up in Southern California, but has been attending Prescott College in that small Arizona town. Pursuing a degree in natural history, he has volunteered at the Santa Cruz Natural History Association.

Visit Mono Lake this summer to meet our new staff and see the recent improvements to our newly renamed Information Center and Bookstore! 

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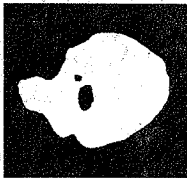
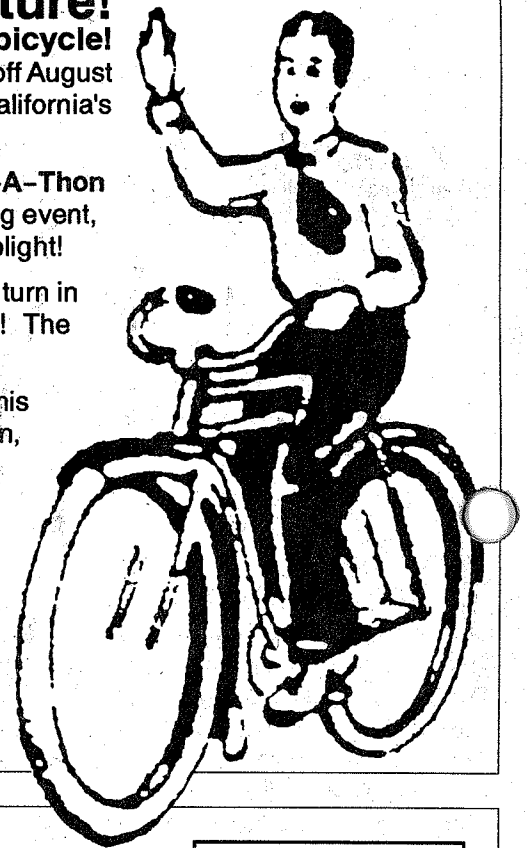
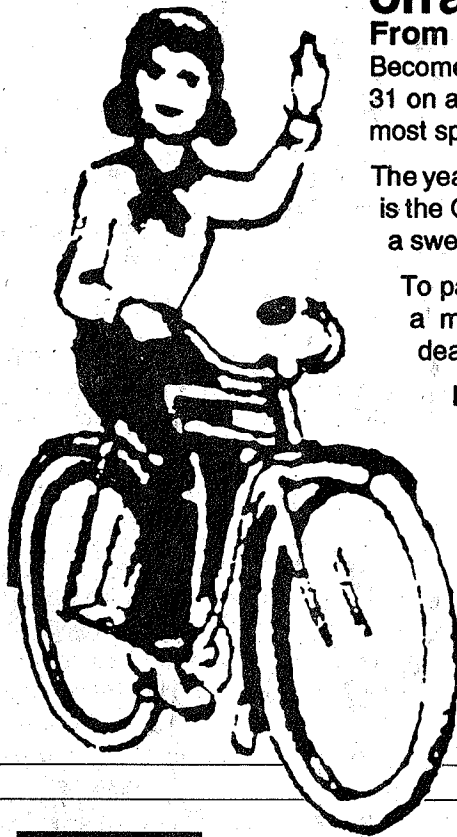
on an incredible adventure!

From Los Angeles to Mono Lake on bicycle!
Become one of only 100 cyclists who will set off August 31 on a **six-day journey** through some of California's most spectacular scenery.

The yearly **Los Angeles to Mono Lake Bike-A-Thon** is the Committee's most important fundraising event, a swell way to remind everyone of Mono's plight!

To participate, each cyclist must raise and turn in a minimum of **\$250** in advance. Hurry! The deadline to sign up is **August 17th**.

Help save Mono Lake! Take part in this marvelous trek! For more information, call Wade at (818) 972-2025!



**THE
MONO LAKE
COMMITTEE**

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Lee Vining, California 93541

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