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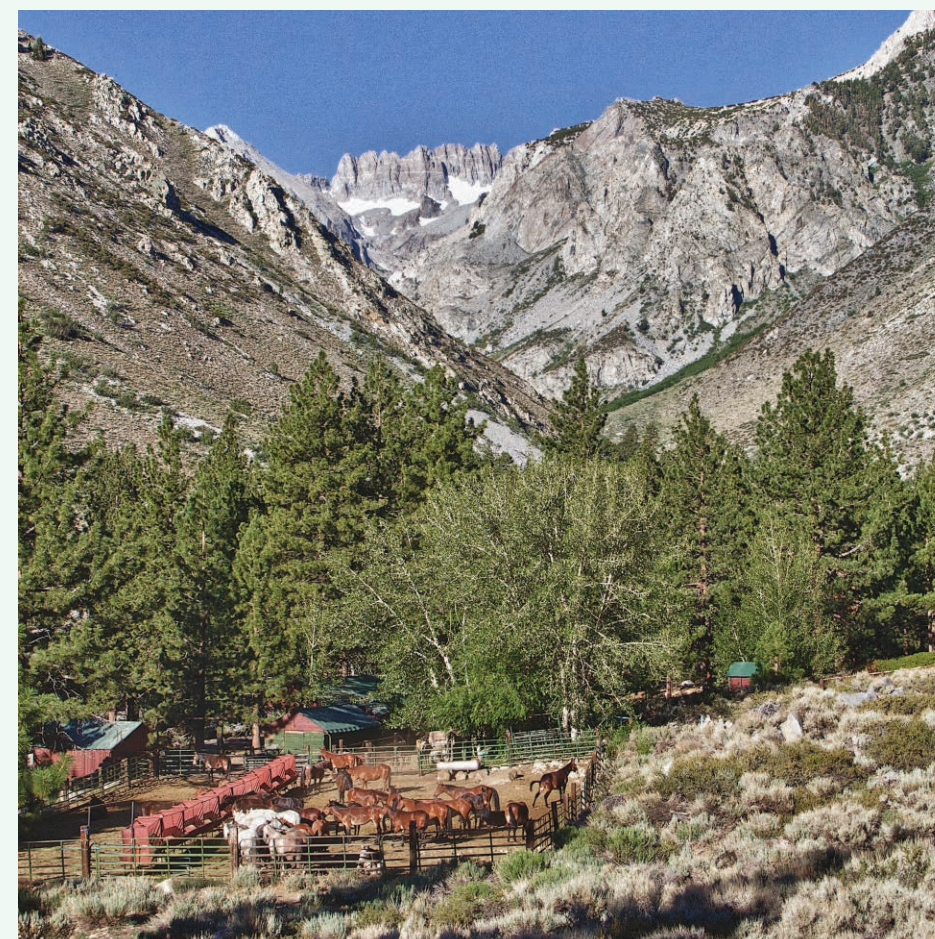
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# A Near View of the Palisades Glacier

By David Woodruff

The Eastern Sierra are well known far beyond their geographical boundaries. People come from all over the world to experience the unique and awesome beauty that this special region has to offer. In the summer of 2012, a visitor from Japan embarked on



an epic journey to one of the most incredible of all places in the Eastern Sierra.

Ayako Akagi is an avid outdoor enthusiast, she had already made previous visits to the United States. In the spring of 2012, Ayako decided upon a trip to California's Eastern Sierra. Ayako knew the area was one of great beauty, but she wanted to go somewhere unique and different. Somewhere that would challenge not only her senses, but her soul. She poured over photos and pictures of this magnificent area and spent many a late evening researching for just the perfect place to go.

Ayako came upon some photographs of jagged and brooding peaks. In the basins directly below the summit of these peaks, she noticed large expanses of what she thought were snow. From further research Ayako learned these impressive peaks were called the Palisades, and the areas of snow she saw in the photographs were actually glaciers. Glaciers... in the Sierra Nevada? Ayako had no idea these remnants of a long ago ice age still existed in these mountains. Palisade Glacier was actually the largest and one of the most southerly glaciers in the Sierra. These incredible mountains and their glacier can be seen on the front cover of this issue of the Inyo County Guide. Ayako thought this might be the perfect place for her Sierra Nevada journey.

Ayako contacted Glacier Pack Train, an outfitter based 11 miles west of Big Pine, California. The trail to the Palisades was long and steep and Ayako wanted to spend as much time as possible in the area of the glacier. Guide and owner Murtt Stewart would take Ayako and her supplies 6 miles and 4,000' up to a base camp below the glacier at 11,000', from which Ayako could explore.

Not having ridden a horse since

Continued on page 4

*Continued from page 3*

being a child, Ayako was a bit uncertain of her ability to control the large steed assigned to her. With a few instructions from Murtt's assistant Sala and 30 minutes of "on the job" riding, Ayako began to feel comfortable and relaxed enough in the saddle to begin enjoying the spectacular scenery.

Quickly, they passed an old stone cabin once owned by 1930s actor Lon Chaney. Soon after, First and Second Lakes appeared. Ayako

admired their beauty and thought how their color looked like blue and white paints blended together. The trail climbed steeply towards the towering peaks. Ayako reflected on how great it was to have the assistance of the horse to get her and her supplies to such a beautiful place. She expressed much appreciation to her new four-legged friend.

Murtt took Ayako to Summit Lake, the highest lake in this nine lake basin. A perfect campsite was found

and Murtt bid farewell to Ayako. He would return to pick her up in two days. This was Ayako's first time by herself on a back country trip. The thrill and excitement of being on her own left her almost giddy.

Ayako quickly set up her camp and soon struck out to explore. She scouted nearby Summit, Sixth and Seventh Lakes. The beauty of the scenery was astounding. Ayako wasn't sure if she was out of breath due to the high altitude or the over-

whelming beauty so close at hand. The beautiful green forest reflected in these little jewels like emerald gems. The stark and beautiful Palisade Glacier sparkled beautifully in the afternoon light.

Backpacking in the wilderness has a way of re-arranging one's priorities. Different things become important to us as we become one with our surroundings. Ayako obtained water from a nearby creek for drinking. She admired how cold and clear it was and soon was quenching her thirst. She thought how joyful a thing it is to drink such natural good tasting water. Later that evening, Ayako watched the stars come out as the daytime turned to twilight. The Milky Way was soon visible, along with countless twinkling lights. All was right with the world and she wondered how many others out there may be enjoying this night as much as she.

Ayako spent the entire next day exploring the lakes, basins and glaciers around her camp. Her union with nature became even stronger.

*Continued on page 7*



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*Continued from page 5*

She found hiking was like meditating and reveled at the exhilaration being in this sacred place provided. She felt as if the animals around her knew her thoughts and felt her emotions. At the end of a long day, Ayako returned to camp. The star show from the night before repeated itself with even more glory. Ayako was sad to think her trip would soon come to an end.

Murtt arrived the next morning to pack Ayako and her supplies back out. He was also packing out two other groups that he had previously packed in. They all shared stories of their special time in the mountains as they made their way back. The trip out went all too quickly for Ayako as they soon arrived back at the Pack Station.

Ayako reflected once more about the journey and her time spent in the mountains. Ayako thought how all of nature exists as one in the environment they live in. She felt that to not do all we can to protect such special places, might ultimately bring destruction to mankind. She thought how all living creatures are made up of a perfect balance and to protect and preserve all life is to respect and preserve ourselves. She knew her trip to the Palisade Glacier country would lead her to forever work towards preserving these wonderful and beautiful landscapes for perpetuity.



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# Off To the Race Track Playa

By David Woodruff

Famed naturalist John Muir once said “Everybody needs beauty as well as bread, places to play in and pray in, where nature may heal and give strength to body and soul.” Nature has many such temples. A place where one may visit and feel the power of the natural scene fill them with strength and renewed enthusiasm for life. Where the magic of the setting brings forth the very best in us all.

Death Valley National Park is a land of extremes, oddities and mystery. From the hottest, to the biggest, to the lowest...Death Valley you could say “has it all”. Tucked away in a remote corner of this expansive wilder-

ness, lies a very special place. A place of great beauty, of great mystery and of much magic.

The Racetrack Playa lies at an elevation of 3608 feet. The Playa is a dry lake bed, about 3 miles long and 1 1/2 miles wide. The surreal setting is stunning. The exceptionally flat playa glistens creamy white in the desert sun, and is surrounded by dark, brooding and barren mountains. About 1/3 of the way down the playa, a small island of dark rocks thrusts dozens of feet into the desert sky.


Walking on the Playa is an experience in itself. The vastness of this landscape becomes intensified the further you walk on to this old dry lake bed. As you travel towards the south-

west corner, you begin to notice the Playa has become littered with dozens of rocks. And the unusual thing about these rocks, is that many of them have a distinct trail furrowed into the playa surface trailing from the rock as if to indicate the direction the rocks have come from. Some of these trails are straight, most are zig-zagged, many are curved and even some make 360\* loops. These are the famous Moving Rocks of the Racetrack Playa. The Rocks have been studied by scientists for decades. No one knows for sure exactly how these rocks “move” though there is a most widely accepted (but not the only) theory.

During winter rains, enough water may fall to form a shallow lake over the playa. As the water begins to evaporate, a thin layer of soft slick mud will form on the playa surface. At this high of an elevation, freezing nights and even days are not uncommon.

*Continued on page 11*






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mon during the winter months, freezing the slippery slick mud. Like many desert basins, the winds blow often... and often they blow with exceptional velocity. Strong winds will literally push the rocks across the partially frozen and slippery mud playa. As the

winds change directions, so does the course of the rocks.  
The power of the scene will bring the most jaded urban dweller to their knees in this holiest of nature's temple. The stark and vast beauty combines perfectly with nature's "magic" of the moving rocks.

The Playa is located 27 miles north of Ubehebe Crater on a dirt road. Depending on recent weather, the road can be quite rough and is not recommended for ordinary passenger cars. Check with the Rangers for current road conditions before heading out.



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# Bishop – Monuments of History and Scenery

Quite often, visitors who stop in the Bishop Chamber of Commerce and Visitor Center to pick up its signature “Treasure Map” inadvertently stumble onto infinite outdoor recreation venues scattered in the Bishop locale. Like an iceberg, many area features lie below the surface and if you are willing to look for them, you can experience enjoyment and wonder.

One prism opening up the lens of the Eastern Sierra’s chronicles is its numerous monuments at historic and scenic locations. Through this perspective, visitors catch glimpses of Bishop’s Native American heritage, frontier settlements including a wild west lynching of desperadoes, and the evolution of motorized travel on historic El Camino Sierra, commonly known as U.S Highway 395.

Two brass plaque monuments representing early local history are lo-

cated on State Highway 168, several miles west of Bishop. They represent Bishop’s earliest pioneer settlement and some of its tragic consequences which unfolded to years of Indian



Wars. While these testimonials depict snippets of timeless stories, dig deeper and visit the Paiute-Shoshone Cultural Center to view exhibits of traditional Native American life ways; then saunter over to the 1883 Laws Historic Village - - - an outdoor museum of pioneer structures, artifacts, and displays.

Perhaps no Bishop “wild west” story is more infamous than the 1871 lynching of Moses Black and

Leander Morton, frontier villains who murdered unarmed victims and ruthlessly plundered ranches in their bold escape from Nevada’s Penitentiary in Carson City. Look for this monument on U.S. Highway 395 outside Bishop by the local gun club. After this brass plaque story, experience landscapes reminiscent of the 1870s when you head to the Volcanic Tableland, a broad desert mesa threaded by historic wagon and cattle drive roads; for cooler climes, drive up Pine Creek Canyon where sheer granite walls dwarf all things living.

Two additional brass monuments along State Highway 168 in the high reaches of striking Bishop Creek Canyon propel the visitor to the early-mid 1900’s. At Intake Two, a popular fishing hole and photographer’s delight, discover how innovative entrepreneurs corralled the creek’s ripping flow to generate electric power for silver mines at Goldfield and Tonopah, Nevada. A few miles up the road to enchanting Lake Sabrina, catch the Cardinal Mine Historic marker as you peer down the canyon at this ragtime ghostly sculpture and take in pictur-

Continued on page 14





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A wide-angle photograph of a high-altitude lake, likely in a national park. The lake's water is a deep, clear blue, with several large, dark rock islands scattered throughout. The shoreline in the foreground is composed of light-colored, jagged rocks and gravel. Three people are visible on the left side of the shore, looking towards the lake. The surrounding mountains are steep and rugged, with patches of green coniferous forest on the lower slopes and snow-capped peaks in the distance under a clear blue sky.

A scenic view of a mountain lake, likely in the Rocky Mountains. The foreground shows a rocky shoreline with large, dark boulders. The lake is a deep blue color, with several smaller rocky islands and peninsulas visible. The background features steep, rugged mountains with patches of snow and dense evergreen forests. The sky is clear and blue.

Information about Bishop and its monuments is available at the Chamber of Commerce and Visitor Center online at [www.bishopvisitor.com](http://www.bishopvisitor.com) or call 1-760-873-8405.

A wide-angle photograph of a mountain landscape. In the foreground, there is a rocky slope covered with dense, golden-brown grass and shrubs. Several tall, dark green evergreen trees are scattered across the middle ground. The background features rugged, rocky mountain peaks under a clear blue sky. The overall scene is a natural, scenic view of a mountain environment.



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OWENS VALLEY WITH BISHOP BELOW

# Lone Pine Where The Adventure Begins

Visitors come to the Lone Pine area of Southern Inyo first to look and then to see. Our human senses are ill-prepared to process the mountain and desert landscapes of extreme beauty and size one finds there. Many artists, photographers and filmmakers have come for that reason and after a weekend there you will never be able to forget what you have experienced.

It is no wonder more than 400 films have some to use the area as

a location; most recently Django Unchained; Superman: Man of Steel; Disney's The Lone Ranger, and before that Iron Man, Tremors and Maverick; and before that 11 John Wayne films, 30 Hopalong Cassidy films, and more than 12 Gene Autry films. Television, and car commercials have all come to Lone Pine for the landscapes of mountains, deserts, playas and sand dunes and the most famous of all the film locations; the Alabama Hills.

First and foremost it is the lands that you must take time to enjoy. All the other activities become part of that process and aid you in your discovery adventure.

How you travel in the land is certainly a matter of personal preference. If you enjoy doing it by foot, whether hiking, recreational walking or running, stop in at the Lone Pine Chamber Office on Main Street at the Old Lone Pine Hotel, or at the Inter-agency Visitor's Center at the corner of Highway 395 and 136 just south of town to find about weather conditions, and the best trails and areas to visit on foot.

If you prefer bike riding or camping, these two information agencies will help you locate the best place.

The famous Alabama Hills are a wonderful scenic area of old granite hills, natural bridges and tan monoliths that have drawn people for many years. One high point is the short hike to the Mobius Arch in the center of the area. ATVs are allowed on most areas. but remember you must stay on established roads with motorized vehicles. Don't crush the brush.

You have the option of exploring the Sierra Nevada mountains by driving up to the Whitney Portal at 8300 feet. There is a pond for fishing if the season is right and great hiking if you have gotten proper permits. Another road that comes off the Portal Road is Horseshoe Meadow Road, which takes you up after multiple switch-

Continued on page 21



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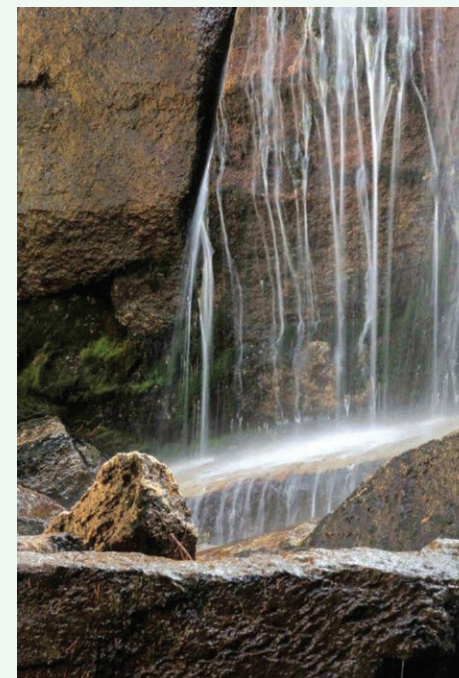


*Continued from page 19*  
backs to the edge of the wilderness area. On the way, you get fabulous overviews of the Owens Valley below.

For the less faint at heart, just east of Keeler on Highway 395 there is the Cerro Gordo Road which takes you up to the Cerro Gordo ghost town from where the silver that established Los Angeles was extracted. Several buildings and residences survive but the road is best traversed with 4-wheel drive.

Lone Pine boasts two museums.  
The Lone Pine Film History Museum

*Continued on page 23*





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Continued from page 21  
has many exhibits that tell the wonderful and diverse film history of Lone Pine, Death Valley and the Eastern Sierra. High points include the dentist wagon from Django Unchained, many props from Iron Man, and the giant sand worm "puppet" from Tremors. Other exhibits focus on the Lone Ranger, Singing Cowboy and two cars, one used in an Autry film and one driven by Humphrey Bogart in High Sierra.

The second museum is the Southern Inyo Museum which features exhibits with artifacts from the mining days in the area especially Darwin.

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# 16th Annual Fukuhara Workshop

By Charles James

Artists traveled to Lone Pine in mid-May to attend the 16th Annual Fukuhara Watercolor Workshop. Henry Fukuhara was a well-known American watercolorist teacher who was incarcerated with his family in the World War II Manzanar Relocation Center located north of the town of Lone Pine.

Fukuhara would later use the Manzanar relocation camp to teach workshops on abstract watercolor painting to students. He started the

first workshop in 1998 with less than 20 participants. Over the years the interest has grown as participants told others of the charm, beauty, and variety of landscapes to be found in the Eastern Sierra. Adding to the attraction is the area's long history of film-making, silver mining, Paiute Indian tribes, white settlers, and the long-running battles with the City of Los Angeles over water. And then there is the history of the WWII Manzanar Relocation Camp— which held special meaning to Fukuhara.

According to a wonderful tribute written by fellow watercolor artist John Salchak, Henry Fukuhara was born in Los Angeles in 1913 and he developed a strong interest in art while in high school. He briefly studied at the Otis Art Institute and showed promise as an up-and-coming artist until, during World War II, at the age of 29, Fukuhara, along with his wife and two young daughters, were sent to the Japanese-American Relocation Center at Manzanar, located near Lone Pine, California. After being released in 1944, he moved with his family to New York where he joined his father and brother in the wholesale flower business, leaving little time for art.

In 1972, he once again took up painting and quickly developed his

own unique personal style. It was not long before he began winning awards and his artwork was being shown in numerous galleries. According to Salchak's tribute, Fukuhara discovered that he enjoyed teaching and taught many workshops around the country. When Fukuhara and his family moved back to Santa Monica, California in 1987, he continued teaching and mentoring others.

It was in 1998 that he began returning to Manzanar to conduct workshops in water color. Because

of failing health and eyesight, Fukuhara no longer was able to attend the workshops after 2005, and he passed away in 2010 at the age of 96. His artistic legacy lives on in the workshops that have continued under the aegis of Al Setton, a friend, artist, and great admirer of Fukuhara. He and others are determined to keep the art and memory of Henry Fukuhara alive.

According to Setton, all of the instructors and organizers donate their time to keep the workshop

affordable and to encourage artists of all levels to attend. As the organizer of the event, Setton went on to say that treading in Henry's footsteps was an honor, a privilege, and a large responsibility.

"The workshop has grown quickly," says Setton, "and includes high profile artists like Milford Zornes and Roger Armstrong, all of whom wanted to support Fukuhara's legacy. They brought their students and the group grew to about 80 artists and—

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nually. This year we have over 100 participants and about 40% of them are first-timers.”

Setton went on to explain that this is an opportunity for professional and amateur artists to get together with others whose artwork reflects their own unique and personal expression. Over the 16 years of the workshop, the artists have painted at various locations in the Alabama Hills, the Manzanar Historic site, Lone Pine, Independence, Keeler and Olancho. There is more information on the annual workshop to be found by visiting [www.AISetton.com](http://www.AISetton.com).

The visiting workshop artists repeatedly commented on the beauty of the area and the remarkable friendliness, cooperation, and hospitality of the people that live in the area. The Spainhower Anchor Ranch has hosted the group for a number of years, even throwing in a chuck wagon lunch. The Rangers, Superin-

tendent and others at the Manzanar Historic Site have facilitated access and have provided support, lent equipment, and sheltered the group in bad weather.

Speaking of the weather, the group has painted in high wind, dust, cold and snowy conditions. They have had occasion to seek shelter at the Lone Pine airport, as well as the Boulder Creek RV Park. According to Setton however, the majority of the time the weather has been perfect, with sunny blue skies and a slight breeze— perfect for outdoor painting.

The Lone Pine Film Museum provides its theatre for critiques and the Best Western Motel serves as the local headquarters while the group is in the area. The Lone Pine Chamber of Commerce has also been very supportive, as has local resident and professional artist Dan Dickman of Keeler who, according to Setton, has been an invaluable, facilitator and

host; serving as both location finder and local guide.

A showing of the work produced in this year’s workshop will be held at the Thousand Oaks Community Gallery from 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. on August 4th, 2013. The Fukuhara Workshop will also be bringing back concurrent shows of selected works from the 2013 workshop to the area at the Manzanar Interpretive Center and the Eastern Sierra Interagency Visitor Center. While the dates have yet to be set, the shows typically run from the beginning of April through mid-May, with an ending date that coincides with that of the 2014 workshop which will start on the Thursday following Mother’s Day and goes on till the following Monday.

Fukuhara is quoted as having said, “If you are a painter, you can move mountains, you can move trees.”

If you were Henry Fukuhara, you could also move people.

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# Onion Valley-Independence

By David Woodruff

Travelers on Hwy 395 may almost miss the town of Independence if they blink very long as they travel through town. Smallest of the four main Owens Valley towns, Independence seems like a pretty quiet spot to most Eastern Sierra visitors headed to more “popular” locations. But spend some time in Independence on most any day in June, July and August and you’re bound to see a subtle but noticeable bustle about town. Women and men,

mostly in hiking boots, making use of the facilities in town...the stores, the eateries and the Post Office. For these folks, Independence has a very significant importance

Right in the center of downtown Independence, is a good paved road that winds magically into the Sierra Nevada Mountains. In thirteen steep and exhilarating miles, the road ends at Onion Valley-9200’. Here you will find beautiful waterfalls, scented pine forests and spectacular mountain

scenery of the highest level. There’s also a small campground, lots of parking and three separate trails leading into the John Muir Wilderness.

The most popular trail leading from the Onion Valley trailhead, and one of the more popular hikes in all of the southern Sierra is the Kearsarge Pass Trail. Like all Eastern Sierra trail, the scenery is spectacular from the moment you start. But what makes this trail more popular, is its fairly “easy” access to the otherwise remote, John Muir/Pacific Crest Trails.

Starting at 9200’ this trail has the advantage of starting out high. Magnificent Kearsarge Pass, on the border of Kings Canyon National Park and the Inyo National Forest,

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is relatively low at 11,760', making it only a 2500'+ five mile trip to the top. From the pass, it's barely 4 miles down to an intersection with the John Muir/Pacific Crest Trail.

Hikers traveling long distances on these trails must occasionally hike out and resupply. Exiting via Kearsarge Pass and on down to the town Independence is one of the quickest routes "out".

The Post Office holds packages that hikers arrange to have mailed here to resupply themselves.

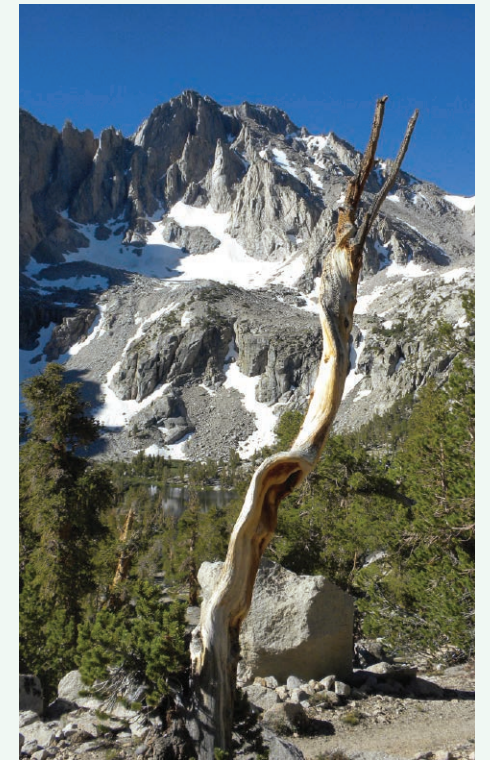
40 to 50 packages may be waiting here at the PO on any given July or August day.

The motels in town have provided many a hot shower and soft bed to

trail weary long distance hikers. Pancakes, cheeseburgers and other filling meals are very popular with hikers at the local eateries. The town buzzes with a real hiking fever, as hikers share their stories and experiences of their "Life on the Trail" with locals and other hikers.

There are so many great spots in the Eastern Sierra its sometimes difficult to choose which one to visit and enjoy. Consider adding Onion Valley, Kearsarge Pass and the quaint small town of Independence to your list of places to see and visit. They'll offer you an experience you'll long remember.

Onion Valley was given its names from the wild onions that grow in this beautiful Alpine setting.

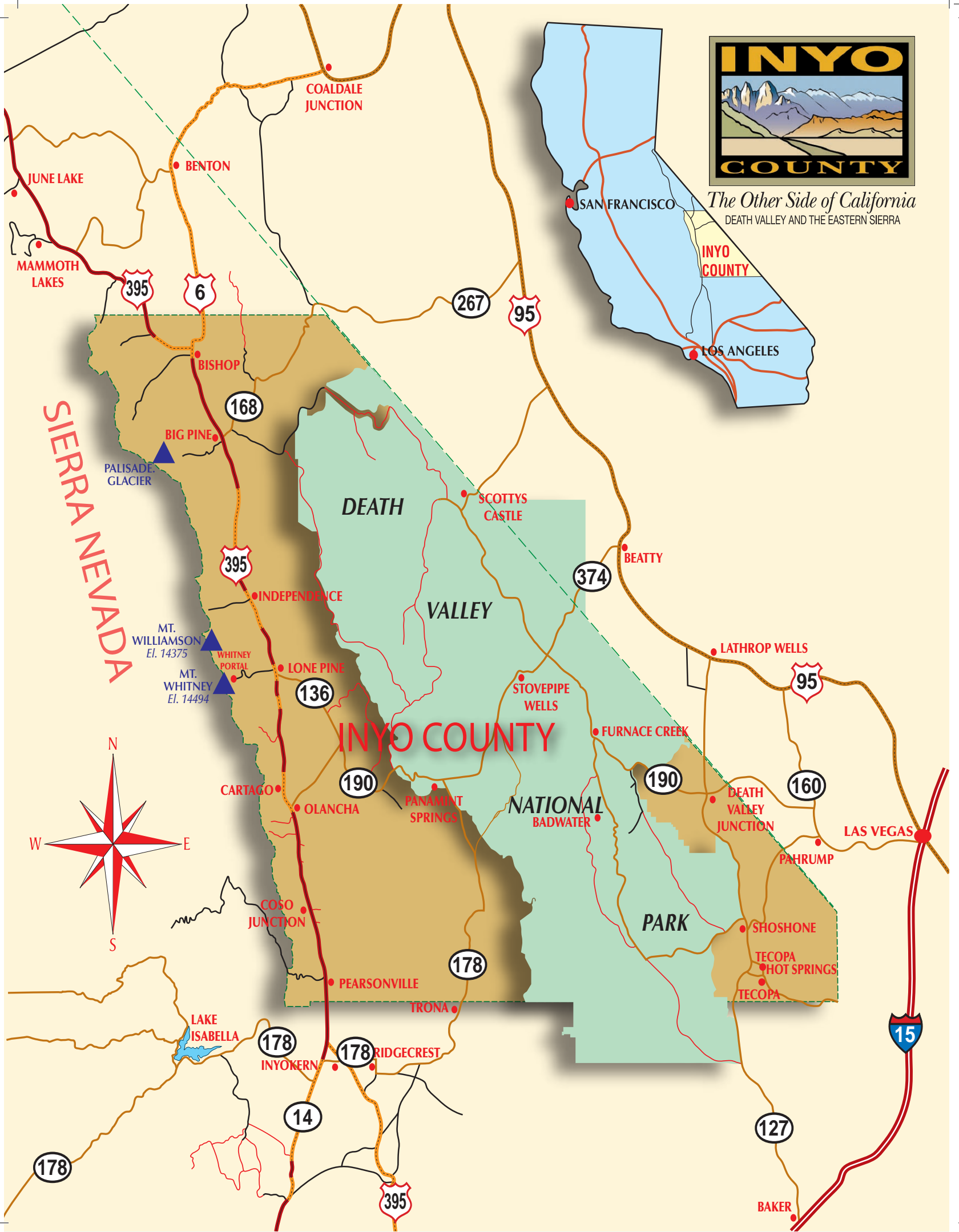


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