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VIEW OF MT. TOM FROM BISHOP

OWENS River Valley lies in Inyo county, California, and extends nearly the length of the county's western edge.

Inyo county lies east of the Sierra-Nevada mountains and extends from the crest of the range to the California-Nevada line. It is bounded on the north by Mono county and on the south by San Bernardino and Kern counties.

Bishop, the principal town of the valley, lies 300 miles directly north of the city of Los Angeles.

Climate Being encircled by high mountain ranges the valley is protected alike from the hot winds of the deserts to the southward, and the cold northern winds of winter.

It is a place of well defined seasons—spring, summer, autumn, winter—but without rigorous changes.

Fogs, and the accompanying unhealthy atmospheric conditions, are unknown. The air is unusually dry and healthful.

The average annual number of clear days is 271, partly cloudy 49, cloudy 45. The average annual temperature is 54.8. The average precipitation is very small, about six inches.

An average altitude for the valley of approximately 4000 feet and the extremely dry atmosphere cause most summer days to be comfortable, in spite of the fact that

the thermometer frequently registers in the nineties. The nights are always cool.

The winters are not severe and many mid-winter days are as balmy as spring. During the months of January and February it is not unusual for the thermometer to fall well toward the zero mark, but such temperatures are of short duration. Light snow-falls are not infrequent and there are occasionally heavy falls. The snow, however, rapidly disappears under clear skies and warm sunshine.

Winds are not uncommon during the early spring but are never of velocity to cause damage. Hurricanes, tornadoes and destructive winds are unknown.

Soil The soil is composed largely of decomposed granite—a rich sandy loam along the floor of the valley with a lighter and more gravelly soil along the foothills. The soil is especially adapted to fruit growing and general farming.

Water Water from the Owens River and other mountain streams is conveyed to the land for irrigation purposes by means of ditches and canals mutually owned and controlled by the farmers who own the land. The cost of water for irrigation consists only of the expense of keeping the ditches and canals clean and in proper repair. This expense is spread evenly among the owners of the water.



OWENS RIVER
One of the reasons why water is cheap in the Owens Valley