

the trip, one of the most awesome, difficult and nerve-racking rides in all the mountainous West.

The services over at ten o'clock, he would once again slip out of his robe, tuck it under his arm, jump into the car and dynamite the sixty miles to Bishop to hold his eleven-o'clock Mass. His rattling car, which he always wore out before he could complete the payments, became the most important part of his equipage; there was no limit to the number of miles he would drive through his vast parish to get his work done.

Owens Valley could be saved only by some heroic effort on its own part. Yet how was that effort to be achieved when many of its best men had moved away in despair, when the conflicting groups in Inyo and Mono counties were at one another's throats in trying to distribute blame for their plight?

As he sped across the star-studded desert in the deep night silence, he tried to evolve a strategy which would have its antecedents in the long struggle. Shortly after the turn of the century, the farmers of Owens Valley had seen that the excess flood waters wasted during the melting season ought to be preserved to furnish irrigation during the long dry autumn. They came to the conclusion that a dam built at the end of Long Valley, just above Owens Valley, could store their surplus water. However, Los Angeles set out to buy all the land along the Owens River, all the land along the creeks which fed into the river, all the canal systems the Owens Valley people had built. Los Angeles set out to absorb every acre of tillable land in Owens Valley.



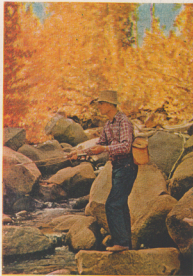
Frosty Mount Williamson looked down on the struggles of Owens Valley and the miracles performed by Father Crowley.

KALVIN A. BORG



Visitors follow the trail to Palisade Glacier, most southerly glacier in the U. S. and great attraction for tourists.

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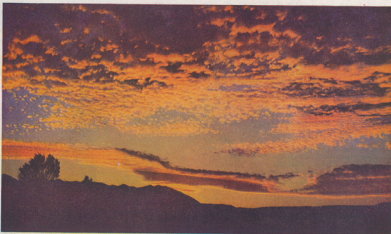


Scene near Bishop, Calif., which once had little water to drink, none for other uses.

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The city's agents, with \$11,000,000 in their pockets, offered generous prices for the land. The more opportunistic had sold; those who had mortgages outstanding against their farms had difficulty in renewing their loans; others had their loans called in. Those farmers along a canal system who could neither be tempted by cash nor forced out by the banks found Los Angeles refusing to keep clear the canals along the property they had bought; the farmers who could spare neither the time nor the money to do the extra work were deprived of water for their crops. The little towns of Lone Pine, Independence and Bishop still had enough drinking water to keep alive, but not enough to sustain their gardens or lawns.

At last Los Angeles owned the 60,000 acres of tillable land in the valley. Ever thirsty for more water, the city now sank wells between Lone Pine and Bishop to draw off the underground water; the people of the towns saw that in a few years they would have no more water to drink. Los Angeles now bought up every piece of business property in the valley, and 90 per cent of the homes. Los Angeles alone determined who could rent property, and for how long. Any occupant could be forced out (Continued on Page 103)



A Sierra sunset. It was beauty like this that Father Crowley talked about, wrote about, successfully publicized.

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