

But Life Goes On

With very little land now available for purchase, the prospects for any future growth in Inyo County looked bleak. Scores of failing business owners now sold their businesses to Los Angeles and were boarded up. More ranches and farm were sold and many Inyo County residents began to move away. Some areas of Inyo saw their populations decline by the hundreds.

Yet despite the export of the lifeblood of Inyo's vibrant streams and bountiful lakes, Inyo's breathtaking scenery and beautiful landscapes held a very special place in the hearts of many, and thousands of Inyo residents made the decision that Inyo was their home and they would try to continue to make it be so.

The population declined but eventually stabilized and the county actually began to see small growth in the number of people living here.

Los Angeles employed several hundred workers to maintain and operate the aqueduct in Inyo County, providing the area with millions of dollars of payroll annually. Los Angeles also paid taxes to Inyo for the property it owned. Perhaps a peaceful and somewhat beneficial relationship between Inyo and Los Angeles could exist.

