

“If People Concentrated on the Really Important Things in Life, There’d be a shortage of Fishing Poles.”

By Doug Larson

Local Inyoites weren't the only ones recognizing that the streams of the Eastern Sierra offered a perfect habitat for the propagation of several species of fish. The California State Fish and Game Commission realized the importance of establishing fish hatcheries to raise and provide enough stock, especially certain rare species, to support the growing number of anglers.

In 1915, the citizens of Independence raised \$1,500 to purchase an ideal piece of property just north of town and donated it to the state to build a world class hatchery.



Then Commissioner M. J. Connell instructed the design team *"to design a budding that would match the mountains, would last forever, and would be a showplace for all time."*

The result is the magnificent Mt. Whitney Fish Hatchery. The Hatchery has a deep and rich history protecting and propagating trout in California and today operates as a demonstration hatchery for visitors to see how the entire fish rearing process works. The Mt. Whitney Hatchery is a true treasure of Inyo County.