

# Things Will Never Quite be the Same

The City of Los Angeles quickly and quietly began the process of acquiring water rights through permits, condemnations and outright land purchases in the Owens Valley.

Work commenced on the aqueduct, an engineering marvel designed to carry the water south from as far as 335 miles away.

The project was completed in less time than anticipated and under budget, and the water poured forth. With the availability of more water, hundreds of thousands more people moved to Los Angeles, and the City looked to export more and more water from Inyo.

The City soon bought up farms, ranches and irrigation districts near Big Pine and Bishop to obtain more water for their ditch. Quickly LA became the largest private land owner and water rights holder in all of Inyo County.

Many Inyo citizens became incensed by the feudal-type system their county had become. The aqueduct was damaged in several acts of violence. Lawsuits against the City were filed by the hundreds, but mostly to no avail. The City of Los Angeles now owns and controls most of the Owens Valley. The peaceful and agrarian lifestyle of its citizens will never be the same.

