

Los Angeles Daily Herald.

The Owens Lake Monster

July 21, 1868

The Los Angeles Daily *Herald*

INYO COUNTY: - A correspondent of the *Union* writing from Lone Pine, July 11th, gives the following account of some strange monsters:

The Owens Lake Monster has been seen once more. On the evening July 2nd, some time before the sun went down, two young men were riding along on horseback, on the west side of Owens Lake. They live in the valley and had heard the story of the Mexicans who saw something strange in the lake one night, but it was not generally believed. Both of these men had frequently scanned the surface of the lake, to verify the story, but neither of them had seen anything of the serpent until the night in question. On this occasion, they observed something unusual about a mile from shore. A huge animal was swimming rapidly along, throwing out waves on both sides. It went half a mile, then went below the surface a few moments; when it came up it started on the back track for a mile or so. Presently another of the monsters made his appearance, and they began to sinuse



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themselves together as only monsters can – chasing and retreating, disappearing and coming up, and then making the lake boil like a pot. It was a sight worth seeing. They also say that they saw another toward the mouth of the river, but not at the same time the others were in view. Over half an hour before the sun went down, and some time after, these curious creatures continued to disport themselves, when the increasing darkness obliged the young men to strike out for Lone Pine. They describe the creature to be 100 feet long and over four

feet in diameter, and of a grayish color. The names of the men are Frank Hilton, of Independence, and A. H. Johnson of Lone Pine. The latter declares he would not go out into the lake in a small boat for fifty dollars. The story of the Mexicans is as follows: As they were sleeping one night near the mouth of the river, they were suddenly awakened by a loud splashing and plunging in the water.

On looking in that direction they saw a very large animal, upon which they took to their heels, and did not stop (so the story goes) till a mountain top was reached. A more credible witness is Colonel Stevens, Superintendent of a mining company at Lone Pine. The Colonel saw the monster (some time in June, we think), and his description is substantially the same with regard to its length and color, as that given by Johnson and Hilton. Stevens says he saw it throw water fifty feet high.