

Mono County

The Mono County Courthouse in Bridgeport.
Part 1 of 2: Bridgeport, Bodie, Benton Hot Springs,
Benton, Chalfant Valley.



Mono County Data

Population: 12,853 (Rank: 55)

Land Area (square miles): 3,044 (Rank: 19)

Mono County is similar to Inyo County in that it is part of the Great Basin desert and exists in the rain shadow of the Sierra Nevada. However there are some significant differences.

At the southern edge of the county Highway 395 rises over Sherwin Summit, leaving Owens Valley and enters Long Valley. To the east of 395 is Lake Crowley that stores water from the Owens River for shipment to Los Angeles.

Deadman Summit, at an elevation of 8,036 feet, separates Long Valley from Mono Valley. Mono Lake is the centerpiece of the valley. It is a saline lake. Along the shore are brine flies that move in waves. The island in the lake is a nesting ground for seagulls and the entire lake is an important part of the Pacific flyway for birds. The lake is remarkable for its tufas that can be seen close up at the Mono Lake Tufa State Reserve on the south side of the lake. They were formed by a chemical reaction of springs bringing calcium that mixed with carbonates in the lake. Calcium carbonate is limestone. The towers were formed around the springs underwater. The tufa towers that are now exposed on dry land were once underwater. The lake began to shrink when water was diverted beginning in 1941.

To the south of the lake are the Mono Craters. These are pumice cinder cones that can best be seen from Highway 120 as it climbs over the Sierra.

To the west of Highway 395 is Mammoth Lakes, a ski resort area. This is the access to the Devil's Postpile National Monument. A short way to the north is the June Lake Loop, a road that wraps around Grant, Silver and June lakes.

Further north in the county is Bridgeport Valley and Antelope Valley. What little farming, cattle raising and hay growing that takes place is done here.

The original inhabitants were Paiute Indians. They had lived in the area for at least 3,000 years. White people showed up in large numbers in the mid-1850's when gold was discovered at Dogtown Creek. The immigrants began ranching and logging as well as mining. The valley was called Big Meadows. When Bridgeport was

Introduction

California is comprised of 58 counties. The state, the third largest in the U.S., has the greatest diversity of geography of any of the states. It has huge deserts, high mountain ranges, fertile valleys and a 1000 mile coastline. Beginning in 2001 my wife and I began to travel and photograph the state as a retirement hobby.

In 2009 we published a CD containing about 4,000 photos of the regions of the state. Since that time we have added about 10,000 more photos to our collection. It was also at this time (December 2008) I began to send a photographic diary of our trips to friends and people with an interest in California geography.

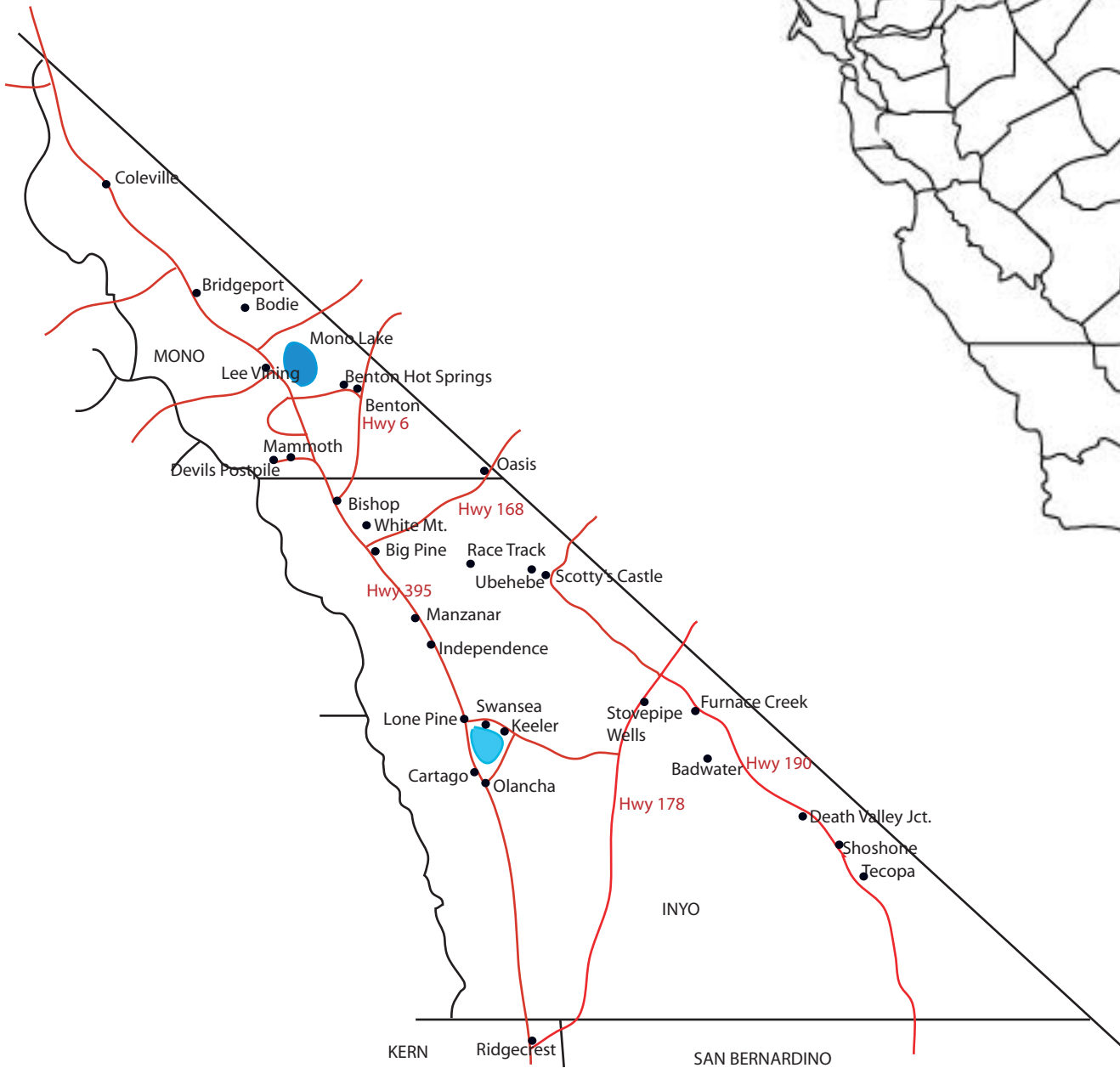
Now we are organizing our collection by county using all of our photos dating back to 2001.

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established as the county seat in 1864, the valley became Bridgeport Valley.

You would think that you would be far away from controversy in Mono County but that isn't true. Mono Lake has been the scene of one of the great environmental battles in the state as conservationists fought the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power over the water in the lake.

City: Mammoth Lakes. Towns: Coleville, Bridgeport, Lee Vining.
Sights: Mono Lake, Mammoth Mt., Bodie, Devil's Postpile.



Bridgeport

(May 2002)



Bridgeport

(May 2002)



Bridgeport

(May 2002)



Bridgeport

(May 2002)



Bridgeport

(May 2002)



Bridgeport

(May 2002)



Bridgeport

Bridgeport has a population of 575 and is the county seat of Mono County. Its first post office was established in 1864. The town is famous for its trout fishing. (October 2003)



Bridgeport

(October 2003)



Bridgeport



Bodie

(May 2002)



Bodie

(May 2002)



Bodie

Bodie is a ghost town located in the high desert 8,379 feet above sea level. Gold was discovered here in 1859. It reached its peak in the 1880's with a population of 5 to 7,000, 2,000 buildings and 64 saloons. Gold mining ended in 1942 though people began to call it a ghost town as early as 1915. The state of California bought the site in 1962 and turned it into a state park. At that time it had 170 buildings. (May 2002)



Bodie

(May 2002)



Bodie

(May 2002)



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Bodie

(August 2003)



Bodie

(May 2002)



Bodie

(May 2002)



Bodie

(May 2002)



Bodie

(May 2002)



Bodie

(May 2002)



Bodie

(May 2002)



Bodie

(May 2002)



Bodie

(August 2003)



Bodie

(May 2002)



Bodie

(May 2002)



Bodie

The Standard Mine which hovers over the community. (May 2002)



Bodie

(May 2002)



Bodie

Mine tailings. (May 2002)



Bodie

(May 2002)



Highway 120

The highway begins in Manteca in the Central Valley and crosses Tioga Pass. The road skirts the southern end of Mono Lake and ends at the town of Benton on Highway 6 near the Nevada border. (September 2007)



Highway 120

(September 2007)



Highway 120

(September 2007)



Highway 120

(September 2007)



Highway 120

(September 2007)



Highway 120

(September 2007)



Benton Hot Springs

Benton Hot Springs still has a resort where people can enjoy soaking in 135 degree hot baths. It began as a stage stop in 1852. (September 2007)



Benton Hot Springs

(September 2007)



Benton Hot Springs

(September 2007)



Benton Hot Springs

(September 2007)



Benton Hot Springs

(September 2007)



Benton Hot Springs

(September 2007)



Benton Hot Springs

(September 2007)



Benton

The town of Benton was a supply center for mines that were prominent from 1862 to the 1890's. It now has a population of 280.
(September 2007)



Benton

(September 2007)



Benton

(September 2007)



Chalfant Valley

The Chalfant Valley is located along Highway 6 which leads to Bishop. (September 2007)



Chalfant Valley

(September 2007)

