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### Stories that Shaped Inyo County

*Eastern Sierra Land Trust's Brown Bag Lunch Speaker Series to share historical accounts that highlight Inyo County's 150-year past.*

Inyo County is celebrating its 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary this year, and in its honor, Eastern Sierra Land Trust will be exploring Inyo's past in a 5-part speaker series aimed at bringing to light the rich cultural and natural history of the area.

Want to spice up your lunch break and learn more about this remote and beautiful region? Swing by ESLT's backyard on the first Tuesday of each month this summer for their Brown Bag Lunch Series, and listen in as presenters share true tales from Inyo's past – tales of deception and disgrace, intrigue and romance, conquest and adventure. And, of course, no history of Inyo County would be complete without a story or two about the miraculous resilience of the mule.

The first Brown Bag Lunch will be held on May 3, and will feature Bishop local Rob Pearce, who traces his Owens Valley roots back 5 generations and has authored several books on a variety of topics pertaining to Inyo County's past. Pearce is the grandson of longtime Inyo County civil servant A.A. Brierly, who played an interesting role in the historic land sales to LADWP. With a focus on this controversial period, Pearce will share stories about the ranchers and farmers who built up a tradition of agriculture in Inyo County over the past 150 years.

Speakers and topics for the June 7 and July 5 Brown Bag Lunches are still in the process of being confirmed. Then on August 2, Bernadette Johnson, Superintendent of the Manzanar National Historic Site, will share a part of our nation's past that many have tried to sweep under the rug: the history of forced removal and relocation of Japanese Americans to the internment camp at Manzanar during World War II.

On September 13, ESLT will wrap up their Brown Bag Lunch Series with Jennifer and Lee Roeser of the McGee Creek Pack Station. They will provide insight into the sometimes-tragic, oft-entertaining tradition of mule (and horse) pack trains that brought early prospectors, explorers, soldiers, and more deep into the High Sierra in Inyo County's earliest days.

All of Eastern Sierra Land Trust's Brown Bag Lunches are free and open to the public. Each event will take place from 12 – 1pm in the ESLT office backyard at 250 N. Fowler St. in Bishop. Guests are encouraged to bring lunch and sunglasses; in case of rain, the event will be held indoors.

Eastern Sierra Land Trust works with willing landowners to protect vital lands in the Eastern Sierra region for their scenic, agricultural, natural, recreational, historic, and watershed values. For more information about ESLT's conservation work and upcoming community events, visit their website: [www.eslt.org](http://www.eslt.org).



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*Images and captions are provided below; high-resolution versions are attached to email. For additional pictures, please contact Marguerite Merritt, ESLT Communications Director, at [marguerite@eslt.org](mailto:marguerite@eslt.org).*



Photo Caption: At ESLT's first Brown Bag Lunch on May 3, Bishop local Rob Pearce will share stories about the rich history of agriculture in Inyo County.



Photo Caption: Inyo County is celebrating 150 years! To learn about other upcoming community events geared towards exploring the area's history, visit the Inyo 150 online calendar: [www.inyocounty.us/150](http://www.inyocounty.us/150).