

Colored in Death Valley

We also saw a variety of botanical organisms. The misconception that nothing can grow in Death Valley was quickly dispelled. We saw over 35 different species of plants. Although many of them depend on the rain to bloom and die in bloom due to recent drought, we were fortunate to see some flowering plants.

We camped in the Texas Springs campground and traveled around the park daily. Some of the places we studied were Dante's View, Zabriskie's Point, 20 Mule Team Canyon, Titus Canyon, The Badwater Dune Complex, Hanapah Valley, Salt Creek, Badwater, and Track Playa and Ubehebe Crater. We even took a tour of Death Valley's Scotty's Castle. During the course of one day we traveled from 4,000 feet in elevation in the mountains to 200 feet below sea level.

Part of the course requires us to give a talk about a specific subject while in Death Valley. Many of the talks were on the plants and animals that live in Death Valley. Snively also gave a variety of geological talks throughout the trip. At the various places we stopped to observe. Each person in the class was to keep a field notebook to record everything we

saw and talked about.

For many people the trip was more than an educational learning experience. Many people expressed how hard it was to describe the feelings they have about the trip in words.

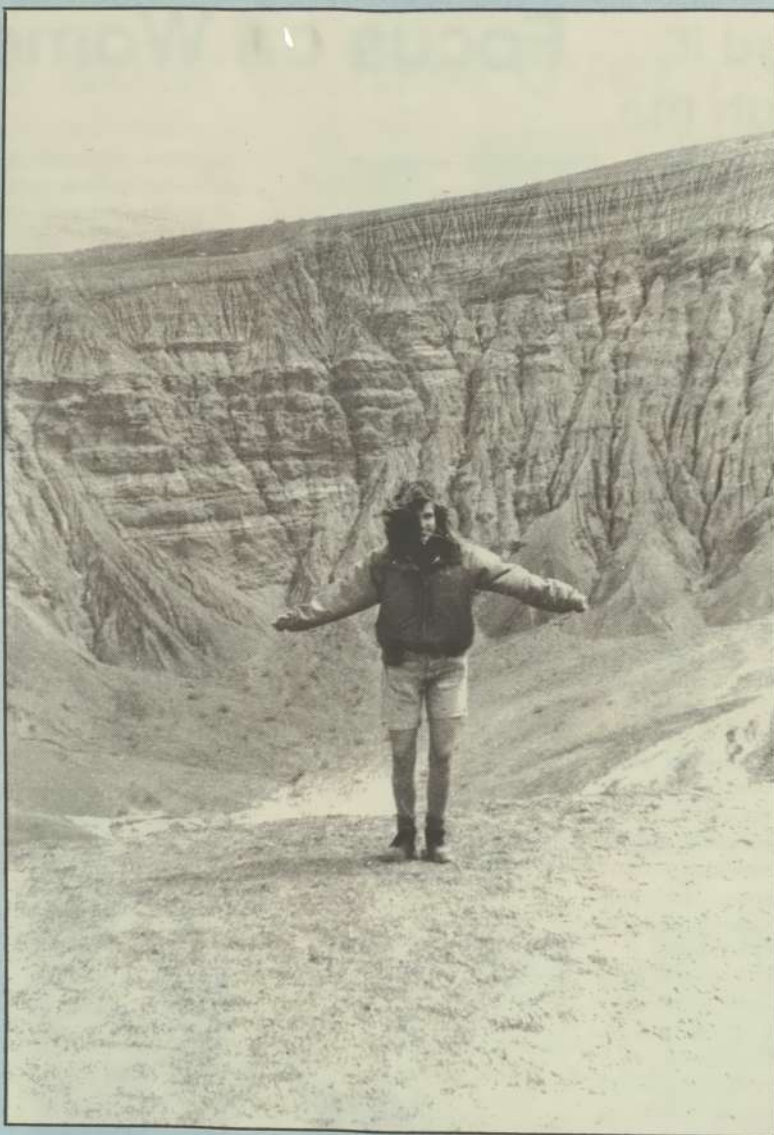
"It changed the way that I see my environment," said Melissa Flint, one of the students in the class. "I have a new respect for the world around me. It opened my eyes to the world."

"It was exciting to see things that we learned about in class instead of just seeing them in a book," Flint added.

Student Troy Conlee expressed that "this was the best class experience I've ever had. It was a live-in experience, a once-in-a-lifetime experience."

"My purpose with this trip is to get people turned on to the natural sciences," Snively expressed. "Over the years I've tried to get students more excited about natural science and to give them a chance to see what they learn about in the classroom."

"This is the most gratifying course I teach," Snively added. "I see people get really excited and that's something you can't get in the classroom."



On the day we went to Ubehebe Crater the winds were very strong. Kelly Jurgens stands near the edge of the crater being practically held up by the strong wind.



At Zabriskie's Point we stopped for a group shot. Pictured kneeling are Roxanne Faust, Teresa Clay, Melissa Flint, Bill Gutherie, Patty Hvamm, Jim Berger, John Snively; standing behind are Armand Rebischke, Troy Conlee, Tina Feig, Mark Lindstrom, Rae Baldwin, Andreas Luehring, Kelly Jurgens, Shaun Doyle, Gordon Jones, Tom Newfedt, Denise Keen, Shani Fox and Kery McQuaid.