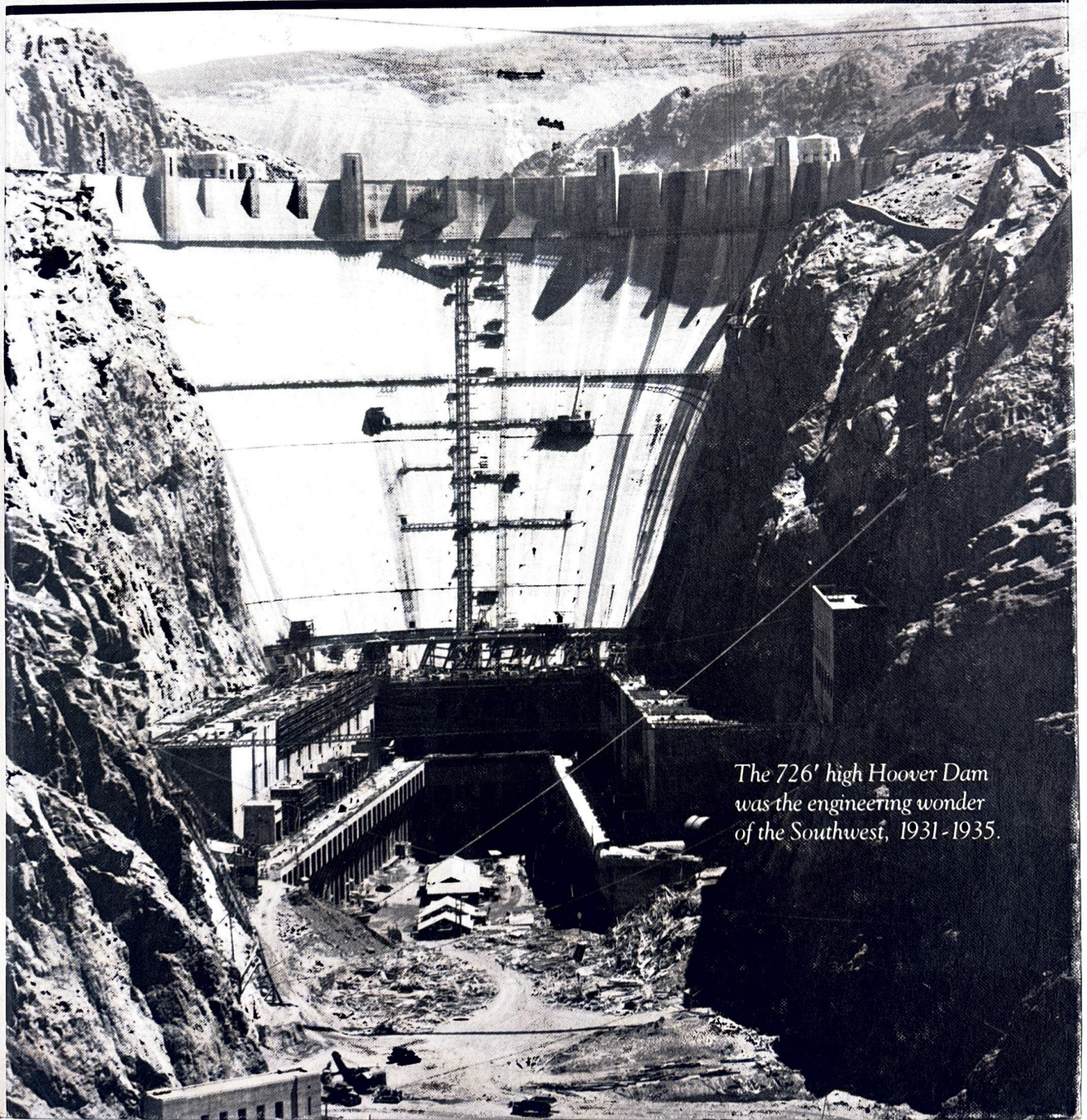


THE STORY of THE HOOVER DAM



*The 726' high Hoover Dam
was the engineering wonder
of the Southwest, 1931-1935.*

THE STORY of THE HOOVER DAM

Hoover Dam, among the greatest of modern engineering projects, was so gigantic in its dimensions and so vast in its economic significance that progress of its construction during 1931-1935 was followed with interest throughout the world. In keeping with its long-standing editorial policy, *Compressed Air Magazine* during those years issued a series of five booklets giving its readers a progressive history of the undertaking.

The material from those booklets is reproduced here except for the advertising and material about the Colorado River Aqueduct. The early history of the Colorado River is recounted, along with the developments leading up to the selection of the Hoover Dam site. The founding of Boulder City is followed by a description of the construction of the four diversion tunnels which carried the Colorado River water through the walls of Black Canyon during dam construction.

Also described is the extensive railroad system, the gravel-treating and concrete-mixing plants, the cofferdams, the aerial cableways, the penstocks, and how the concrete was poured and cooled. The human side is not neglected; these articles tell how government engineers and surveyors and hundreds of laborers conducted exacting, perilous work.

As the last of the booklets went to press, Hoover Dam was substantially finished. Six Companies, Inc. had completed their \$49 million contract, and the government had accepted their work. Lake Mead began to form behind the dam, and the threat of flood downstream was permanently gone. The metropolitan aqueduct would soon supply water to thirteen southern California cities and the power transmission line to Los Angeles was nearly ready. The once unruly Colorado River would be effectively brought under man's control.



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Table of Contents

America's Wonder River – the Colorado. Exploring the River	5
Indians and the River. Imperial Valley. Man's use of the River	11
Colorado River Compact. Choice of Dam Site. High anticipations	17
General facts about Dam construction and the men directing it	25
Costly preliminary work. Enthusiasm of Six Companies, Inc.	31
Boulder City's founding as government town. Life and times	39
Mammoth drill carriages speed Hoover Dam tunnel work	45
Details of driving diversion tunnels to divert the river	47
Human and mechanical players in engineering and construction	55
The extensive railroad system and the important work it did	61
Methods of preparing the aggregates for the pouring of concrete	66
The concrete mixing plant (Lomix): its capacity and refinements	72
Lining of the diversion tunnels with concrete, a huge operation	77
Building of cofferdams and other activities through 1932	86
Aerial cableways transported men, machinery and equipment	92
Tunnels for penstock headers, the penstocks and spillways	98
Concrete cooling plant – cooling concrete as it was poured	108
Methods of pouring concrete. Details of the grouting system.	110
Coordinating the greatest mass of concrete ever poured	112
Hemix concrete plant, cement blending and handling equipment	124
Huge trailers hauled penstock pipe. Placing pipes into place	129
Engineers and surveyors succeed in exacting perilous work	131
Plan of operation of dam. Intake towers. Generators. Finishing	138

