

Modest



BOULDER HERO TELLS HOW HE CHEATED DEATH

Man Who Caught Body Falling
From Dam Arrives Here;
Says He Acted by Instinct

"I looked up—I don't know why—and saw a man hurtling through space. I swung out from the side of the cliff, stretched my arms and WHAM—I had him!"

In those words, Oliver Cowan, 23, high scaler on Boulder Dam, yesterday told of his dramatic rescue of B. B. Rutledge, a Government inspector, who, losing his hold on the rope from which he was dangling 675 feet above the rocky gorge, plunged downward.

The feat that saved Rutledge from a terrible death happened last Tuesday morning.

HAPPENED IN FLASH

"It happened in a flash," he said. "I was working on the side of the cliff, about 650 feet from the bottom of the gorge. When I saw Rutledge falling. I didn't think—I just acted."

"Shucks," he added, grinning. "there wasn't anything heroic about it. It was just instinct."

But his fellow employees and Las Vegas citizens thought differently. A move is under way at the dam-site to present Cowan with a gold medal. And his employers, Six Companies, Inc., insisted he take a vacation as a reward; hence his visit to Los Angeles.

LOST HIS GRIP

Rutledge was working at Look-out Point, where a small valve house was being painted, when he lost his grip on the rope and hurtled toward the yawning abyss below. Cowan was protected only by safety tackle.

"When I grabbed Rutledge we just looked at each other," the