

Gentlemen:

As 31er's, it may be that "we" have done an injustice to the initial engineers of the Bureau of Reclamation for not letting the "facts" be known by the public at large of how the Boulder Dam Project (1919-1930) became a reality.

In 1940 the USBR reassigned my position from Boulder Dam to Shasta Dam as an Associate Engineer. During the ensuing years I have had numerous occasion to discuss the Boulder Dam project with people and associates. The impression I am continually receiving is that the Boulder Dam Project, design and construction, was the work of the contractor, Six Cos. True from a spectacular point of view the dam is 'The Attraction'. But, shouldn't we as 31er's, though our ranks are thinning, be letting the public know the true facts?

Before stating my reasoning for the above let me clarify a few items:

- * I doubt if there was any other combination of contractors at that time (1931 especially), that could have completed the contract as well as the Six Cos.
- * The Six Cos. did well to select Frank Crowe to head the Project. But, it must be appreciated that Frank Crowe got his initial construction training working during his summer vacations and upon his graduation from college for the "old" Bureau of Reclamation. His 'Peers' were such men as: R.F. Walters; 'Jack' Savage and many others plus especially Tim Martin who was the Bureau's Master Mechanic.
- * I consider Joseph E. Steven's book Hoover Dam one of the best about the project. Yet! I fault the book for only touching lightly on how the Project became a reality. He did excellent for the period of 1900 up to 1919 when the Project was authorized by Congress for the Bureau of Reclamation to make a study and recommend the type of project for the Colorado River.
- * Though I would have preferred to have read more about that early cadre of 'engineers' in Denver who prepared the Project Study for Congress between 1919 and Feb. 1, 1924. The other reclamation projects that were designed, completed and/or studied until the Boulder Dam Project was authorized by Congress on Dec. 14, 1928. Also more was needed about the applications for Project 'power'.

It appears not to have been appreciated at the Project level by the workmen and others nor was it brought out by Steven's in his book, that the management ability of those in charge of the Bureaus' Denver office in 1933 (August through November) was able to handle an employment increase from 150 to 750. Even today, a five fold increase in staff can create a problem, and it certainly must have then.

My start date was September 1, 1933, in the Denver Office as a Junior Mechanical Engineer, none Civil Service Status, at \$145 per month and we paid our transportation to Denver. The new employees came from all over the country the same as had happened at the Project in 1930-31. In June 1934, I was transferred as Junior Engineer at the same salary to the