

“**T**his may be a lot of work, but it’s going to be fun.” That was Steve Valline’s first impression of the Hoover Dam jobsite when he arrived in 1932. “And, it was fun,” he remembered, “because everybody was just so happy to be working again. Many had been out of work for a long time.”

Crews worked three shifts a day, seven days a week, to keep the job on schedule. Valline joined the project as a timekeeper on the midnight to 8 a.m. shift. “Edgar Kaiser’s crew took over for me after 8 a.m.,” Valline said. “Later I took a job hauling away muck from the lower part of the dam.”

Crews constantly competed with each other to see who could do their work better, bigger, faster, Valline recalled. “Sure, we worked to keep our jobs and get paid—but we took tremendous pride in our jobs. We always wanted to be better than other crews.”

Valline retired from Bechtel in 1976, as an assistant to the Pipeline Division’s business development manager, following 45 years of service.