

7/26/65

Dam Workers Hold Reunion, 1935 Strike Days Recalled

Thirty-five men who were workers on Hoover Dam in 1935 when employees of Six Companies walked off the job to protest low wages, met together for dinner at the Swanky Club last Monday night.

Ragnald Fyhen, originator of the idea to have the reunion, was assisted by James Ryan, main sponsor, and Jerry Watts, Bill McCullough and "Doc" Jensen.

When the meeting was called to order at 7 p.m., the group stood in honorable and reverent silence to the absent and departed co-workers.

Fyhen, who figured prominently in the early days of the dam construction, spoke for about 10 minutes on the conditions of the workers at that time, describing how the men worked and at the wage of around 65 cents an hour.

"No period in any one life-time could surpass the events which have taken place in our life-time," Fyhen said. He cited the strike of Six Company workers in 1935 as the turning point in the economy of this area. The strike, he said, resulted in wages going to \$1 per hour.

Fyhen then introduced the speaker of the evening, Lester R. Park, representative of the Building and Trades Council of Los Angeles, who gave

an account of how the strike came about. Fyhen then filled in details of how the strike came to a successful conclusion in little more than two weeks. He praised all of the men who started conditions rolling that made working conditions the way they are now.

"Doc" Jensen made a collection of all autographs of those present to make up a roll-call from them for the next meeting of the group.

Those attending were Charles W. Alger, Matt Ballinger, Harry A. Brown, Cortez T. Cooper, Eugene Cowan, Jake W. Dieleman, Arthur R. Denison, Robert H. Denning, Marwood A. Doud, A. C. Endlein, James Farndale, William E. French, Ragnald Fyhen, John D. "Jack" Gieck, Frank Harris, A. E. Hewitt, Alfred V. Hill, Neil H. Holmes, Frank C. "Doc" Jensen, Clayton Kiggins, Michael J. Laux, Joseph L. Kine, David Loose, G. S. Red Malan, Charles B. Marks, William D. "Bill" McCullough, Thomas C. "Tommy" Nelson, Herbert A. Oliver, Lester R. Parker, Sherald J. Peterson, Dell Potter, Paul N. "Smitty" Schmidt, Hirkle J. Scott, Ray C. "Kansas" Ward, W. G. "Jerry" Watts.

Mrs. A. E. Hewitt came from Los Angeles with her husband, but seeing that she was the only lady present, she excused herself and left.

All expressed appreciation for the service of the Swanky Club, and especially waitresses Lillian Bushong and Sharon Dyer.

"Doc" Jensen said, "Rags Fyhen was given a standing ovation for putting on the party, which was well and good. Later, word was received that James Ryan was the man who footed the bill. Three cheers for 'Sailor' Ryan!"

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