

Retired Carpenter attends reunion of Hoover Dam builders

by Betty Dravis

Tom Wheeler still laughs when he hears the stories about the bodies embedded in concrete at the massive Hoover Dam. He knows they're not true.

This was reaffirmed to Wheeler, a retiree of Carpenters Local Union #2006 of Los Gatos, when in June he attended the 50th reunion of workers who built the engineering marvel. The occasion marked the 50th anniversary of the pouring of the first bucket of concrete at the dam.

Hoover Dam, first named Boulder Dam, created the nation's largest man-made lake, Lake Mead, when it dammed the Colorado River.

According to literature Wheeler brought back from the reunion, more than 5,000 workers were employed on the project. He hired on at age 19 in 1932 by telling them he was 21. Quickly dubbed

Continued on page 8

