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Dam site of Bechtel celebration

Boulder project first of firm's major jobs

By Elizabeth Dutton

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Hoover Dam soon will act as the starting point for a year-long international party.

A masterpiece of engineering and construction, the dam on Jan. 17 will host the 100th anniversary of the Bechtel Group.

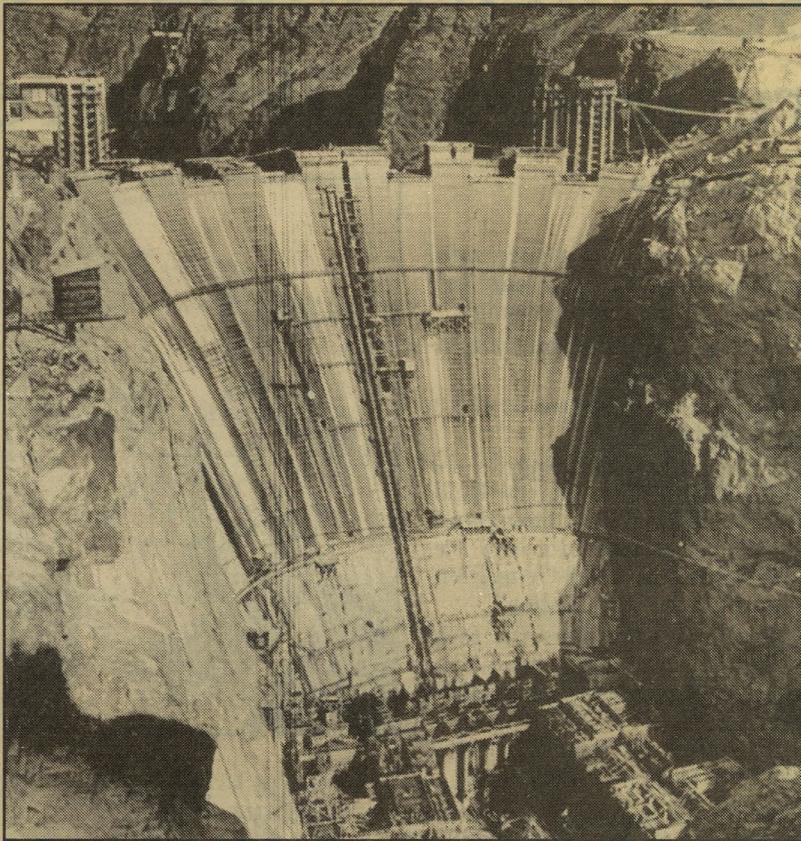
Bechtel, one of the largest engineering, construction and development companies, is celebrating its centennial at the first of its many megaprojects.

"Bechtel has a very long history of working in Nevada," said Chuck Redman, senior vice president of public relations at Bechtel. "The dam really launched us into the era of the megaproject."

The dam, completed in 1935, cost \$47.5 million and was \$1.5 million under budget. Still an incredible achievement, the dam, renamed Hoover Dam in 1947, was one of the first in a long line of huge projects undertaken by Bechtel.

Since 1898, four generations of Bechtels have led the privately held firm through 19,000 projects in 140 nations and on all seven continents.

Achievements include the



SUN FILE PHOTO

BOULDER DAM nears completion in the 1930s.

Trans-Arabian Pipeline, the San Francisco Bay Area Rapid Transit system, modernization of McCarran International Airport and management of the Nevada Test Site.

Bechtel was part of a six-company consortium that built the massive dam. Construction, which began in 1931, was the largest civil engineering project in U.S. history.

Lake Mead, the nation's largest man-made lake, is a result of Hoover Dam construction.

The event at Hoover Dam is intended primarily for the Bechtel Nevada section, although more than 50 employees from the San Francisco office are expected to attend. Additional celebrations will take place across the world throughout the year.