

Hoover Dam Celebrates Its 75th Birthday! Transcript

Narrator: On September 30th 2010, the Bureau of Reclamation celebrated Hoover Dam's 75th anniversary.

Lower Colorado Regional Director Lorri Gray-Lee: So, please welcome former president Franklin Delano Roosevelt.

FDR Impersonator Peter Small: Friends, It is a great pleasure to return to the site which I first visited 75 years ago today. I came, I saw, and I was conquered - as everyone who sees this great feat of mankind. The changes wrought in the last 75 years by the Boulder Canyon Dam project of which this dam, is the key feature, are greater than I or anyone could have anticipated when it was being planned.

As I leave you today, I wish once more to recognize those who built this magnificent structure and to say those who have managed it and maintained it – well done!!

Narrator: Built in the early 30s, Hoover Dam was and still remains a symbol of the country's ingenuity and persistence of hard working Americans. The Hoover hydroelectric dam was the biggest project of its kind in the world when it was completed. Named after then-Secretary of Commerce Herbert Hoover, it was constructed by some 20,000 workers during the depths of the Great Depression in the 1930s, and was the largest federal project of the time.

Bureau of Reclamation Commissioner Mike Connor: Hoover Dam is the iconic symbol of the Bureau of Reclamation. But more importantly, this engineering marvel is also the symbol of American know-how, ingenuity, drive and success.

Its elite status among American accomplishments, not only because of its size and functionality but also through its construction the building of Hoover Dam changed America.

Narrator: Today, it still remains an iconic landmark in the American West. Its concrete arch-gravity design stands 726 feet high and 660 feet wide at its base, and has forever changed how water is managed across the West.

U.S. Department of the Interior Assistant Secretary - Water and Science Anne Castle: Hoover and Lake Mead and the other Colorado River storage projects have made it possible for people like us to live here and enjoy the climate, to work here and to play here...and it wouldn't have been possible without a secure water supply and the power that Hoover Dam provides.

Narrator: It remains the model for major water management projects around the world. It's estimated that \$50,000,000,000 have been saved in flood damages. It has provided water for more than 18,000,000 people, and 1,000,000 acres of farmland in Arizona, California, and Nevada. It produces on average 4,000,000,000 kilowatt-hours of hydroelectric power each year.

FDR Impersonator Peter Small: ...and to say those who have managed it and maintained it – well done!!