

# FROM WHERE I SIT

By A. E. CAHLAN

If you've been intimately associated with the Boulder dam project from its inception, you can't help experiencing a real tinge of sadness as you prepare to bid farewell to Walker R. Young, construction engineer, who has been in charge of the great construction work for the bureau of reclamation from the beginning. For you realize it means the passing from daily contact of a highly-prized friend, who has been an important factor in the every day life of the community for over five years.

It seems as though it were just yesterday when the Review-Journal chronicled with blazing headlines, his arrival in our midst. The fact that he had leased a home in Las Vegas was BIG news in those days for it heralded the beginning of the realization of a dream which for many of us was a quarter century old.

You harken back to the day he moved into his new office in the Beckley building in Las Vegas and everything was in feverish activity, getting started. Brings back memories of your first view of Boulder City as his guest. Then it was but a wind-swept desert, and you wondered a bit as he pointed out the locations of the various buildings, homes, railroad depot and the rest. For you found it hard to believe that ere long a new city was destined to spring up, almost overnight, full-grown.

You remember early jaunts with him over the hills that then seemed impassable, as he pointed out where the railroad would go, the new highway to the top, and discussed plans for building the great project. It was all a dream just a few short years ago, and in that dream, Walker R. Young was then the moving spirit.

You found it hard to realize that this new friend was one of the nation's greatest engineers. That thru years of perseverance and attention to the minutest details, he had become the one man in whose hands the bureau of reclamation felt safe to entrust the building of this gigantic enterprise, and yet as you went on and enjoyed an intimate contact with the problems arising out of construction, you marveled at the skill with which he met them all, and wondered that one man, no matter how skilled or highly trained, could become such a master of the great maze of detail that was Boulder dam.

Step by step you followed thru, bit by bit you saw that great dam take shape in reality. Long ago you realized that ere long all these

great engineers connected with the project would be leaving for other fields and new conquests, leaving behind that great mass of concrete as their contribution to the progress of the southwest.

You steeled yourself against that day, for you realized full well it would be tinged with sadness. For they have been your friends and counsellors and will be sorely missed as we pick up the loose ends and drive forward in the hope of enjoying the fruits of their labors.

It has been a real privilege to know these men and watch them daily in their great work. They are the cream of the nation's engineers and construction men—there are no better in the world. Soon we will be saying goodbye to many more—their work in our community finished as has been that of Walker R. Young. They have contributed more to southern Nevada than the mere building of the dam. They have proved an inspiration for us who remain, to carry on.

It's always hard to say farewell—especially so now, for it brings us to a full realization of the task ahead. But they HAVE provided an inspiration which we must NEVER forget—an inspiration for us to do OUR work as unselfishly and as well as they have done who builded this dam. If their work is ever to mean anything to us of southern Nevada, we must drive forward as relentlessly and courageously as they have done in building the project. If their labors are not to go for naught, we MUST now dedicate ourselves to the task yet remaining undone—the building of a great industrial empire here in the southwest.

They pass on to new conquests—we remain to build on the one they so nobly wrought nearby. We MUST not fail. It is a legacy they leave with us as they depart. It is for US now to become the builders—they have shown us the way. Certainly we will prove equal to the task, but it will take every ounce of our energy and every unit of cooperation such as they had in building the project into realization.

To Walker Young we can but wish a fervent and sincere "bon voyage and good luck" on the new frontier to which his outstanding ability has called him in the eternal battle to make the forces of nature serve man. We can only hope that in years to come when he returns for a brief moment to walk again amongst us, that he will find OUR work as well done as was his.