

# Hoover Dam receives 28 millionth visitor

A German tourist Sept. 4 became the 28 millionth visitor to take the guided tour of Hoover Dam. Dr. Peter Freese, from Paderborn, Germany, was entering the tour elevator with his wife and a colleague when he was informed of the honor.

"This is funny, coming all the way from Germany," said Freese, who is a professor of American studies at the Paderborn University. "It fits. I can finally prove to my students that I have first-hand experience and that I have not read it out of some funny book."

Freese arrived in Las Vegas Sept. 4 for a month-long stay of combined vacation and research. He is researching southwest Indian lore.

He was met by Project Manager Ben Wilkinson who presented him with an album of Hoover Dam photos which will be completed with photos of his visit to the dam. Boulder City Chamber of Commerce Director Anita Pong made gift presentations from her organization and local merchants and resorts which included boat and raft trips, a video of Hoover Dam,



**SPECIAL VISITOR**—Hoover Dam's 28 millionth visitor Dr. Peter Freese, left, from Paderborn, Germany, is congratulated by Hoover Dam Project Manager Ben Wilkinson, right. Visitor Services Manager Jim Welsh, center, conducted a private tour of the dam and powerplant for Freese and his traveling companions.

meals and gift certificates. Freese and his companions were treated to a private tour of the dam and power plant. Operated by the Bureau of Reclamation, Hoover Dam is the most

heavily visited dam in the United States. About 700,000 visitors annually pay \$1 to take the guided 35-minute tour of the dam and powerplant. Annual visitation is expected to increase to nearly one million people upon completion of the Hoover Dam Visitor Center now under construction. Hoover Dam, which spans the Colorado River between Nevada and Arizona, is a National Historic Landmark and one of the seven civil engineering wonders of the world.