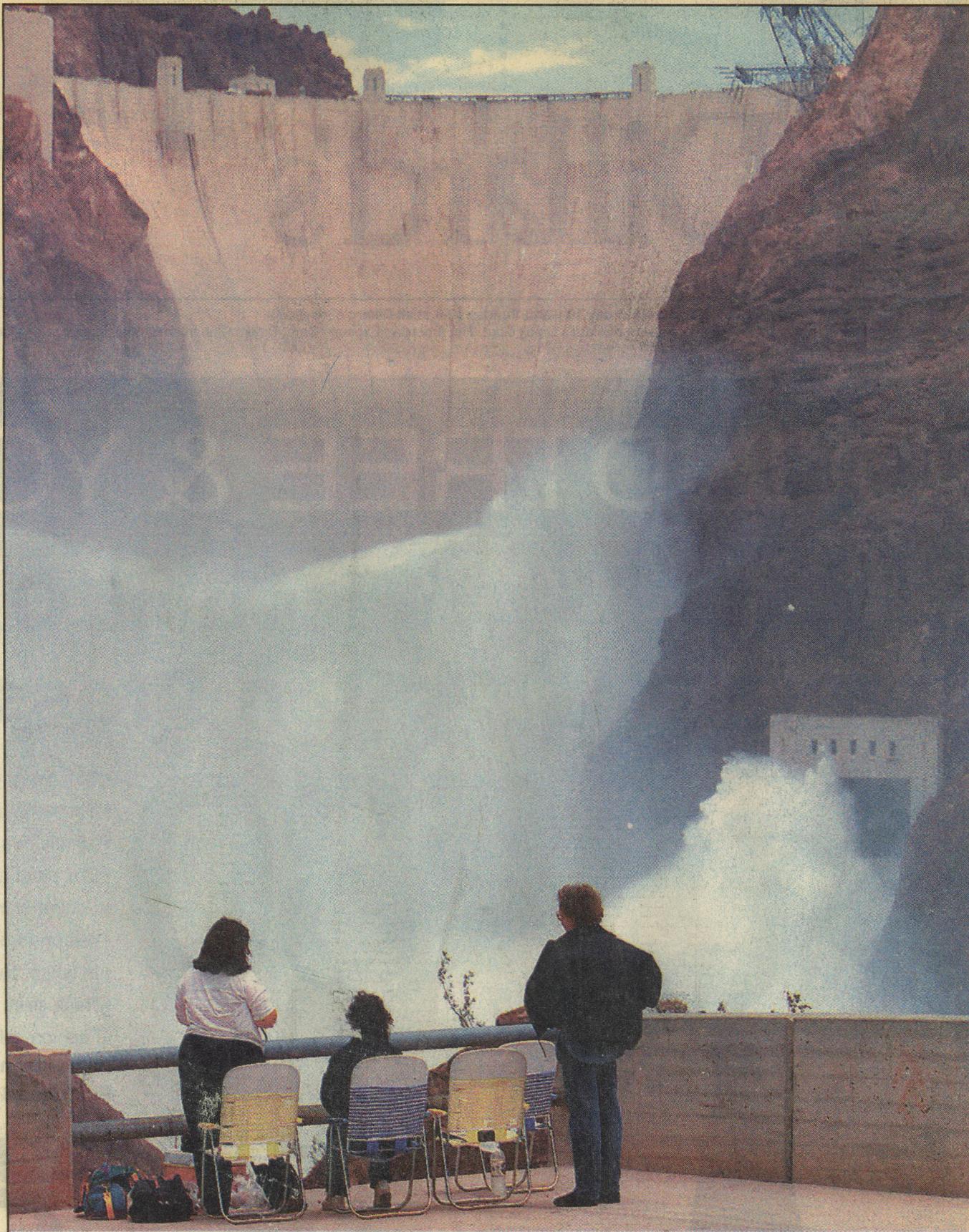


THIS IS ONLY A TEST



Jim Laurie/Review-Journal

Bureau of Reclamation employees Marcia Knott, Emme Woodward and Joan Northrop on Thursday watch millions of gallons of water shoot from newly installed valves at Hoover Dam.

The new valves, known as jet flow gates, replaced a system of needle valves that had been part of the dam's emergency release system since 1935.

In Thursday's test, eight of the 12 new valves released water for 30 minutes, sending 780 million gallons of water from the bottom of Lake Mead into the old Colorado River bed, which is the northern end of Lake Mohave.

Spray from what became a 180-foot waterfall showered some bureau workers who had lined the shoreline while other workers watched with their families from an overlook on the Nevada side of the river. The old valves seldom were used after 1961, when the dam's last hydroelectric generating unit was installed.

Bureau officials said the new valves also will be rarely used, but they are necessary to meet flood emergency requirements. The new valves were installed under a \$2 million contract between the bureau and J.R. Jacks Construction of Las Vegas.