

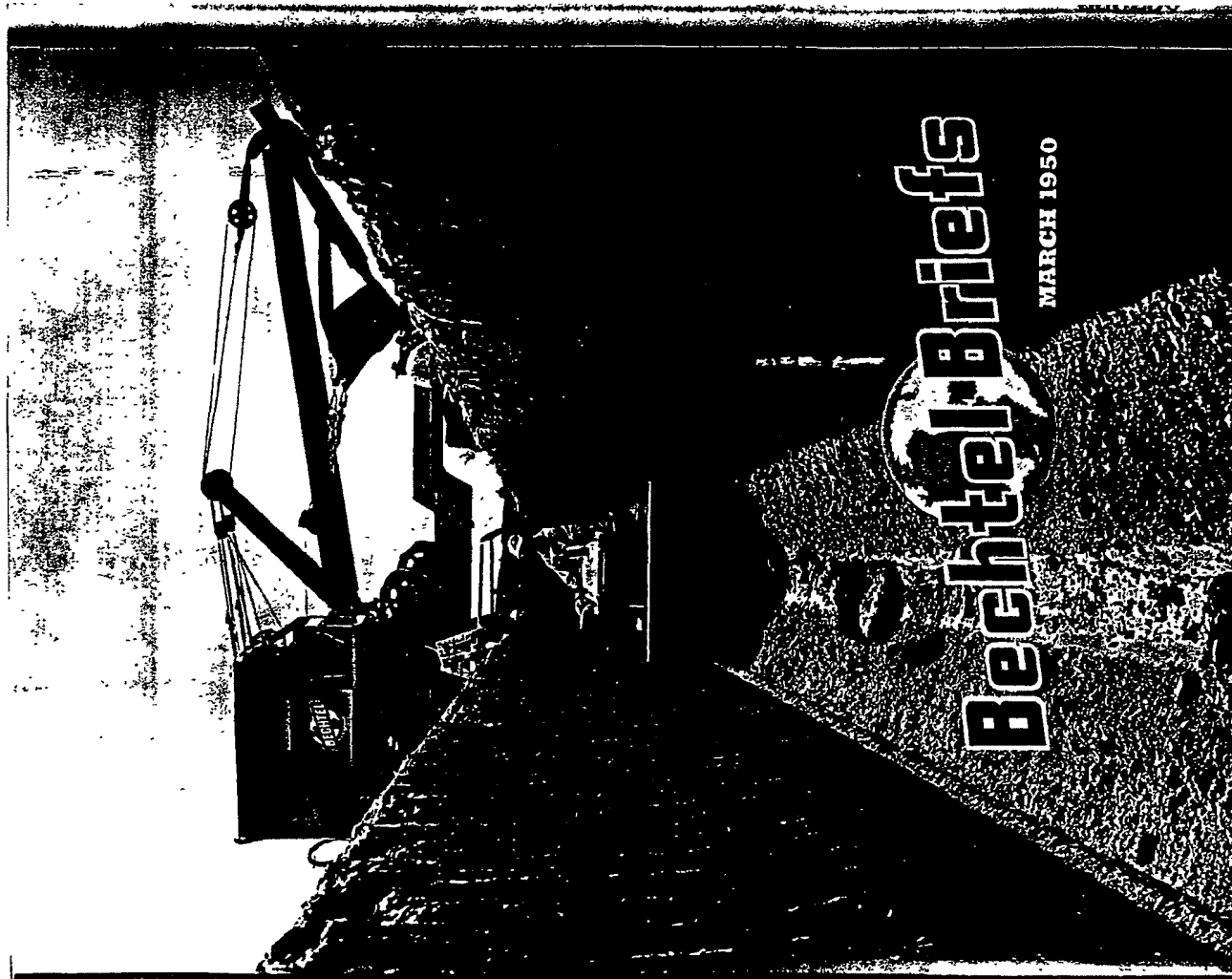
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March 1950



Bechtel Briefs

MARCH 1950

AN ORGANIZATION THAT HAS TO ITS CREDIT EXPERIENCE
IN EVERY PHASE OF ENGINEERING AND CONSTRUCTION



BECHTEL CORPORATION

LOS ANGELES

NEW YORK

NEW BAY AREA DEVELOPMENT LEADER

William J. Woot, Vice President of the San Francisco Bay Area Council, a non-profit organization devoted to the economic and civic development of the bay area, has been named as the new development leader of the San Francisco Bay Area Council.

A native Californian and a graduate of the University of California, his career with the



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SOHIO GROUP MEETS
Representatives from the Standard Oil Company of Ohio met with members of the Bechtel Corporation in San Francisco, California, to discuss the proposed expansion of the Bechtel Corporation's operations in the United States. The meeting was held at the Hotel California in San Francisco.

Tulsa Office
Announcement has been made by President S. D. Bechtel that a new Tulsa office is being opened in Tulsa, Oklahoma. The office will be headed by Mr. J. W. Bechtel.

George Gibbs
George Gibbs, Vice President of the Bechtel Corporation, has been named as the new development leader of the San Francisco Bay Area Council.

THIS MONTH'S COVER
The cover of this month's issue of the Bechtel Corporation's newsletter features a photograph of the new Tulsa office building.

POLISHING UP THE DITCH
The Bechtel Corporation has been awarded a contract to polish up the Tulsa Ditch. The project involves the construction of a new ditch and the improvement of the existing ditch.

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Senior Management Changes in Effect

In keeping with the policy of strengthening the senior management of all divisions, S. D. Bechtel, President of Bechtel Corporation, announced that as of February 1, 1950, the following changes in senior management will be in effect:

Bechtel Division: J. E. Doresten, Vice President, will be in charge of the Bechtel Division. J. E. Doresten will be in charge of the Bechtel Division.

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Salt Lake Field Office Opens

Office procedures and work has been initiated in the field at the Salt Lake City office. The office is located at the corner of 1st and Main Streets, Salt Lake City, Utah. The office is headed by Mr. J. E. Doresten.

McGee, chief materials man, going one purchases with office manager, Al Carson.

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A Work Proceeds in Sub-Zero Weather

Freezing temperatures only began to describe the weather on the Salt Lake River desert site near Arco, Idaho, where the new Experimental Breeder Reactor work is in progress.

Excavation for the reactor footings has been completed and the weather notwithstanding, concrete footings and walls are being poured.

With temperatures constantly on the minus side of 0° F., sometimes as low as 30° below zero, it is necessary to use kerosene burning "calamanders" each generating 185,000 B.T.U. a per hour to maintain a temperature of 32° to 60° inside the forms and in curing of the concrete.

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General Superintendent Walt Sims of the Arco, Idaho, job, shows us what 40 below looks like in Arco. It looks like he'll have to dig his way out to the jobsite.

Quoting Walt Sims, construction superintendent of the job (and only recently returned from Arco), "We had a few tough problems to me, it was a reclamation of Arco, but on a smaller scale. However, the problems are the same whether on a large project or a small one. Tell the boys in Arco that we would gladly swap 40° of temperature and I think we would all be happy." E. A. Dreger, assistant superintendent, concurs.

The Experimental Breeder Reactor Plant is being built for the Atomic Energy Commission of the United States.

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GIVE GLADLY

Another Bechtel Morrison-Knudsen joint venture is illustrated in the accompanying photograph. This time it is a basketball team under the sponsorship of Cliff Hill and H. L. Lavinton and coached by A. L. McGinnis.

Bechtel, posing for pictures, they do quite well on the floor having won 3 out of 5 of their games. The team is composed of Bechtel and Morrison-Knudsen players.

They have quite a good record considering the fact that practice is so few that the fellows sometimes can't remember their team mates names, much less the plays. Nevertheless, they usually overcome all handicaps about the beginning of the second quarter and really start to out the ball around

On the other hand, they are outwitted by building on the floor. The team is composed of Bechtel and Morrison-Knudsen players.

Top row, left to right: A. L. McGinnis (Coach), Fred Hinman, E. M. Zieroh, Chuck Baker, Jack Smith, Ralph Corp. L. E. Houston, A. L. McGinnis, J. E. Doresten, E. A. Dreger, Dick Smith, C. R. Silcock, Bud Stempert, Norris Whittle, R. H. Ayotte, and Jim Cannon.

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A BUILDER AND HIS FAMILY

By ROBERT L. INGRAM
CHAPTER EIGHT

March 4, 1931: The bids

The Government "March 4, 1931" was a day for bids. It was the day when the many organizations which previously had shown little interest now made applications. The project was combined with other values of location and terrain, made estimates and very so did but even the most careful builders showed "No Companies" as even five million dollars to buy the land and build it.

Frank Crane was a United States engineer with more than twenty years of service with the Bureau of Reclamation. He built the Jackson Lake Dam in Wyoming and the Teton Dam in Washington. His dam projects got him through various kinds of location and terrain, made estimates and very so did but even the most careful builders showed "No Companies" as even five million dollars to buy the land and build it.

Crane knew his business and missed no word about it. Once asked what his biggest hazard was, he answered: "The people who stepped the Director." These gentlemen

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April, 1931. "Come over and give me a lift," Steve said. "I want you to form for me with all those problems." That was Bill's start with the Bechtels. He went to work the following morning. Salary was not discussed. "I thought it was a temporary job," he says, "but in no time at all I was at Steve's side helping him direct the buying. Before it was over we purchased between eight and ten million dollars worth of supplies."

The Bechtel's contribution

"W. A. Bechtel Co.'s direct share of the work was largely administrative, but as officers and directors the Bechtels put their construction knowledge into the common pot," said Bill Wastie, W. A. Bechtel Co. vice president, and along when elected President, they did six months after the contract award. The partners joined Dad Bechtel to succeed him. Later, Steve was elected First Vice President; became a member of the four-man Executive Committee which directed actual work, and Administrative Director. Warren Bechtel, busy with other company work, was able to spend about half the time at the Dam in the first year; after that the press of outside duties



Congratulations poured into Dad Bechtel's office after his election to A.G.C.'s National Presidency. With him on the happy occasion were N. Barnes, President of Nevada Construction Co., and Bechtel veteran Earle G. David.

kept him away more of the time. He served on the Board, as did Kenneth

Hoover Dam: some statistics

The technical story of Hoover Dam's construction has been told many times. The statistics of the contract were three: the project was situated into the party first, the river bed, the dam, and the powerhouse. The dam was 660 feet high and 1,200 feet long. The powerhouse was 400 feet high and 1,200 feet long. The dam was 660 feet high and 1,200 feet long. The powerhouse was 400 feet high and 1,200 feet long.

feet above the crest; third, two giant spillways each large enough to accommodate a battleship; fourth, two outlet systems leading from four great intake towers through rock tunnels to the powerhouse and valve houses; fifth, the powerhouse, largest of its kind ever designed. Additionally, the volume of development work—canals, roads down the sheer cliffs, a railroad, a permanent city for workers, communications, and such incidents as mun-



Marching nature's beauty—a bridge of nature stone, Sequoia National Park.

nity aggregate and concrete dams—was recalled for the first time by later foreign projects. To do all this the Bechtels labored a working time of 2,665 days—approximately seven years. It was done in five years—at a saving to the public treasury of five and one-half million dollars.

Meanwhile the fame of the men who were winning this fight spread around the engineering world. Six Companies President was urged to great Bechtel's name. "It's a good time to see what they are doing," Dad told his partners. With three sons on the job at home, the initiation offered an opportunity to compare notes on men and methods. So he was off to the U.S.S.R., accompanied by his first and best partner, Mrs. Bechtel. And there, in Moscow on August 28, 1931, he died. It was a great shock and a great loss, but the family and his host of friends were in the knowledge that he left as he had lived: a man who would want to go on to the very last, a construction man on a construction mission.

Dad's homecoming gave the country and his profession an opportunity to show where he stood in their hearts. Let Gilbert Davis speak for the many who memorialized him in the nation's press. Mr. Davis, then editor of *Western Construction News*, wrote in the September, 1933, issue:

Oakland, California—Sept. 19, 1933:

"Dad" Bechtel is gone. His end came with tragic suddenness. An intricate figure—beloved and respected by thousands—he was a self taught, highly successful builder with

intense life—a job well done. Outstanding in his characteristics were a loyalty to add to the work of his employees so that they might be able to do their jobs in the manner enduring from his pocket and days on railroad construction until his death. The height of activity and power; honesty; the measure of vitality; prodigious industry; a great sense of humor and enthusiasm.

"Dad" Bechtel did a world of good things. He changed his attitude toward life or construction. He would the closest attention to all details of his work. He was a first-class operator of the alert for new and improved methods of construction. A prominent railroad executive, from a background of over twenty years acquaintance, says of him: "No engineer ever had to go after Bechtel." "A good job."

The many useful monuments built by Dad Bechtel are a testament to his generation, silent tributes to his work. His brother and sons are led to carry on the ideals of Bechtel construction organizations of a fine man who built well and loved his fellows."

His traits and his generation

The press accounts emphasized the great warmth of W. A.'s personality, devoting fully as much space to his richly human qualities as to his many notable achievements. Little was said about his temper and affections. Nevertheless, he was a man so thoroughly necessary for a man so thoroughly necessary for the two things nearest his heart—family and work.

Dad was a Mason and a Knight Templar, and of this fellowship he was deeply and justly



Dad's brother Art had a winning way with men and animals.

pride. He was also a loyal Elk. In the field of association service he contributed substantially to the advancement of the construction industry—as a Charter Member of the Associated General Contractors of America, and in 1929, as A.G.C.'s National President. He was the pioneer of western builders in the organization, holding a personal membership long before the formation of the office. His chapter and local societies were active in the work had a lot to do with putting the western contractors "on the map" with their eastern contemporaries.