

F
849
B6
L98
1995

An
Oral History Interview
with
Paul Lytle

1995

35314391

Photographs

following page

1. News article announcing Clark County's first Civilian Conservation Corps enrollees, 1933.....	3
2. The first Hoover Dam tour guides, 1937.....	18
3. Automobile convoy at Hoover Dam, 1941.....	22
4. Camp Williston, Boulder City, Nevada, ca. 1943.....	25
5. Paul Lytle, ca. 1943 - 44.....	26
6. Placing the Winged Figures of the Republic at Hoover Dam, 1937.....	29
7. Oskar J. W. Hansen at work, 1938.....	30
8. Edythe Lucille Lytle, 1941.....	31

* * * *

Acknowledgments

I'd like to thank Paul Lytle for allowing me to record this interview with him and for lending me photographs to include in his oral history. The staffs of the Boulder City Library, the Special Collections Department of the University of Nevada, Las Vegas library, and the Nevada State Museum and Historical Society at Lorenzi Park in Las Vegas were helpful in compiling the annotations. I would particularly like to thank Leslie Peterson of the National Park Service in Boulder City for use of her transcribing equipment and for access to the Service's library and archives. The excellent photo reproductions were made by Ihla Crowley at Desert Data in Boulder City, Nevada.

2

God-sized family.

Most of them were born over at Overton [Nevada]. So I had quite an early history [in] the Moapa Valley.

Yeah, you were there just at the very beginning, almost. What did your father do?

He was a carpenter. He came down into Los Angeles, and he was a carpenter. He was a proper.

This was after you were born, though?

This was after I was born. In fact, we moved into Los Angeles when I was about eleven, twelve years old. Three or four years. Then we moved up into northeastern Arizona and Springerville. That's originally where he came from. He came there in 1928. And then my folks finally... Well, my dad, of course, was doing contracting work here and there, and we moved into Arizona for a few years, and then my mother moved back up here to Overton.

Boulder City Library
Oral History Project Interview
with
Paul Lytle

conducted by
Dennis McBride
March 8, 1995

Today is Wednesday, March 8, 1995, and this is Dennis McBride talking with Mr. Paul Lytle at his home, 1300 Colorado Street in Boulder City. We're going to talk about the Civilian Conservation Corps today, and about Mr. Lytle's experiences when he was in the CCC.

First of all, Mr. Lytle, tell me when you were born and where, and a little bit about your family: how many brothers and sisters, and so on.

Well, I was born in Salt Lake City, Utah August 14, 1909. My folks were ... my mother was born in Overton, and my father was one of the Mormon pioneers. He was born over in northeastern Arizona at Springerville and Eagar, Arizona.¹ They were all connected with the early Mormon exodus out of Salt Lake and heading into this area: Arizona and Nevada, New Mexico, I guess.

How many brothers and sisters did you have?

I have one sister and five brothers.

Good-sized family. When the stock market crashed in 1929?

Most of them were born over at Overton [Nevada]. So I had quite an early history [in] the Moapa Valley. *College² in 1930.*

Yeah, you were there just at the very beginning, almost. What did your father do?

He was a carpenter. Contractor. We moved from Overton down into Los Angeles, and he did quite a bit of contracting down there. Los Angeles proper.

When you graduated from college, then, by that time, 1930, the Depression was pretty bad. This was after you were born, then?

That was after I was born. In fact, we moved into Los Angeles when I was about eleven, twelve years old and stayed there for three or four years. Then we moved up into northeastern Arizona, to Eagar and Springerville. That's originally where he came from. I finished high school there in 1928. And then my folks finally... Well, my dad, of course, was doing contracting work here and there, and we moved into Arizona for a few years, and then my mother moved back up here to Overton. *that the government [was] coming out with a Three Cs movement, and asked me if I'd be interested in becoming a member. He said,*

But your dad didn't come with her? about 38 people locally to go up into the Charleston Mountain region and set up a camp, and if you'd like to go, why, I'd

No, he stayed in Los Angeles for awhile, and he also... He was in business in Springerville and Eagar. He ran a skating rink. *an area.*

Roller skating? working before that, or were you looking for a job?

Roller skating, yeah. We were there for, oh, a number of years. *doing odd jobs around. For instance, I was a concrete contractor with my dad. We did a lot of*
When you said that he was a contractor, did he build houses? strict up there. Odd jobs, but nothing [much].

Built houses, uh huh. 'Course, that was his primary occupation. But we went over into Arizona and had a good opportunity to go into business. He ran the skating rink, and he also had a little business in front of the rink. We were there three or four years.

Were you there when the stock market crashed in 1929?

No. I finished high school in Arizona, and then I came up to southern Utah and I graduated finally from Dixie College² in 1930.

What did you get a degree in?

I was in teaching. Majored in music.

When you graduated from college, then, by that time, 1930, the Depression was pretty well underway.

The Depression had started. The year I graduated, 1930, I came back down to Overton where my folks were at the time. That's when I first heard of the CCC, Civilian Conservation Corps.³

How did you hear about it?

An uncle of mine said [that] the government [was] coming out with a Three Cs movement, and asked me if I'd be interested in becoming a member. He said, "Well, they're going to choose about 38 people locally to go up into the Charleston Mountain region and set up a camp, and if you'd like to go, why, I'd be glad to put you in contact with the right people and see that you go along with this original group up to the Mt. Charleston area."

Had you been working before that, or were you looking for a job?

I had just finished college and I was looking for a job. I was doing odd jobs around. For instance, I was a concrete contractor with my dad. We did a lot of concrete work up around the Caliente, Pioche mining district up there. Odd jobs, but nothing [much].

So you heard about the CCC. Where did you go to sign up for it? Do you remember?

each can secure unit-
in object is a speedy
report on the ad-
-minibus business re-
Tuesday of next week

at that at the present
is decided about
make sure that the
will really provide the
and the final decision
as far as much the
combined judgments
see as a whole."

chairman expression-
ation to have his
final decision on the
by Monday night.
must find two
twenty million dollars
to meet financing
needs bond issue.

the sales tax claim-
at two more certain
a favorable report
a bugaboo

IS SWEEP MISSOURI, DAMAGE

D. Missouri, May 20
a storm swept, the
tonight, causing
billions damage.
thunder and lighten-
-ing area northwest of
communication lines
Trees were blown
down demolished and

were reported, how-
-ever was especially heavy
-rain followed two days
-with unprecedently high
-water which reached as high
-as parts of the state.
-planes to Omaha and
-in Kansas City were

blowing the wind was
-estimated it
-was and four inches,
-in amount weather man
-their dispute because
-blown over.

AT HOME

golf course behind courthouse.

PHYSICAL EXAMS FOR CLARK COUNTY FOREST ARMY MONDAY

Office of T. G. Ragsdale To Be Scene of Examination

Physical examination of applicants for positions with the Clark County Conservation Corps will be conducted on Monday at the office of T. P. Ragsdale, local attorney, situated in the Delkin building. This announcement was made yesterday by John Witwerr, in active charge of the work in this county.

The 36 candidates who will be accepted after the physical examination will be sent into the Charleston mountains to establish a permanent camping site for the remainder of the army that will follow in a short time.

The examination will start at 8 o'clock Monday morning and the following men are ordered to be present:

- Joseph O. Adams, F. E. Aracher, R. A. Parker, Willis Karns, Otto Lamby, Earl Morris, Donal R. Schuyler, Isham Smith, Lavon Foster, A. L. Lyke, Ed L. Berglund, Henry Jorgensen, C. N. McDade, Jack L. Wolfe, E. O. Dunningan, Ted Smith, A. B. Fisher, Glen Brubaker, A. P. Denning, Joseph Leavy, Glenn Willis, Claude Bilderback, Alama E. Dalley, John E. Fitchett, H. B. Johnson, D. Dotherrow, E. A. Schulz, John E. Reynolds, Alvin J. Fisher, C. C. Foster, J. M. Green, F. C. Bishop, Don P. McGarvie, Wm. A. Richardson, Robert Dutton, Paul Lytle, Charles B. Hill, Edward Loos and Evan Wasden.

These men are requested to bring with them their original copy of their application blank presented to the Clark County Farm Bureau office.

On Tuesday morning, the men that have passed the test will be sent into the mountains.

BUY AT HOME
ON VISIT HERE

INDIANS LOSE TIE STANDING IN AMERICAN

Senators Take Firm Grip On the Second Place Position

NEW YORK, May 20 (U.P.)—The Cleveland Indians went back into third place in the American League today because they were unable to keep pace with the Washington Senators. The Indians dropped back from a tie for second as the result of a seven to two defeat by the Philadelphia Athletics, while the Senators were defeating the Chicago White Sox, seven to nothing.

The League leading Yankees had their margin chopped down to a single game as they suffered a four to two whipping at the hands of the St. Louis Browns.

The Boston Red Sox, defeated the Detroit Tigers six to five. Standings in the National league remained unchanged as the second division clubs scored over a majority of the top-half outfits.

The only leader to get a break was the first place Pirates, who split a double-header with the Boston Braves, losing the first four to two but winning the second seven to six.

The Dodgers and Cubs played their first game of the season today with the Chicago team winning three to one.

With Dizzy Dean hurling, the St. Louis Cardinals whipped the Giants four to one.

riden
L., of t
J. Sore
In th
Boulder
owned
Cromw
Edythe
Sorens
Elko, N
J. Brov
Vander
well as
a quart
The
is the
gallant
capture
events.
Snow
and M
by J.
heated
course
long.

The
Theatr

The
an att
Monda
W. Wo
enterta
friends
cluded
Wm.
Blandi
ble, W.
Van M
Beckle
broke.
son, A
S. J. I
Watter
man, C
Frank
White,
ley.

Mr.
ertain
evenin
Mrs. A

Those
pitality
Jr., an
childre
Clark;
sons;
Carol

With
virtual
Hollan

Well, it was in the spring of 1930⁴. I don't remember the exact date. I went up with the original group, and I think we signed up up there in the recreational area of Mt. Charleston.

Were these original groups all boys from the area?

All local boys. And we set up that regional camp up at Mt. Charleston there. We were there probably six months getting things organized. They had carpenters come in and build barracks. We used the army tents. That original group, we were under the Air Corps from Riverside, California.⁵ The U. S. Air Corps. They had put those people in charge of the CCC units.

[Was] it the Air Corps that provided the carpenters and...

No, no that was local. I think most of them had signed a contract with the Three Cs to do that kind of work.

Did they provide you with a uniform or work clothes?

Yes. Well, the army [did]. The US Air Corps at Riverside supplied us with oversized overalls, jumpsuits, shirts, and apparently stuff that they had had in storage and never used. And they thought the Three Cs would be a good point to get rid of it! I know the overalls they gave us at the time were three or four sizes too big. But they gave them to us to wear.

When you were at Mt. Charleston, was this in Lee's Canyon?

Lee's Canyon, yeah. And we had barracks situated right where the ranger station is now. And later on, when the main force came in—oh, we must have had four or five hundred people—they established an outpost over at Deer Creek. They went to work building the Oh, they had your regular army tents over there at the time, and your main units stayed at Lee's Canyon.

And that's where you were, at Lee's Canyon?

That's where we were, in Lee's Canyon. Then, of course, I was a major in music, and one of the people we had in charge of the Three Cs up there was Fred Pine. He knew I was a music major and played the banjo. Well, of course, he wanted me to go right into the orchestra he was organizing. When he moved over to Deer Creek, why, I went along with the group over there.

Was this orchestra made up of all CCC boys?

All CCC boys. And we were, oh, quite an active group. We played for special parties, like [for] J[ames] G. Scrugham. He was the senator from Nevada at the time. He had a cabin, I think, at Mt. Charleston. At least, he was renting a cabin up there. He had us come up there for parties off and on all the time he was there. Our orchestra furnished the music. [We] had a very nice time.

Did your orchestra have a name?

No, we were just an organized group from the Three Cs. Didn't have any specific name.

Do you remember how many boys were in the orchestra, or what some of the other instruments were?

Well, we had Fred Pine, the leader. He played the violin. And I played the banjo. And we had somebody on the drums.

Were there any horns?

Yes, we had a sax. In fact, I played the sax somewhat, but mostly I was with the banjo. And we had the drums, and I think possibly a trumpet player.

Was there a piano?

Oh, yes, we had somebody playing the piano.

What kind of music did you play?

Most of your modern jazz at the time.

Was that your favorite kind of music?

It was the favorite music of the time. Most of us knew a lot of the old jazz of the age, and we could pick it up very easily. We didn't have a piano very often, but where they had a piano, why, of course, we had somebody come in and use it.

Let's talk a little bit about what life was like in the camp, later on, after it was established. For instance, do you remember what the barracks was like, what your room was like? Or did you have your own room?

The barracks were very similar to an army barracks. In other words, they had bunks, one above the other, for the entire length of the barracks. And we also had a mess hall.

A separate mess hall?

Separate mess hall. That was at the main camp in Lee's Canyon. But when we moved over to around Deer Creek, we had the army tents set up. And we had a regular tent for the meal service, kitchen. And they prepared meals for us. Just like they had a regular area where we ate over at the main camp, a regular kitchen unit.

Was the food good? Was there plenty of it?

The food was fairly good. We had cooks just like they have everywhere, you know. And it was a time when people were out of work and they were glad to come into the organization.

What kind of work did you do when you were up there at Lee's Canyon?

We were building mostly trails and campsites. Your Three Cs built the trails up to Little Falls, and they built the main trail up to Mt. Baldy. Whether it's used

anymore or not, I don't know. The campsites—I didn't do too much of the carpentry work, but [I did] a lot of cleaning up and shaping up of the sites.

Did you have heavy equipment to work with, or did you build these trails by hand?

We had some heavy equipment. We had scrapers and some heavy equipment that they could clean off sites, and then we could go in and do most of the installation work.

Mt. Charleston then was pretty remote from Las Vegas, relative to now.

Well, yes, the roads at that time were two-lane, graded highways. But they were in good shape. I don't know whether it was the state or the city had kept them in good condition.

Did you move into Lee's Canyon before the camp was built?

Yes, I was with the original 38.

What did you live in while they were building [the camp]?

Local people.

We lived in army tents.

Were they comfortable?

They were comfortable. We had cots and blankets. Everything was fairly comfortable at the time.

It got pretty cold up there at night, didn't it?

As I remember it, they had to come in and prepare the site for the barracks. It was in the spring and summer months we were there. And then later, in the fall, they moved the Three Cs out of the mountain area, and they built a barracks and army tents down at Overton.

So Mt. Charleston was more or less a seasonal camp?

Mt. Charleston was more or less left during the winter months because it was too cold.

So they just moved all of you over from Mt. Charleston to Overton?

To Overton.

Your family was living over there, weren't they?

My family was living there, but I still lived with the Three Cs down at what they called Kaolin [*he pronounces it kay-o-lin*].⁶ I don't know whether you've [ever] heard of it.

Yes, I have. That was where the camp was?

That was where the camp was located. And we'd have our dance band even play for dances there in the CCC barracks.

For local people to come?

Local people.

How did you feel about being in the CCC, living in a situation with all of these other

Did you charge them, or was it free?

I don't remember them charging.

Were they building the camp in Kaolin before you moved down there, or did they move you out and you built the camp yourself at Kaolin?

As I remember it, they had us come in and prepare the site for the barracks. And I think they had carpenters do it. We were primarily working [in] the Valley of Fire area.

What were you doing in the Valley of Fire area?

We made all of the campsites and trails here and there throughout the Valley of Fire. Helped build roadways.

When you say "build roadways" — paved roadways or graded roads?

Graded roadways.

Was the Valley of Fire pretty much undeveloped at that time?

Well, there was graded roads through the area. But we did a lot of work throughout the area, into these special points. Like, for instance, where your petrified wood is. The Indian hieroglyphics. We prepared the roads and campsites in areas for people to visit.

I want to back up just a little bit. When you went off to join the CCC, had you ever been away from home on your own before, aside from having gone to college?

See, I stayed in Arizona to finish high school when my folks left Arizona. I stayed with relatives in Arizona. And then the next year I went to college in southern Utah, so I wasn't around home very much.

How did you feel about being in the CCC, living in a situation with all of these other boys, living in the barracks, and eating and working with them? Was it something that was unusual for you, or were you homesick?

No, I adapted to it very easily, readily. And I didn't mind it. We had a nice association, you might say, group, comradeship, with local boys. The same way at Charleston. They were all local boys, brought up under the same conditions as I was, so it was fairly a nice experience.

Did you have friends in the CCC that you had known before?

Oh, yes.

That must have made it easier.

I had friends that I had known, and I had friends that knew my family. So it was a very interesting experience from that standpoint.

What did they pay you for the work that you did, for joining them?

I can't remember, but I think it was thirty dollars a month.

But you didn't get to keep all of that, though, did you? Did they send some of the money to your family?

I don't remember them ever sending anything to the family. I think they'd pay us once a month.

Did they pay you with cash or with a check? I guess up at Mt. Charleston you wouldn't have anywhere to cash a check.

I think we could always cash it in Vegas. But I don't remember too much about the system they used. I think it was possibly cash.

Up at Mt. Charleston. After you were through working for the day, how did you spend your evenings? What did you do for fun?

We had regular, organized social activities. We had, for instance, very gifted people, singers. We had our orchestra going all the time. We had quite a few social activities where the group would all gather around and listen to the orchestra and the singing.

Did you have a library or reading room that you remember?

I don't remember a library or reading room of any kind at the time. Of course, when we were off duty at night we could have our own magazines, our own reading activities if we wanted them.

Later on, I know, the CCC had educational programs for the boys where they would offer classes after work at night. That early, whenever you were at Mt. Charleston, do you remember whether they taught classes to the boys or offered them at night?

No, I don't remember of any activity of that type at all.

Did you ever get out of camp on the weekends? Were you able to come into Las Vegas?

Oh, they had trucks. They brought us from Charleston down to Las Vegas.

What did you do in Las Vegas? You said eight or ten families lived there?

Oh, we were able to [see] our girlfriends or families. Friends of mine who had family there around Las Vegas, they would invite you into the family unit. [The boys] were mostly local people.

Could you stay all night in Las Vegas?

Stay all night with them, if we wanted to. The trucks would bring us back to camp.

Did you go to the movies, for instance?

Oh, you could go to the movies, you could go to parties, to casinos that were open at the time if you wanted to go.

You must have been 21 by this time. Did you ever gamble, or do you remember any of those little casinos in Vegas then?

Not that I know of. I'd been more or less against the gambling.

How about Block 16?⁷ Do you remember that?

Oh, Block 16 was available. I don't know of any of the boys going in there, though, on their own. But they could have, very easily.

Did you ever walk through it?

I've driven through it. And I walked through it at the time.

What did you see?

Oh, the girls were out front, very friendly, and invited us in. But the group I was with, why, we were kind of afraid of what we might pick up, like syphilis or gonorrhea.

We were talking about Kaolin. You said eight or ten families lived there?

There was at least eight or ten families farming in the area. And, of course, on down at St. Thomas, that was the section of Highway 91. In other words, Highway 91 ran from Vegas down through St. Thomas, and over through the Virgin Range, Bunkerville and on up toward Salt Lake.

What did St. Thomas look like then, when you were living in Kaolin?

Well, the main hotel was at the west end of town, the Gentry Hotel. And there was homes, an irrigation ditch running through the west end of the town. And there was garages and homes along the main street.

When you were living in Kaolin at the camp, what did you do for fun when you weren't working there? Did you get into St. Thomas or up to Overton?

We could go up to Overton or St. Thomas. But mostly we had our own activities right there.

Did you have what they called an educational adviser, or a camp adviser, somebody who advised you if you were homesick or had problems?

Well, usually, they had somebody in charge of the entire Three C unit there. For instance, Colonel Miller was the man in charge of the group there at Kaolin.

He was an army officer?

We called him Colonel Miller, but I don't know what his connection was with the army or if he was with the army at that time.

So you worked mostly with just picks and shovels?

The army was the one that was running the camp. Were you performing that work at the Valley of Fire for the army or the Park Service?

While, pulling into an area, and we'd load it up with debris and stuff and haul it off.

We weren't connected with the Park Service in any way. We were doing the work through the unit itself, the Three Cs. It was a job program. And the Park Service didn't come into the area until much later.

No, I never went back. I finally went and saw Colonel Miller and said I wanted

Who was it that supervised your work crews out in the Valley of Fire?

Yes, there in the valley. I was picking cantaloupes and crating them and hauling them out.⁸ I had

We just went in there as a work crew through the Three Cs. It was a state park, and possibly we were doing it under the supervision of the state.

Could you describe how your day started? First thing in the morning what did you do, and how did you get to work, how did you come home at night? Was it run like an army unit?

Isn't so bad. But I could make more money doing something else. So I got out of the organization. So then, of course, they moved here into Boulder City.

Run very much like an army unit. The trucks and heavy equipment, of course, would leave for the camp site, for instance, in the Valley of Fire or wherever they were working at the time. We were a construction unit, and we'd go into an area there in the Valley of Fire where they were building a campsite or a rest area. Of course, we always had a supervisor, and he showed us where to put the road or the latrines. The work was done with supervision all the time.

up here in Bootleg Canyon and around.⁹

Did you have a reveille in the morning to get you out of bed?

How did you know Earl Bonaster?

No, no. But we were scheduled to get up and go to breakfast, then take the trucks and go out into the area where we were working.

for over a year here in Boulder City. Lived with them. That was when I started to work at the dam.

What kind of work did you do in particular? Did you operate equipment or did you use a shovel?

kind of man was Earl Bonaster?

We were mostly cleaning and grubbing with a pick and shovel to level off an area. They'd bring possibly a grader in first, and then we'd have to go in and clean up the area.

Cs for a long while.

So you worked mostly with just picks and shovels?

Yes. And I was driving a truck once in awhile, pulling into an area, and we'd load it up with debris and stuff and haul it off.

*So were you up in Overton and that area from the time you left the CCC until you came
How long were you at Kaolin? Did you go back to Mt. Charleston?*

No, I never went back. I finally went and saw Colonel Miller and said I wanted to get out of the service, that I had a job working in the vegetables, there in the valley. I was picking cantaloupes and crating them and hauling them out.⁸ I had been given this job, and I wanted to get away from the militarization of the organization.

So you weren't comfortable with the military aspect of the service?

It wasn't so bad. But I could make more money doing something else. So I got out of the organization. So then, of course, they moved here into Boulder City.

*1937. Before then they had people that were working at the dam doing some
Did you get back into the [Three Cs]?*

No. I never went back. But I knew some of the group that were in charge of the group over here [in Boulder City]. For instance, Earl Banister, I know, was running the organization. And I know they were building trails up here in Bootleg Canyon and around.⁹

*You mentioned they were building trails into the mountains round about. Which trails
How did you know Earl Banister?*

He married a woman from Overton. I stayed with them for over a year here in Boulder City. Lived with them. That was when I started to work at the dam.

What kind of man was Earl Banister?

He was a very well-informed man on almost any type of activity. He was a fairly large, heavy-set man, light-complected. He was directing all activities, I know, for the Three Cs for a long while.

*of their units up there and they built a
trail around the mountain. It might still be in existence.*

When did you start to work at the dam?

1937.

So were you up in Overton and that area from the time you left the CCC until you came to work at the dam?

I was doing odd jobs, like I was working with my dad in concrete finishing work for awhile. Then I put in for one of these jobs over here when they started the guide service¹⁰ when the [Hoover Dam] job was finished.

Is that what you were doing then, a guide?

Oh, yes. I came in with the original guide service at the dam.

That would have been '37.

1937. Before then they had people that were working at the dam doing some guide service work. But I was with the official guide service on it when it started.

OK. There's two ways that I want to go, then. I want to talk some more about your experiences down at the dam in the guide service and so on. But also I'd like to talk a little bit more about what you remember about the CCC in Boulder City, and Earl Banister, and some of the work that they were doing down here.

You mentioned they were building trails into the mountains round about. Which trails were those? Are there any of them still around?

The main one that I remember was up there on the hill where they have all the communication activities now.

They used to call it Radar Mountain, Red Mountain.

Red Mountain. The main canyon going up there was called Bootleg Canyon because at one time the bootleggers were in there and made rot gut whiskey. But anyway, they [the CCC] had some of their units up there and they built a trail around the mountain. It might still be in existence.

Did you ever hike that trail?

I hiked that trail two or three times. It was a very nice-built trail about three feet wide. It went around that mountain up there and had a beautiful view of Boulder City and the area. But other than that, I don't remember too much of the work they were doing around here.

[Did you know] Fay Perkins?

Fay Perkins. He was a relative of mine.¹¹

Was he down here or up around Overton?

He was around Overton most of the time.

Do you remember him very well?

Oh, yes. And I remember him very well and I remember his son, Fay. His son, Fay, ran the Lost City over there for a long time.

Fay Senior, or Fay Junior, was one of the original discoverers of the Lost City.

He worked with his dad, and they did most of the excavation work over in that area.

Did Fay work for the government, that you remember?

I think he worked for the state.

OK. So he did work there through the state of Nevada. *[Did you know] Sims Ely?*¹²

Sims Ely? I knew him quite well.

Tell me what you remember about Sims Ely. I've heard quite a lot of stories about that man.

First of all, I knew him as a lost mine expert. He was very concise and very decisive in his actions. I bought a place down here in Boulder City when Sims was city manager. The old boy I bought it from was a man by the name of Fairhurst. We went into Sims Ely to cinch the deal, and Sims says, "You're cheating this boy out of his hard-earned money. The place is not worth that much." He raised quite a bit of hell over the idea that I was being cheated in buying this house from Fairhurst. Fairhurst wanted \$400 for the house. Anyway, I said, "I'm satisfied with the deal." And Sims Ely said, "Well, we'll let it go this time, then. But I think he's cheating you." But that was the type of man Sims Ely was. He had quite a few dealings with the Lost Dutchman mine, down around Phoenix. You ever hear of that?

I have. He wrote a book about it years later.

Yes, yes.

Did he deal very much or know very much about the mines and mining around here?

Not very much.

His background was Arizona.

Yes. Phoenix, I think. And the Lost Dutchman. Once you got talking to him, it was fine, but he wouldn't say too much, you know. He was afraid I might come in and try to locate one of his lost mines!

He kept a pretty tight lid on Boulder City, didn't he?

Yes, he did. He was all for keeping the city clean and neat. He ruled it like a lord and master. He didn't let anybody put anything over on him.

Do you remember his wife?¹³

No, I don't remember her.

Or his son, Northcutt Ely? He worked in Washington but he was back and forth in Boulder City. He's still living, too.

I don't remember him.

Let's talk about your experiences down on the dam in the guide service. How were you trained, and what was it you were trained to say or told to say?

The government had never had much experience with a guide service. For instance, like we had at the dam. We were given an outline. For instance, we had to say we descended so many feet in the elevator, and we had to describe where we were in relation to our position. And we went out on the balcony in the powerhouse and we had to describe the generators, their activity, their capacity. And then we'd go down and out along the ramp and we'd have to describe the dam and the transformers, the power equipment from out there. Then we'd walk over through the Arizona adit tunnel over one of the penstocks where we'd have to describe the construction of the dam. I think they're still using the same lecture.

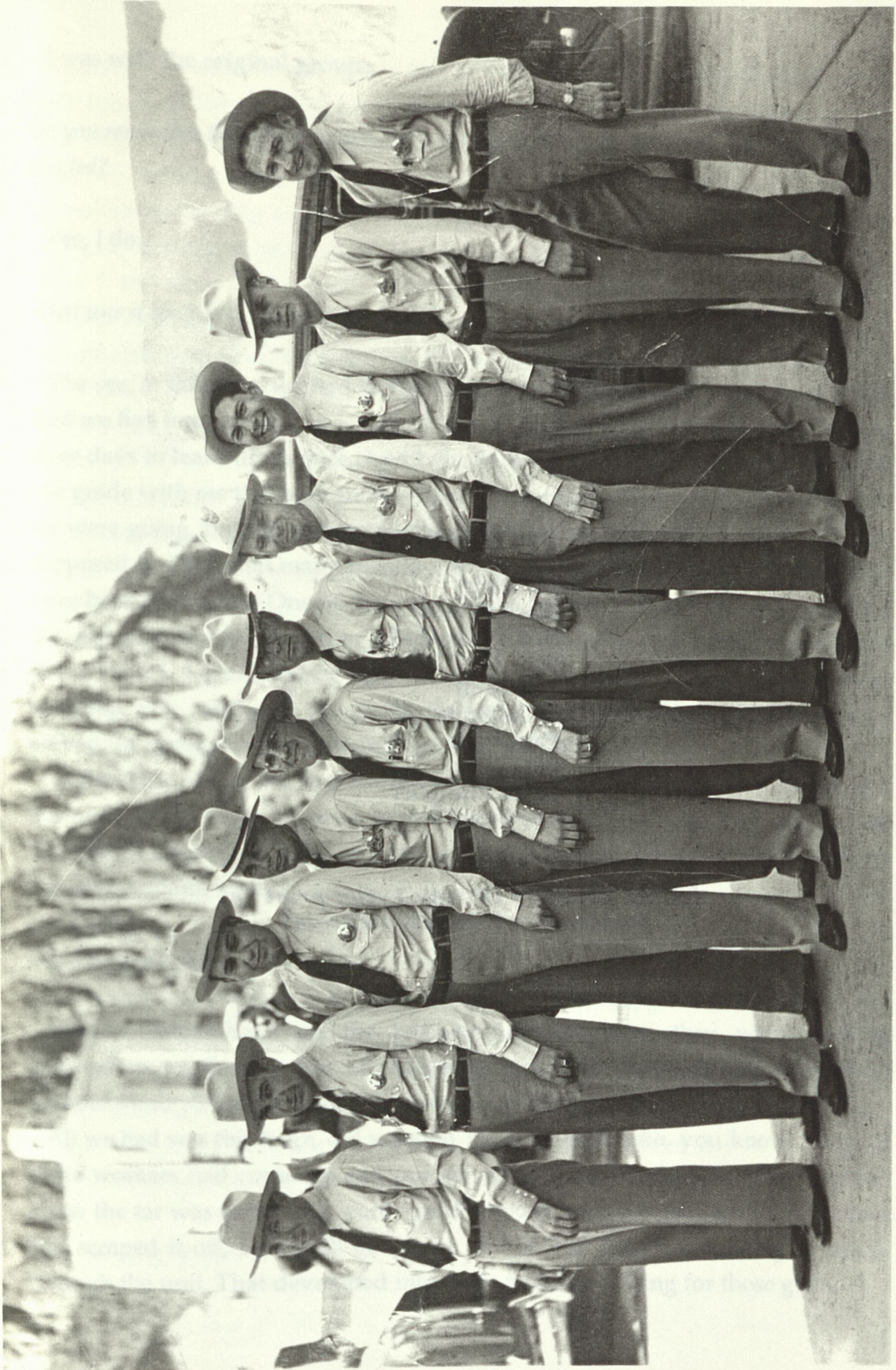
How prepared were you to answer question that the questions would ask.

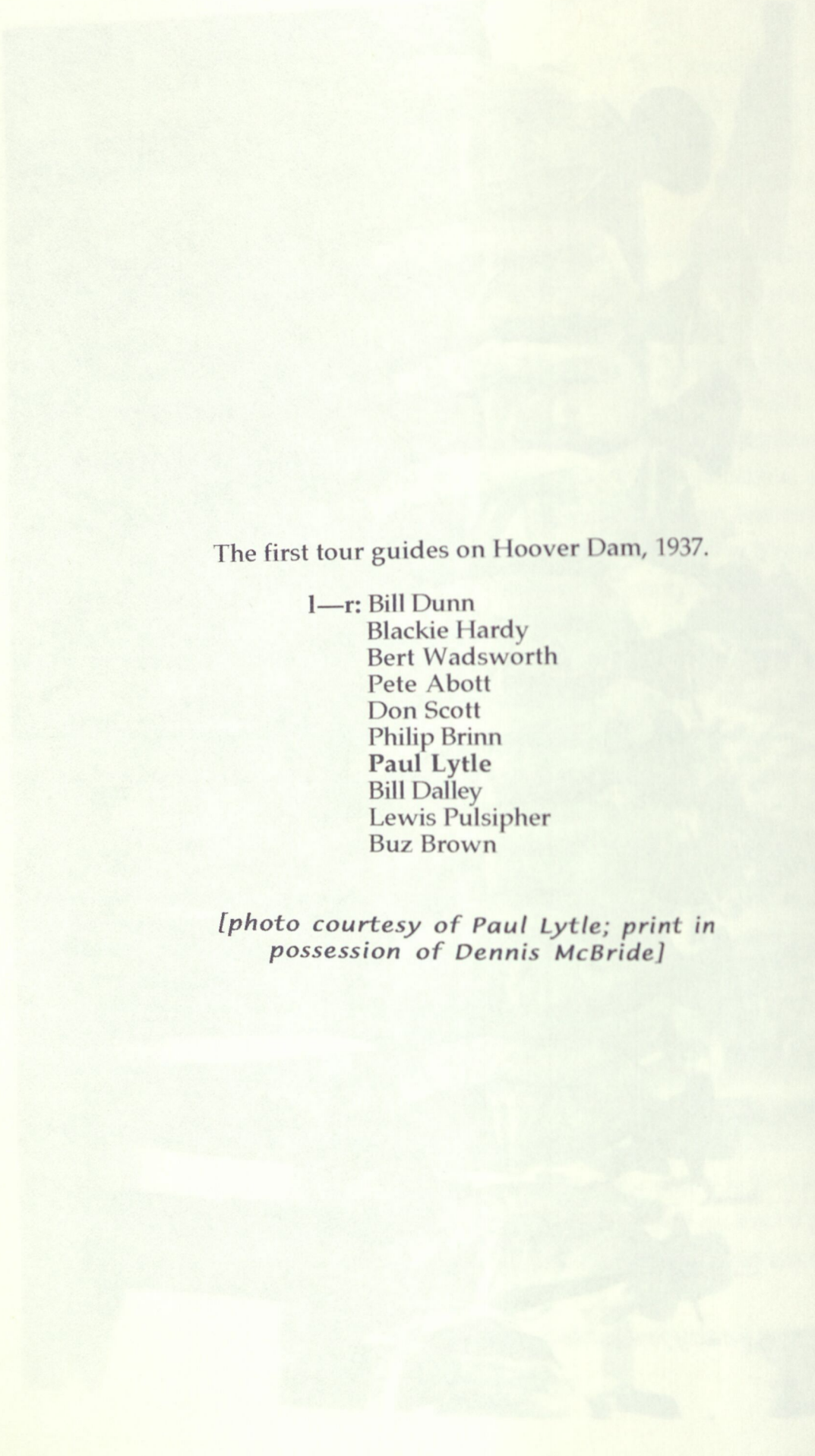
Once you got the lecture down pat, you could answer the questions easily. Of course, the dumb questions were another thing. And you had plenty of them.

Do you remember any of the dumb questions you used to get?

Oh, I've got about a hundred and fifty of them written down in a manual someplace. But a lot of people seeing a dam, for instance... . I've had them, when I've been out along the powerhouse ramp describing the structure of the dam, somebody would come up and say, "What's this big concrete thing behind us?" I said, "Well, look at it this way. We're here in the canyon. What do you suppose that thing is back up there?" I said they had to have something there to block that water and build Lake Mead behind it.

Were you among the very first guides?





The first tour guides on Hoover Dam, 1937.

l—r: Bill Dunn
Blackie Hardy
Bert Wadsworth
Pete Abott
Don Scott
Philip Brinn
Paul Lytle
Bill Dalley
Lewis Pulsipher
Buz Brown

*[photo courtesy of Paul Lytle; print in
possession of Dennis McBride]*

I was with the original group.

Do you remember the first time you led a tour group through the dam, the very first one you led?

Yes, I do.

What was it like? Was it very crowded?

You see, at that time we had as high as a 120 people to a tour. They were huge. And we had four guides on a shift. When I went to work, I'd had about two or three days to learn the lecture. And I got down there with that 120 people. I had one guide with me that was an old-timer. I described where we were and where we were going, but I was so scared that I didn't give all of the lecture as I was supposed to. With that many people. On top of that, I had a group of people that were hard of hearing. One of them had a big long horn that he'd stick up to his ear, and you were supposed to talk into that horn so he could hear you. Oh, I'd talk as loud as I could and be polite, but where you got that many people you're handling, you can't pay too much individual attention. You can't do it. So I moved my group on through and out onto the balcony.

At that time, when we first started tours, the carpenter at the dam had built a horn, which was sitting on a tripod five feet high, and the big end was an opening of about four feet. Then it tapered down to about a six-inch opening you were talking into.

Like a megaphone.

Yeah, a megaphone on the balcony. At that time they were stacking laminations on those rotors of the generators. They were stacking them with hammers and you could hardly hear yourself think, let alone give a lecture.

All we had was this large, old wooden horn to speak into, you know. Some of those workers had come up and put tar around the mouthpiece. You wouldn't know the tar was there, you were handling your people. I noticed it a few times and scraped it off, but I still got some tar on my face from trying to speak through the unit. That developed into quite a common thing for those guys.

Actually, I remember one time I had a large party I was taking through, and there was an old boy acting as a guide by the name of Meehee. And Meehee had false teeth. He was just ahead of me with about 120 people, and I was coming down the hallway. Well, I got practically to the balcony when he was still there. I noticed he was having a problem. He'd got up to this speaker and had stuck his face up to it and got tar all over his face, and he lost his false teeth. When I got there, I see those false teeth skitting across the terrazzo floor toward the balcony. I told my group to wait a few minutes, and I went over and picked up his teeth, brought them back to him. I kind of wiped off the tar from around his face. I said, "You better not give too much more of your lecture here because I'm right behind you, and there's another group coming in the hall and down in the elevators." So he said something to his group, they didn't have time for any more at that point. He walked them down the stairs and out on the ramp. After I got to thinking about it, it was quite comical the way it happened.

When you're handling that many people, and after so long a time, it gets to be monotonous. I've had people, when they put me in charge of the guide service down there, I've had some of the people I had working for me, they got to the point where they couldn't take it anymore. People would ask the same questions, and when you're asked the same questions over a hundred times a day, you can imagine what it'll do to you.

When you came down to work, the exhibit building wasn't open then,¹⁴ when you first came to work as a guide. Did you have a guide's changing room, or a place where the guides gathered before they opened the tours for the day, and then when they closed them down?

No, we'd come right down and park our car over on the Nevada spillway, or wherever we were assigned to park our cars. Then we'd have to go right over and take over. We'd have people lined up. I've had 2,000 people lined up from the Nevada elevator to the Arizona elevator, solid, wanting to make the tour. We had to start moving. I took the most people down in one day of anybody. I took 5,283 people through one day.

Was this early in your career?

Well, [when] they shut down the S. Rangers. The day it closed, I...

That was early. Before the war. 1939. I stayed all day. We started our tours at six [a.m.] and we closed the dam at ten o'clock [p.m.] I worked through two shifts to make that kind of a record. Well, we *didn't* have the guides and we *had* the people.

You said you started out with only four guides.

Four guides. And the other guides would come on at two o'clock, four more. You see, that was when the dam was fairly new and it was quite a project.

How long did they maintain just four guides [per shift]? When did they hire more?

A little later on they started to hire teachers to come in during the summer months when we were so busy.

Was that still before the war?

Before the war, and early part of the war.

But during the winter they felt it was slow enough they just maintained such a small [guide service]?

Just the regular guides.

I know from the research I've done that tourism, from the time they opened the dam to tours, right up until Pearl Harbor Day, there were more and more and more tourists. Do you remember Pearl Harbor Day and when they closed the dam at the start of the war?¹⁵ Were you still a guide then?

Yes.

Do you remember what happened that day, and right around that period when they closed the dam down to tours?

Well, [when] they shut down the guide service, they transferred us into the U. S. Rangers. The day it closed, I was working the late shift. The next morning,

they said, "You'll be taken over by the U. S. Ranger force." I stopped in and saw Chief Peterson,¹⁶ and he gave me an old .45 to pack on my hip. I was with the rangers until the army got me.

*The rangers were Boulder City's police force at that time, weren't they?*¹⁷

They were run by the government. The city was run by the government.

So you were no longer a guide at the dam who worked for the Bureau [of Reclamation], but you were a ...

U. S. Ranger.

What were your duties as a U. S. Ranger?

We had to patrol the dam and the surrounding area. We had outposts. We had three on the Arizona side and three or four on the Nevada side, and we had a post down on the Lower Portal Road to maintain and keep up. And I was on duty when the army came into the area. A little old lieutenant came in with two truckloads of soldiers and stopped by the switchyards just this side of the dam, and he says, "We're here to take over, Sir. What's the program?" Nobody told me they were coming in. So I said, well we've got three posts right here within a radius of two hundred yards. I said, there's one outpost here overlooking the lake where we have men stationed. And we have two here, or three at the switchyards up on high points where we can overlook the whole area. So I showed him where they all were, and they stationed men with our men. The army took over the guarding.

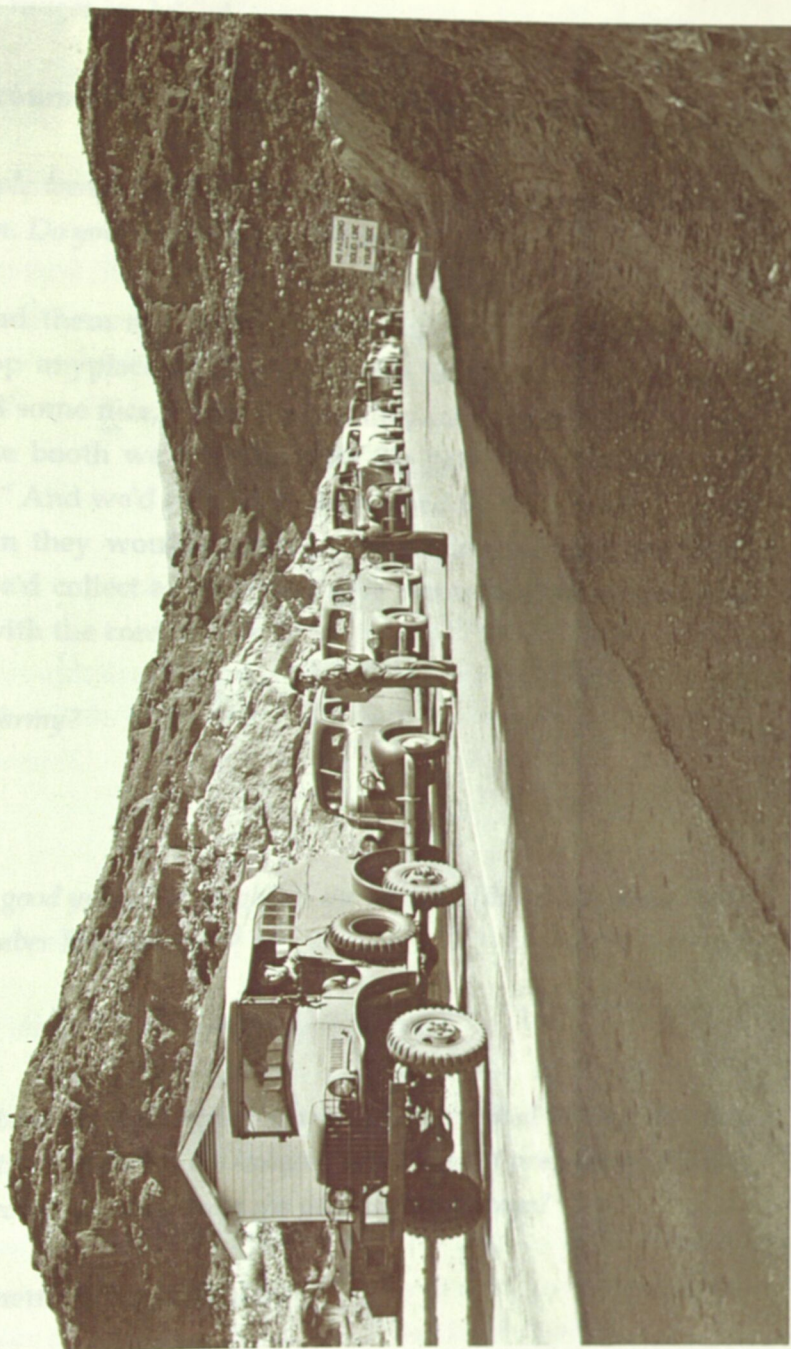
They had gates, didn't they, at that time?

We had gates at each end of the dam. And we convoyed cars across.

How many did you let stack up before you convoyed them through?

Oh, about ten to fifteen cars. And we'd put a car in front and a car behind, and we convoyed them across.

(e W. S. Russell photo, courtesy of the U. S. Bureau of Reclamation)



An automobile convoy ready to be escorted across Hoover Dam from the Arizona side. The command cars had at least two soldiers each, and their firearms included Springfield, Garand, and Browning automatics as well as side arms for non-commissioned officers. December 18, 1941

[a W. S. Russell photo, courtesy of the U. S. Bureau of Reclamation]

A ranger car in front and a ranger car behind.

Yes. And the army, of course, took over the regular posts.

I've heard, too, that the people weren't allowed to take pictures, they weren't allowed to roll their car windows down. Do you remember any of that?

Yeah. We definitely had them roll their windows up, and they moved right across. They couldn't stop anyplace. While they were lining up, why, some of those rangers would find some nice, round stones, they called them conk stones, and line them up by the booth we had there by the gate. People would say, "What's those stones for?" And we'd say, "They were used by the Buck Indians to control their wives when they wouldn't mind." "What do you want for 'em?" "Oh, dollar apiece." So we'd collect a dollar and give 'em a conk stone, and then they'd be on their way with the convoy!

When did you leave for the army?

Oh, early in '43.

So you were here still for a good year after we got in the war. I'd like to talk about that a little bit, too. Do you remember Bob Parker?¹⁸

Yes.

He told me a lot of stories about the dam during the war. He described netting that they had put over the canyon, stretched across the canyon. What kind of precautions did they take down at the dam for protection, aside from the guards and convoys?

I don't remember any netting, in particular.

Or cable, perhaps?

No. They had netting across the downstream face of the dam to keep anything from dropping to the powerhouse roof.

Was he killed?

They had a machine gun nest, lookout, on the Arizona side? I think it's still up there.

Yes. He went down, and they never even found the plane, I think. That was, it's still up there.

Was it a machine gun nest or just a lookout?

That was a machine gun nest. They had 50-caliber machine guns. They had two of them at that post right there. And they had two of them across the highway up on the Arizona point overlooking the dam from the other way. We had a boat patrol, also. I worked on the boat patrol.

Tell me about the boat patrol. Where did it launch from?

We launched from the tail bay just at the base of the dam. We had a house with a Chris Craft boat, and two of us would be on duty. We'd patrol the entire area from the dam clear up through the canyon. And sometimes it was kind of rough during foul weather in that little low Chris Craft, but we managed to make it. We had a spotlight on the unit.

It was a 24-hour patrol?

Um, hm. Of the lake area above the dam.

Was there pleasure-boating allowed on the lake during the war?

Not around the dam. We allowed them to come down to the mouth of the canyon, and there was signs there [that said] "No Trespassing Beyond This Point."

Do you remember an army or a navy plane crashing into the canyon just upstream from the dam?¹⁹ Do you remember that? About 1940 or '41. It was before Pearl Harbor.

Yes. He was patrolling, and he crashed right in above the net we had across the dam. We had a net strung from one side to the other.

Was he killed?

Yes. He went down, and they never even found the plane, I think. That was, must be, five hundred and some-odd feet deep right there against the dam.

*While they were building the dam they had the gate out here on the highway at the entrance to Boulder City, and then they took it down when the dam was finished. But I've heard that they had another gate that they put up during the war. Did you ever hear about that or see it?*²⁰

The only one I remember was the one beyond the outskirts of Boulder City, and they had a ranger on duty there where you came into the area. That was during the dam construction.

Was there anything like that here during the war that you remember?

Not that I know of.

Let's talk about Camp Williston.²¹ Is that where you went into the service?

After my basic training I told my sister, Virginia, that I'd like to transfer with the unit here in Boulder City if possible. So Colonel [Vicary] requested that I be sent to the unit here. So I was here for a year, and then [Camp Williston] closed down and I had to ship out.

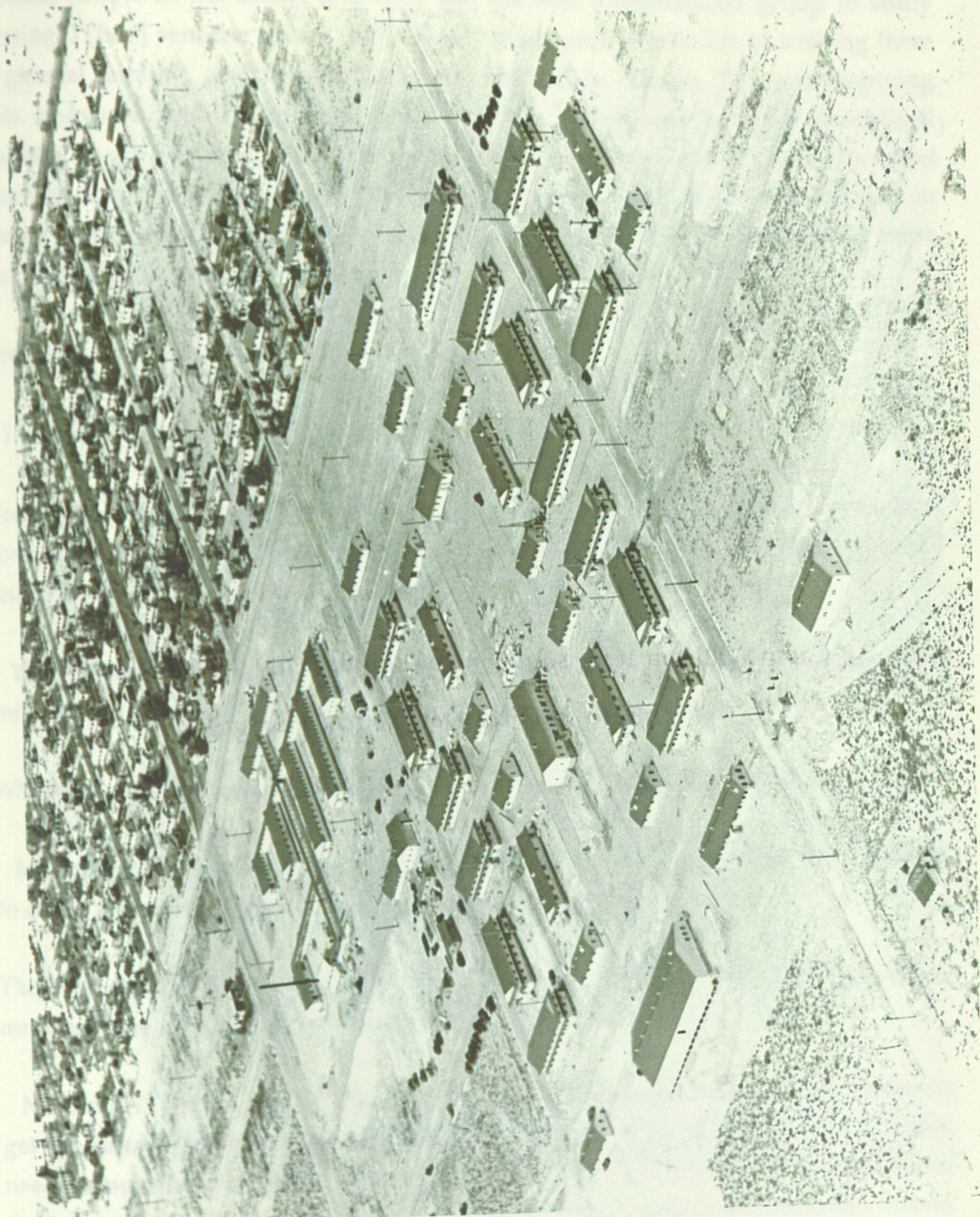
Were you drafted originally, or did you join?

I was drafted.

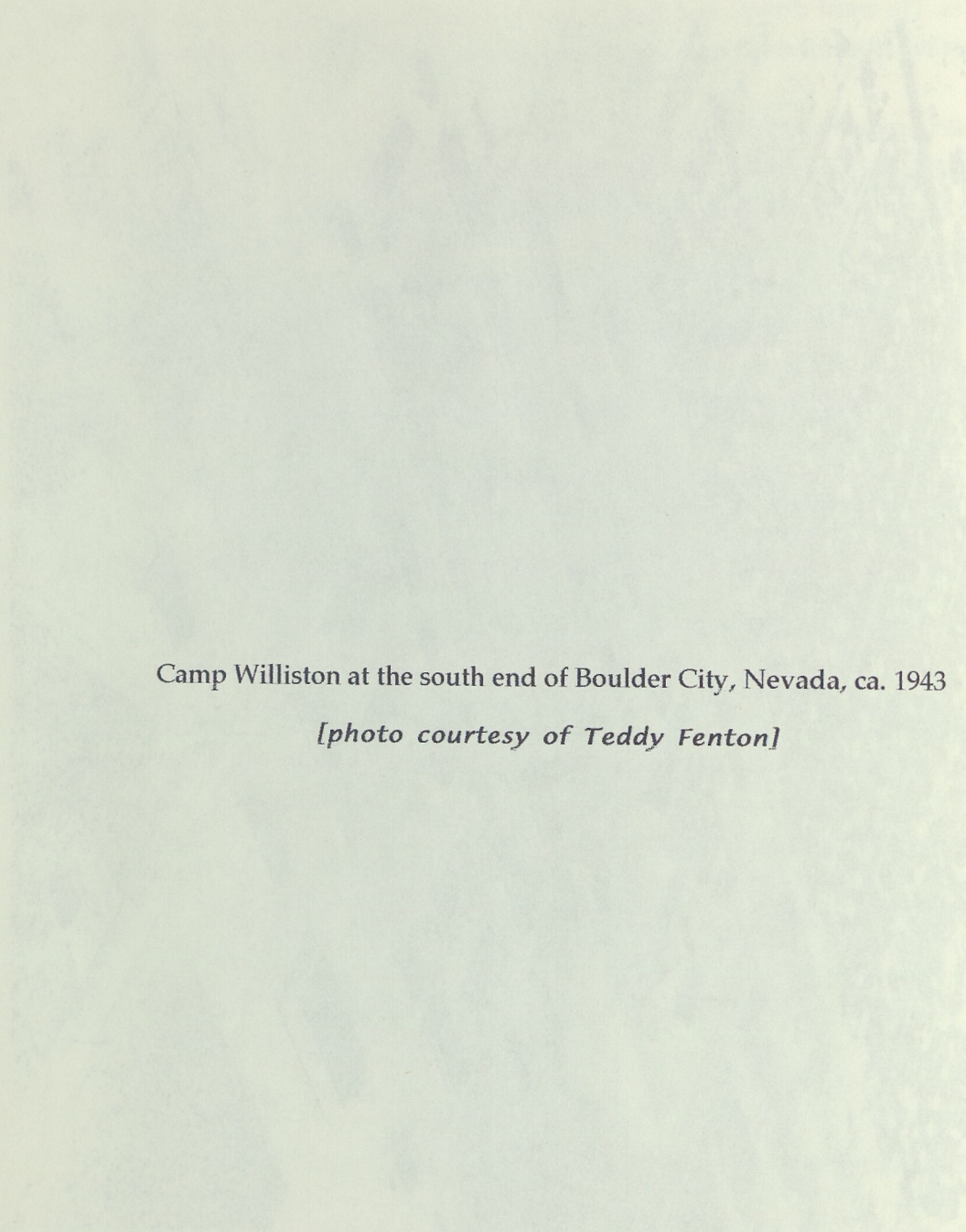
Where was your basic training at?

Boise, Idaho.

Six weeks?



why, they shipped the...



Camp Williston at the south end of Boulder City, Nevada, ca. 1943

[photo courtesy of Teddy Fenton]

[I was] at Boise, Idaho at least six weeks, and then I was transferred around. Finally, I was in a military police unit, and they decided they needed more medical people in the army, and they put me into a specialized group to study nursing. [They] sent me down to Ft. Bliss. I had quite a little bit of training there in general nursing, and finally I told the colonel in charge, "I'm just emptying pots and pans and doing just general work. I was sent here for specialized training to go overseas." And he said, "Well, we'll see about that." The next morning they called me from the unit and said, "Paul, we're putting you in charge of this ward temporarily." And they put me in specialized training there for a few weeks, and then I shipped overseas as a male nurse.

How long were you at Camp Williston?

I was here about a year, I guess.

I've got lots of pictures of Camp Williston, but I've never spoken to anybody who lived down there. Was that when you were a military policeman, or with the military police? I understand that that's what Camp Williston was, training for military police?

Yes, that's what the primary purpose of the camp was. They had the 351st military police unit there, and then they had our unit taking care of the base.

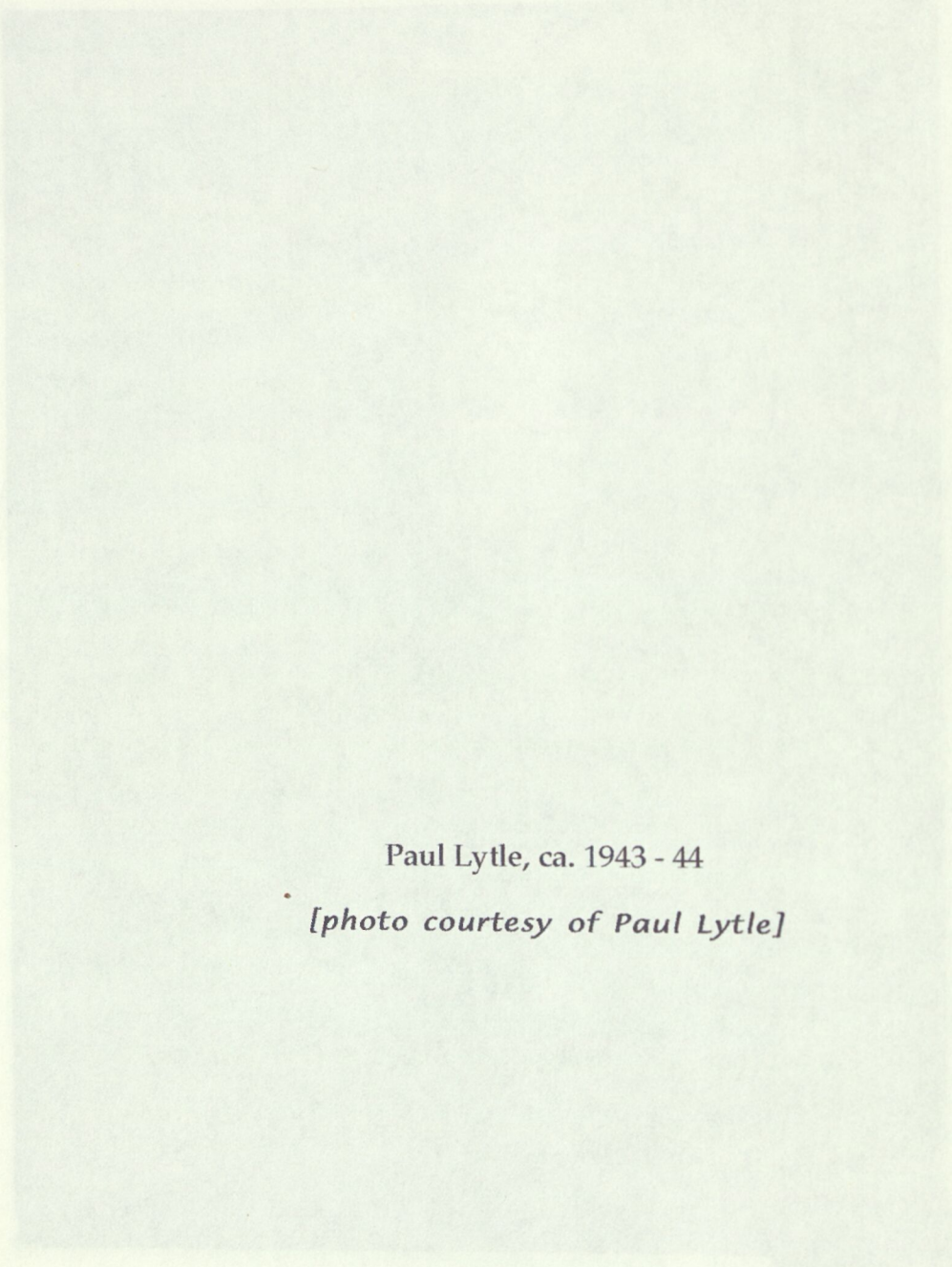
When you say taking care of, do you mean maintaining, the maintenance [of the camp]?

Maintaining the place. For instance, we had charge of the garbage unit. We had to chase around and guard prisoners. That type of thing.

They had a hospital down there, didn't they? Were you involved in the hospital at all, or was this before the [medical] training you had?

No, I didn't get any training there at all. They shipped me back to Ft. Custer to get specialized training in the military police unit. And then they decided they needed more help overseas in the medical service, so they shipped me around down here to Ft. Bliss for specialized training. When I raised hell with the colonel, why, they shipped me out as a male nurse out of Camp Lucky Strike.





Paul Lytle, ca. 1943 - 44

[photo courtesy of Paul Lytle]

Camp Lucky Strike? Where was that at?

That was in New Jersey.

Were you shipped over to Europe?

We had to wind through sunken ships and one thing and another at La Havre port there on the French coast. We ran into a little trouble with U-boats as we crossed the English Channel. We were dumping depth charges over the side to keep from being hit by a U-boat. We had about 40 ships in our convoy.

How long were you in Europe, then?

I was in Europe about a year, up in Valenciennes, and also I was shipped into southern Germany for awhile for special service. I was pulling the guys out of trucks and bringing them into the hospital. Then they shipped me down into the South Pacific... . We were there for awhile, and then they shifted me and the 39th Infantry Division, and I came home with them, finally, by the time the war was over with. '45, along in there.

I'd like to go back to Camp Williston briefly. What kind of accommodations did they have for you in Camp Williston?

Oh, they had regular army barracks. They had a mess hall, and they had a hospital. It was a well-organized post.

Did it remind you something of the CCC barracks?

It reminded me somewhat of them, yes! So I was kind of accustomed to the routine.

Do you remember Earl Brothers?²²

Yes. Very well.

He used to put on shows for the soldiers at Camp Williston at the theater. Tell me how you met Earl Brothers, or how you remember him.

I met him first through the camp. Earl Brothers had a Well, I don't know where he was living at the time. He gave special parties for us at the dam when I was a guard and a ranger and a guide. He entertained the guide service at special parties at the Riviera,²³ and Railroad Pass²⁴ out here. He was very public-spirited. I got to know him real well from that association.

When you got back from the war, you came back to Boulder City?

Yes.

Where did you go back to work at?

I went to work with the guide service. The guide service had opened up and they called me up here on the hill [Bureau of Reclamation Administration Building], wanted to know if I was ready to go back to work. And I said, "Yes." And they put me in as a supervisor at the dam.

Had it changed much in the years in between when you started as a guide?

No, it hadn't changed much. The tour was about the same. We had lots of people, of course. So I was pretty well-acquainted with the situation. I went from a supervisor to chief guide, and in charge of public relations for years.

The exhibit building had been under construction at the time [the war broke out].

Under construction, but not in operation.

I had heard the soldiers used it to sleep in down on the dam.

Yes, they did.

Then after the war was over they'd just opened the exhibit building?

See, they didn't even have the winged figures or the monument there. I remember when they were working on that. I knew Oskar J. W. Hansen very well. He was the designer and sculptor of the set-up.²⁵

They were still putting that together when you [were a guide]? I had heard a story about the way that they set the bases for the statues, how they got them to fit down into the concrete, or down into the terrazzo. Do you remember how they did that?

Well, they had to lower it down exactly into position in the right angle and shape, or way. They used this black granite, you know.

Diorite.

Diorite, yes. And it had to be exactly according to Hansen's ideas. Everything had to be very precise. He said that they would have something there in time to come, if something destroyed this area, like an earthquake, they could look on that monument and say [that] that's what the people of that particular age and time did. That was his objective in the placement of the star clusters. And the entire monument was built on a 25,000-year cycle, mind you. And all the major events that had happened since the time the dam was being built ... had to coincide with the major events of the time. They had to be very, very explicit and exact measurements.

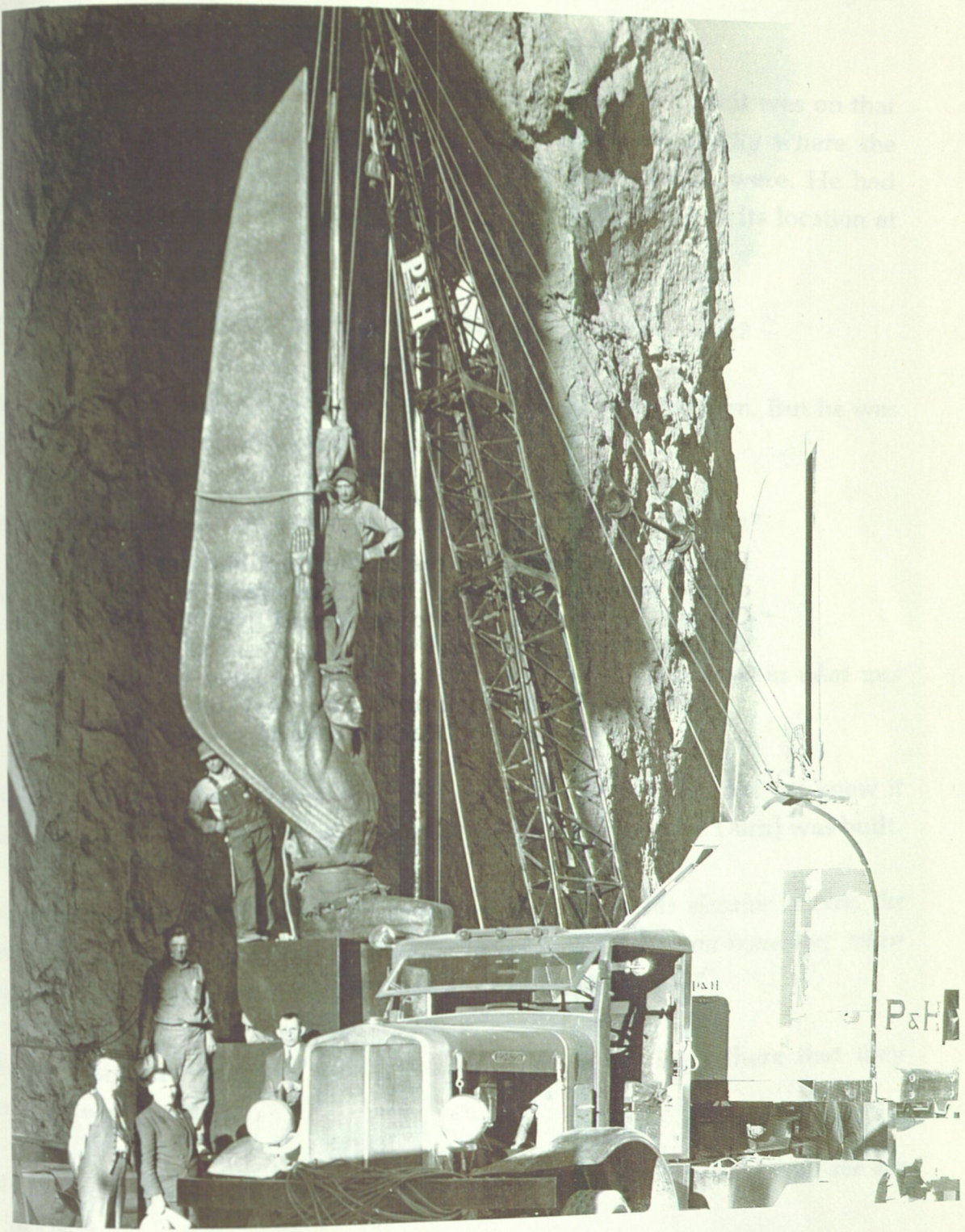
It sounds like Hansen was a man with a very broad vision, very forward-looking. Did you speak with him very much?

I spoke with him quite a bit. But when he talked in terms of the placement of the stars in their exact position as they were on September [30], 1935 when the dam was [dedicated], he got beyond me. I couldn't fathom the whole story as he explained it.

Was he a friendly man? He sounds like he was easy to approach.

He was easy to approach, but you couldn't get much out of him because he knew what he was doing and nobody else knew how!

...the way they were thinking on the 19th and 20th and 21st they did



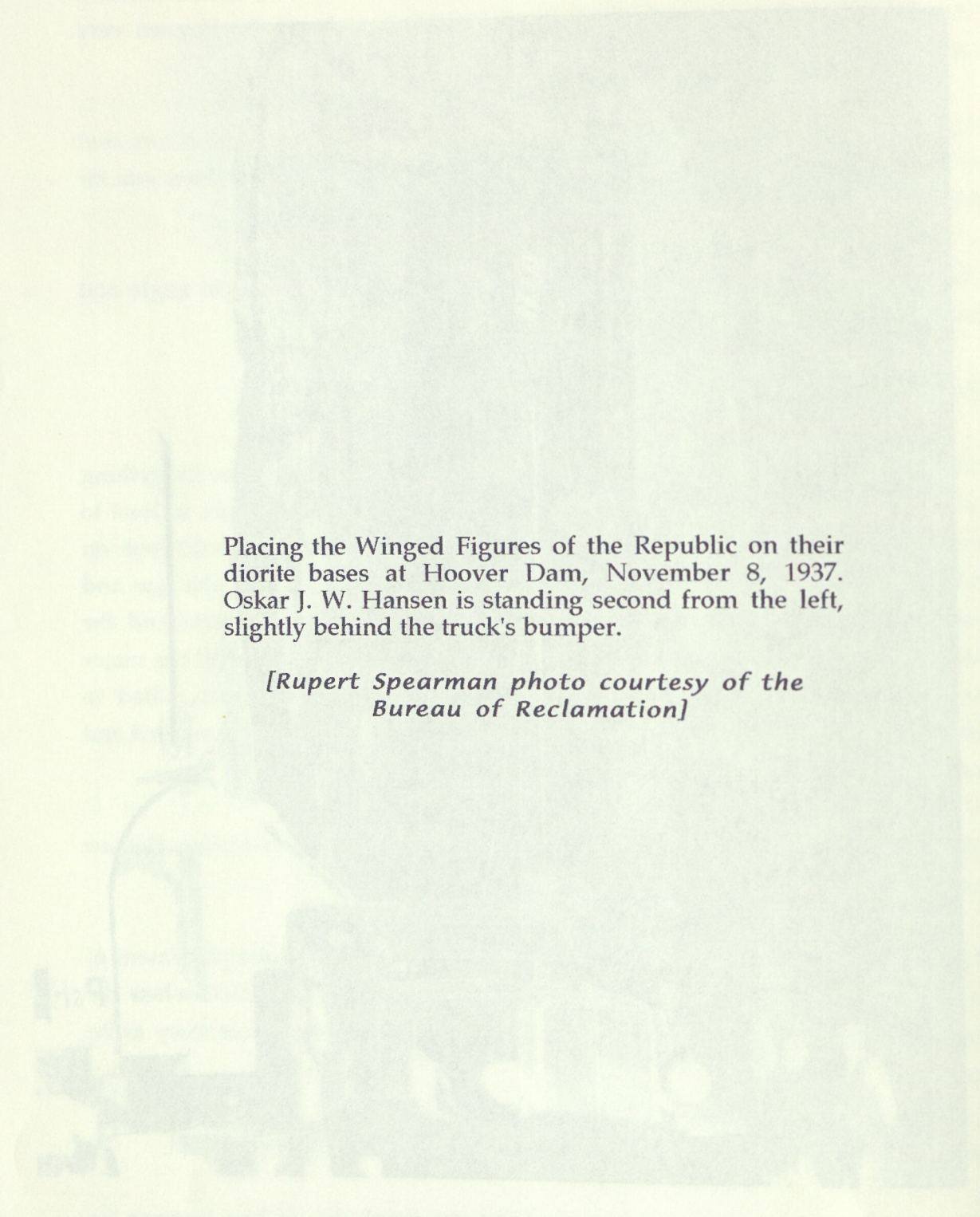
...was on that
...where the
...He had
...the location at

...But he was

...the way

P&H

...that they did



Placing the Winged Figures of the Republic on their diorite bases at Hoover Dam, November 8, 1937. Oskar J. W. Hansen is standing second from the left, slightly behind the truck's bumper.

*[Rupert Spearman photo courtesy of the
Bureau of Reclamation]*

Do you remember seeing him working on the terrazzo and designs? How did they do this?

They had the framework all in place exactly as he wanted it, as it was on that specific date. He knew *exactly* where the sun was, he knew *exactly* where the Pleiades were, he knew *exactly* where the other points of interest were. He had the terrazzo put in just exactly as he wanted it with everything in its location at that particular time.

Did he actually do any of the hands-on work, or did he supervise workmen?

No, he was supervising. They had a special crew of terrazzo men. But he was right there watching every move they made.

Were they doing all this while you were conducting tours through the dam?

Oh, yes.

Did you get very much question about that? Were the tourists interested in what was going on?

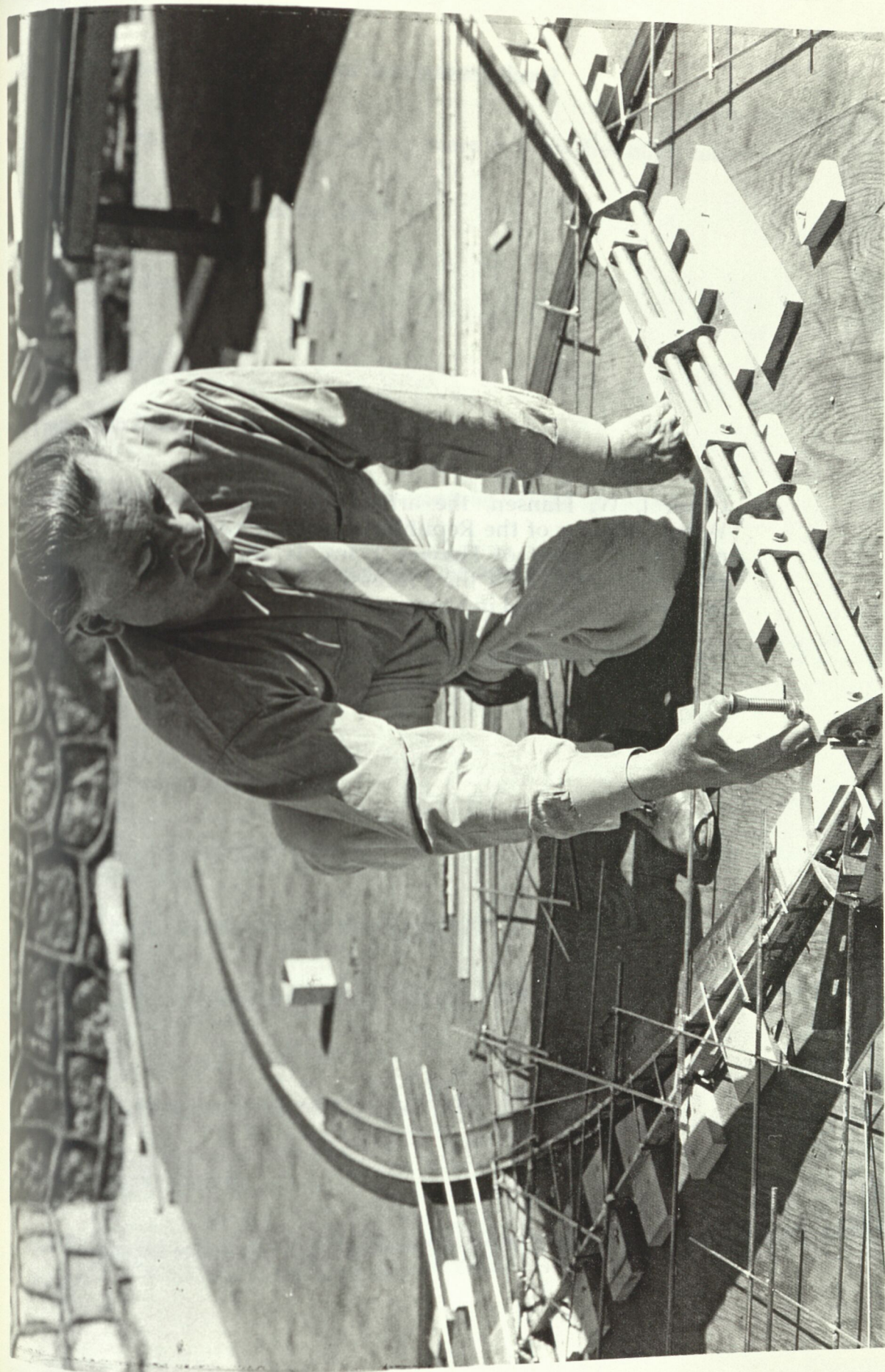
No, they weren't too interested. We just said it was a star map, that we knew it was very precise and to the point in relation to the time [Hoover Dam] was built.

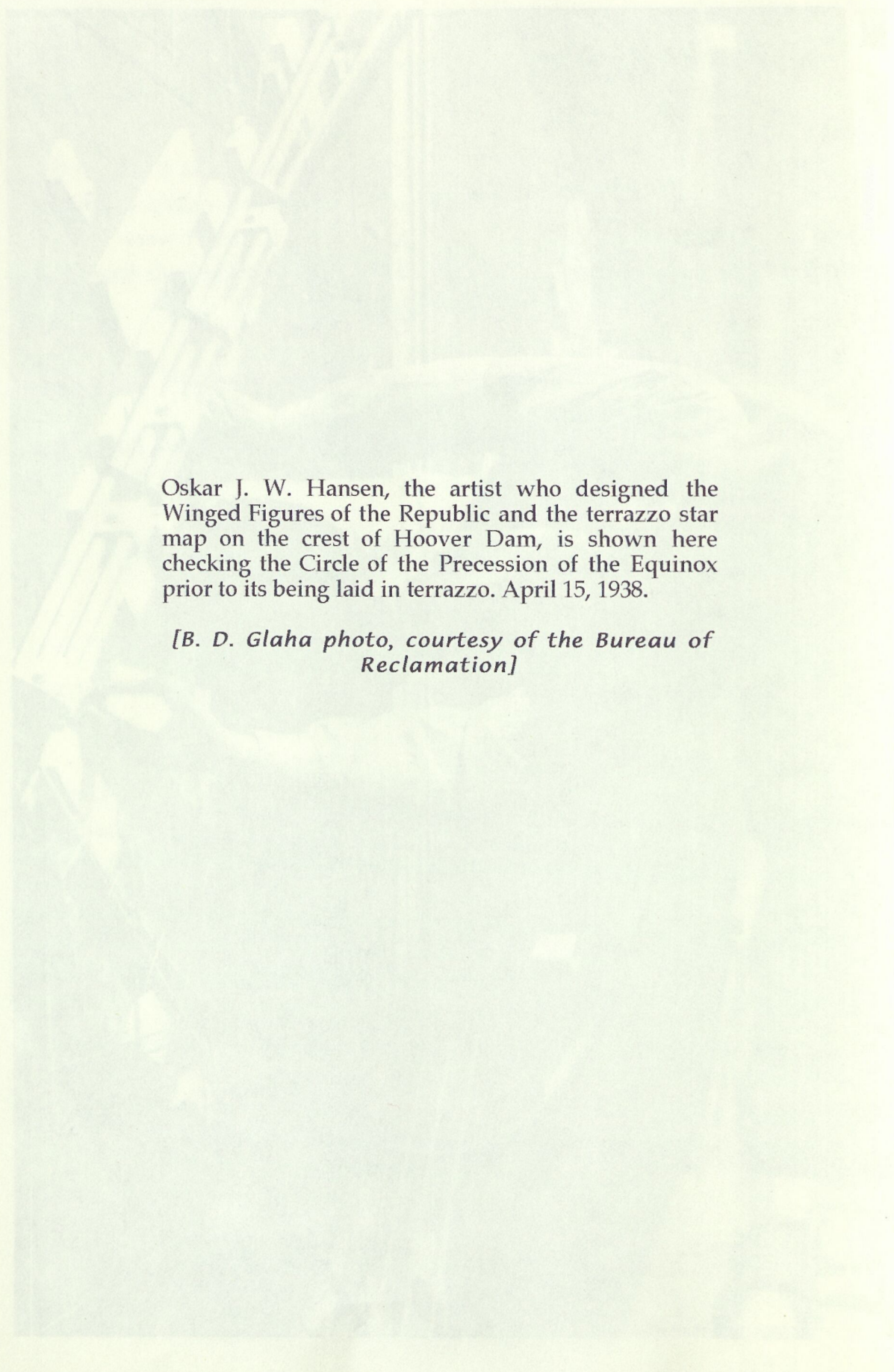
Do you remember when they were building the sculptures in the elevator towers, the ones that are facing out on the top of the dam, the bas-reliefs? Do you remember when they were putting those together? Did [Hansen] design those as well?

Yes, he designed them, but that was a little bit before I got there that they started the work on them.

Later on, I think, they painted them? This would be after the war, much later, in the 40s or 50s, I think.

I think they did.





Oskar J. W. Hansen, the artist who designed the Winged Figures of the Republic and the terrazzo star map on the crest of Hoover Dam, is shown here checking the Circle of the Precession of the Equinox prior to its being laid in terrazzo. April 15, 1938.

[B. D. Glaha photo, courtesy of the Bureau of Reclamation]

Do you have any idea why they would have painted them?

To make them stand out because they were right in the rough concrete.

How long did you stay down at the dam?

Thirty-five years.

When did you retire?

I retired on February 29, 1972.

Do you remember, then, in 1962, the first man who jumped off the dam?²⁶

No, I don't think I was there at the time he jumped off.

Didn't your wife own the Mother Goose Shop?²⁷

Um, hm.

Were you married at that time?

Yes. I married her in 1941, I think.

She opened the Mother Goose shop during the war, didn't she?²⁸

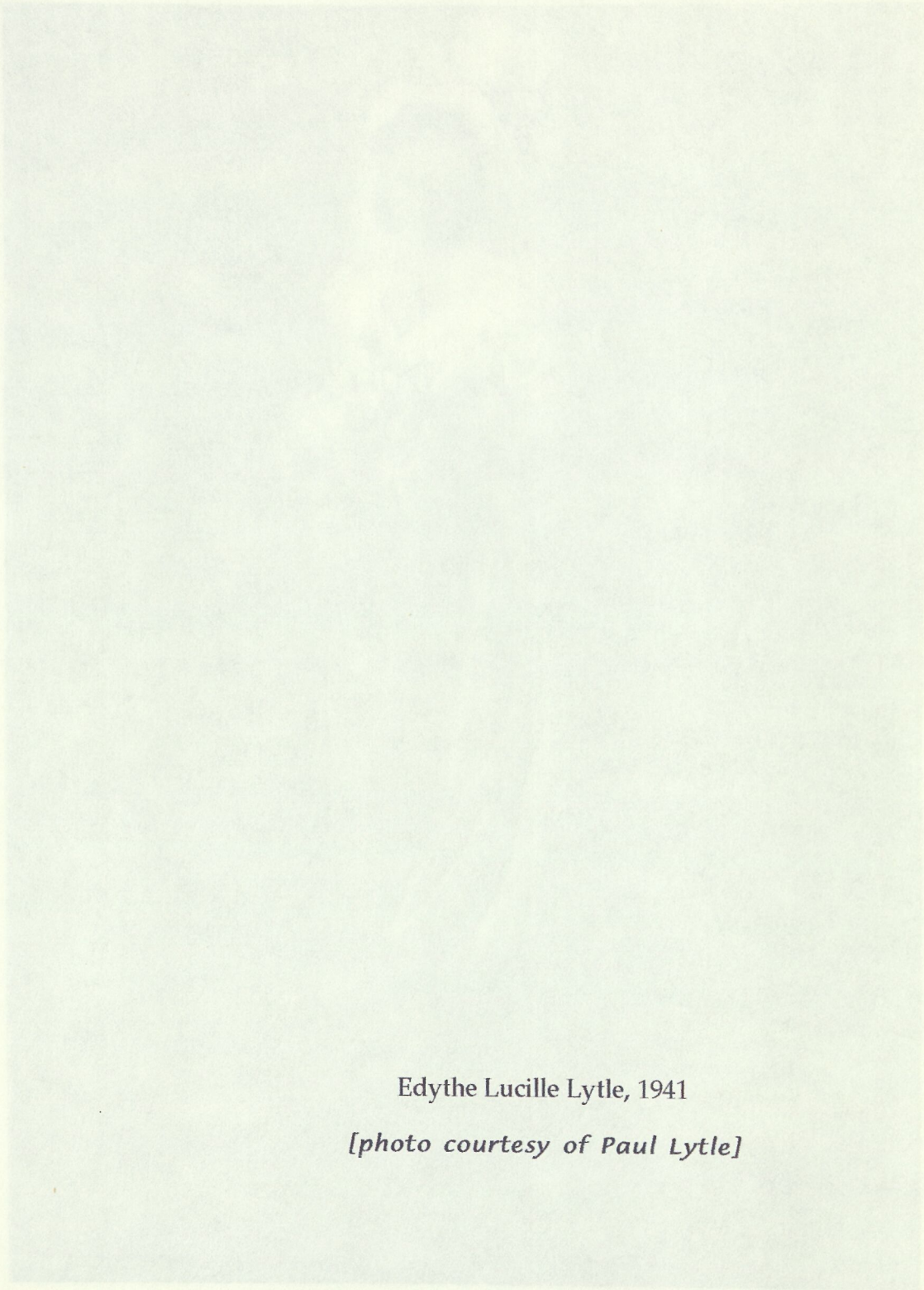
Um, hm. You remember when the city changed over from government control?

Incorporation. Were you involved in incorporation?²⁹

I wasn't involved in it.

How did you feel about the city becoming a private corporation, out of government control?





Edythe Lucille Lytle, 1941

[photo courtesy of Paul Lytle]

I thought it was a good step forward because your government, as they wanted it, they couldn't have much advantage in the way of growth, the way the government was handling it.

Was he working down there? Down what?

They didn't allow liquor, they didn't allow gambling, they didn't allow anything like they had in Las Vegas. They also didn't allow large-scale development like we had later. How did you feel about living in Boulder City where there was so much control over what you could and couldn't do?

them. Especially the one on the

I didn't mind it, actually. I thought it was for the best interest of the city. I liked the city as it was because of the smallness. I don't like what's happening now.

they're doing inside. I've been keeping

Getting too big?

I think they're doing something. I've been keeping

Gonna get on getting bigger.

Before we wrap it up, I'd like to know your opinion about all of the work that's going on down at the dam now: the new tourist center, the elevators, the whole thing. Have you thought much about that or kept up with what's going on down there?

I don't particularly like what they're doing, although I can see it has an advantage. For instance, I think building those grotesque-looking buildings at the west end of the dam there, the elevators, and the pathway from the parking facility down under the highway into the elevators, it's probably a good idea with so many people. But I've always thought it spoiled the general aesthetic view of the dam. In other words, that big modern-looking building there against a structure that was finished in 1935. I thought there's too much of a difference.

How do you feel about the money they've spent on it?

I think it's way, way overdone. But it's like everything else. They have to continue doing it now they've started it.

You going to take a tour down there when it's all done?

Oh, I'll take a tour once in a while. J. Paul [Lytle, Jr.] took me down through it, showed me the construction work when he was working there.

Was he working down there? Doing what?

NOTES

He was working with the group that were building the new framework over the penstocks for the visitors. The visitors walk out through the tunnels over a platform. He put in the new platforms and the walls and the framework for them. Especially the one on the Nevada side.

I haven't been down in the dam since they started all that work, so I don't know what they're doing inside. I've been keeping track of what they're doing up top, though.

I think they're doing something I suppose has to be done.

END

NOTES

1. Springerville and Eagar are at the central eastern boundary of Arizona and New Mexico, at the junction of U. S. Highways 666 and 60.
2. Dixie College is in St. George, Utah. Mr. Lytle graduated from a two-year program.
3. Mr. Lytle is mistaken in the date he first heard about the Civilian Conservation Corps. President Roosevelt signed Executive Order No. 6101 establishing the Corps on April 5, 1933.
4. The Charleston Peak CCC camp was established through the Clark County Farm Bureau in May 1933 and occupied on June 5. Paul Lytle is listed as among the first 36 boys selected for the camp. Both camps were occupied only during summer. See the *Las Vegas Age* for 5.18.33, 1:3 and 3:7 ["Clark County Conservation Corps Members Are Named"], and 5.21.33, 1:3 ["Physical Exams for Clark County Forest Army Monday" (Lytle is named in this article)].
5. While it was the U. S. Army which eventually built and operated the CCC camps, there was still some confusion in the Corps' early days over which Cabinet department would have this responsibility. Mr. Lytle's recollection that the Charleston Peak CCC camp was built and operated by the U. S. Army Air Corps out of Riverside, California may be correct.
6. Kaolin, Nevada was a small community just north of St. Thomas, Nevada, settled in 1910 by Armenian members of the Mormon Church. St. Thomas, Nevada was a Mormon farming community founded in 1865 near the confluence of the Virgin and Muddy Rivers in the lower end of the Moapa Valley. The Kaolin Reservoir was a favorite swimming hole for children from St. Thomas, St. Joseph, and Overton. The sites of both Kaolin and St. Thomas today lie beneath Lake Mead's Overton Arm. [See *100 Years on the Muddy*, compiled by Arabell Lee Hafner (Springville, UT: Art City Publishing Company, 1967), pp. 281-291.]
7. Blocks 16 and 17 were Las Vegas's red light district, established in 1905 when the San Pedro, Los Angeles, and Salt Lake Railroad laid out Las Vegas. Gambling, prostitution, and liquor flourished in these blocks until the eve of World War II. The Las Vegas Army Airfield [now known as Nellis Air Force Base] was established on January 23, 1941. President Roosevelt signed the May Act on July 11, 1941 which prohibited prostitution near military bases and

defense centers. Block 16 was closed down in January 1942 and demolished shortly afterward.

8. Nationally famous for the cantaloupes produced on its farms, St. Thomas was abandoned and completely inundated by Lake Mead in 1938.
9. The Red Mountain Hiking Trail was built by enrollees of Boulder City's CCC Company 573 in 1937-38. This trail was built entirely by hand, reinforced with native rock, provided with drainage culverts and was made three feet wide to accommodate horses. The trail also accommodated the desert big horn sheep who live in the River Mountains. About halfway up the mountain, the trail passes through a forest of miniature desert fir trees, none of them over three feet tall. The trail ends on the east peak of Red Mountain, 3,650 feet above sea level. This trail has been repaired and re-dedicated.
10. Public tours were commenced on May 28, 1937.
11. Brothers Fay [Sr.] and John Perkins in 1924 were the original discoverers of Nevada's Lost City pueblo ruins [also known as the Pueblo Grande de Nevada] along the Muddy River above St. Thomas. Paul Lytle's mother, Mary Vee Perkins, was the sister of Fay Perkins, Sr. Fay Perkins, Jr., who, together with his father, Fay Sr., helped supervise the CCC boys in their excavations at the Lost City, was Paul Lytle's first cousin.
12. Sims Ely [1862-1954] was Boulder City's manager from October 3, 1931 until he retired on April 16, 1941.
13. Elizabeth Northcutt Ely, who died in Las Vegas on January 7, 1940.
14. Under construction in 1941, the opening of the original Hoover Dam exhibit building was delayed by Japan's attack on Pearl Harbor and America's entry into World War II. The exhibit building was dedicated and opened during a ceremony on Friday, October 25, 1946 as part of the decennial of Hoover Dam power production.
15. Hoover Dam was closed to the public on Monday, December 8, 1941, and reopened on September 2, 1945.
16. Police Chief Charles F. Peterson died January 5, 1959. And see the *Las Vegas Evening Review Journal*, December 10, 1941, 3:1-2, "Dam Guides are Added to Force of Bureau Rangers."
17. Before Boulder City was incorporated, its police force was made up of U. S. Rangers who worked for the Bureau of Reclamation.
18. A prominent citizen who came to work on Hoover Dam in 1931. Parker was interviewed as part of the Boulder City Library Oral History Project on June 2 and November 9, 1986 [transcripts available at the Boulder City Library]. Mr. Parker died on February 27, 1994.

19. On August 11, 1940, a new Vultee BT 13 training plane, part of a group flying from Los Angeles to Kelly Field, Texas, struck a cable stretched across Black Canyon about a quarter mile upstream from Hoover Dam. The plane flipped and crashed into Lake Mead, killing pilot Laurence Wernberg. The plane was never recovered. [See the *Las Vegas Evening Review-Journal* for 8.12.40, 1:2-3; 8.13.40, 1:4-5; and 8.14.40, 3:5.]
20. On August 10, 1931, responding to a labor strike on the Hoover Dam Project, the Bureau of Reclamation established a gate at the entrance to the Boulder Canyon Project Federal Reservation near Railroad Pass. Anyone wishing to enter Boulder City had to stop at the gate for questioning, and could not enter without being issued a pass. The gate was taken down on March 16, 1936. On April 1, 1937, small tourist checkpoints and information booths, manned by Civilian Conservation Corps enrollees, were put into operation at the west entrance to Boulder City and on the Arizona side of Hoover Dam.
21. Camp Williston, originally known as Camp Sibert [the name was changed on September 30, 1942], on the southern outskirts of Boulder City, was occupied on April 11, 1941. A training facility for military police, Camp Williston was abandoned on April 30, 1944.
22. Earl Brothers was a Boulder City businessman and entrepreneur. Brothers owned and operated at various times in his career the Boulder Theatre, the Visitor's Bureau, the Victory Theatre in Henderson, Nevada, and commercial and tourist facilities at Willow Beach and at Page, Arizona. He died in Boulder City on June 2, 1967.
23. The Riviera Hotel and Casino in Las Vegas, which opened on April 21, 1955.
24. The Railroad Pass Hotel and Casino, on the western outskirts of Boulder City, which opened on August 1, 1931.
25. Oskar J. W. Hansen [1892-1971] was the celebrated Norwegian sculptor who designed the Winged Figures of the Republic at Hoover Dam, as well as the terrazzo star map at the base of the figures, the concrete bas-reliefs set into the elevator towers, and the workers' memorial tablet.
26. This was Harry Hart Hall, a Fremont Hotel and Casino case keeper, who was the first person to commit suicide by jumping off Hoover Dam. Hall jumped off the Nevada side of the downstream face of the dam on July 5, 1962.
27. Edythe Lucille Lytle.
28. Mrs. Lytle opened the Mother Goose Shop on September 28, 1942 in a building on the corner of Avenue B and Wyoming Street [see the *Boulder City News* for 9.16.42 (1:4) and 9.26.42 (1:2)]. The Mother Goose Shop opened in a new building at 517 Avenue C [Hotel Plaza] on September 9, 1947 [see the *Boulder City News* for 9.8.47 (1:5)].

29. The process of Boulder City's incorporation from federal control commenced with the separation study of Boulder City known as the *Reining Report* [released June 15, 1950], and was completed with incorporation ceremonies held on January 4, 1960.

Index

* * * *

- Air Corps, U. S.: in charge of first CCC camp in Clark County, 4, 36n3
- Baker, Earl, 14
- Block 16 [Las Vegas, NV], 11-12, 36n7
- Bodie Canyon, Nevada, 14, 15
- Boulder City: incorporation of, 31-32, 37n29
- Bridges, Earl, 27-28, 36n22
- Buckeye, Nevada, 12
- Charleston, Mt.: CCC camps at Lee's Canyon and Deer Creek, 3-8, 10-11
- Collin Conservation Corps [CCC]: first company in Clark County, 3-16, 36n3; food, clothing, 4; camp musicians, 5-6, 8, 10; description of Mt. Charleston camps, 6-7; work projects at Mt. Charleston, 6-7; camp at Kaolin, Nevada, 8-9, 12-14, 36n6; work projects in Valley of Fire State Park, 13, 13-14, and National Park Service, 13; militarization of, 16; building trails in the Fire Mountains, 14, 15-16, 36n9
- Deer Creek [Mt. Charleston, Nevada]: CCC camp at, 4, 5
- Deer College [St. George, UT], 3, 36n2
- Flag, Arizona, 1, 2, 36n1
- Fl, Elizabeth Northcutt, 17-18, 35n13
- Fl, Northcutt, 18
- Fl, Ross, 16-18, 35n12, 35n13
- Flora in Boulder City, 28, 36n20
- Geary Hotel [St. Thomas, NV], 12
- Hart, Harry: as first suicide on Hoover Dam [1962], 36n26
- Hansen, Oskar J. W., 29-31, 36n25 [photo follows p. 28]
- Hoover Dam: guide service, 15, 18-21, 28-31; on Hoover Dam in World War II, 21-25; in World War II, 25-27; on Oskar J. W. Hansen, 29-31; retirement, 31; on upgraded tourist facilities at Hoover Dam, 32-33 [photo follows p. 34]
- Miller, Colonel, 12, 14
- Mormons: studies into southwest, 1
- Mother Goose Shop [Boulder City], 31, 36n28
- Muddy River [NV], 36n11
- Nellis Air Force Base [Las Vegas]: and Block 16, 36n7
- Overton, Nevada, 1, 2, 12; CCC camp at Kaolin, near Overton, 7, 8, 12-13
- Robert T. Robert "Bob", 23, 35n18
- Roberts, Fay [St.], 36n11
- Roberts, Fay [St.], 16, 36n11
- Roberts, John, 36n11
- Roberts, Mary Ann, 36n11
- Ryan, J., Clark, A., 22, 36n16
- Tracy, Fred, 5
- Unincorporated [of Boulder City], 31-32, 37n29
- Unincorporated, Nevada, 8, 12, 36n6
- Lake Mead: ranger patrols on during World War II, 24; plane crash in [1940], 24-25, 36n19
- Las Vegas, Nevada: CCC boys visiting, 11-12
- Las Vegas Army Airfield. See Nellis Air Force Base
- Lee's Canyon [Mt. Charleston, NV]: CCC camp at, 3-8, 10-11
- Los Angeles, California, 2
- Lost City [NV], 36n11
- Lytie, Edythe Lucille, 31, 36n27, 36n28
- Lytie, John Paul, Jr., 33
- Lytie, Paul: childhood, 1-2; education, 3, 9; on the first CCC company in Clark County, 3-16; on Kaolin, NV, 8, 12; on Valley of Fire State Park, 9, 13-14; on St. Thomas, NV, 12; leaves CCCs, 14; on the Red Mountain Hiking Trail, 14, 15-16; in Hoover Dam guide service, 15, 18-21, 28-31; on Hoover Dam in World War II, 21-25; in World War II, 25-27; on Oskar J. W. Hansen, 29-31; retirement, 31; on upgraded tourist facilities at Hoover Dam, 32-33 [photo follows p. 34]

Index

- Air Corps, U. S.: in charge of first CCC camp in Clark County, 4, 34n5
- Banister, Earl, 14
- Block 16 [Las Vegas, NV], 11-12, 34n7
- Bootleg Canyon, Nevada: 14, 15
- Boulder City: incorporation of, 31-32, 37n29
- Brothers, Earl, 27-28, 36n22
- Bunkerville, Nevada, 12
- Charleston, Mt.: CCC camps at Lee's Canyon and Deer Creek, 3-8, 10-11
- Civilian Conservation Corps [CCC]: first company in Clark County, 3-16, 34n3, 34n4; clothing, 4; camp musicians, 5-6, 8, 10; description of Mt. Charleston camps, 6; work projects at Mt. Charleston, 6-7; camp at Kaolin, Nevada, 8-9, 12-14, 34n6; work projects in Valley of Fire State Park, 8-9, 13-14; and National Park Service, 13; militarization of, 14; building trails in the River Mountains, 14, 15-16, 35n9
- Deer Creek [Mt. Charleston, Nevada]: CCC camp at, 4, 6
- Dixie College [St. George, UT], 3, 34n2
- Eagar, Arizona, 1, 2, 34n1
- Ely, Elizabeth Northcutt, 17-18, 35n13
- Ely, Northcutt, 18
- Ely, Sims, 16-18, 35n12, 35n13
- gate: in Boulder City, 25, 36n20
- Gentry Hotel [St. Thomas, NV], 12
- Hall, Harry Hart: as first suicide on Hoover Dam [1962], 36n26
- Hansen, Oskar J. W., 29-31, 36n25 [*photo follows p. 28*]
- Hoover Dam: guide service, 15, 18-21, 35n10 [*photo follows p. 18*]; exhibit building, 20, 28, 35n14; in World War II, 21-25, 28, 35n15, 36n19; automobile convoys, 22-23 [*photo follows p. 22*]; and Oskar J. W. Hansen, 29-31, 36n25 [*photo follows p. 28*]; art and monuments, 29-31 [*photo follows p. 28*]; upgraded tourist facilities, 32-33; first suicide at, 36n26
- incorporation [of Boulder City], 31-32, 37n29
- Kaolin, Nevada, 8, 12, 34n6
- Lake Mead: ranger patrols on during World War II, 24; plane crash in [1940], 24-25, 36n19
- Las Vegas, Nevada: CCC boys visiting, 11-12
- Las Vegas Army Airfield. *See* Nellis Air Force Base
- Lee's Canyon [Mt. Charleston, NV]: CCC camp at, 3-8, 10-11
- Los Angeles, California, 2
- Lost City [NV], 35n11
- Lytle, Edythe Lucille, 31, 36n27, 36n28
- Lytle, John Paul, Jr., 33
- Lytle, Paul: childhood, 1-2; education, 3, 9; on the first CCC company in Clark County, 3-16; on Kaolin, NV, 8, 12; on Valley of Fire State Park, 9, 13-14; on St. Thomas, NV, 12; leaves CCCs, 14; on the Red Mountain Hiking Trail, 14, 15-16; in Hoover Dam guide service, 15, 18-21, 28-31; on Hoover Dam in World War II, 21-25; in World War II, 25-27; on Oskar J. W. Hansen, 29-31; retirement, 31; on upgraded tourist facilities at Hoover Dam, 32-33 [*photos follow pp. 18*]
- Miller, Colonel, 12, 14
- Mormons: exodus into southwest, 1
- Mother Goose Shop [Boulder City], 31, 36n28
- Muddy River [NV], 35n11
- Nellis Air Force Base [Las Vegas]: and Block 16, 34n7
- Overton, Nevada, 1, 2, 12; CCC camp at Kaolin, near Overton, 7, 8, 12-13
- Parker, T. Robert "Bob", 23, 35n18
- Perkins, Fay [Jr.], 35n11
- Perkins, Fay [Sr.], 16, 35n11
- Perkins, John, 35n11
- Perkins, Mary Vee, 35n11
- Peterson, Charles F., 22, 35n16
- Pine, Fred, 5

prostitution. *See* Block 16

Pueblo Grande de Nevada. *See* Lost City

Railroad Pass Hotel and Casino [Henderson, NV], 28, 36n24

rangers, U. S.: Hoover Dam guides transferred into, 22, 35n17

Red Mountain Hiking Trail, 14, 15-16, 35n9

Reining Report [1950], 37n29

reservation gate. *See* gate

River Mountains. *See* Red Mountain Hiking Trail.

Riviera Hotel and Casino [Las Vegas], 28, 36n23

Scrugham, James G.: CCC boys played music for at Mt. Charleston, 5

Sibert, Camp. *See* Williston, Camp

Springerville, Arizona, 1, 2, 34n1

St. Thomas, Nevada, 12, 34n6, 34n8

Valley of Fire State Park [NV]: CCC work projects in, 8-9, 13-14

Williston, Camp, 25-26, 36n21 [*photo follows p. 25*]

World War II: and Hoover Dam, 21-25, 28, 35n14, 35n15

* * * *