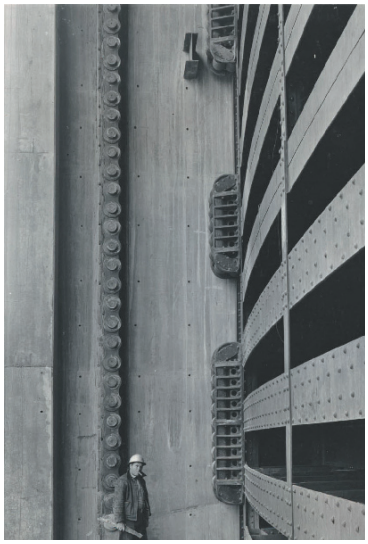
Those Dam Builders

Sept. 22, 2006 - May 4, 2007

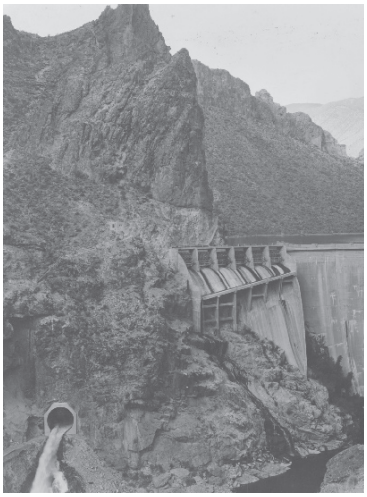
Roosevelt Dam

Those Dam Builders: A Photographic Essay of Central Arizona Dam Construction highlights a collection of photographs donated to the Tempe Historical Museum by Raymond Carrington in 1998. The photographs document the construction of the dams built along the Salt and Verde rivers between 1906 and 1946.

Coupled with these photographs are first-hand accounts of the dam construction process and its workers, plus additional photographs from the Salt River Project Archives and History Center. This exhibition tells the story of who worked on the dams, where these laborers lived and what it took to raise these dams.



Bartlett Dam



Mormon Flat Dam

Today, about 65 percent of the water distributed in the Salt River Valley by Salt River Project comes from the reservoirs behind the Roosevelt, Mormon Flat, Horse Mesa, Stewart Mountain, Bartlett and Horseshoe dams. Surface water and groundwater travel through open canals in the Phoenix metropolitan area to agricultural, urban and municipal users.

The population growth and economic success of our cities could not have happened without these water reclamation projects.