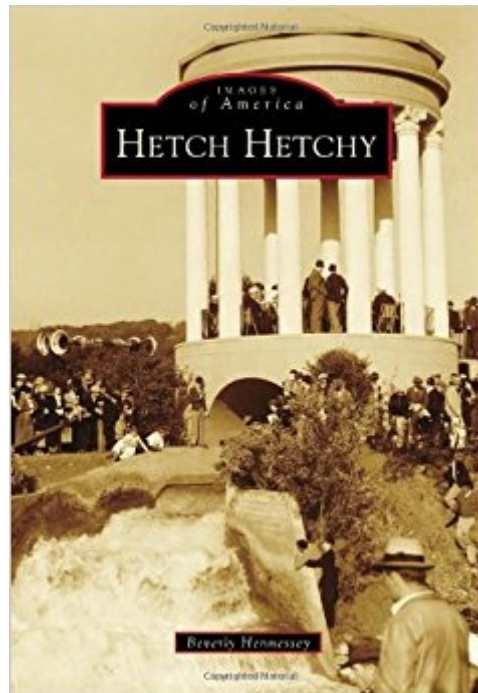


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Hetch Hetchy (Images Of America)



Synopsis

When water from the Sierra Nevada reached the San Francisco Bay area in 1934, it was greeted by a national celebration after two decades of grueling construction. The Hetch Hetchy Project evolved from a long search for a reliable source of water for San Francisco that began after the 1906 Great Earthquake. Prior to the earthquake, San Francisco had burned to the ground repeatedly due to the lack of water to fight fires. Studies of 14 different sources led to the design of an engineering marvel that conveys water using gravity across California via a complex system of tunnels, reservoirs, pipelines, powerhouses, treatment plants, and dams. But before the Hetch Hetchy Project broke ground, controversy roiled over the project. Finally, the Raker Act was passed by Congress in 1913 and signed by Pres. Woodrow Wilson to permit the use of the rights-of-way for the project. Today, this system serves some of the highest-quality water in the nation to 2.4 million people.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Beverly Hennessey worked for 12 years at the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission, where she served as director of communications. She has curated exhibitions at venues including the state capitol in Sacramento, San Francisco City Hall, San Francisco Airport, the Modesto Museum, the San Francisco Public Library, and the American Institute of Architects to educate the public about the importance of water and water conservation.

This was purchased for my husband and he enjoyed it. It is the sort of book that does not require a great deal of reading, although it is well documented, and has many historical photographs.

Very interesting history of the building of the dam and the politics that accompanied it every step of the way. Lots of documentary photos for the curious about the monumentality of the project and the engineering genius behind it. The vision of the builders and their energy and determination to overcome the considerable obstacles they faced make it a great read for anyone interested in feats of engineering. A good balance of technical information with a good description of the personalities involved.

This is a great history in pictures of Hetch Hetchy and the events that led to its' construction. Especially timely because San Francisco is soon to be voting on whether to raze the dam and restore the Hetch Hetchy valley to its' former beauty. I'm always impressed by this series and the wonderful photographs it finds to fill the pages.

Luckily I borrowed this book from the library and avoided wasting \$22 for this badly written unresearched pamphlet. I'm a big fan of the hetch hetchy water system but this book doesn't cover any of the great stories behind the politics and the construction of the system. The opposition is never explained and the engineering problems and fascinating solutions are ignored except for a few captions on pictures. The amazingly short bibliography is a testament to the scant research done by the author, less than most high school reports. If you are looking for an intelligently written, well researched and thoughtful analysis of hetch hetchy pick up Rob Richter's "the battle for hetch hetchy" by Oxford University press.

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