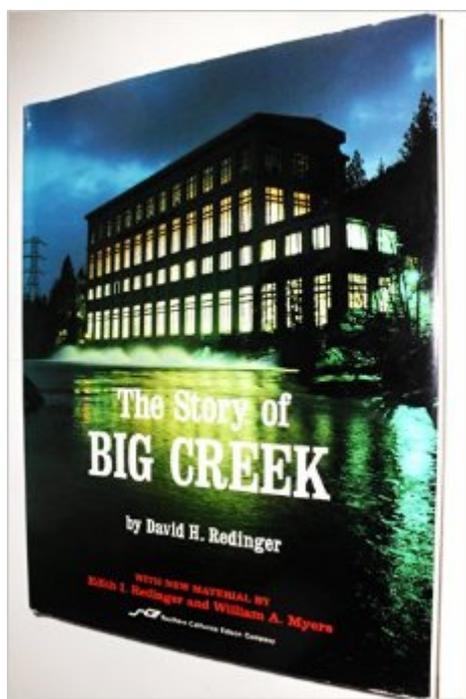


The book was found

The Story Of Big Creek



Synopsis

Nature never intended Southern California to be anything but desert, so they said. But man turned into farms, factories and living area for millions. The key to that development was 300 miles to the north, in the High Sierra, where the company that became the Southern California Edison Company undertook one of the great water power developments in the world. They call it Big Creek. Finally finished in 1929, this great work of art involved six dams, eight tunnels (one of them 13 miles long), three major artificial lakes and five power houses - all to ensure electric power for a growing Los Angeles and its Southland suburbs. David H. Redinger was Resident Engineer for this great project, and in this, his story, he tells about building a railroad into the High Sierra in 157 days....carving roads and tunnels through hostile terrain...fighting snow at high altitudes ... and accomplishing near miracles with brainpower, man-power, mulepower and steampower. Hardcover with dust jacket

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Bought this for my husband, and he is fascinated by this history of this formidable project. Who, why, and how these men built such an enormous and complex series of dams, railroads, access roads, to capture hydroelectric power - using their own private money to fund it - and left us with camp grounds, beautiful and accessible lakes and flood control for they valley below. An amazing and inspiring story. Well worth the price - especially to locals and people who visit/camp in the area.

This is a very interesting book. I have read it several times, and bought an additional copy as I will

not loan out the first one I bought many years ago. It shows how in 1912-1915 they built a dam at 4,500' elevation with steam trains to deliver the supplies, lumber, and cement, men and other materials. Back then there were no trucks, backhoes, and other machines. The only 'Truck' on the whole project before 1922 was a car driven by the superintendent. It was labor of hundreds of men, working around the clock.

This book is a very worthwhile read for engineers about a tremendous accomplishment in providing hydro power for southern California, in a day when the tools and heavy equipment that we have now were not available then. The history was well recorded and then very well related by the author, David Redinger. The pictures alone of the project are worth several times the price of the book.

I have borrowed the original book from a friend, and before returning same I was lucky to find this new issue, which has more photos and additional chapters, written by the widow of the author. An excellent issue, and definitely a copy to keep!

This book is a fascinating memoir of an engineer who worked on the SoCal Edison Big Creek project. It details the creation of Shaver, Huntington and Florence Lakes as well as the Big Creek tunnel system. Nice photos as well

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