

HETCH HETCHY PROJECT · THE FIRST STEPS

SLIDE · LECTURE BY
TED G. WURM
AUTHOR & EDITOR

7:30 PM
FRIDAY, APRIL 13 1973
ANZA BRANCH
550 · 37 TH AVENUE

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Ted Wurm

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February 13 1973

Information on TED WURM's talk scheduled for April 13, 1973.

To: Jack Coll, Anza Branch, SF Public Library

This will be a slide lecture showing and telling of the early construction of the HETCH HETCHY PROJECT --- primarily that work done in the mountains and deep canyons of Tuolumne County starting in 1914.

The City established over 20 construction camps in Tuolumne County in order to build Hetch Hetchy; they put in a 68-mile mountain railroad; they employed thousands of men under the City's famous engineer, Mike O'Shaughnessy.

We won't go into the whole project (this time). I have slides of the various camps, with data and anecdotes on the men and the life. Most of the camps ~~locations~~ are gone, their locations the "ghost towns" of Tuolumne County.

Other camps were set up as the aqueduct came westward, all the way to the shores of the Bay (the first water flowed into San Francisco homes in 1934). We'll touch briefly on these to complete the picture, but the lecture will be concerned primarily with the City's work in Tuolumne County.

After eight years of research, Ted Wurm has just completed a book telling the story of how Hetch Hetchy came into being and how the project was conceived and built. A lot of emphasis is on the Hetch Hetchy Railroad and on the people who worked on the great water and power project. The book will be published by Howell-~~NOTE~~ North Books (~~date~~) this year Nearly 300 photos will be used to illustrate this work.

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April 24, 1973

TO: OFFICE OF ADULT SERVICES
FROM: JOHN COLL, ANZA BRANCH
SUBJECT: APRIL 13 PROGRAM

On Friday evening, April 13, Ted G. Wurm, Bay Area writer and editor, presented a fascinating slide-lecture, "Hetch Hetchy-the early years" to an attentive audience of 25 people at Anza Branch.

Mr. Wurm, author of a book on the Hetch Hetchy project to be published later this year by Howell-North Books, used his personal collection of slides in tracing the development of the city's water system-the purchase of the privately owned Spring Valley Water Company, the construction of Hetch Hetchy within Yosemite National Park over the bitter opposition of John Muir, and the role of the late M. M. O'Shaughnessy, City Engineer. Mr. Wurm included many interesting details on the technical side of the project; it was a surprise to me to learn that water from Hetch Hetchy is brought to the Bay Area without any pumping being required.

In the discussion that followed two members of the audience, the Reverend John B. McGloin, S. J., Professor of History at the University of San Francisco and Richard Dillon, Librarian of the Sutro Library and author of many books on Western history, participated.

I was disappointed in the size of the crowd as the lecture had been publicized in the Sunday datebook. I also had distributed announcements at the April meeting of the Bay Area Electric Railroad Association as Mr. Wurm is well known in railfan circles. A substantial portion of the program dealt with the Hetch Hetchy Railroad constructed in connection with the Project. The last trains on that route, incidentally, operated in 1949.