

Background

These exhibit photographs from 1923 to 2018 compile a historical record just shy of 100 years. They testify to the simple joy of keeping surveyors, hard rock miners, concrete finishers and others fed and hard at work. Additionally, this exhibit shows both the modest way in which the earliest explorers and surveyors for the Colorado River Aqueduct ate, and later how professional kitchen chefs served the workforce. We are happy to turn the spotlight on this underrepresented group and to acknowledge their contributions.



Casey with Hot-Off-the-Griddle Donuts.
Division 3 Headquarters, CRA, PER 170
February 15, 1936

For another photo, we have neither a precise date nor the names of many of these assembled Metropolitan employees at **Gene Mess Hall**. Can you help us with either of these questions? Please see the image captions next to this large print in the gallery for the names of those we do know and the photograph's approximate date. Contact Dkeller@mwdh2o.com with any additional information.



All of these images, plus many thousands of other photographs and videos – new and old – are all part of the MWD Image Collection. Thank you for spending some time in Metropolitan's storied past. We hope that you enjoyed this experience and if you're dining with us in the relocated café, that you enjoy your meal as much as some of those pictured. Follow us on Twitter, Facebook and Instagram @mwdh2o for more historical images.

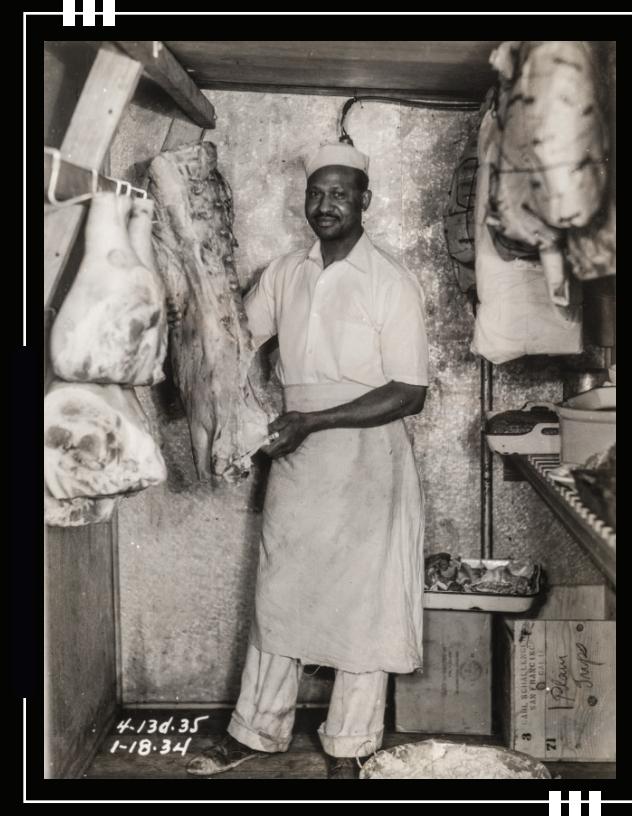
THE METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

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COME AND GET IT: Serving Metropolitan

A Historical Survey of Meals Along the Trail



THE METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT
OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

Understanding Captions

Most of the exhibit's photographs have a simple narrative caption, sometimes followed by another noteworthy feature depicted in the photo. The captions also provide the Negative Code for the image, along with the location and date. All of this information is important and will serve the researcher well, when trying to find a specific photo in Metropolitan's Image Collection.

For example, the brief engineer-speak caption for this photograph, which was originally titled, "Surveyor's Camp on banks of Colorado River," has been changed slightly to:

Breakfast With All the Trimmings, including Kellogg's Corn Flakes. (And the cook looks particularly happy.) Los Angeles Water Bureau Surveyors' Camp.

Colorado River Banks, A-29 • circa 1927

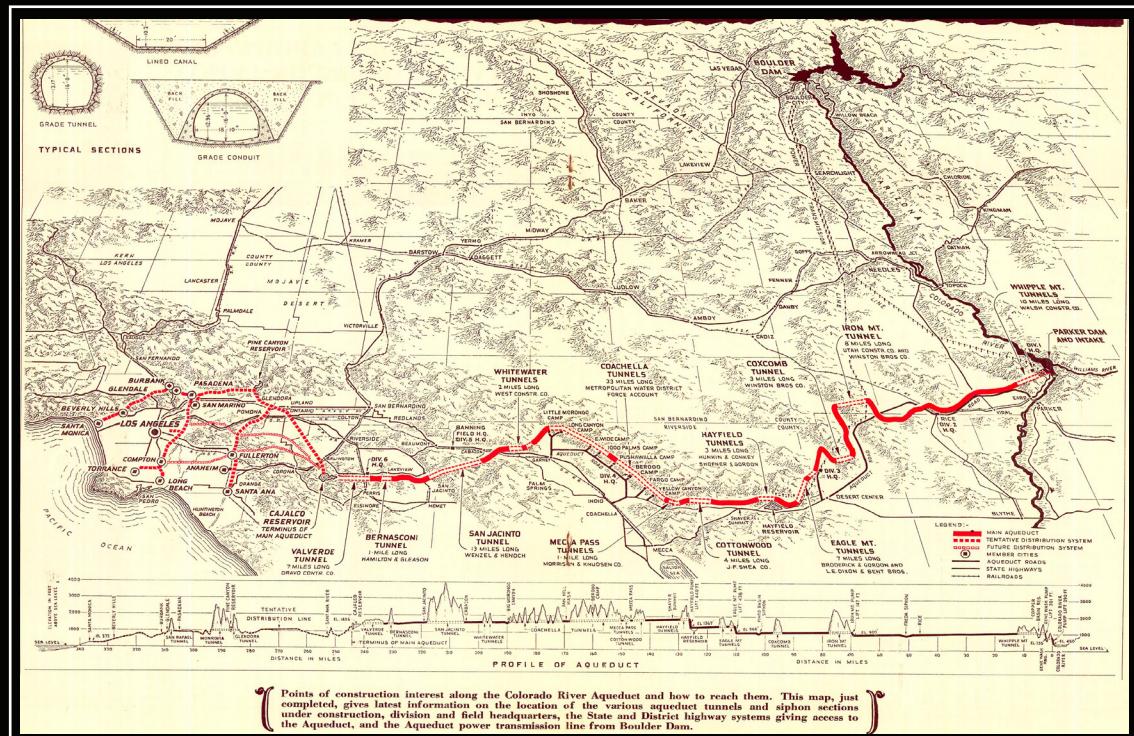
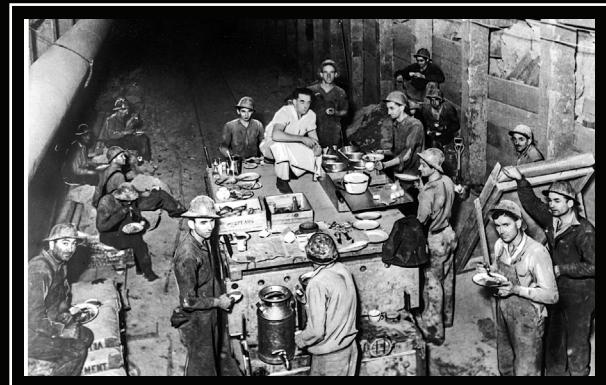


As shown, Metropolitan does not have a definitive historical date for this action-packed photo. (One might ask why the cook is laughing so hard while the kneeling gent is looking considerably less sanguine?) With no precise date, we have used the word circa, meaning around or near.

Another exhibit tip is to use the "Aqueduct Under Construction Map" as your reference tool. Within this exhibit, you will discover locations, some of which may not be familiar to you, and others which no longer exist. These include: Pushawalla Camp; Thousand Palms Camp; West Portal Camp/West Eagle Tunnel; Division One Headquarters (aka Gene Camp); Division Three Headquarters; Earp; West Iron Mountain Tunnel; Cajalco Reservoir, later renamed Lake Mathews; the Colorado River; and Bullshead Camp. Except for the latter, all of these locations may be found on this map. It originally appeared in *Aqueduct News*, Vol. 1, May 20, 1934, No. 9 on pages 4-5, and has been made into a flier for ease of use.

Here are two exhibit photographs with incomplete descriptions. In these cases, we can always use crowd-sourcing help identifying particulars.

For example, in this photo from the west portal of **West Eagle Tunnel, Negative Code 3-6D-41** what is the name of the vehicle in the middle of the photograph?



Aqueduct Under Construction Map