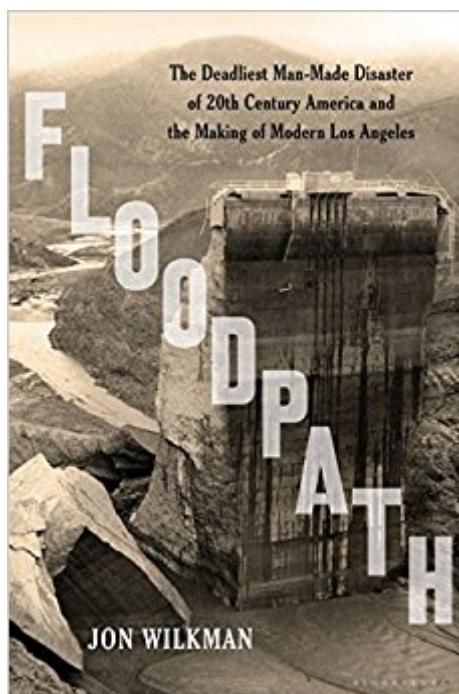


The book was found

Floodpath: The Deadliest Man-Made Disaster Of 20th-Century America And The Making Of Modern Los Angeles



Synopsis

Just before midnight on March 12, 1928, the St. Francis Dam, a twenty-story-high concrete structure just fifty miles north of Los Angeles, suddenly collapsed, releasing a devastating flood that roared fifty-four miles to the Pacific Ocean, destroying everything in its path. It was a horrific catastrophe, yet one which today is virtually forgotten. With research gathered over more than two decades, award-winning writer and filmmaker Jon Wilkman revisits the deluge that claimed nearly five hundred lives. A key figure is William Mulholland, the self-taught engineer who created an unprecedented water system, allowing Los Angeles to become America's second-largest city, and who was also responsible for the design and construction of the St. Francis Dam. Driven by eyewitness accounts and combining urban history with a life-and-death drama and a technological detective story, *Floodpath* grippingly reanimates the reality behind L.A. noir fictions such as the classic film *Chinatown*. In an era of climate change, increasing demand on water resources, and a neglected American infrastructure, the tragedy of the St. Francis Dam has never been more relevant.

Book Information

File Size: 25697 KB

Print Length: 314 pages

Page Numbers Source ISBN: 1620409178

Publisher: Bloomsbury Press; 1 edition (January 5, 2016)

Publication Date: January 5, 2016

Language: English

ASIN: B018FYYKE4

Text-to-Speech: Enabled

X-Ray: Enabled

Word Wise: Enabled

Lending: Not Enabled

Screen Reader: Supported

Enhanced Typesetting: Enabled

Best Sellers Rank: #141,363 Paid in Kindle Store (See Top 100 Paid in Kindle Store) #2 in Kindle Store > Kindle eBooks > Engineering & Transportation > Engineering > Civil > Hydrology #10 in Kindle Store > Kindle eBooks > Nonfiction > Science > Nature & Ecology > Water Supply & Land Use #10 in Kindle Store > Kindle eBooks > Nonfiction > Science > Environment > Water

Supply

Customer Reviews

Jon Wilkman's "Floodpath" is history the way it should be told. Wilkman masterfully brings to life the now all-but-forgotten story of the St. Francis Dam, 50 miles north of Los Angeles, which suddenly collapsed one spring night in 1928, releasing more than 12 billion gallons of water that wrought death and destruction as it roared to the sea. More than 400 people died that night in what has been called the worst civil engineering disaster in America in the 20th century. Wilkman began researching the story more than 20 years ago, at a time when some of the survivors and eyewitnesses were still alive, and he could interview them. More recently, he has also found new engineering data and theories that explain what caused the dam to collapse. As a result, this is the most complete and comprehensive account of the St. Francis Dam disaster that we are likely to see. If it were only that, the book would be an important contribution to California and engineering history. But it is much more. It is also the story of William Mulholland, the self-taught Irish immigrant who arrived in Los Angeles in 1877 and found work as a ditch digger in a city of 9,000 people. Mulholland rose to head the water department, and ultimately he designed and built the first of the aqueducts that brought water hundreds of miles to the semi-desert of Los Angeles, making possible the city of 4 million people that it is today. Mulholland brought the water, and the St. Francis Dam was part of the great plumbing project that he built to make that happen. The failure of the dam ended what had been a distinguished career, and Mulholland died a broken man in 1935. Wilkman tells Mulholland's story fairly and accurately, and he tells all of it "the St. Francis Dam and Mulholland" against the backdrop of the overarching story: Water in the West. In California, the water is in the north, but the people are in the south, and the water wars have been raging for more than a hundred years. In recounting the story of the St. Francis Dam and its failure, Wilkman splendidly puts all of the strands together and makes the dam disaster of long ago relevant to today.

Excellent narrative study of Southern California's St. Francis Dam disaster, that while scholarly, the book is definitely approachable for both people with an engineering background and the average reader. I can remember my father taking the family on a drive from the San Fernando Valley to see the ruins of the dam. This would have been in the early 1950s, when I was no more than four or five. It must have made quite an impression on me, as I still can remember some of what he showed us. My father had worked on the All American Canal and other major projects, and was fascinated by

what happened to the St. Francis Dam. I forgot about that trip, and despite going to school in the area, the St. Francis Dam disaster was never mentioned. While visiting a cemetery I came across some grave markers that mentioned the family died in the flood. My memory of visiting the site returned and I began reading what I could find about this important event, that happened where I lived and worked my entire life, yet was never mentioned in history classes or news stories. Floodpath is meticulously researched and doesn't leave out any of the who, why, where or when of this disaster and similar dam failures and potential failures in the United States and the rest of the world. The author doesn't cast blame, but rather lays out the known facts and trusts the reader to draw their own conclusions. The facts are supplemented by photos and charts that enhance the reading experience. It is a tragic event that deserves the respect the author has shown for what happened and what effect it had on the victims and the future of Los Angeles and California, including the current drought situation. Floodpath is a very readable and interesting look at how Los Angeles grew from its roots as a sleepy village to the major city it is today.

[Download to continue reading...](#)

Floodpath: The Deadliest Man-Made Disaster of 20th-Century America and the Making of Modern Los Angeles Historia Antigua De Los Egipcios, de Los Asirios, De Los Babilonios, De Los Medos Y De Los Persas, De Los Macedonios, De Los Griegos, De Los Cartagineses Y De Los Romanos... (Spanish Edition) Historia Antigua De Los Egipcios, De Los Asirios, De Los Babilonios, De Los Medos, Y De Los Persas, De Los Macedonios, De Los Griegos, De Los Carthagineses Y De Los Romanos (Spanish Edition) Historia Antigua de Los Egipcios, de Los Asirios, de Los Babilonios, de Los Medos y de Los Persas, de Los Macedonios, de Los Griegos, de Los Cartagine (Spanish Edition) Soap Making: 365 Days of Soap Making: 365 Soap Making Recipes for 365 Days (Soap Making, Soap Making Books, Soap Making for Beginners, Soap Making Guide, ... Making, Soap Making Supplies, Crafting) Soap Making: 365 Days of Soap Making (Soap Making, Soap Making Books, Soap Making for Beginners, Soap Making Guide, Soap Making Recipes, Soap Making Supplies): Soap Making Recipes for 365 Days Thomas Guide: Los Angeles & Orange Counties (Thomas Guide Streetguide Los Angeles and Orange County) StreetSmart Los Angeles Map by VanDam - City Street Map of Los Angeles, California - Laminated folding pocket size city travel and subway map, 2016 Edition Los Angeles Times Sunday Crossword Omnibus, Volume 7 (The Los Angeles Times) Los Angeles Times Sunday Crossword Puzzles, Volume 29 (The Los Angeles Times) Los Angeles Times Sunday Crossword Puzzles, Volume 27 (The Los Angeles Times) Los Angeles Times Sunday Crossword Omnibus, Volume 5 (The Los Angeles Times) Los Angeles Times Sunday Crossword Omnibus, Volume 2 (The Los Angeles Times) Where to Bike Los

Angeles Mountain Biking: Best Mountain Biking around Los Angeles Las Cartas De Los Angeles De La Cabala / The Cards of the Kabbalah Angels: El Poderoso Talisman de los 72 Angeles de la Kabbalah / The Powerful Charm of the 72 Kabbalah Angels (Spanish Edition) Orange County & Los Angeles County Popout Map: Orange Count, Los Angeles County, Anaheim, Newport Beach, California The Storm of the Century: Tragedy, Heroism, Survival, and the Epic True Story of America's Deadliest Natural Disaster: The Great Gulf Hurricane of 1900 Dinnerware of the 20th Century: The Top 500 Patterns (Official Price Guides to Dinnerware of the 20th Century) Buried in the Sky: The Extraordinary Story of the Sherpa Climbers on K2's Deadliest Day: The Extraordinary Story of the Sherpa Climbers on K2's Deadliest Day Your First Trip to Angeles: The single man's guide to exploring the delights of Angeles City, Philippines

[Contact Us](#)

[DMCA](#)

[Privacy](#)

[FAQ & Help](#)