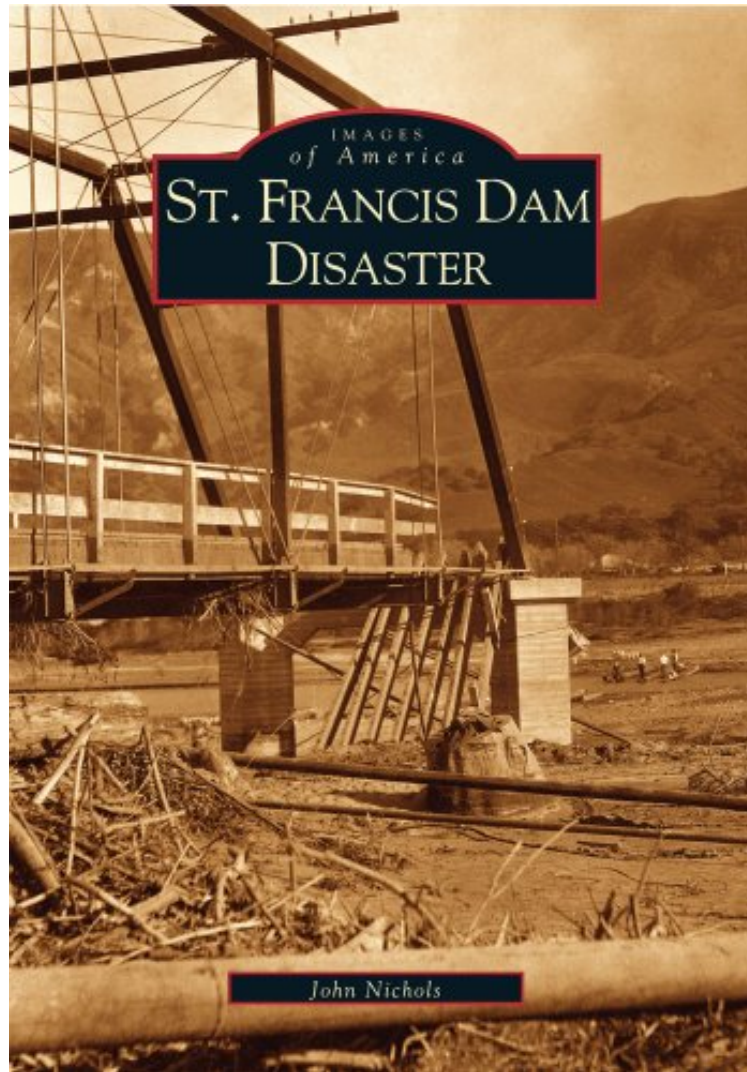


[FREE] St. Francis Dam Disaster (Images of America)

St. Francis Dam Disaster (Images of America)

John Nichols

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John Nichols : St. Francis Dam Disaster (Images of America) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised St. Francis Dam Disaster (Images of America):

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. The Collapse of the St. Francis Dam and the Destruction 54mi. To the Sea.,By . Stephen SchuergerThis Book Begins with the morning of the collapse, when the Dam Supervisor called in a suspicious new leak in the Eastern End of the Concrete Face. A 2 hour inspection was done after which it was pronounced safe. At 11:57PM the Dam failed entirely. This is a documentation of that destructive 54 mile flood in pictures and words. The event happened in March of 1928. Well over 400 people died, the total will never be known, as many of the missing people's bodies were never recovered and there were migrant farmhands, Hobos, and unknown

visitors in large numbers in the valley that night. Many bodies were carried into the Pacific Ocean. There were a number of factors that caused the failure. No underlying geology study was done before construction. The original engineering was done correctly, and the plans were approved, but changes were made during construction, that weakened the dam, beyond capacity. The amount of water behind the dam was far beyond the dam's containment capability. The engineer was cleared of culpability, his design was correct. There is no mention of the construction group who made the changes being held accountable either. The City of Los Angeles owned the dam, and accepted full liability for the dead, the cleanup, and repair or replacement structures destroyed or damaged, roads, bridges, railroad, and so on. It is an excellent and quick read, I enjoyed, of what now is now a scarcely remembered event. 2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. St. Francis Dam By Thomas G. Matowitz Jr. While I found the book worthwhile, I think it could have been better. Many of the photos seemed repetitive to me. I would have been interested to see how the area looked before the dam existed. It would also have been useful to include photos showing bridges and other structures prior to the dam's collapse. Also, I found myself wondering what the area looks like today. I would like to have seen a picture of the dam's caretaker, and the house he lived in, as well as its position relative to the reservoir. A greater variety of images would have made the book more compelling visually. There were too many similar images of ruined and rather nondescript frame houses to suit me. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. The photos are great for the most part. By Sand Dune Man The photos are great for the most part, but the captions are strange. A photo of a destroyed Orange Grove has a caption "A thwarted escape across the river. Dead bodies were stacked.... Maybe the author was making some point that escapes me. In any case as I say the photos are illustrative of the 1928 disaster so for those alone the volume is worthwhile. Despite its idiosyncrasies it's great for those who have more than a casual interest in the subject.

Minutes before midnight on the evening of March 12, 1928, the St. Francis Dam collapsed. The dam's 200-foot concrete wall crumpled, sending billions of gallons of raging flood waters down San Francisquito Canyon, sweeping 54 miles down the Santa Clara River to the sea, and claiming over 450 lives in the disaster. Captured here in over 200 images is a photographic record of the devastation caused by the flood, and the heroic efforts of residents and rescue workers. Built by the City of Los Angeles Bureau of Water Works and Supply, the failure of the St. Francis Dam on its first filling was the greatest American civil engineering failure of the 20th century. Beginning at dawn on the morning after the disaster, stunned local residents picked up their cameras to record the path of destruction, and professional photographers moved in to take images of the washed-out bridges, destroyed homes and buildings, Red Cross workers giving aid, and the massive clean-up that followed. The event was one of the worst disasters in California's history, second only to the San Francisco Earthquake and Fire.

About the Author The majority of the images in this book come from the collection of the author, as well as from the archives of the Santa Paula Historical Society. John Nichols is the owner of the John Nichols Gallery in Santa Paula and Ventura, and Sespe Group-Creative Services, a curatorial and exhibit design firm.