

# Kemano, British Columbia, Canada

1950 to 1954

The largest underground power house in  
the world at the time.

Canyon of the Neckako river in North-west British Columbia, one of the camps at bottom of Mount Doboise in Early 1950's. The steep slopes of the mile-long raises drop the water 2600' to the underground power house.



A ten mile tunnel, 25' in diameter was cut into Mount Dubose to carry water to two penstock tunnels. The water plunges from the 2600' to 1600' levels off for 500' and then plunges down to sea level where the power house is, tunnels lined with steel penstock.

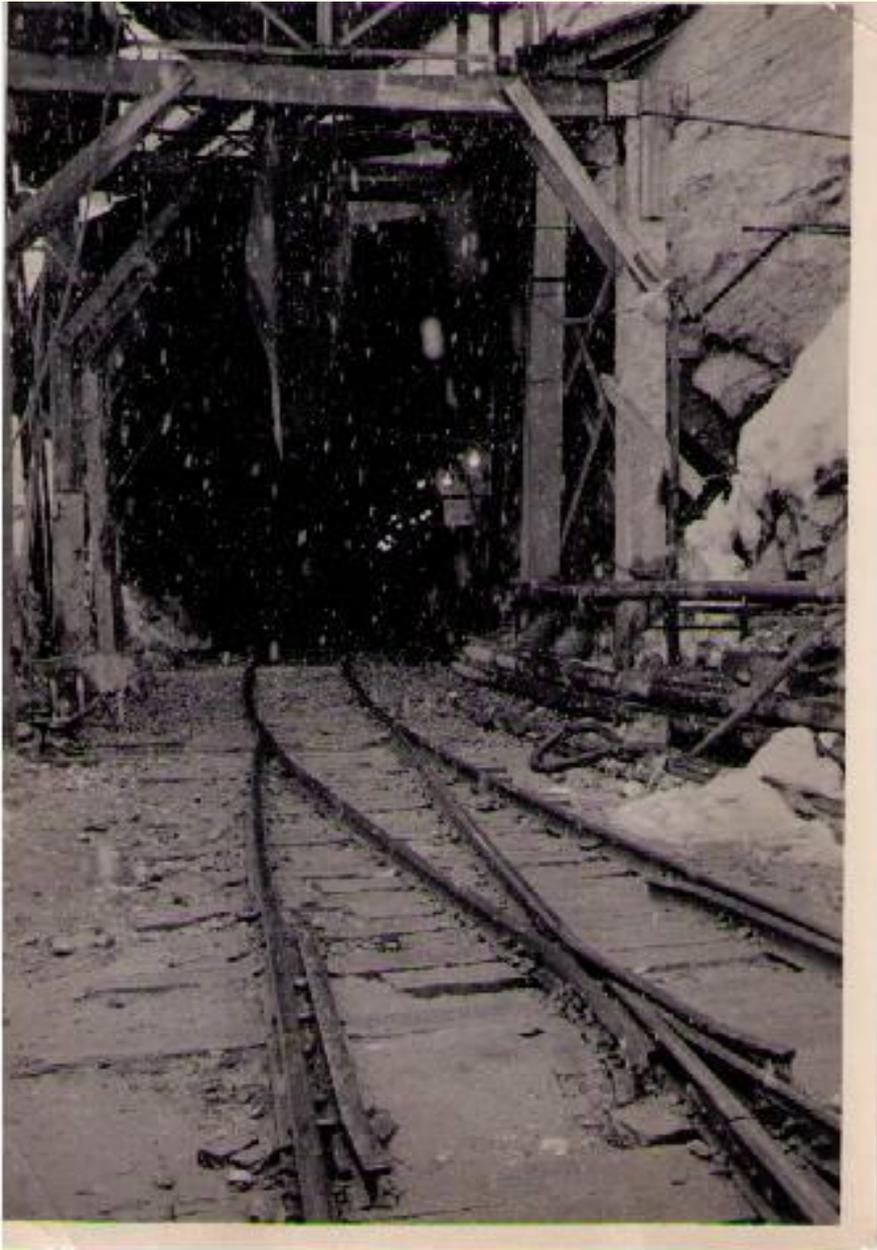


The penstock cans were fabricated in Vancouver then shipped out to Kemano and installed in the tunnels on an incline of 48 degrees making for very dangerous and uncomfortable working conditions.



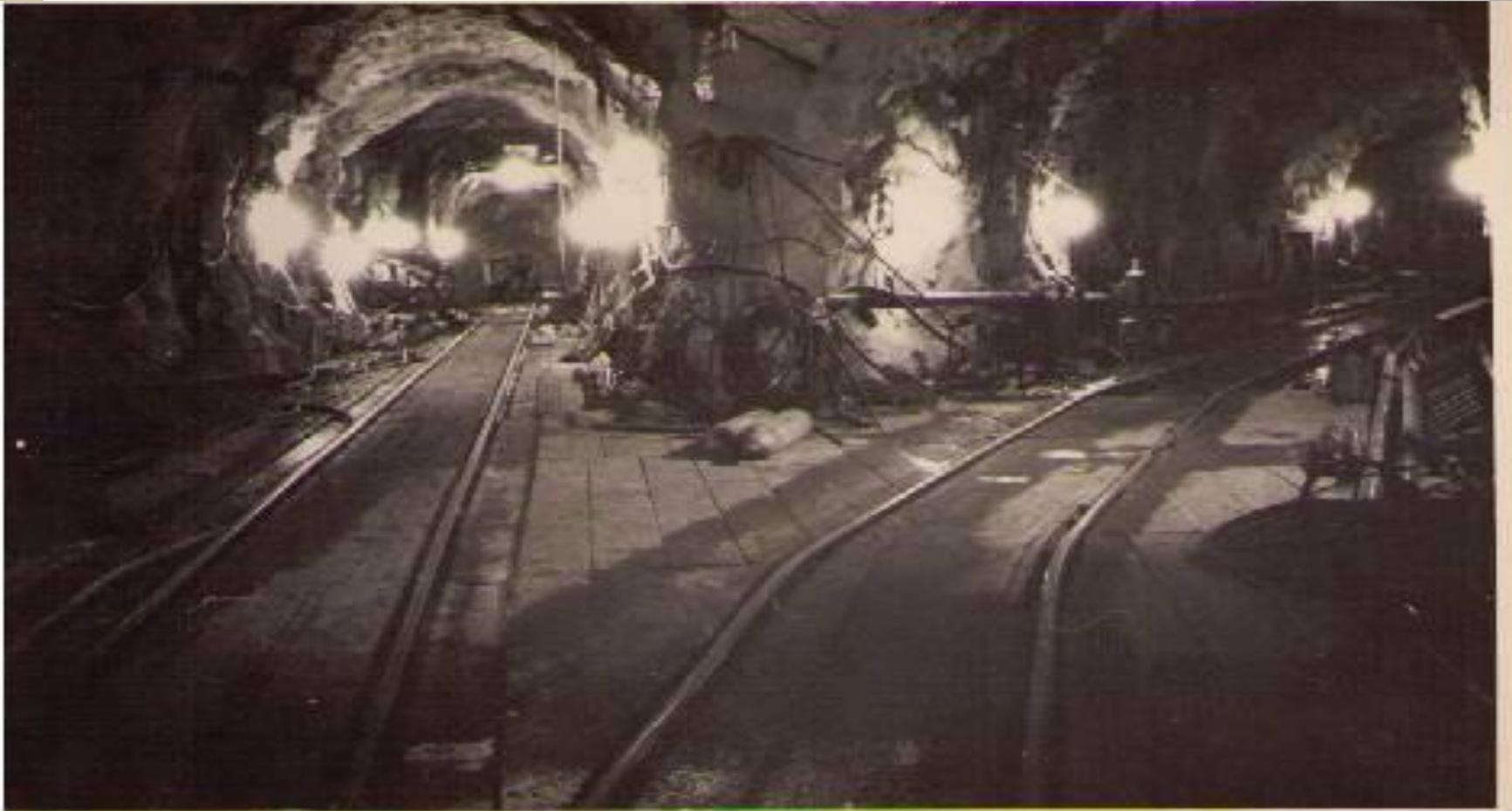
The all materials, equipment & manpower were bought up the mountain side on an aerial tramway.



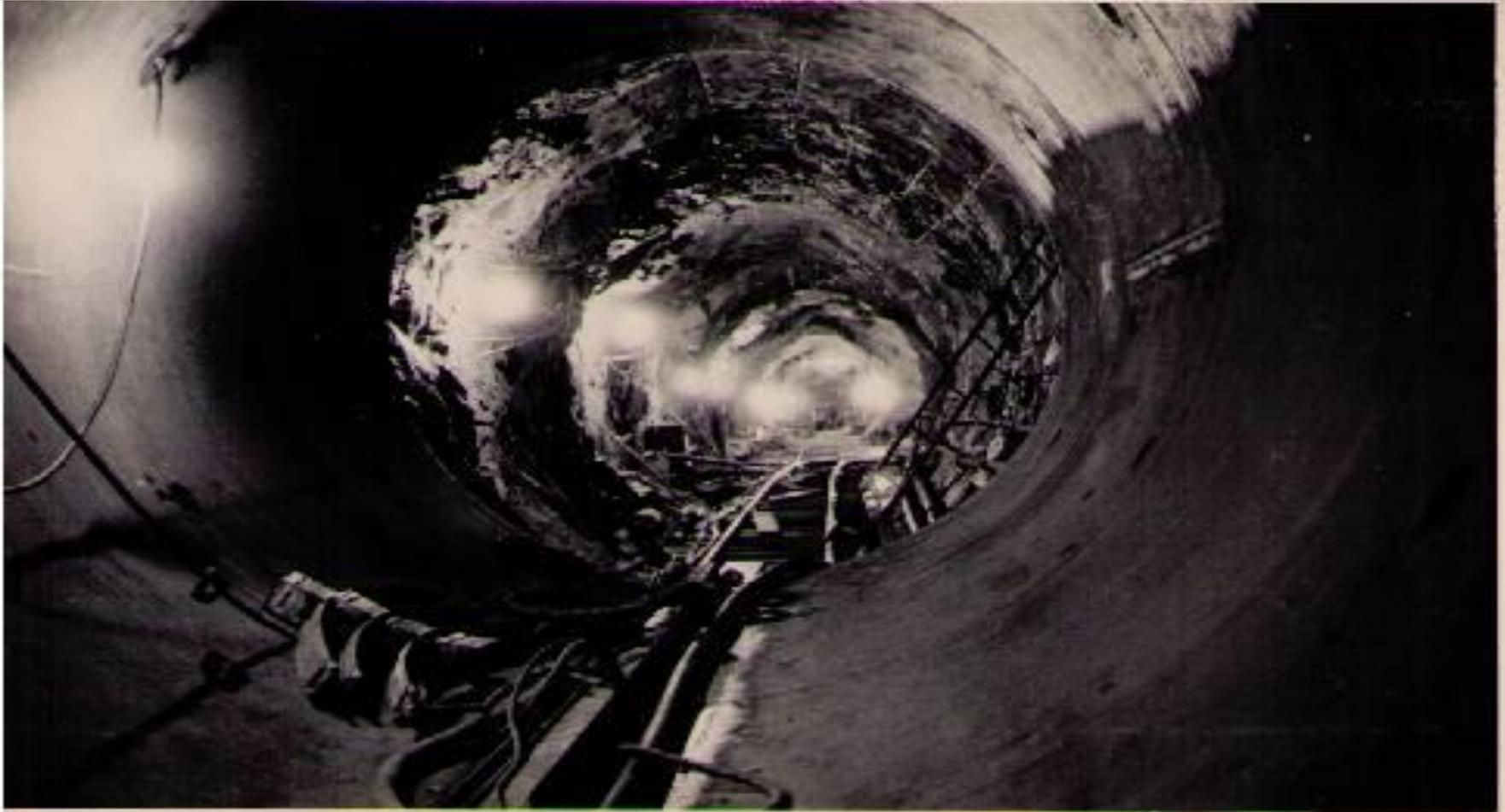


- Portals at the 2600' and 1600' levels where shops were built to prepare the prefabricated cans before they went into the tunnel for installation.

The tunnel was branched off at the 2600' level into two tunnels. The penstock sections would be slowly pulled over a rail bed through the access tunnel.



Where the careful process of lowering them down to the level below began at a 48 degree incline. Looking up the penstock



Once the penstocks were lowered into place the task of fitting and welding the sections together took place.



Camp five near the entrance to the power house, there was camps at the 1600' and 2600' level with living quarters and cook house at each level.



## Relaxing in camp.



Kemano project was noted for gambling, blackjack and poker were the only games played. There were some terrific wins and some horrific loses. Camp 5 was where the tent and the dock for the ship to civilization was.



Kemano was a money maker, the work was seven days a week, making for good pay cheque for the times. This was the largest crew of boilermakers on one job at one time in the history of 359. There where people from around the world here.



Kemano BC, Photos supplied by Brother Lucy Falcomer of Lodge 359

