

History of the Hard Hat

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Before 1920s, few people wore hard hats

Construction was tough and so were the men

Hard hats were unmanly - showed you were afraid



No hard hats and little regards for safety



Hard hat's roots appears to come thru
the military's helmet



Greek Helmet - 500 BCE



Celtic Parade Helmet - 350 BCE



Black Mongolian Helmet - 1300





Ottoman Helmet - 1600



After WW I

Surplus helmets were readily available

One company owner (son was in the USA Army) was inspired to use the WWI helmet as a model to start making hard hats

This company was already making miner's hats - saw this as a developing market

WWI Helmet (Marines)



First manufactured hard hat 1919

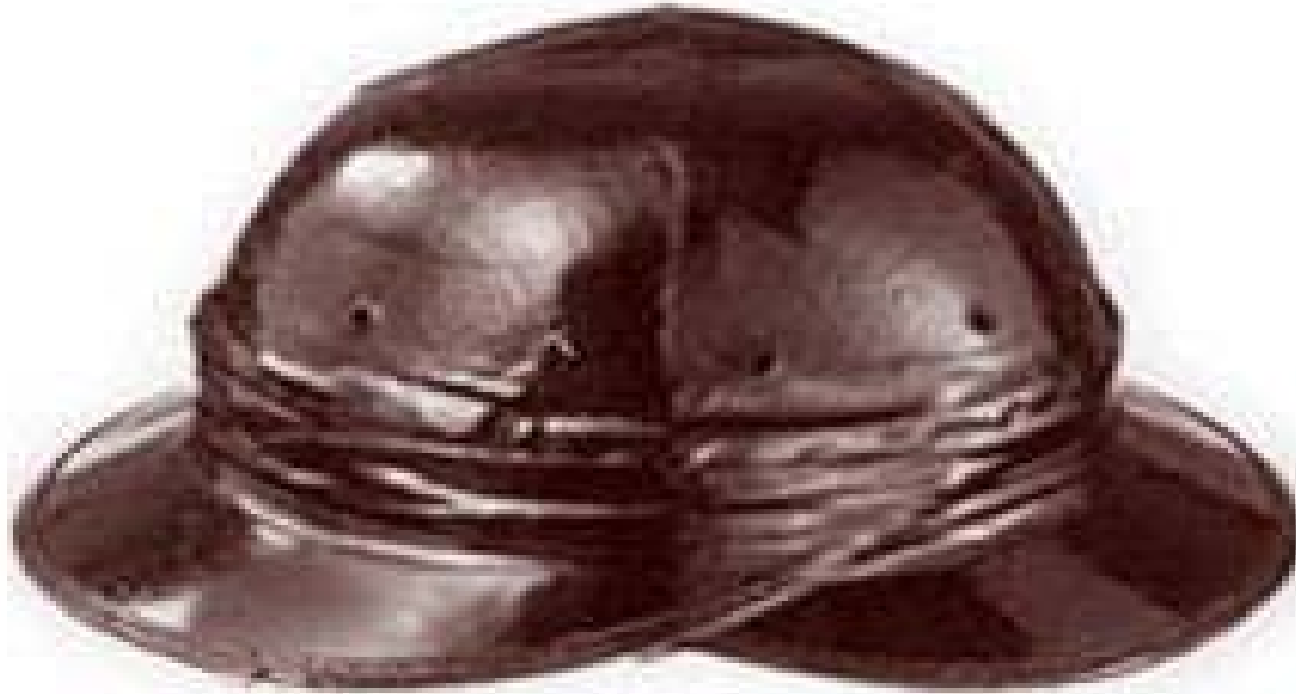
E. D. Bullard Company

Called the Hard Boiled Hat

Made of canvas, glue and black paint



The Hard Boiled Hat



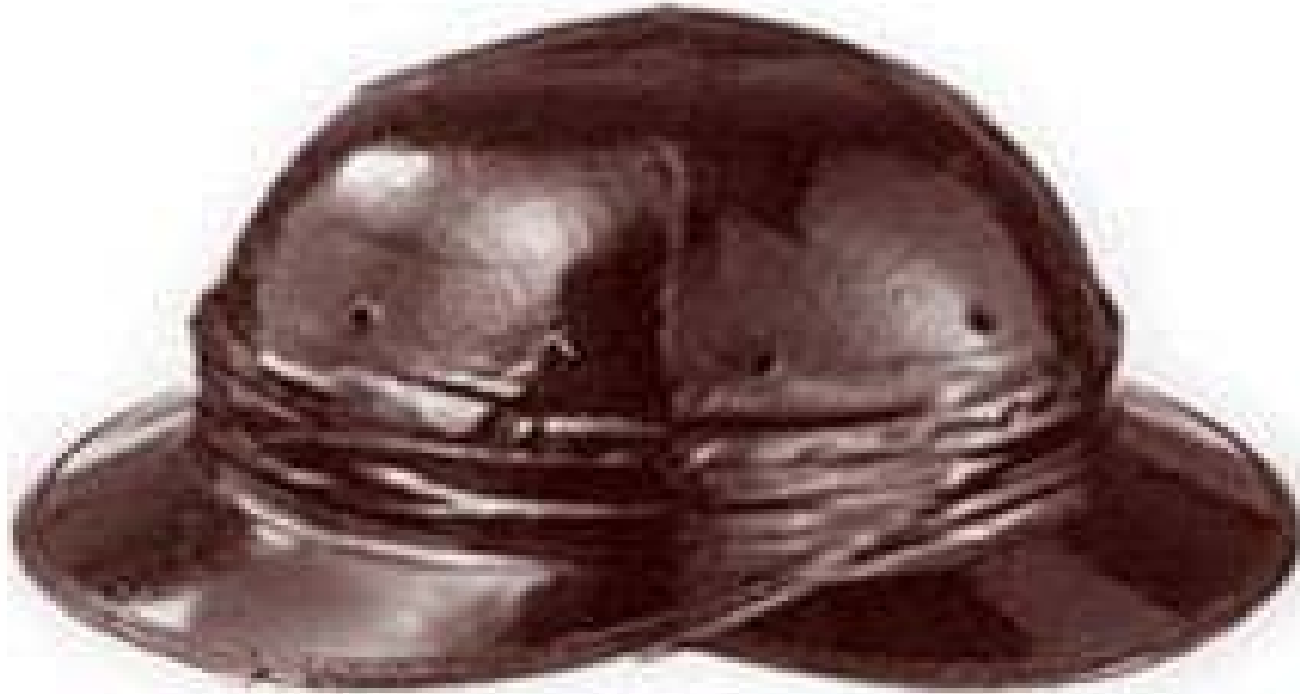
U.S. Navy wanted protective hats

Shipping yard had a lot of overhead work during loading and unloading of ships

Danger of falling items during this process

Seagulls dropping "stuff" on workers - needed protection

Purchased the Hard Boiled Hats



Telephone Lineman – made their own “hard hats”

Stuffed newspapers into their hats

Provided some protection from small falling objects



The Electrical Union - Post Office Boston - 1931

Electrical worker wanted protection from falling hot rivets

Used surplus WW I Helmets

This may be the first documented use of hard hats on a construction site



Hoover Dam 1931-1935

High Scalars wanted protection from falling objects

Made their own "Hard Hats"

Two "baseball hats" put together, smeared with tar and baked in the sun

(Temperatures there exceeded 120 F)

Basically the same as the Hard Boiled Hat



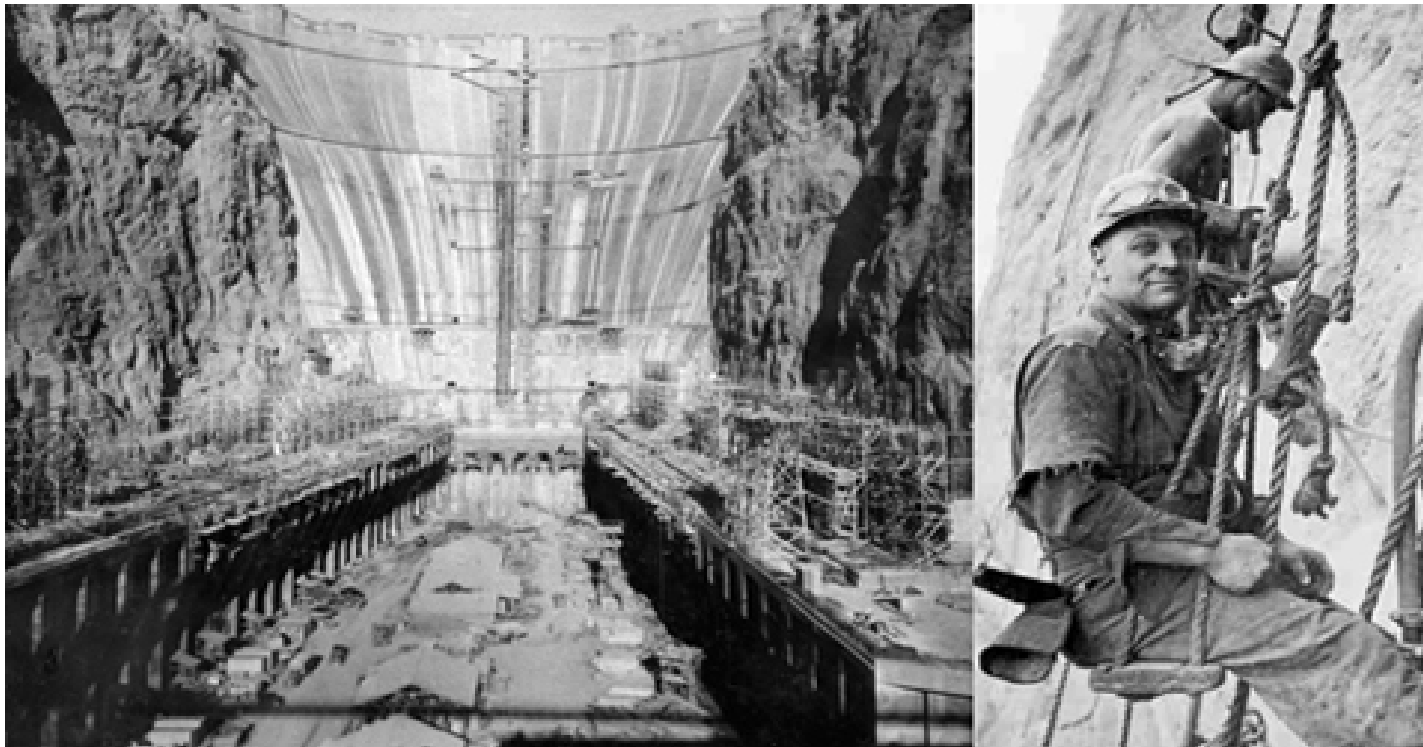
Hard Hat Success

One instance - A High Scaler was hit so hard on his hard hat by a falling object - it broke his jaw.
No damage to his skull.

Company was so impressed - they brought hard hats for everyone



Hoover Dam - High Scalers



Entire crew wearing hard hats



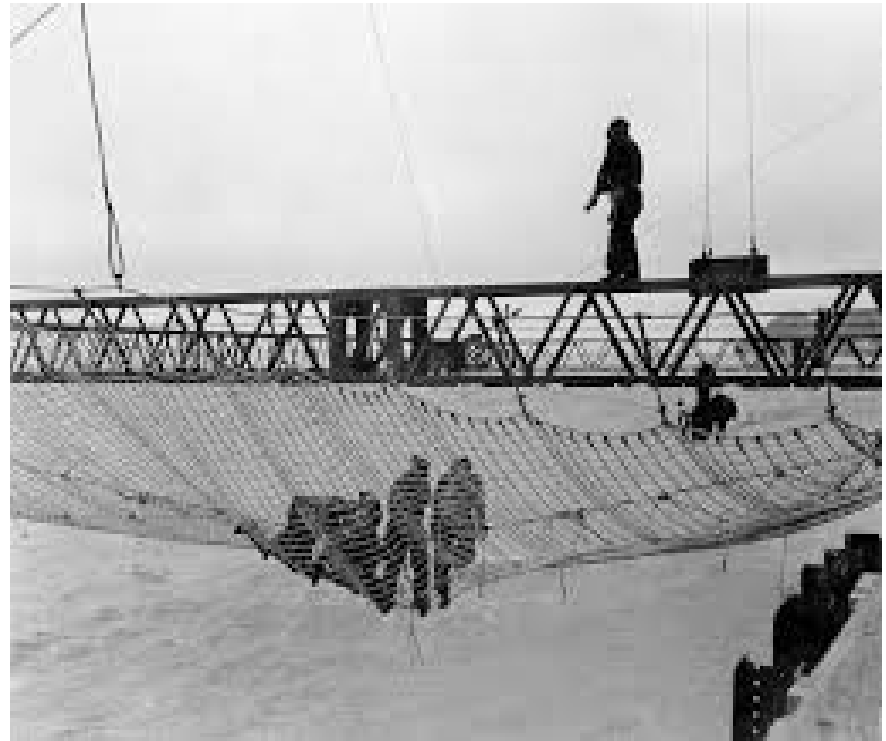
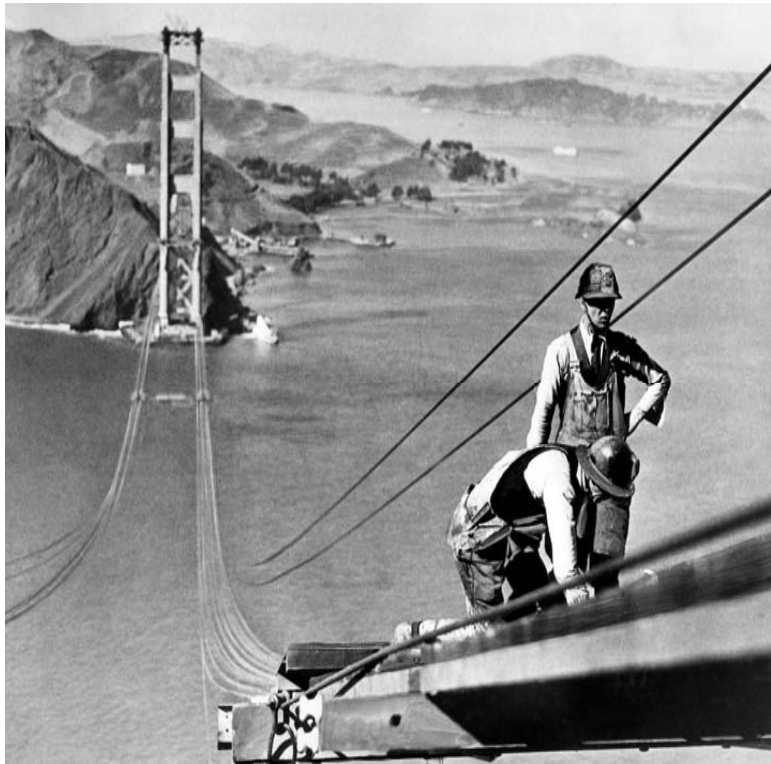
First project where hard hats were mandated

Golden Gate Bridge 1932-1937

Chief Engineer wanted a safe project

Mandated hard hats and safety nets





Development of the hard hat

Making it lighter and more comfortable

One innovation - the Aluminum Hard Hat - not for
electrical workers

Still available today



Aluminum Hardhat



Modern hard hat

Most are now made with thermoplastics

Light weight- relatively comfortable to wear



Color coded to identify workers

White - Managers and Engineers

Yellow - General workers

Orange - Road crew

Blue - Carpenters

Brown - Welders



For site visitors

Grey Hard Hat



Note : They need to keep an eye on them - they may wander into danger!

For those that forget their hard hat

Pink was used to shame them



Now a Symbol of Pride and Hope

The pink hard hat is now a symbol of pride for women owned businesses and for breast cancer awareness



Modern hard hat - has come a
long way



Newest Design in Hard Hats



Hard hat as a fashion statement?



Hard hats showing academic achievement - ASU Graduation for Construction Management Students



Questions ???

