

rescue line, perhaps 20 or 30. At the end of the line, Pete instructed Bob Baldwin where to place the bags. Lights from the trucks aided the workers. The grass was slippery and water soaked. Each bag weighed 40 to 50 pounds when filled and speed was important. How weary they must have been!

After several hours the rain slowed; the level of the lake was dropping. The crisis was over. The dam had been saved! Weary and wet, the work crew climbed up the hill where Joan Baldwin and Gladys Forryan had brewed much-welcomed mugs of coffee. Then home to bed, probably nursing sore backs and aching arms, but content with a job well done. One man says he was in bed for a week with a strained back!

Within several months work was done to correct and strengthen the dam. The work involved the sluiceway, spillway and the top and toe of the dam. Water levels of the lake were lowered earlier than usual, starting in August, so that work could begin in the early fall.

Hometown heroes? Yes, like many of the tasks done around town, this was done quietly and well...and aren't we glad they were there to do it!

(My thanks to Dave Chase, Pete Naumec and Bob Baldwin for telling the story of that night. They were there!)

File name: A dark and stormy night