

RECLAMATION

Managing Water in the West

Shasta Dam Builders Return to Where It All Began

The men and women who built Shasta Dam returned on May 5, 2011, to Shasta Lake City for the Shasta Dam Workers Reunion and Celebration, sponsored by Reclamation, Shasta Lake City and the Shasta Lake Historical Society. The construction of the dam, from 1938-1945, was an opportunity for many people to work and provide for their families during the Great Depression. The dam represents the dedication and efforts of thousands of hard-working men and their families who saw this project through to completion despite the hardship of rugged working conditions, terrible economic times and World War II.

Sixty-six years after the dam completion, the builders still enjoy the annual reunion. Seventeen builders and their families, about 70 in all, gathered to relive the construction days of the second largest concrete dam in the nation. The group enjoyed a luncheon, raffle, and lots of stories. The returning workers had served as



The returning dam builders -- back row from left: Don Cross, Gloria Halcomb, Joyce Davidson, Jim Carlton, Robert Marx, Tom Davis, George Heidel, Dick Richard, Reva Richard. Front row: John Fitzgerald, Jack Humphrey, Mrs. James Evans, Cecil Stinson, Meryl Moxley, Jim Brock, John Haner and Clarence Barger.

switchboard operators, concrete workers, carpenters, engineers and in other occupations needed to complete the dam.

Northern California Area Manager Brian Person thanked the guests on behalf of Reclamation for their hard work and dedication in building a dam that has “changed the face of California and changed the way we live.”

More information:

http://www.usbr.gov/projects/Facility.jsp?fac_Name=Shasta+Dam



“California was a very different place back then” Clarence Barger said to Ruth Huey, a laborer during the construction. “Without the dam, we were always worried about floods.”



Attendees gather for a group photo.