



PARTNERS IN PRESERVATION

Cultural Resources News from the Department of Energy

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Office of History and Heritage Resources

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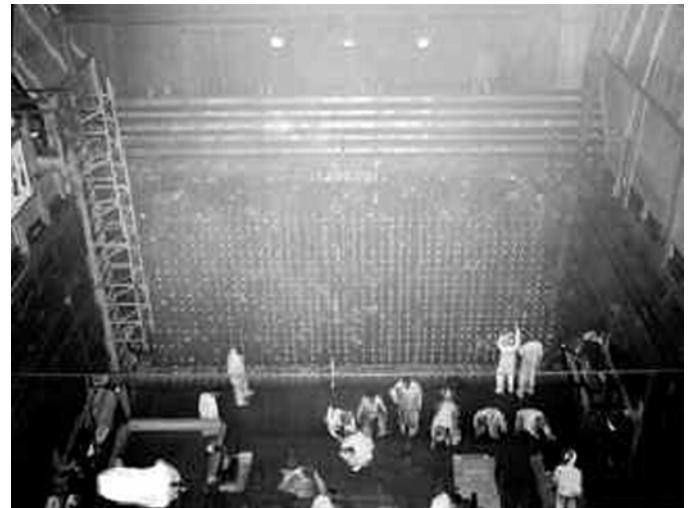
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B-Reactor Study for Deputy Secretary

The Office of History and Heritage Resources is preparing a heritage tourism assessment of [Hanford's B-Reactor](#) (right), built during the World War II Manhattan Project as the first full-scale plutonium production reactor and officially designated a Manhattan Project

"Signature Facility" by the Corporate Board on Historic Preservation in 1998. The assessment will evaluate the costs and benefits of a range of management alternatives for B-Reactor and be submitted to Deputy Secretary Clay Sell (right) as part of the DOE-wide heritage tourism evaluation he directed earlier this year. Consistent with the Deputy Secretary's direction, the study will be done in partnership with the President's Advisory Council on Historic Preservation. The Office of History and Heritage Resources has entered into an interagency agreement with the Council and has provided the Council with funding to support its activities in support of the B-Reactor study and other heritage tourism initiatives consistent with the goals of Executive Order 13287, *Preserve America*. Information contained in the B-Reactor assessment will also be useful to the National Park Service as it conducts its special resource study of the Manhattan Project in partnership with DOE.



Museum and Visitor Center Conference

Directors and other top officials from DOE-associated museums and visitor centers, both existing and projected, met in Las Vegas, Nevada, on June 15-16. Hosted by the Atomic Testing Museum (ATM) and sponsored by the Office of History and Heritage Resources (OHHR), the conference had two purposes: 1) to provide the first-ever opportunity for colleagues to meet and discuss ways to develop a mutually beneficial network of the various

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museums and visitor centers and 2) to provide input and recommendations that will be included in the Museum and Visitor Center study being prepared by OHHR for submission to Deputy Secretary of Energy Clay Sell. Prior to the conference, OHHR conducted a survey to gather data about the institutions that constitute the universe of DOE museums and visitor centers.

Following welcomes by Troy Wade and Bill Johnson of the ATM, FPO and Chief Historian Skip Gosling, and Deputy Secretary Sell (via videotape), David Ucko (right), a consultant working with OHHR, served as conference moderator, sharing the results of the OHHR survey and leading a discussion



on the challenges and opportunities facing the museums and visitor centers. Conference participants indicated that the greatest single challenge for the museums and visitor centers, like many other similar institutions nationally, is annual funding. Noting that the museums and visitor centers are national assets currently underutilized by the Department, participants stressed that these assets offer a vehicle for agency outreach through exhibits and educational programs. Participants suggested that the Department do more to encourage heritage tourism and called for a common web portal that would provide visitors the "big picture" of agency assets and encourage them to visit multiple facilities. The web site would be linked with the existing historical web pages created by OHHR. OHHR will take the lead in implementing a common web portal.

Conference participants expressed an interest in holding a follow-up meeting in 2007 and agreed to set up the DOE Museum, Science and Visitor Center Network (MSVC-Net). They adopted the following statement of purpose:

We provide a mechanism to engage and educate the public and preserve materials and memories that characterize the work of the Department of Energy, its contractors, and predecessor agencies as initiators of science and technology that made history and continue to change the world.

This organization serves the Department's interests in understanding and honoring its work in the past and its need for an informed public and capable future workforce.

Conference participants indicated that the Network will be a means for sharing information, exhibits, collections, and other resources. They also said that the Network will help promote standards and provide opportunities for professional development.

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National Park Service Manhattan Project Resource Study

The public comment period for Stage 1 of the National Park Service Special Resource Study (Set the Stage for Planning) ended on June 30, 2006. Stage 2 (Develop Preliminary Alternatives) will last until spring 2007 and will "Identify a range of reasonable alternatives for NPS involvement, assess their effects, analyze public reactions, and select a preferred alternative." The Deputy Secretary has directed the FPO to coordinate DOE's participation in the study (click here to read the [March 24](#) and [May 26](#) correspondence), and DOE and the Park Service (Washington Office, Southeast Region, Pacific West Region, Intermountain Region, Midwest Region, and Denver Service Center) are currently finalizing a project agreement defining specific requirements and duties to be performed throughout the study period.



DOE Headquarters Museum/Visitor Center

At the direction of Secretary of Energy Samuel Bodman and Deputy Secretary of Energy Clay Sell, a museum/visitor center is being installed as part of the renovation of the north lobby of the Forrestal building, the Department of Energy's headquarters in Washington, D.C. The museum/visitor center will include permanent exhibits featuring historical displays, artifacts, and significant historical documents. In addition, some space is being reserved for rotating exhibits featuring current departmental programs. The Office of Science will be the first occupant of this space. Lobby renovation is scheduled to be completed by December 31.

The Department's Office of Administration is overseeing the lobby renovation project. Deputy Secretary Sell has directed the Office of History and Heritage Resources (OHHR) to take responsibility for the design and content of the Forrestal lobby's permanent exhibits. OHHR is working with field sites, laboratories, and DOE-related museums and visitor centers in identifying and obtaining suitable artifacts and documents for the lobby exhibits.

The FPO/Chief Historian thanks all of the sites that are participating in the search for exhibit materials.

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2007 DOE Cultural Resources Forum: Hanford, Washington

Save the date! The 2007 Cultural Resources Forum will be hosted by the Richland Operations Office on May 8-9, 2007.

Contributors to this Issue:

Jim Barrows and the staff from Pantex; Katatra Vasquez, Oak Ridge Office

2006 DOE Cultural Resources Forum: Oak Ridge, Tennessee

The DOE Oak Ridge Office and NNSA hosted the 2006 DOE Cultural Resources Forum on May 2-3. The first day consisted of a tour of Oak Ridge's Manhattan Project "Signature Facilities." The tour began with a visit to the 40-acre K-25 plant, which was the first gaseous diffusion facility. The tour moved on to the X-10 Graphite Reactor at Oak Ridge



National Laboratory, which is a National Historic Landmark. X-10 produced the first significant amounts of plutonium during World War II. The group was unable to take a tour of the Y-12 Beta-3 Racetracks as the NNSA Y-12 facility unexpectedly closed due to a security lockdown. As an alternative, tour guide Ray Smith directed the bus to the ridge overlooking the plant and showed the group the layout of the Y-12 complex. The tour concluded with a visit to the American Museum of Science and Energy. The group ate dinner at Big Ed's Pizza, Oak Ridge's unofficial fourth "Signature Facility." Oak Ridge staff presented the FPO with an award in honor of his 20th visit to the site.

A business meeting was held the following morning and began with a welcome from Gerald Boyd (right), manager of the Oak Ridge Office. Boyd, who manages 12,000 employees and a budget of \$2.7 billion (about 11% of the DOE budget), welcomed the group to Oak Ridge and discussed the complex historic preservation challenges facing his office. Skip Gosling gave a brief overview of activities in the Office of History and Heritage Resources and announced a competitive grant program for funds to support field preservation activities. Tom McCulloch updated the group on Advisory Council activities, and Dick Tune, of the Tennessee State Historic Preservation Office, contributed his perspective on the Oak Ridge program and applauded its inclusive public participation program. Katy Brown, executive director of the Oak Ridge Convention & Visitor's Bureau, talked about the annual "Secret City" festival that Oak Ridge holds each spring. And Katatra Vasquez provided a summary of the Oak Ridge cultural resources program—complete with prizes. Numerous field site offices also gave short reports on their activities. During the afternoon, the group took a tour of the city of Oak Ridge and attended a viewing of "Secret City: The Oak Ridge Story" at the American Museum of Science and Energy.



Cultural Resources Links

Office of History and Heritage Resources Homepage

Histories, chronologies, photographs, museums, and more.

Office of History and Heritage Resources Historic Preservation Information central for DOE historic preservation activities.

EH Cultural Resources Web

Regulations, policy and guidance documents, and the cultural resources forum.

Advisory Council on Historic Preservation Historic preservation news and information at the national level.

Oak Ridge put on a first-class meeting for the DOE cultural resources community, and it was greatly appreciated by all participants.

At right, Skip (wearing a Big Ed's ballcap) receives his award from Gary Hartman for his 20th visit to Oak Ridge.



K-25 Racetrack?

A Tennessee company has proposed building a 3.7-mile road racing facility on the grounds of the K-25 facility at the East Tennessee Technology Park. The track would be called the Thousand Suns International Road Course. "Preservation of history is important to our plans," notes company representative Eric Wilson. "History combined with motorsports will be exciting entertainment." Details of the racetrack proposal are at <http://www.thousandsunsmotorsports.com>.

FPO Funds Field Office Preservation

The FPO provided FY06 funding to four DOE sites following a competitive grants process. The recipients were: Argonne National Laboratory to support documentation of the Experimental Boiling Water Reactor; Los Alamos National Laboratory to support "bricks and mortar" repairs to the historically significant Cold War era Back Gate Guard Station; Nevada Site Office to replace roofs on both Apple 2 two-story, weapons-effects houses at the Nevada Test Site, stabilize the brick chimneys, and treat damage on the exterior of the houses; and Pantex Plant to develop interpretation and displays for six historic railcars and one switch engine that will be preserved onsite.

Site preservation funding for another round of grants is included in the FY07 budget request.

Pantex Donates Cold War Era Train Cars to Railroad Museum

During the height of the Cold War, the White Train moved nuclear weapons from Pantex Plant to a number of military weapon depots, ensuring safety and security for our borders. Regardless of where it traveled, the train always returned to Pantex Plant. After more than 50 years, a small part of nuclear weapons history left Pantex grounds for the final time.

Upcoming Meetings and Conferences:

Manhattan Project V-
Site Dedication and
Symposium, Los
Alamos, New Mexico,
October 6-7, 2006

Society for American
Archaeology Annual
Meeting, Austin,
Texas, April 25-29,
2007

2007 DOE Cultural
Resources Forum,
Hanford, Washington,
May 8-9, 2007

With the help of a Burlington Northern Santa Fe (BNSF) engine, eleven cars and an engine were slowly pulled from Pantex property in mid-July to their new home, the Amarillo Railroad Museum. Of those cars going offsite, an armored coach car and an armor-plated weapons carrier will ultimately reside at the Department of Energy/National Nuclear Security Administration National Atomic Museum in Albuquerque, New Mexico.



The train came and went through Pantex gates carrying weapons that were part of the nation's nuclear arsenal. The Department of Energy's Office of Secure Transportation (OST) moved weapons by train from 1951 to 1987. OST then changed to unmarked safe-secure transports to move the weapons by road. The train cars have sat on Pantex rails since that time.

Originally, the train was white but was painted other colors in an attempt to avoid notice. Regardless of its color, it was called the White Train. The Amarillo Railroad Museum plans to restore the cars to the original white color and display the train for anyone wanting to know more about the Panhandle's Cold War role.

Six of the White Train cars – a 1942 switch engine connected to a long coach, a buffer car, a short coach, an ATMX weapons carrier without armor plating, an armored coach, and a high-side weapons carrier – remain on the plant for interpretation and preservation. An original switch along the mainline will be left in place to support the historical configuration. Preservation of the six railcars onsite, as well as the two at the National Atomic Museum, follows stipulations in the Programmatic Agreement and Cultural Resources Management Plan for Pantex Plant that were put into place in April 2004.

Moving the railcars took several days of maneuvering after many months of coordination. BNSF donated the time to determine if the railcars were roadworthy and the rails and ties capable of supporting the weight of the cars. Plant personnel with the expertise to run the switch engine, work the switches, and couple/uncouple the railcars were able to configure the cars for transport. During the process, the wheels of one car slipped off the rails at a switch. BNSF provided a tool, at no cost to Pantex, which allowed the railcars to be worked back onto the rails. The configuration of offsite cars was finished the next day.

On the third day, the switch engine, under command of plant personnel, pushed the cars to the edge of plant property, where the Pantex spur connected with the BNSF mainline. From there, BNSF pulled them to the Amarillo Railroad Museum, a distance of only a few miles, again at no cost to Pantex. Thanks to the donation of time, expertise, equipment, and personnel by BNSF, the move was accomplished.

BWXT Pantex will now remove approximately 12 miles of rail by the end of the fiscal year to reduce deferred maintenance at the plant. Removal of the

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rail system will achieve deferred maintenance reduction of \$30 million, improving the asset condition index for the plant and the NNSA.

- Contributed by Pantex Plant staff

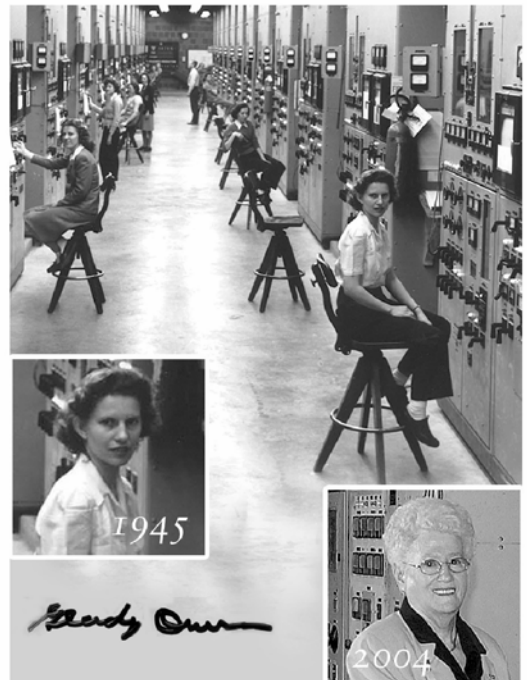
Around the Complex

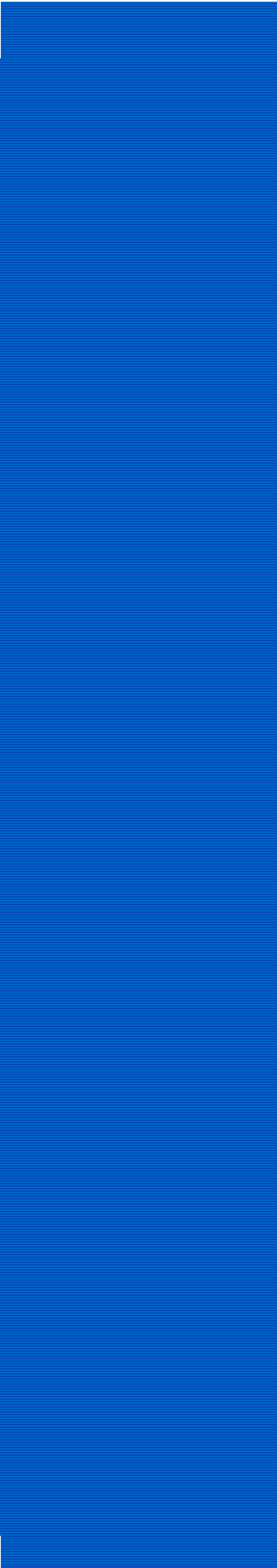
Stephanie Young, from the University of California at Berkeley, has joined the Office of History and Heritage Resources as the Edward Teller Fellow in Science and National Security Studies for academic year 2006-07. The Teller Fellowship is co-funded by the Office of Science and the National Nuclear Security Administration and administered by the Oak Ridge Institute for Science Education. Stephanie will work on developing content for existing web-based resources like the Manhattan Project site and on designing additional sites in the science and national security area... Julie Braun of Battelle Energy Alliance at the Idaho National Laboratory received her Master of Arts in Historic Preservation from Goucher College in August after successfully defending her thesis in June. Hugh Miller, Clayton Marler, and Skip Gosling served as her thesis committee... Bob Starck has retired as the DOE cultural resources coordinator at the Idaho National Laboratory... Kris Mitchell, formerly of the Pantex Plant, has taken a NEPA and cultural resources management position with the Oregon National Guard in Salem, Oregon... Katatra Vasquez has taken over as the Cultural Resource Management Coordinator for the Oak Ridge Office.

Featured Photo: Calutron Girl - Gladys Owens

One of Ed Wescott's best-known photographs is this one from 1945 showing young women in the control room of Beta-2 (Building 9204-2) who watched the meters and adjusted the dials to keep the beam current maximized in the electromagnetic calutrons that produced enriched uranium. The "Calutron Girls," many of whom were recent high school graduates, were hired and trained to work at Y-12 during the World War II Manhattan Project. The woman to the front right is Gladys Owens, who 59 years later is seated in the nearly-identical control room in Beta-3, where she greeted visitors to Building 9204-3 during the 2004 Oak Ridge "Secret City" Festival, the first time the general public was admitted to the facility. Gladys said she came to Oak Ridge because there were

A Calutron Girl: Gladys Owens





plenty of men at the Army base and because her best friend was already working there. And she remembered the constant reminders not to talk about work: "Everywhere you looked it told you to keep your mouth shut!"

Two arrays of calutrons, usually referred to as racetracks due to their configuration, remain in Building 9204-3 in a cavernous high-ceilinged room on the other side of the wall from the control room.

The Y-12 Beta-3 Racetracks and accompanying control rooms are a Manhattan Project "Signature Facility."

