

From The Control Room

by Maynard Plahuta

Things are evolving with respect to moving forward toward our goal to achieve an excellent museum. At times one can easily believe it is revolving rather than evolving. Like every evolution, we experience a few “bumps” in the road as we move forward.

Later in this issue John Baldwin mentions some of the “bumps” BRMA has experienced. But we anticipate those will be resolved for our collective overall benefit. John mentions the stumbling blocks we all (DOE, Fluor, Indian Eyes, LLC, and BRMA) have experienced regarding the training program and qualifications established for the tour guides. However, there are also times when evolution is very positive and encourages us to move forward with vigor toward the smooth freeway we anticipate ahead.

On a positive note BRMA has been invited by Fluor and DOE to present BRMA’s concept and suggestions for improving the content of the tours. BRMA members John Baldwin, Del Ballard, Pete Mellinger and I are preparing an outline with sufficient details of the tour content for presentation to DOE and Fluor for their consideration. We welcome any ideas and concepts you suggest we include in that presentation. Please contact any of us with your suggestions. The intent is to make the tour content balanced and informative to the general public participants. In the future it is possible two types of tours would be offered. One type of tour for the general public and another which may or may not be more technical for individual groups depending on their specific interests.

On April 18th Larry Denton, Bill McCullough, Norm Miller, Bob Whiteside, Paul Vinther and myself joined Michele Gerber from Fluor to review various artifacts, items of equipment, facility features, etc. to identify which items were definitely B Reactor items and to provide Michele with additional details and background, including terminology used for equipment and facility

features during reactor operations. It was a productive activity with some memorable recollections.

BRMA also has been invited by DOE to work with them and their contractor to review the videos currently used for the tour. We recognize updates and in some cases further clarifications are needed as well as elimination of some inaccuracies. Also, some duplicative information may be eliminated. We look forward to moving forth with this collaborative endeavor with DOE, Fluor, Indian Eyes, LLC, and BRMA. We are also pleased to be included in DOE’s effort to plan and review future displays at B Reactor and possibly at the future B office location at the Tri-Cities Enterprise Center, where the current Saturday B Reactor tours depart.

Since the last issue of *The Moderator*, BRMA has signed the TEAMING AGREEMENT with Indian Eyes, LLC. relative to assisting Indian Eyes, LLC. in filling the scheduled and special tours with tour guides. We have developed an excellent working relationship with them and I am confident this will flourish as we grow and both continue to provide great tour guides.

Please read Sally and Bob Potter’s article on Page 3 on the status of the National Park Service “Manhattan Project Special Resources Study”. Plan to participate if possible at the public meeting (the date is yet to be announced) for the Tri-Cities. Please attend the meeting even if you do not wish to speak. It is important that we have a good turnout. Also note the grant application article and if you have any contacts with others, particularly with an industry or civic organization that may be willing to help us raise money or contribute to our need for matching funds, please contact Sally Ann or Bob.

I wish to acknowledge the support the DOE Richland Operations Office has provided to BRMA this year. It is

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From The Control Room (Cont'd)

gratifying to see the promotional attitude and willingness in approaching solutions to issues in a collaborative and open way. The enthusiasm displayed by the Richland Office and its interest in developing and achieving a successful museum is much more evident than in the past. BRMA is very appreciative of that and enjoys the renewed partnership. This acknowledgement also applies to Fluor. Although we have encountered a few "hiccups", Fluor B Reactor project management also has been willing to meet and work out some of the "wrinkles" with BRMA in an open and understanding way. BRMA appreciates this approach and looks forward to developing an even closer partnership with Fluor.

As long as all parties, including BRMA, are willing to listen openly to each other and seek amiable resolutions to achieve our common goal, I am confident we all will be winners. As mentioned above, we anticipate growing "bumps and pains" as we progress forward and onto our smooth freeway to a first-class museum. We need to go forward with a positive and imaginative approach. And in so doing we must consider all views, ideas, suggestions and legitimate faults as valuable input for joint

consideration and collaboration among all parties. I ask all for patience and understanding while we learn and grow from our experience. I see a bright future.

"SAVE AMERICA'S TREASURES" GRANT APPLICATION (Cont'd)

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increase the number of documents and photographs accessible to the public as the project proceeds.

The total cost of the project submitted in the grant application is \$132,908. The NPS grant funding request is \$66,454, with \$66,454 being required in matching funds or in-kind services. To date, \$35,326 in matching funds has been obtained in pledged funding and in-kind services. Of that total, BRMA has pledged \$15,000, \$10,000 in cash and \$5000 of in-kind services to verify photo captions. If the project is selected, the total amount of matching funds and in-kind services must be committed before the NPS funding will be provided and the project can proceed. A campaign to secure pledges for the remaining required funds is under way.

Membership Report by Burt Pierard, Membership Chair

There is not too much to report this quarter. Our total paid membership is up to 86 Individual and one Group. There are still 41 members who paid in 2008 but who have not renewed for 2009. I will be sending out Renewal Notifications this month. If you have not received a 2009 membership card, you are probably on

the List! Please note the renewal form below. Those of you who receive the e-mail version of *The Moderator* will, obviously, need to print the form first. Please fill in and return promptly. All of our members, Present and Past, are important to us.



2009 Renewal and New Member Application

Name: _____ Date: _____

Address: _____ City: _____ State: ____ Zip: _____

Phone: (h): (____) _____ (w): (____) _____ MSIN address: _____
(current Hanford employees)

E-mail: _____

Individual (\$20) or Senior (age 65+) or Student (\$10) and New or Renewal

Group (\$25 up to 100 members; please add \$10 for each additional 100 members)

For Group Membership, Official Representative: _____

Additional tax deductible contribution: \$ _____
(Tax ID # 94-3142387)

Total Enclosed: \$ _____
(Please make check out to BRMA)

Thank you; please mail this
application with payment to:

B Reactor Museum Association
PO Box 1531
Richland, WA 99352

BRMA SUPPORTS NATIONAL PARK SERVICE “SAVE AMERICA’S TREASURES” GRANT APPLICATION

By Sally Ann & Bob Potter

Every year the National Park Service (NPS) awards Save America’s Treasures grants. These grants are historic preservation funds to preserve nationally significant historic properties and collections. Grants are awarded through a competitive process and require a dollar-for-dollar match of non-federal funds or in-kind services.

This year the Tri-Cities Visitors and Convention Bureau (TCVCB), in collaboration with the Department of Energy Richland Operations Office (DOE-RL), has submitted an application to preserve Hanford’s Manhattan Project Document and Photo Collection. The purpose of the grant is to improve preservation, storage and accessibility for historians, researchers and the general public for a significant part of the extensive DOE-RL-owned collection of Hanford Manhattan Project documents and photographs.

From the hundreds of thousands of unclassified DOE-RL documents and photographic negatives from over 65 years of Hanford history, approximately 6000 Manhattan Project-related documents and photographic negatives from the 1940s have been selected in the following subject categories:

- mission, policy and authorization documents;
- aerial views and site maps of the Hanford site;
- government, military, and contractor personnel;
- construction of uranium fuel fabrication facilities and laboratories;
- construction, start-up and operation of B Reactor and support facilities;
- construction of the T Plant Chemical Separation Building and waste management facilities;
- life in the 51,000-person Hanford construction camp;
- life in the army post and company town of Richland Washington; and life and role of women and African-Americans at Hanford.

The documents and photographs will be digitized, captioned and placed in a repository file and added to the existing DOE-RL web site Photo Gallery. Images in the Photo Gallery are available through the internet and accessed by subject or key word search. The documents and photos will be available for viewing and/or downloading and printing at photo quality resolution. Access to the website Photo Gallery will also be made available through local computer stations to display the photos and documents on LCD monitors at B Reactor and at local visitor centers.

Lockheed-Martin, DOE-RL’s current media services contractor and contractor responsible for B Reactor, will be the subcontractor performing the scope of work. The total duration of the project will be 30 months, based on approximately 200 images being completed per calendar

month. This schedule is governed by the time needed to process each of the 6000 documents and negatives and the availability of Lockheed Martin personnel and processing equipment. As documents and photographs are completed, the completed images will be uploaded to the repository file and placed on the DOE-RL web site Photo Gallery at the end of each three-month period. This will provide a measure of the progress being made and

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THE NATIONAL PARK SERVICE “MANHATTAN PROJECT SPECIAL RESOURCES STUDY”

AN UPDATE

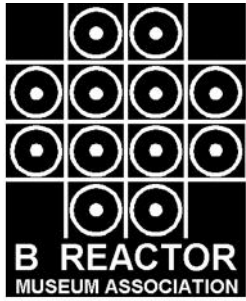
By Sally Ann & Bob Potter

The National Park Service (NPS) “Manhattan Project Special Resources Study” was established by Public Law 108-340 to evaluate the creation of a multi-site unit of the National Park System at Manhattan Project Sites at Oak Ridge, TN, Dayton, OH, Los Alamos, NM, and Hanford.

The Study Project Office in Denver, in conjunction with the NPS Regional Offices in Atlanta, Albuquerque, and Seattle, has evaluated the significance, suitability, and feasibility of Manhattan Project facilities in Oak Ridge, Los Alamos, Dayton, and Hanford. The Project team has now completed the final phase of the study, evaluating the various management options for the facilities that have been deemed significant, suitable, and feasible, including B Reactor.

The draft report on the results of the Study is currently being prepared by the Project Office for submitting to headquarters for the “approval-to-print”. It is expected that the draft Study Report will be released for public mailing in early September. A public comment period will follow the release of the draft report. A series of public meetings will be held in each of the four cities during the public comment period that is expected to be in late September and early October. Representatives from BRMA are part of the NPS Hanford Site Study Team, who will be assisting the NPS Seattle Regional Office in setting up the public meetings in the Tri-Cities.

Oral and written comments received during the public comment period will be addressed or incorporated in the Final Special Resources Study/Environmental Impact Statement Report. The Final Report, including the recommended most effective and efficient management alternative, will be submitted by the Project Office to the Secretary of the Interior. In accordance with Public Law 108-340, a report will then be submitted to Congress describing the findings of the study and the conclusions and recommendations of the Secretary.



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B Reactor Tour Opportunities Expand in 2009

by John Baldwin, Tour Coordinator

I would like to report that all is going well with the B Reactor tours led by our BRMA tour guides but, unfortunately, that is not the case.

You may or may not be aware that at the beginning of this year, Fluor Hanford took over the contract to provide upkeep for B Reactor and assume the responsibility for converting it into a museum as well as provide an extended tour schedule. Fluor decided to subcontract the providing of tour guides to a small business named Indian Eyes. Indian Eyes then advertised in the newspaper to hire tour guides. BRMA went to Fluor and to DOE and received assurances from DOE and Fluor that they wanted BRMA members to continue giving tours as "BRMA had the experience and knowledge necessary to make B Reactor a successful museum." Subsequently BRMA entered into a subcontract with Indian Eyes (IE) to provide at least half the tour guides for the 2009 tour season.

Unfortunately, some of the tours led by the newly hired tour guides were, shall we say, less than successful.

The reaction on the part of Fluor was to require additional training of most of the tour guides, including all but 6 of our 17 BRMA guides, before they would be allowed to continue giving tours. As our BRMA guides have been conducting tours for many years, this action was not taken favorably and, so far, two of our BRMA guides have decided to quit. We are hopeful that Fluor and DOE will reconsider their action with regards to our experienced BRMA guides and work with us to assure the public is provided with the type of tours that will make B Reactor a successful museum.

DOE has requested that BRMA participate in improving the tour presentation, which we have agreed to do. There are a number of actions by DOE and Fluor that are either in the works or being contemplated that give us hope the current situation will improve in the near future. Hopefully, I will be able to comment on those in the next issue of *The Moderator*.

For anyone interested in becoming a BRMA tour guide who I have not already contacted, please send an Email to jhbaldwin@aol.com.