

From The Control Room

by Maynard Plahuta, BRMA President

During the past few months some high-level dignitaries have visited and toured B Reactor. In particular, an August 29 event at the reactor, initiated by Colleen French of DOE-RL, celebrated the National Park Service report to Congress submitted by Secretary of the Interior Ken Salazar this past July 13 (*see photos on P. 4*). We were pleased that Congressman Doc Hastings gave the keynote address at this event. Also speaking was Rory Westberg, Deputy Director, Pacific Northwest Region, National Park Service. (*See photo on P. 6*) Attendees also included Hank Florence from the Seattle Park Service office as well as Keith Dunbar, recently retired from that office. Keith has been the internal Park Service sparkplug behind advocating that Hanford should be included in the proposed park. BRMA, this community, and the entire nation owe Keith a multitude of thanks for his efforts.

The primary reason for the celebration was that the report recommended the establishment of a Manhattan National Historic Park with units located at Hanford, Washington; Oak Ridge, Tennessee; and Los Alamos, New Mexico. This recommendation truly met our wishes and desires. At this point legislation is being developed to establish the park; we are optimistic the legislation will be approved by Congress and signed by the President.

On September 18 Interior Secretary Ken Salazar, at the invitation of Rep. Doc Hastings, toured B. He was accompanied by U.S. Sen. Maria Cantwell and Washington Gov. Chris Gregoire. Also attending was

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B Reactor Tours

by Bob Horgos, BRMA Tour Coordinator

The 2011 B Reactor Tour Season for the general public officially closed on Friday, September 30. The 2011 Tour Season had a greater number of tours than the 2010 season had, and a significant increase in the number of visitors accommodated. An exact final tabulation and detailed breakdown of the number and demographics of the visitors has not been tabulated for this report but the figures for the week ending September 24 demonstrated significant increases over the 2010 totals.

The next-to-last-week totals showed 226 tours with 7,506 persons visiting B Reactor, representing visitors from 49 states and 33 foreign countries. Only the state of Kentucky was not represented by the visiting guests. The remaining six tours in September were expected to increase the total number of visitors to more than 7,750

visitors. And although the general public tours are concluded, Mission Support Alliance (MSA) has tentatively scheduled at least five special tours for the month of October. It is conceivable that the total number of visitors for the 2011 season could exceed 8,000.

MSA and Indian Eyes, LLC, have scheduled an end-of-season wrap-up

with all persons involved with scheduling and conducting the 2011 tours at which time exact values for the 2011 Season will be available.

On September 17 MSA and Indian Eyes conducted a

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The B Reactor Museum Assn. meets on the 2nd Monday of each month at 7 p.m. in the CREHST Museum Auditorium, 95 Lee Blvd., Richland

Future meeting dates for the remainder of the Fall Quarter are: October 10, November 14, and December 12

From The Control Room (cont'd)

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Christine Lehnertz, Director of the National Park Service Pacific West Region with its office located in Oakland, California. As with all visitors, the dignitaries were extremely pleased and thoroughly enjoyed the tour. Secretary Salazar asked me to give some history to the assembled group about BRMA. I did that and when finished he remarked quietly to me his thanks to BRMA for preserving B Reactor.

I wish more BRMA people could have been present at the Sec. Salazar visit. But with the significant number of security, logistics and other staff people associated with these dignitaries it was not possible. I am pleased that

DOE-RL invited one person from each of its local partners to continue working with them as a team to ensure this community participates in providing advice on decisions and activities forthcoming. As you know these partners include BRMA, TRIDEC, the Hanford Communities, and the Tri-Cities Visitor and Convention Bureau.

The oral history interviews mentioned in the previous *Moderator* may be cut back or delayed due to funding issues. RL-DOE is working with BRMA and MSA to find ways to conduct some selected interviews. All recognize that the need to proceed with this effort is time critical.

Membership Report

By **Burt Pierard, Membership Chair**

Our final 2011 Membership count was 89, just one less than 2010 (the goal number I gave you in the Summer *Moderator* was in error). As of October 1, the early 2012 renewal period is now OPEN (any dues we now receive are credited to 2012). To send in your Renewal, the Form is on this page to Clip or Print.

BRMA Charitable Contributors

This is a Public Acknowledgement of generous cash contributions to BRMA. The following list covers the period March through September 2011.

- Del Ballard
- Carl Connell
- Craig Dickison
- Katherine J. Ely
- James A. Englund
- Maureen Hamilton
- Michael & Tana Inglima
- Jim Paglieri
- Watson C. Warriner

Thank You!

2012 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

DOE's B Reactor Preservation Project Honored For Federal Leadership, Commitment to Historic Hanford Facility

SEATTLE – On August 11 the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (ACHP) presented its Chairman's Award for Achievement in Historic Preservation to the Department of Energy (DOE), Richland Operations Office, for the B Reactor Preservation Project at DOE's Hanford Site in southeastern Washington state.

"The B Reactor Project spared an endangered National Historic Landmark from destruction and converted what had been a public problem into a publically accessible national treasure," said Milford Wayne Donaldson, FAIA, ACHP chairman and California State Historic Preservation Officer. "The B Reactor is likely to become part of a new Manhattan Project National Historical Park that will teach millions about the amazing but true cliffhanger story of the race to develop the atomic bomb before America's enemies could do so during World War II."

The award was made during the ACHP's summer business meeting at the Mayflower Park Hotel. Receiving the award for the Department of Energy were:

- Matt McCormick, Manager, DOE's Richland Operations Office, and
- Colleen French, B Reactor Preservation Project Manager.

"We are honored to receive this recognition from the Council for the hard work Colleen and her contractor team have accomplished at the B Reactor," said McCormick. "In just over two years, the Project has undertaken numerous physical improvements at the facility, collaborated extensively with former workers to bring the tours to life, tripled visitor access numbers, and changed access requirements to allow international visitors. In fact, B Reactor has now been visited by folks from 48 states and 39 countries."

Also recognized were a number of DOE's local community partners, who the B Reactor Preservation Project credit with having maintained an unwavering focus on the need to preserve the facility and providing significant input and assistance to DOE on its tour program. Special recognition went to:

- Maynard Plahuta, President, B Reactor Museum Association
- Pam Larsen, Director, Hanford Communities
- Carl Adrian, CEO, Tri-City Development Council,

and

- Kris Watkins, President and CEO, Tri-Cities Visitor and Convention Bureau.

The B Reactor, a National Historic Landmark at the Hanford Site near Richland, Washington, was the world's first full-scale nuclear reactor and produced plutonium – one of the two nuclear materials to be used in the atomic weapons that were the purpose of the government's top secret Manhattan Project.

The B Reactor Preservation Project is improving and making available to the world this significant facility,



Participating in the award ceremony were, from left, Colleen French, Maynard Plahuta, Pam Larsen, Matt McCormick, Carl Adrian, Kris Watkins, and Milford Wayne Donaldson.

which represents a crucial part of World War II and the effort to defeat the Axis powers of Adolf Hitler's Nazi Germany and the imperialist and militaristic ruling class of Japan that together plunged the world into history's most terrible and destructive global war from 1938 through 1945. At one time slated to be dismantled and demolished, the B Reactor was spared by farsighted individuals from government and community organizations who worked together to establish B Reactor's place in history and capitalize on its 2008 National Historic Landmark designation. Today, thanks to

DOE's successful preservation and public access efforts, the B Reactor is helping educate more than 6,000 visitors each year through firsthand experience of authentic historic place. This opportunity would have been lost without the dedication of DOE's project leadership and the avid support of its community partners.

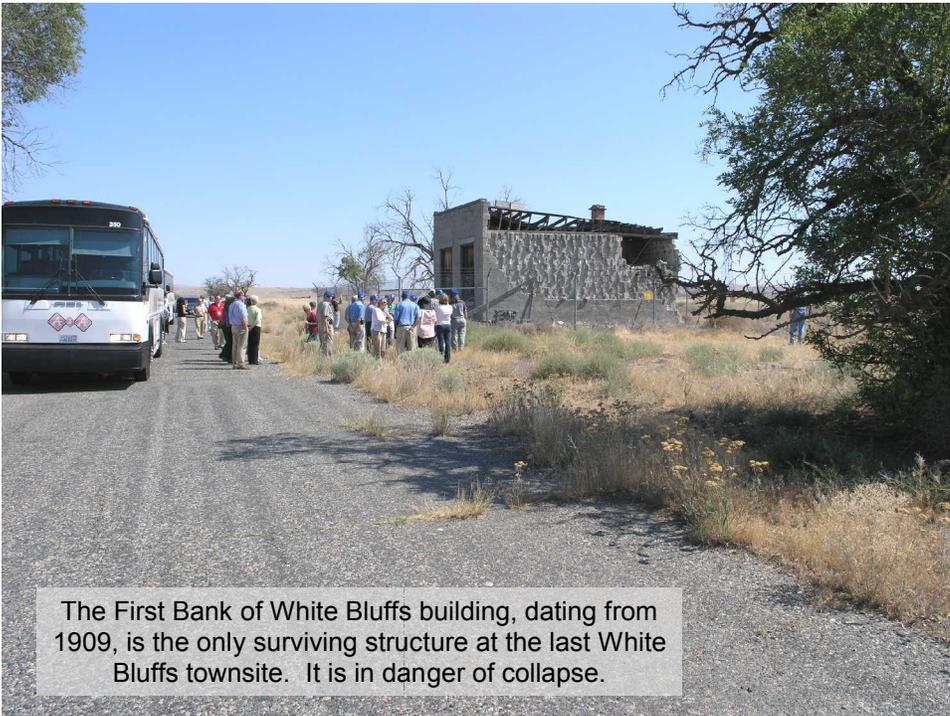
About the ACHP: An independent federal agency, the ACHP promotes the preservation, enhancement, and productive use of our nation's historic resources, and advises the President and Congress on national historic preservation policy. It also provides a forum for influencing federal activities, programs, and policies that affect historic properties. For more information, please visit www.achp.gov.



Preparing for the escorted tour of some Hanford Site highlights



A stop at the historic White Bluffs steamboat/ferry dock provided a close-up view of the Columbia River



The First Bank of White Bluffs building, dating from 1909, is the only surviving structure at the last White Bluffs townsite. It is in danger of collapse.

Following the ceremony at B Reactor on August 29, the busses that brought participants to the reactor returned to Richland on a route that took them to several Hanford Site points of interest. MSA Historian Tom Marceau provided background information at each stop.

Photos by *Moderater* staff



The former Hanford High School, which dates back to 1916, is sturdier than the White Bluffs bank but also is exhibiting structural problems

The Pierard Boys Do The Trinity (Site)

by Burt Pierard, BRMA raconteur

Part 1—Albuquerque and Santa Fe NM

For several years, my brother Dick and I have mused about doing the Trinity Site Tour. When he was in town last December, we decided that 2011 was to be the year. The Site is only opened for tours twice a year - the first Saturdays of April and October. We both had conflicts for the Spring opening so it had to be the October 1, 2011, Tour.

Dick flew in to Albuquerque, NM, from North Carolina about noon on Wednesday, Sep. 28, and I drove down from Richland to pick him up at the airport. Our first stop was the National Museum of Nuclear Science and History in Albuquerque.

The National Museum is the one created by Congress which has big stuff (like a B-29, B-52, an Atomic Cannon & other big guys) in the lot out back. Our principal interest was in Manhattan Project Era stuff inside. They have so many artifacts that they apparently haven't gotten around to labeling a lot of them. I did notice a number of factual errors in their four narrated videos for the HEW. They had full-sized replicas of "The Gadget," "Fat Man," and "Little Boy" plus other interesting models. We then



Burt and Dick check out a model of Fat Man in the National Museum in Albuquerque

B Reactor Tours (cont'd)

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special tour for persons with hearing impairment, including persons who are completely deaf. This tour was coordinated with The Eastern Washington Deaf and Hard-of-Hearing Association. The Association provided sign language specialists who provided interpretations of the verbal discussions during the tour. Due to the special requirements of the visitors, the tour arrangements incorporated some unique features that are not usually provided in routine tours. This special tour originated at the TRAC Center, located in Pasco, due to the visitors lack of automobile transportation or public transportation to the B Reactor Tour Headquarters. Additionally, BRMA member Larry Fischer has extensive experience with equipment that enables persons with hearing impairment to clearly hear sounds projected over public announcement (PA) systems. He volunteered his services and obtained electronic hearing assistance devices for those persons who needed them.

The special needs visitors were extremely pleased to have the opportunity to participate in the B Reactor tour. The consensus is that the special tour was a complete success and further demonstrates there is a need for further tours such as this to be offered in the community. There was general agreement that similar tours will be planned in the future.

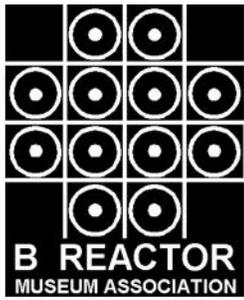
returned to Santa Fe for the night.

A trip to Los Alamos was on the itinerary for Day 2. There we were pleased to find that the Los Alamos Historical Society Museum was truly well done. We discovered that Los Alamos was essentially an Army Detachment with some (actually, a lot of) civilian employees. This was entirely different from HEW and Oak Ridge which were run by civilian contractors under Army Corps of Engineers direction. We met and chatted with Heather McClenahan, the Executive Director of the Society, who was extremely interested in establishing informational ties (like Newsletter exchanges, etc.) with BRMA. They have apparently received some award(s) since they promote themselves as "Award Winning." Anyhow it was a very interesting place and we spent the rest of the day there. Then back to Santa Fe for the night.

Continued in the next issue of "The Moderator"

Dupus Boomer





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Celebrants at B Reactor on Aug. 29 included, from left, BRMA President Maynard Plahuta, Colleen French, DOE-RL, Congressman Doc Hastings, Rory Westberg, Deputy Director, Pacific Northwest Region, National Park Service, Kris Watkins, President and CEO, Tri-Cities Visitor and Convention Bureau, Carl Adrian, CEO, Tri-City Development Council, and Doug Shoop, Deputy Manager for DOE-RL