

THE MODERATOR

B REACTOR MUSEUM ASSOCIATION

October—December

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Fall 2013

From The Control Room

by Maynard Plahuta, BRMA President

Unfortunately, we again have experienced the passing of a valued BRMA member. Wendell Lane was a significant contributor to BRMA while performing excellent duties as a BRMA B Reactor tour docent. Our sympathy is extended to his wife Patty and family.

An exciting event this past quarter was the Col. Franklin T. Matthias Aug. 24 memorial dedication at the Richland Public Library. The dedication included the bronze sculptured bust of the colonel now in place on the library grounds. It's the centerpiece of beautiful landscaping with basalt columns. The sculpture was created by local award-winning artist Michael Salazar and nationally recognized bronze artist Ron Gerton. Karen Miles deserves high praise for initiating this project and working many hours to achieve a huge success.

We all were fortunate that eight members of the Matthias family attended the dedication and B Reactor tour. Family members included Col. Matthias' son Michael and his son Michelangelo. Others were Franklin's nephew Col. Harold Matthias and his wife Kay and their daughters Rebecca and Diana; and nephew Col. Norman Matthias and his wife Mary Lee. The family members were pleased with the honor bestowed upon



This new bronze bust and plaque outside the Richland Public Library recognize Col. Franklin Matthias' prominence in the history of Richland and the Hanford Site

Col. Franklin Matthias, and with the tour of B Reactor. They offered their thanks and appreciation to all--- followed by an e-mail thank you "To Everyone" from Michael to Karen who forwarded it to BRMA and all other participants. The city of Richland filmed the dedication ceremony. It can be viewed on the web at: <http://richlandwa.swagit.com/play/09052013-657> or on You Tube at http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uKNbEt9jl0c&feature=share&list=UUB8PozKtjkeyvE_pjx3M2A

BRMA was offered the terra cotta sculpture for placement at B Reactor if BRMA would provide a stand to display the bust. BRMA accepted with many thanks. However, the terra cotta had to be replaced with an identical bust formed by Ron Gerton from the rubber mold used to create the bronzed sculpture placed at the library. And thanks, Ron, for that effort! The next time you tour B Reactor, be sure to notice the bust with its nice stand and plastic dust cover.

Another event planned but not fully completed was the American Association of Private Railroad Car Owners (AAPCO) western train ride with a stop in Pasco for the purpose of touring B Reactor. The stop to tour B was prompted and encouraged by our long-standing BRMA member Watson Warriner. Riders on the train included Watson's son Shepherd, daughter Betsy and son-in-law Warren Dean, and Cindy Kelly. These latter four had flown to Seattle to take the train to Pasco to specifically tour B Reactor.

This train consisted of 29 privately owned Pullman-type cars meeting in Seattle. About 80 people on the train wished to tour B Reactor. Unfortunately, after getting all 29 cars from various states lined up at Seattle the train left two hours late. By the time the train arrived at Pasco, all available busses were otherwise committed. In addition, all other bus companies were likewise committed for a

(Continued on page 2)

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
The next meeting is Monday, October 14, 7 p.m. at CREHST

From the Control Room (cont'd)

(Continued from page 1)

number of events elsewhere.

However, Cindy and the Warriner family got off the train in Ellensburg and managed to find available road travel to B Reactor for the tour and still fly back to their residences from Pasco. Fortunately, Watson's family was able to tour B---their reason for being on the train. However, it is disappointing that the other people did not make the tour. Particularly after all the hard work that Watson, Kirk Christensen (MSA-- DOE contractor for B Reactor maintenance and tours), and Bob McLean, president of AAPCO, put into arranging for the visit to B Reactor.

The legislation to establish the Manhattan Project National Historical Park is still uncertain for passage this year. We know it passed in the House earlier this year, but it still hasn't been voted on in committee in the Senate. Time is running out in the Senate, due primarily to Obamacare, government shutdown, debt ceiling, and other issues. There are many "guesses" as to how it may

proceed yet this year. A number of congressional staffers are thinking the best possible outcome would be for the Senate to accept the House version passed as an amendment to the Defense Authorization Act. And that would happen when the Senate and House confer on the defense authorization. Hopefully it can slip in at the 11th hour 59th minute this year. We'll have to wait and see.

Did You Know?

Interesting Facts About B Reactor

The horizontal control rod system at each of the Hanford reactors was equipped with two or more control rods known as "half-rods." A half-rod, as the name implies, contained poison material in the end or "tip" half-section, the near half of the rod being comparatively free of poison material. If the rods normally used for controlling the neutron flux on the far side of a reactor have no poison material on the near end of the rod it should be possible to very nearly balance the equilibrium horizontal temperature distribution with the horizontal control rod system alone.

Membership Report

By **Burt Pierard**, Membership Chair

As of October 1st, the early 2014 renewal period is OPEN (any dues we now receive are credited to 2014). To send in your Renewal, the Form is on this page to Clip or Print.

Our final 2013 Membership count was 81 members (4 less than 2012) and one organization, Los Alamos Historical Society.

This is a public acknowledgement of generous cash contributions to BRMA. The following list covers the period July through September 2013.

Col-Hi Class of 1963 Mel Finkbeiner

Roger Rohrbacker

2014 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
 Organization (\$25 up to 100 members; please add \$10 for each additional 100 members)

For Organization 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**



An estimated 200 persons attended the dedication ceremony held Aug. 24 outside the Richland Public Library for the Col. Franklin Matthias bust. Music was provided by the Mid-Columbia Master Singers and the Richland High School Marching Band. Attendees

included several members of the Matthias family and military, city, and Congressional dignitaries. Following the ceremony, eight Matthias family members toured B Reactor (see photos on pages 4 and 5).

CY 2013 B Reactor Tour Information Summary By Bob Horgos, BRMA Tour Coordinator

The final public tour of the B Reactor for the 2013 Tour season was conducted on Monday, Sep. 30. The number of tours for the 2013 season was heavily impacted by the Federal Government financial Sequestration program which forced a significant reduction in the total number of public tours.

As in previous years there were multiple categories of tours at the B Reactor. They included

- Scheduled Public Tours of the B Reactor
- Scheduled Public Tours of the Hanford Site
- Tours for elected or appointed leaders, governmental officials, and members of regulatory agencies
- Hanford Tours for Native American tribal leaders
- Private tours for agencies, organizations, and individual groups
- Tours for News Media groups.

Prior to the start of the tour season the program had scheduled 68 Public B Reactor Tours and 40 Public Hanford Site Tours that included a shortened version of the B Reactor Tour.

Although all available seats were reserved during the public registration period prior to the start of the tour season, bus occupancy varied during the season for the B Reactor Tours. In general the Hanford Site Tours were occupied fully for each of the 40 scheduled tours. Occupancy for the other categories of tours varied depending on the nature and purpose of those tours.

The tabulation for all the tours during the 2013 season tallied 235 total tours that hosted 9,000 visitors from every state of the United States and 37 foreign countries. Twenty-four of the tours were conducted for school classes. Of the 9,000 total visitors, 737 were minors who were 12 through 17 years of age.



Members of the extended Matthias family gathered in the B Reactor control room during their Aug. 24 tour of the facility. They are, left to right, Diana, Mary Lee, Harold, Michael, (Franklin's son), Norman, Rebecca, and Kay.



Matthias Family Members Tour B Reactor

Members of the Matthias family who were involved in the Aug. 24 activities in Richland and at B Reactor included Michael Matthias and his son Michael "Tico" (son and grandson of Col. Franklin), Mr. and Mrs. Harold Matthias and their two daughters, Rebecca and Diana (Franklin's nephew and family), and Mr. and Mrs. Norman Matthias (Franklin's nephew and his wife). Both Harold and Norman are retired colonels who served in the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

Harold and Kay Matthias, at right, in the B Reactor control room with BRMA members Maynard Plahuta, far left, and Steve Buckingham.



Looking down into the valve pit at the large pipes through which impressive quantities of treated water flowed into B Reactor to remove heat generated during the plutonium production process.

Matthias family members gathered in the front work area during their tour of B Reactor. Russ Fabre, B Reactor Project Support Manager, provided information on reactor construction and operation.



Hanford Reach Interpretive Center Update

By Lisa Toomey, CEO

Celebrating Hanford History: The role of the REACH will be one of storyteller, not only in our programs and exhibits but also via special themed events. Last year we held a mess-hall dinner and USO show to take folks back to 1943. This year, the Cold War was featured, with a James Bond Party on Oct. 4 at the Richland Library. This event kicked off Hanford's 70th anniversary celebration and the launch of an annual Hanford History Month festival.

In Gallery II we are currently raising money for an exhibit on the Manhattan Project and are requesting \$100 donations to tell this important story as part of our Grand Opening next summer. To date, we have received \$45,000 with a goal of \$100,000 to focus on the incredible story that unfolded and that helped end WWII; CREHST and BRMA members have actively supported this effort. We are moving forward with research and development of a conceptual design.

As part of our expanded education program, we've launched a Manhattan Project event for high school juniors and seniors, inviting them to tell the story of this world-changing event through the visual arts. We're also working with students on a Rationing Reinvented Project taking WWII meals that rationed sugar, meat and other items and reinventing the recipes for today's consumers.

Memberships: Memberships are now available. A regular membership is \$50, seniors are \$35. However, we hope you will consider a legacy membership. It is \$5,000 payable by our grand opening. If you purchase the membership before the end of 2013, you will be a member for life, no annual renewal, and you will get 6 memberships to give away to anyone you want, or you can 'bank' them and we will give them to families who can't afford a membership.

Construction: We are moving forward on both Phase I and Phase II activities simultaneously:

Phase I

- infrastructure is in, basement is in
- paving of the new road and REACH parking lot is under way
- outdoor amphitheater will begin next

Phase II

- in the coming weeks the building itself will be erected.

Exhibits: As the facility takes shape, we are busy developing exhibits:

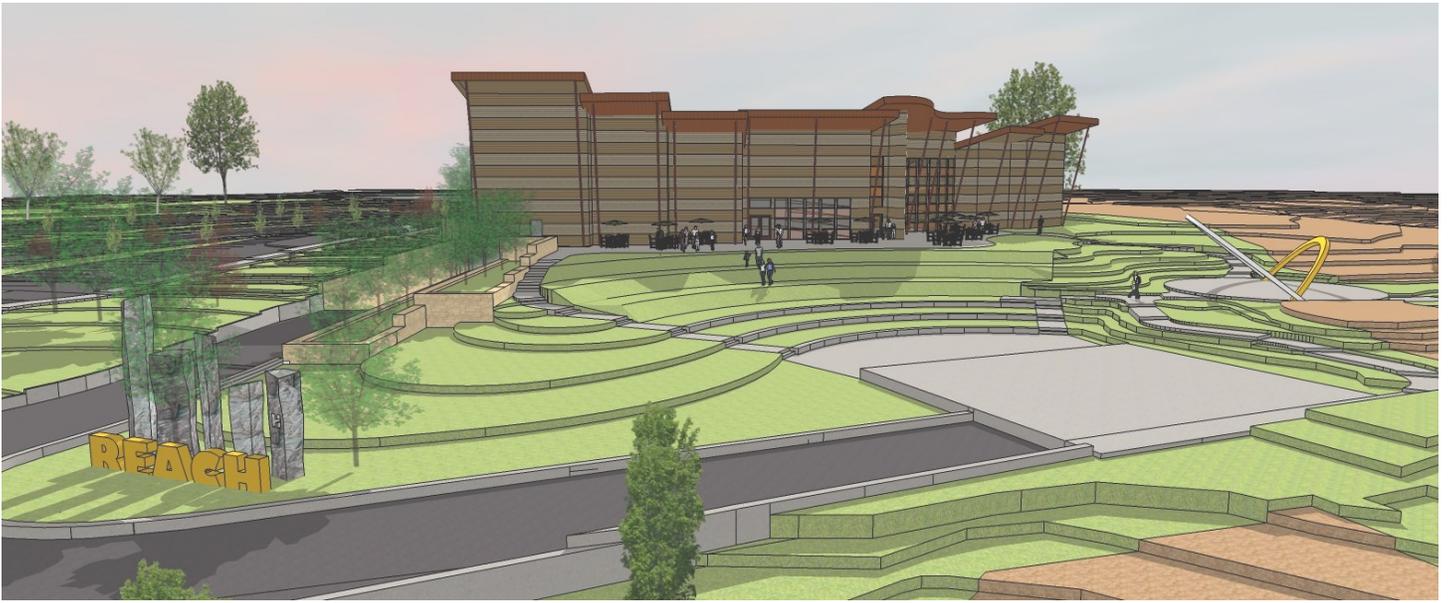
- Gallery I where we will tell the story of the Hanford Reach through time, starting with the Ice Age Floods

up to the grassroots effort to save the Reach as a National Monument

- Gallery II will be the Manhattan Project Story 1942-1946
- The multipurpose room will have an exhibit on hydropower and its beginnings with the WPA
- In our main entry hall there will be a Battelle-sponsored science and technology exhibit
- In our hallways and office spaces, we'll have a special river-themed quilt display, as well as displays of local art: paintings, sculptures, pottery, etc.
- In our store we'll feature specialty foods produced right here in the Columbia Basin, as well as other local arts and crafts to showcase the talent of our residents
- The building will have interpretive labels on our LEED certification and other efforts related to sustainability
- Exhibits also will be featured outside, from an agriculture exhibit showcasing irrigation, to a solar system project and full-size metal sculptures of the critters that inhabit the REACH
- Our landscaping will feature native plants with special planted areas to teach visitors about the shrub steppe and environment and our ecosystems
- We'll have container gardens that reflect the bounty of the Basin with herbs, flowers and native grasses
- We'll have a mini weather station so students can research temperature, wind, humidity, and precipitation
- Even the building itself will tell our stories. When you enter the building it will reflect B Reactor and when you view the building from the river, you will see the striations of the Ice Age Floods and the poles reminiscent of Native longhouses.

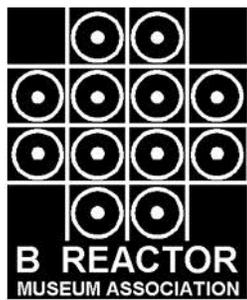
Grand Opening: When summer 2014 arrives, so will the REACH. Our Grand Opening is scheduled to start on July 1 with an environmental education event for the little peanuts, PreK-5th grade. July 2 will be a geocaching event and overnight camp-in for middle schoolers. July 3 will be a battle of the band in our new amphitheater for high school students, July 4 will be a tailgate party and BBQ for families, with free admission to the REACH and the opening of "A Sound of Music" by Mid-Columbia Musical Theatre in our amphitheater. July 5 will be our dedication and grand opening, a black tie event featuring a special performance by the Mid-Columbia Regional Ballet in the amphitheater.

The REACH will thrive by creating and delivering a new visitor experience that inspires us to learn more, to be more, and to celebrate the unique and dynamic community that is the Columbia Basin and its significant contributions to the region, nation and world.



New Hanford Reach Interpretive Center Architectural Concepts





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