

THE

MODERATOR



B R E A C T O R M U S E U M A S S O C I A T I O N

April—June

Vol. 21, Issue 3

Summer 2015

From The Control Room

by Maynard Plahuta, BRMA President

We are one-half through 2015 already. Things are moving forward toward getting the Manhattan Project National Historical Park officially designated as one of our nation's official National Parks. Most of the action is taking place in Washington D.C., coupled with the National Park Service (NPS) and the Department of Energy (DOE) joint team visiting each of the three sites that will make up the official Park. This team is working diligently on the Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) between the two agencies which must be completed and approved by the Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of DOE. We are fortunate that RL-DOE's Colleen French is a participant on this joint team and can provide valuable input affecting decisions favorable to the entire Park, and particularly for the Park at Hanford. We also are fortunate that DOE Secretary Moniz and Dr. David Klaus (DOE Acting Under Secretary for Management and Performance) who heads up the DOE staff on the NPS/DOE joint team, both are extremely supportive of establishing the Park at the earliest date.

It is anticipated that the MOA will come out in draft form for public comment very soon. It is important that BRMA as an organization and each of us as individuals participate during the comment period. WE must clearly provide input on the things we like in the draft; but also make suggestions for essential additions and be constructively critical of things we don't like or matters that need to be changed. Our input is important! We can attest to that relative to the comment period in conjunction with the draft NPS Special Resource Study report on the Manhattan Project Park. As you may recall, the NPS draft report

provided for only one site location for the entire proposed Park (Los Alamos and nothing at Hanford or Oak Ridge). The public comment input changed that position so that the final NPS report to Congress proposed that all three site locations be included in the Park----one Park with three locations. And as we happily know Congress approved that in its legislation.

A frequent question asked is: once NPS is responsible for telling the B Reactor and Hanford story, will there be a big change in tours or operations? It is too early to assume or even guess what changes or operations will occur. Certainly the NPS is the nation's story teller and we are likely to see changes over a period of time, but it is premature to guess or speculate. I am cautiously optimistic that the Park will include the remaining pre-Manhattan project facilities. It's likely the NPS will not have a large contingent of staff at any of the sites; and initially perhaps one or two at the most. It is certain that the responsibility for maintaining B Reactor and surrounding grounds will remain with DOE.

At this point Hanford is far ahead of the other sites for being ready to host the National Park. This is primarily due to two factors. First, BRMA's continuous and persistent effort over the past 25 years to preserve B and allow public access is very significant. Once again BRMA can stand proud in this community for its contributions. Secondly, Colleen French's staunch leadership to make needed upgrades, repairs, and proper maintenance at B Reactor, to increase public access to the reactor and pre-Manhattan Project facilities, and her strong

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The B Reactor Museum Assn. meets on the 2nd Monday of each month at 7 p.m. in the Richland Public Library, 955 Northgate Drive, Richland
Our next meeting is Monday, July 13.

BRMA Charitable Contributors

This is a Public Acknowledgement of the generous cash contributions to BRMA. The following list covers the period, April through June, 2015.

William L. Galligan
Cindy Kelly
Keith Klein
John Wimett

Vital Statistics

This is a new column listing the additions and deductions of our Membership rolls. It will run periodically as new information becomes available.

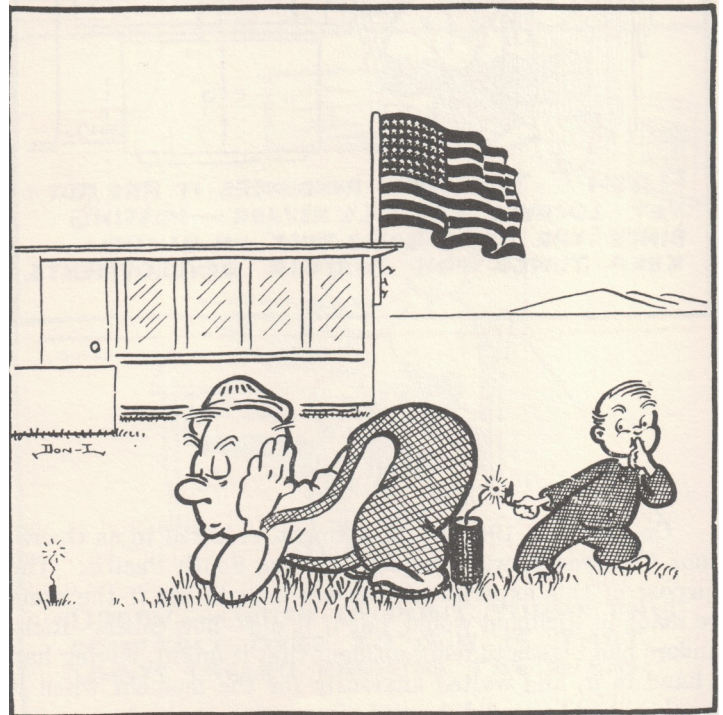
NEW MEMBERS

Debbie Burnet
Dan Ostergaard

RECENT DEATHS

Sally Ann Potter

Dupus Boomer—by Dick Donnell



4th of July

Contributed by Connie Estep

Membership Report By Burt Pierard, Membership Chair

2015 BRMA MEMBERSHIP DUES ARE NOW DUE. Our paid membership is 73 people (2 New) and one Organization (Los Alamos Historical Society).

Anyone who has paid and not received their 2015 Membership Card yet should receive it in a separate mailing. To send in your Renewal, the Form is below to Clip or Print and send in.



2015 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: \$ _____ Total Enclosed: \$ _____
(Tax ID # 94-3142387) (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

HOW LONG DID IT TAKE TO BUILD B REACTOR?

By Burt Pierard, BRMA Historian

This is a difficult question to answer without knowing the reference of the question. For example, did construction begin with the first excavation, ignoring the construction support infrastructure that preceded or the prefabrication work done by DuPont in Wilmington? Did construction end when the 105-B building was turned over to Operations or when the first startup occurred?

All references are from the DuPont "History of the Project." As a definition of construction terms, the "100-B Area" was a geographical area with a Division Engineer responsible for the temporary and permanent facilities construction therein, except for the 105-B and 116-B (Vent Stack) buildings.



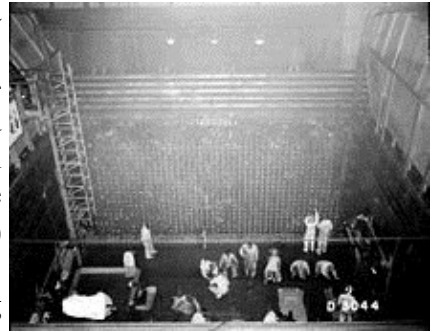
Due to the highly specialized and complex type of construction in the 105-B buildings, they were constructed under a separate organization known as the "105-B Area."

Also, the need for utmost secrecy led to the area being enclosed in a restricted area fence.

The 105-B Area Division Engineer arrived on site

October 4, 1943, and set up his offices in one of the 105-B Area temporary buildings (TC 101) provided by the 100-B Area Division Engineer.

Layout for the 105-B building started on October 9 when center lines for the Process Unit (Pile) were established. The 105-B building was staked out for



excavation on October 10 and apparently excavation commenced immediately. After digging out the area for the 23-foot load bearing block, seven soil load bearing test tables were set up to check for 8000 lbs/sq. foot capability before forming up the foundation. Three of the tests failed but it was determined that excavating further and pouring a clean concrete cap would solve the problem. There is a notation that the concrete pumping plant next to the 105-B building started operation on October 11.

Construction on the 105-B building was completed on schedule on August 15, 1944, and was turned over to Operations on August 20, 1944. That appears, to me, to be a little over 10 months from excavation to Operations and a little over one month for fueling and testing until start-up on September 26, 1944.

From The Control Room (cont'd)

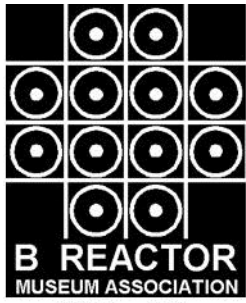
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support of Hanford's role relative to the Manhattan Project National Historical Park has been extremely beneficial.

John Fox and I attended the Energy Communities Alliance (ECA) meeting in Los Alamos on July 15-17. The ECA is an organization of the cities at all major DOE sites across the nation---a total of approximately 9 sites. The July meeting only involves the three Manhattan Project National Historical Park sites. It is similar to the ECA meeting of the three Park sites held in Richland in

April, 2012. The Los Alamos meeting is entitled ECA Peer Exchange on the Implementation of the Manhattan Project National Historic Park. John and I participated on several panel discussions----each of us on separate panels. We will report to the BRMA membership at the next BRNA meeting following the Los Alamos meeting.

It is with a sad note that I end this issue with recognition of Sally Ann Potter's passing. Sally Ann was a past chair of our public relations committee and vitally active in our organization along with her husband Bob. We extend to you, Bob, and your family our sincere sympathy. Sally Ann's and your contributions were of mighty size and value.



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