

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. 25, Issue 2

Spring 2019

From The Control Room

by BRMA President Robert Franklin

Spring is finally here! I'm sure we are all happy to see the snow gone and the freezing temperatures give way to the sounds and smells of spring. I for one have already grilled my first burgers of the season and couldn't be happier. Spring, and the changes that it brings, are the perfect metaphor for this article and I hope this sense of optimism carries us through the year!

As I sit down to write this article it is April 1st, and while that means it is the beginning of the tour season at our Manhattan Project National Historical Park. The DOE is springing forward with a full tour week of tours for the local K-12 Spring Break. After this week the B Reactor tours will be Wednesday through Saturday, twice a day, until Memorial Day, after which they move to six days a week, Monday through Saturday, until sometime in mid-November. The Pre-Manhattan Project Historical Tour will start Friday, April 5th and run on Fridays and Saturdays until the end of October. The tour staff have been working hard all off-season to polish the narrative and literally polish the floors of the B Reactor, so if you stop by Logston make sure you give your best wishes for a great tour season.

There are two new projects at the park that are debuting this summer which BRMA members and the organization have had a hand in. The first is that this summer the Radiation Protection exhibit should finally be finalized. BRMA is supplying NPS with some finishing dollars to fabricate the exhibit panels. Many thousands of guests will see this exhibit in the coming years and it further adds to BRMA's commitment to the interpretation out at B. The second is the T-Plant animated video will also be finalized this summer. This is a big step in telling the story of the T-Plant that takes advantage of the knowledge of BRMA members John Fox and Steve

Buckingham, and through animation done by local cartoonist Adam Whittier will appeal to a wide array of visitors. BRMA is also funding part of this effort. As someone mentioned to me today, next up is finding a way to tell the story of the 300 Area and the fuels manufacturing/fabrication. It's not a quick process, but I think we can look back over the years and take stock of a litany of good projects that the BRMA name is attached to. At least several spring to mind of this author.

Someone who didn't hibernate this winter is our Products and Sales chair Rick Bond who sprung to life several new items for our gift shop – postcards, bookmarks, as well as some general NPS items. Make sure you thank Rick when you see him, and our Treasurer Del Ballard for keeping track of all of this inventory. Gift sales are the main source of BRMA income, but the most important part is that they advertise our park and leave the visitor with a nice memento of their trip (that they sprung for – ok that one was kind of a stretch).

I'm done trying to work some variation of "spring" into every paragraph so I'll leave you with wishes for an excellent beginning to the year and hopefully I've conveyed the sense of optimism I feel about the BRMA this year. We have several projects we are involved in that will improve the visitor experience, and with the 75th anniversary of the startup this fall there are many, many fun things being planned for the month of September, including the return of Atomic Frontier Days! More about that in the hot and heavy summer issue of your favorite publication. I'll leave you with a few of the BRMA 2019 goals as presented in the last meeting:

- to finish the BRMA history project;
- help MAPR with the T Plant video;
- apply BRMA funding to an exhibit at the reactor.

Next BRMA Membership Meeting – Monday, April 8 - 7:00 PM, Richland Public Library

Spring is sprung! - FINALLY



Charitable Contributions

This is a Public Acknowledgement of the generous cash contributions to BRMA. The following list covers the period, January through March, 2019.

Bob Carosino ~ Michael Crawford
Wanda Munn~ Neil Zimmerman

Membership Report

By Burt Pierard, Membership Committee

.2019 BRMA MEMBERSHIP DUES ARE NOW DUE. Our total membership is now 53 people (including 9 Life Members) & 3 Groups (Atomic Her-

Dupus Boomer — by Dick Donnell Contributed by Connie Estep



Originally published in the Sept. 1, 1949 *Villager*.)

New Member

Bob Carosino

itage Foundation, Hanford History Project & The REACH) . To send in your Renewal, the Form is below to Clip or Print and send in.

2019 Renewal and New Member Application

Name: _____ Date: _____
Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
Phone: (h): (____) _____ (cell): (____) _____
E-mail: _____ (Please print legibly)

- Renewal New
- Individual (\$20) or Senior (age 60+ - \$10) or Student (\$10) or Life Member (one time — \$250)
(Individual Members Only)
- Society/Group (\$25) Name of Voting Representative: _____

Additional tax deductible contribution: \$ _____

Note: both Dues and Cash Contributions are Tax Deductable. (Tax ID # 94-3142387)

No goods or services were provided in exchange for your contribution

If your total enclosed contribution is \$50 or less, print a copy of this application for your records. Over \$50 will be separately receipted.

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**

From Our Gift Shop (March 2019) **By Rick Bond, BRMA Products and Sales**

The Manhattan Project National Historical Park 2019 tour season started April 1. As a result of the tours starting up again we hope to see lots of our park guests visiting our gift shop, Whimzeez, located at 2000 Logston Boulevard in Richland - just a few doors down from the visitor's center. Please stop by to say hello to Debbie and pick up a few national park/B Reactor related items, even if you are not going on a tour. Again, thanks so much to Debbie Burnet for doing a wonderful job of running the gift shop for the B Reactor Museum Association.

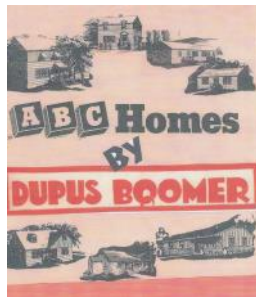
We hope to increase our gift shop sales in 2019 to surpass our record breaking 2018 sales. An increase in sales is made possible as a result of our visitor's center staff at Logston, as well as our tour docents, doing a wonderful job of making our tour guests more aware of the location of our gift shop and the items for sale in the gift shop. Without the staff and docents speaking up, many people would not be aware that we have a gift shop. A second reason that we hope to increase sales is the increase in the number of items that we now have for sale. New MAPR items that are specific to B Reactor added over the off-season include postcards, book marks, and lapel pins. The new postcards feature pictures of the B Reactor, the front face, the control room, the back basin, etc. We also now have a four-part post card geared toward the Pre-Manhattan tours showing the historic Hanford High School, White Bluffs Bank, Hanford Irrigation District Pump House, and Bruggemann Farm.

The gift shop now carries products that are sold at all National Parks: the National Park Passport Book, The Collector's Edition and the Jr. Ranger Passport Book, and stampable stickers. The passport books, especially the Jr. Ranger Passport Book, is a great gift and it encourages young, as well as old, people to see how many of our national parks they can visit. We are also now selling items that are common to all three MAPR sites (Oak Ridge, TN; Los Alamos, NM; and Hanford, WA): lapel pin, patch, and MAPR EURO Decal. It is interesting to note that the lapel pin and patch for all three sites both use our Hanford B Reactor as the main image.

Other items that we have always sold and are still available in the gift shop include patch, collector's coin, ladies and men's T-shirts, caps, mugs, buttons, water bottles, and books. Thanks to all for their support of the gift shop.

Please note that the tours will be given over the entire summer holiday weekends (Saturday, Sunday, and Monday) - Memorial Day and Labor Day, and on the Sunday after July 4th, and that the gift shop will be open on these days.

SPECIAL PRESENTATION AT OUR APRIL 8 MEETING



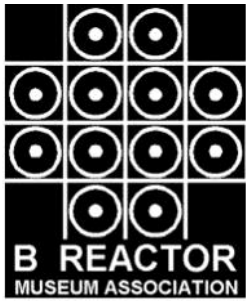
The Hanford Site of Washington State played a key role in ending World War II with the production of plutonium for an atomic bomb. Richland became the "Company Town" for that project. Richland's population was 247 when the government took it over.

Architect G.A. Pehrson (designer of Spokane's Davenport Hotel) was drafted by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to design a village for 6,500 people. That was eventually raised to 16,000 people. At the time of takeover 19 homes and seven commercial buildings were considered suitable out 185 original buildings.

Homes were designed for three basic job classifications: blue-collar, mid-level (managers, engineers, and professionals), and upper echelon (top administrators, scientists, and physicians). Pehrson drew up 19 different house plans each designated by an alphabet letter. When more blue-collar workers were hired than expected they added pre-fabricated homes using designs from the Tennessee Valley Authority.

Dupus Boomer helped me put together a program about the alphabet houses with the problems and joys of living in them. He experienced first-hand what living in a prefab was like. Working for the Tenant Service he also knew the letter houses inside and out. Come join us Monday night for a humorous look at the World War II houses!

**Presentation is by Connie Estep, former curator of CREHST Museum
and longtime provider of Dupus cartoons for the BRMA Moderator.**



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