

Special 75th Anniversary Edition

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

October-December

Vol. 25, Issue 4

Fall 2019

From The Control Room

by BRMA President Robert Franklin

Happy 75th Anniversary of B Reactor Startup! Looking back on all the events that have transpired over the past 75 years, I'm continually awed at how much impact one reactor can have on history.

The community came out to celebrate the 75th anniversary in a big way! Our communications chair, Jillian, has a great update on the Atomic Frontier Day that was held on September 14th on Page 3 of this issue. BRMA participated in a big way and I'd like to thank all our members who participated from the bottom of my heart – BRMA plays a big role in telling the history of Hanford and we couldn't do it without you.

I can give you updates on the other 75th anniversary events that went on which I was directly involved in. First off, friend of Hanford history Don Sorenson organized the visit of three descendants of the Day's Pay Bomber for a visit to Richland/Hanford and two public presentations. The descendants were: Wyatt Wineinger, son of pilot Arlys D. "Skipper" Wineinger; Robin and Jay Deutsch, daughter and son of navigator Seymour "Red" Deutsch; and Andrew Cohen, son of radioman Allen Cohen. The Day's Pay Bomber was purchased by employees of the Hanford Engineer Works who each donated one "day's pay" toward a B-17. "Day's Pay" flew over 60 missions in Europe, contributing to the war effort, and was unceremoniously scrapped post-war (along with many of machines of war). The descendants took a tour of the Hanford Site, including a visit to the airstrip at the Hanford Construction Camp, where on July 23rd, 1944 the bomber was christened. Two presentations, one at WSU Tri-Cities and the other at the Richland Public Library, followed and were quite emotional as the descendants recounted stories of the bravery shown by their fathers as they put their lives "on the line" to end the war against Germany.

The Hanford History Project (HHP), thanks to funding from the City of Richland, put together a museum exhibit at the WSU Tri-Cities Art Center titled "People of the Manhattan Project." This exhibit celebrates the men, women, and children

of the Tri-Cities who, big and small, played a role in building and operating Hanford, as well as examines the unique history of Richland—"The Atom-Bustin Village of the West." The exhibit featured original Hanford Engineer Works furniture from the HHP and DOE's Hanford Collections, as well as personal memorabilia and ephemera collected from community members. The exhibit was organized around themes such as community life, schooling, housing (Alphabet Houses), and segregation among others, and runs until mid-October. If you miss the exhibit you can catch future Hanford-themed exhibits as the HHP has plans now to put on exhibits on a regular basis at the Art Center. Stay tuned!

Other events of note are the launch party for Bob Ferguson and C. Mark Smith's new book: *Something Extraordinary: A Short History of the Manhattan Project, Hanford, and the B Reactor*. The book is now available for purchase from the authors, online, and at the Whimzees Gift Shop. Several BRMA members—Charles Davis, Maynard Plahuta, and Ben Johnson—volunteered for Ride the Reactor, the annual bike ride around the reactor with funds to support our Manhattan Project National Historical Park. Lastly, the Mastersingers performed an original composition at the B Reactor – Hanford Dreams: An Oral History of the Hanford Site, which I heard was an excellent set of performances.

What a whirlwind of events! It's already time to start planning for the next years 75th anniversary – a mix of celebratory and somber as we remember the end of WWII and the bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. In many ways that remembrance is much larger than just the Tri-Cities and is truly a world event. Many eyes will be on Hanford, the Tri-Cities, and BRMA, interested to see how we position ourselves, yet we have the chance to work with our community partners to drive a somber, informative, and enlightening series of events to mark these important anniversaries. I look forward to hearing your thoughts and opinions on the matter.

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The B Reactor Museum Assn. meets on the 2nd Monday of each month at 7 p.m.
In a Conference Room at the Richland Public Library, 955 Northgate Dr., Richland.
The next meeting is Monday, October 14

Nominations For BRMA Officers Now Open

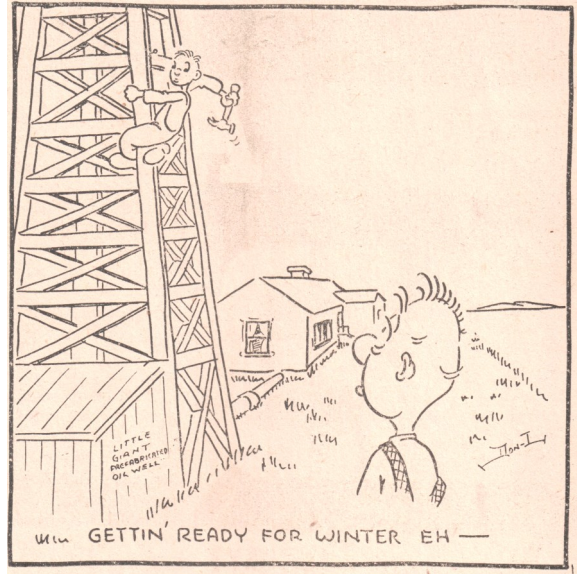
John Fox, Nominating Committee Chairman, has announced the Opening of Nominations for 2020 BRMA Officers and Committee Chairs. John will be spending his time between now and the November Membership Meeting, contacting interested individuals and will make a Preliminary Report at that meeting. Nominations will continue to be accepted, including from the floor, until our elections are held at the December Membership Meeting. If you are interested in being nominated or re-nominated, you can save John some telephoning by calling him.

Charitable Contributions

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

Karl Kuhn~ William Porath

Dupus Boomer — by Dick Donnell Contributed by Connie Estep



Ed. Note: When GE took over from DuPont, they started charging for coal and many residents converted their coal furnaces to oil for convenience and to avoid having to get up early to warm the house in the winters (my Dad was one of them!). (Originally published in the Oct. 6, 1949 *Villager*.)

Membership Report By Burt Pierard, Membership Committee

Our final 2019 membership count was 65 members (3 New) and 3 Groups, (Atomic Heritage Foundation, The Reach, and Hanford History Project). Our Life Membership count is up to 9 (3 Switched). As of October 1, the

Early 2020 Renewal Period is now OPEN (any dues we receive after that date are credited to CY2020). To send in your Renewal, the form is below to Clip or Print.

2020 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**

ATOMIC FRONTIER DAYS REVISITED

By Jillian Gardner-Andrews, BRMA Communications Director



Picture 1. Atomic Frontier Day sign created by the City of Richland *Photo credit: courtesy of the NPSservice/B. Burghart*

The City of Richland commemorated the 75th Anniversary of the Manhattan Project on September 14th by recreating a historic Richland event. Atomic Frontier Day was first held in 1948 and ran through the early 1960s in Richland. It was a community event focused on celebrating the achievements of the men and women who constructed and ran the Hanford Site during World War II and into the Cold War.

The 2019 recreation of Atomic Frontier Day began at 11:00am with a parade down Jadwin Ave. in Richland. The Manhattan Project National Historical Park staff and volunteers marched in the parade with B Reactor Museum Association members riding in Del Ballard's truck. Del built a wonderful stand for displaying the BRMA banner for the front of his truck. See Pictures 2 and 3 (continued page 4)



Picture 2. MPNHP staff and volunteers. *Photo credit:*



Picture 3 BRMA members in Del Ballard's truck. *Photo credit: the HHP*



Picture 4 Historic vehicles were provided by the Tri-City Military Vehicles Club. *Photo credit: courtesy of the NPS/B. Burghart*

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Along with MAPR and BRMA, the parade featured members of the armed services, Girl and Boy Scouts, marching bands from both Richland and Hanford High Schools, 1950's Atomic Frontier Day Queen, vintage military vehicles, a historic Hanford bus, and much more! **Pictures 4 and 5**



Picture 5 The REACH Museum provided their historic Hanford bus with much help from Apollo Mechanical Contractors. . *Photo credit: courtesy of the NPS/B. Burghart*

The events of Atomic Frontier Day then moved to Howard Amon Park at 1:00pm. The event was kicked off by a proclamation from the City of Richland's Mayor which renamed Howard Amon Park as Riverside Park for the day as remembrance for the name of the park during the original Atomic Frontier Days. Booths were lined up along Lee Blvd. within the park for participants to complete their security badges. People of all ages were instructed to visit ten booths where they would obtain stamps representing security clearances. This clearance process was supposed to mimic the different tasks Manhattan Project era workers had to complete when they began working at Hanford including job assignments, housing assignments, medical clearances and more. Once all booths within Riverside Park were visited, participants would travel to the Richland Community Center where they would receive their Top Secret clearance and their badge photograph. **Picture 6**



Picture 6 Atomic Frontier Day booths in Riverside (Howard Amon) Park. *Photo credit: courtesy of WSU-TC/ M. Murray*

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B Reactor Museum Association partnered with the Manhattan Project National Historical Park to man the 100/200 Areas booth. This booth provided information on B Reactor and T Plant in a way that was fun and hands-on for visitors of all ages. From Manhattan Project Jeopardy to Terry Andre's amazing Peanut M&M representation of chemical processing, the booth was a massive success. MAPR and BRMA volunteers were able to spread awareness about the park and share the history of the Manhattan Project with over 1,500 people. **Pictures 7 and 8**



Picture 7 Charles Davis, Carlos Leon, Robin Kovis, and Ben Johnson staffing the 100/200 Areas booth. *Photo credit: courtesy of WSU- TC/ M. Murray*



Picture 8 MPNHP volunteer Carlos Leon playing Manhattan Project Jeopardy with AFD visitor. *Photo credit: courtesy of WSU- TC/ M. Murray*

Located within the Richland Community Center along with the Top Secret Clearance booth were many fun activities. The Hanford History Project and Don Sorenson filled a room with historic artifacts and photographs with a Hanford Engineer Works office scene and an Alphabet House living room scene along with a 50th Anniversary of Hanford quilt created by members of the White Bluffs Quilt Museum. The Hanford History Project and Manhattan Project National Historical Park partnered with Northwest Public Broadcasting to create a Remembrance Room. The room encouraged community members and event participants to bring historic photographs for display, interact with each other and share recorded stories of life in Richland during the early years. The Community Center also featured a Vintage Viewing Room where historic Hanford and Richland films were displayed all day long with free snacks. Local authors were present signing books and the Richland Senior Association sold Atomic Frontier Day souvenirs. **Picture 9**



Picture 9 AFD participants view historic photographs in the Remembrance Room within Richland Community Center. If you look closely you can see former DOE-RL Manager Mike Lawrence in the background. *Photo credit: courtesy of WSU- TC/ M. Murray*

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Entertainment was available on the Fingernail Stage from 1:00 – 6:00pm during Atomic Frontier Day and included performances by Mid-Columbia Mastersingers, Richland Players, Academy of Children’s Theatre and more. At 2:00pm there was a flyover of four historic military planes which did two laps over the Columbia River. This flyover was the highlight of the event for many and was followed by remembrances of the Day’s Pay crew member’s families. CG Public House provided the catering for the 1940s era mess hall dinner which was held in the park at 4:30pm and 6:00pm. The dinner featured meat loaf, mashed potatoes, green beans, jello salad and icebox cake to give diners the experience of eating at a Hanford Construction Camp Mess Hall. The final entertainment for the evening was provided by swing band Less Stress and the Testers which is made up of local teachers and school administrators. **Pictures 10 and 11**



Picture 10 AFD attendees enjoy watching the historic airplanes fly over the Columbia River. *Photo credit: courtesy of WSU- TC/ M. Murray*



Picture 11 AFD participants enjoyed entertainment at the Fingernail Stage including stories by the family members of the Day’s Pay Crew. *Photo credit: courtesy of WSU- TC/ M. Murray*

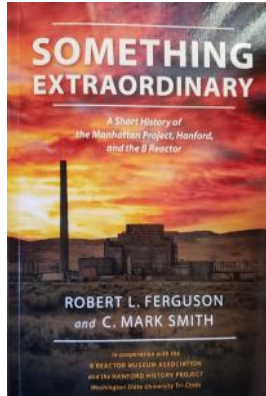
The City of Richland estimates that around 3,000 people attended 2019’s Atomic Frontier Day. The event was more successful than I ever could have imagined and I was so proud to be a part of the Planning Committee. It was a lot of hard work to pull this event off, but it was all worth it when we saw the joy on all of the attendees’ faces. People who attended the original Atomic Frontier Days in the ‘40s and ‘50s were so excited to be able to bring their children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren to experience the same event. Thank you to everyone who volunteered their time to make this event such a success!

From Our Gift Shop

By Rick Bond, BRMA Products and Sales

The Manhattan Project National Historical Park 2019 tour season was in full swing this past summer with nearly full buses heading out to the B Reactor almost every day. As a result, our BRMA gift shop, Whimzeez, had record sales in July, August, and September. It also has helped greatly that we have a lot more products for sale and that the docents and the Logston staff are doing a great job of making our visitors aware of our gift shop which is not in the same location as the MAPR Visitor's Center. As most of you are aware, our gift shop is located at Whimzeez (2000 Logston Boulevard), just a few doors down from the visitor's center. Another big factor in our increased sales is the great job that Debbie Burnet has done in running the gift shop. She is willing to be there most every day that the tours run, including Saturdays and the entire weekend on the big holiday weekends, and she is great at interacting with our visitors. Please stop by Whimzeez and say hello to Debbie, and pick up a few national park/B Reactor related items, even if you are not going on a tour. We can't thank Debbie enough for her support of BRMA.

There has only been one new item for sale in the gift shop over the past three months, the book "Something Extraordinary" by Robert L. Ferguson and C. Mark Smith (see picture). It is proving to be a good seller as it is an excellent narrative of the geopolitics and atomic research that led to the creation of the Manhattan Project. Due the high volume of sales, we have had to reorder numerous products, to include many of our books, lapel pins,



stickers, magnets, tee shirts, and caps.

BRMA recently received a donation of a large number of B Reactor collector's coins from Anita Fabre'. Her late husband, Russ Fabre', had worked at the B Reactor, and had the coins made. BRMA will sell the coins in the gift shop and all the proceeds will go to fund educational and other programs at the Hanford Unit of MAPR. BRMA can't thank Anita enough for this generous donation.

We recently provided several of the products that we sell in our gift shop to Octopus Garden and to the Kadlec Hospital gift shop for sale in their shops. BRMA would like to thank them for their generous support of our local unit of the MAPR national park.

We also continue to offer many of our products for sale in the lobby of Visit Tri-Cities (VTC). Summers Miya and Mary Spanner at VTC have been great to work with. All the money from the sales they make go to BRMA. We can't thank them enough for their support.

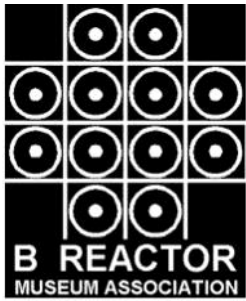
And speaking of support, thanks again so much to Debbie Burnet, who owns and operates our gift shop at Whimzeez! And thanks to all of those that support our gift shop. Remember that all proceeds go towards supporting the Hanford Unit of the Manhattan Project National Historical Park.

CONTROL ROOM (continued from page 1)

What else is new and noteworthy? Well, the tours appear to be holding strong and steady even now in the slower part of the season (visits tend to taper off after labor day). Average numbers of tour participants seem to be ~350/week, and the vast majority of our visitors every week, about 5/6, are from OUTSIDE the Tri-Cities! People are truly seeing something extraordinary in the B Reactor. I'll have official numbers for you in the next edition of the Moderator, but I know for a fact they are the best numbers yet since the Park opened 4 years ago. Lastly, back in July I participated on a program put on by the National World War II Museum called "Electronic Field Trip." This is an educational resource for K-12 teachers where local students examine a subject in-depth and work with a professional team to create a "mini-documentary" of sorts. Previous years include "Remember Pearl Harbor", "Fighting for the Right to Fight: African American Experiences in WWII," and "75th Anniversary of D-Day." This years

program is on the Manhattan Project and a unit of it was filmed here at Hanford with yours truly as "the talent" (quotation marks intentional). The full one hour program should be out before the end of the year. Lastly, the NPS is working on several new exhibits at the B Reactor for next years tour season and the long-awaited "T Plant Video", now the MAPR Orientation Film, is set to be out very shortly.

Whew. Well that's about all. Things may die down on the history front during the holidays as we all focus on what's important – friends and family, but all the good attention toward the B Reactor this year and certainly next year will still be keeping us busy during the winter months. Expect to see more media and multimedia coverage as we've been contacted several times by artists, filmmakers, and traditional media – all interested in B. Until next issue I remain faithfully your President. Oh yeah, Happy 75th B Reactor!



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