

SRS HERITAGE

SPRING 2007

SRS Heritage Foundation Newsletter



PRELIMINARY DESIGN OF HERITAGE CENTER BEGINS

The preliminary design team for the Heritage Center visited Aiken and SRS February 13th and 14th. The team consisted of three architects from Lord, Aeck, Sargent of Atlanta; two exhibit designers from VanSickle and Roller of Medford, NJ; and three engineers from Johnson, Lachober & Associates of Augusta.

The visit began with a lunch at Houndslake Country Club attended by the visitors, board members, SRS guides and participants, and the news media. After lunch we toured the Site including a visit to the temporary artifact storage area and the reactor control room in C Reactor.

Most of Wednesday was spent in a meeting in building 742-A to explore concepts for the building and the exhibits. We exchanged ideas on our vision, target audiences, and visitor opportunities. A few results of the meeting were:

- The engineers reported that the building is sound; interior walls are not load-bearing and can be relocated readily. Lighting and air conditioning systems will need modification.
- Potential building designs were discussed and we agreed that a rotunda with exhibit galleries is preferred over a linear flow route. The rotunda could house the PDP reactor tank top and control room
- Permanent exhibit space will occupy 6,000 to 8,500 square feet of the 22,000 square foot building. This does not include space for an orientation theatre and changing exhibits.
- Team members were impressed by the scale of the project and strongly recommended exterior exhibits such as cooling water pipe sections, etc. to show this scale.
- Parking will not be a problem but we must be careful that visitors do not have to cross active roads.



The visit was given excellent coverage in the local newspapers. *The design of the Heritage Center is off to a great start!*

Building the Plant

To expedite the vast construction project and allow much of the design and construction to proceed simultaneously, DuPont Engineering Department management made wide use of subcontractors through the Construction Division and Field Project Managers. Principal contractors were: Gibbs & Hill, Inc.; Lummus Co.; Voorhees, Walker, Foley & Smith; New York Shipbuilding; Blaw-Knox Co.; American Machine & Foundry; All States Engineering; B.F. Shaw; Miller Dunn; Arma Corp.; Johns Manville; Green Construction; Kolinski Co.; and Pittsburgh Testing Laboratories.

Safety was a prime consideration in the selection and performance of contractors. Clear lines of communication existed between the site contract administrators and the contractors. Injury and illness logs were maintained. Each construction employee was instructed in known fire, explosion, and/or toxic release hazards. Safety rules and work practices were enforced.

Contractors had the necessary job skills training qualified people to perform required contract work.

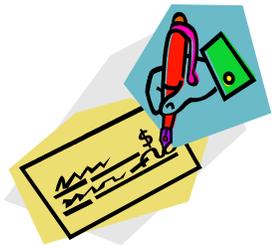
Contractors were a very important part of the DuPont safety team.

In 1952 they set THREE CONSECUTIVE WORLD SAFETY RECORDS.

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Bill Mottel, Chairman

Fluor Contribution Funds Ellenton Video



Fluor Daniel presented a check for \$10,000 to the SRS Heritage Foundation on January 26th. The contribution will be used to fund a 20-minute video commemorating the lives of people who were displaced to make way for the Savannah River Plant in the early 1950's. The video will be available for civic groups and schools to support programs in local history and will be shown in the SRS Heritage Center when the Center is in operation.

About 6,000 residents were displaced from the communities of Ellenton, Dunbarton, and Myers Mill when the government took ownership of the 300 square-mile site. The video will describe the Soviet threat that necessitated the relocations, recount some of the stories of the displaced residents and examine the transformations that resulted from the coming of the Plant.



Left to Right: Board Members—Joanne Zobel, Ann Loadholt, Walt Joseph; Dan Evans, Fluor-Daniel; Paivi Nettamo, Fluor-Daniel

The Heritage Foundation has engaged Mark Albertin to produce the video. Mark produced the video “Aiken Remembers” which was enthusiastically received at the premiere last year. He has recorded more than 40 video interviews to date. Development of the script for the video is in progress.

The Fluor Daniel contribution will enable the Foundation to take a significant step in achieving our mission of preserving and interpreting the heritage of the Savannah River Site.

Individual members are needed..if you haven't already joined, please do so today and sign-up a friend! We need your support!

SAVANNAH RIVER NATIONAL LABORATORY TO PARTICIPATE IN HERITAGE CENTER

Recent meetings have begun to define SRNL's role as an integral part of the SRS Heritage Center. The National Laboratory views the Center as a “window to the world” for SRNL programs. Collaboration with the Laboratory also will provide the Center with opportunities to showcase changing exhibits featuring leading edge technologies.

SRNL exhibit themes that are being considered include:

- The Weather Center
- Robotics
- Hydrogen Technology
- Glassblowing

DOE ISSUES LETTER ON ELLENTON TRAIL

The DOE letter of intent for the proposed walking trail on the site of the former town of Ellenton was received January 26th. The letter commits the Department of Energy to enter into a real estate agreement with the SRS Heritage Foundation that will provide access for the trail. The agreement is subject to adequate financing, security, and other arrangements. This letter allows the Foundation to move forward with planning for the proposed trail.

The South Carolina Department of Parks, Recreation and Tourism and the US Forest Service are assisting the Foundation in planning for the trail. Initial estimates from these organizations indicate that construction of the 1.5-mile trail with appropriate displays will cost in the neighborhood of \$150,000.

DOE CONSIDERING TRANSFER OF BOOK COPYRIGHT

Negotiations with the Department of Energy are in progress over the proposal to transfer the copyright for the book *SRS at Fifty* from DOE to the Foundation. The DOE copyright lawyer leading the case is “cautiously optimistic” about the likelihood of transferring the copyright. Transferring the copyright would allow the Foundation to republish the book, which has long been out of print.

SRS HERITAGE FOUNDATION SPONSORS THANK YOU!

The SRS Heritage Foundation is a relatively new organization but, thanks to our strong base of supporters, we are growing steadily. We currently have about 100 paid members. We are particularly pleased that several organizations have such faith in our future that they have made substantial financial contributions to get our programs started. Among these supporters are:

Sponsors

Washington Group International
Southeastern Environmental
Management Association (SEMA)
Fluor Daniel

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Energy Solutions
Security Federal Bank
Washington Group International

Foundation Publications Planned—The Publications Committee is planning to produce a series of monographs, articles, and exhibit materials under SRS Heritage Foundation sponsorship. Three categories of publications are planned initially:

- Foundation Monographs: structured scholarly reports on a single topic
- Foundation Articles: less-restrictive documentation of articles or activities of interest to the Heritage Center
- Exhibit Pamphlets: documents designed to accompany Heritage Center exhibits

Author Guidelines have been prepared for each of these types of publications and authors are being recruited for specific monographs. Dr. Kari Frederickson of the University of Alabama has agreed to produce the first monograph. She has published several books and papers on southern history and is an enthusiastic supporter of the Heritage Foundation. Dr. Frederickson recently presented a very well received talk at the Up & Atom breakfast on March 14th sponsored by the Citizens for Nuclear Technology Awareness and Energy Solutions.

Artifact of the Month: Plutonium 238 Heat Source



DPSPF-35055-1,
courtesy of SRS Archives



The lava dummy, shown here, was donated to the SRS Heritage Foundation by John Kyle, at the first SRS Heritage Day last November.

- Plutonium 238 is an isotope of plutonium that was used as a thermoelectric power source for more than 25 NASA space missions, in remote beacons and monitors here on earth, and even in some artificial heart pacemakers!
- The production of Pu-238 was an important aspect of the Atoms for Peace program in the 1970s, which sought to use nuclear technology in ways that would be beneficial long after peace was declared and would be a catalyst for better international relations.
- The top photo is a Pu-238 cylinder glowing red hot- generating heat that can be converted into decades of electric energy. Below, a mock-up plutonium cylinder made of lava—a material that mimics Pu-238 in density. This non-radioactive dummy was used to perfect canning techniques for the plutonium without experimenting on the real product.

By Caroline Bradford, Curator

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