

SRS HERITAGE FOUNDATION NEWSLETTER

June, 2016



Construction Begins at Museum

June 29th was a major milestone for the SRS Museum. On that day Stewart Builders broke ground for installation of the water main that will supply the fire suppression system for the building. The fire suppression system is the first of the major upgrades that Stewart will install to bring the building up to current museum standards. Initial work on the suppression system focused on identifying buried piping and telephone lines that must be avoided by the 6-inch water main being brought into the building. Work on refurbishing the exterior of the Dibble building is scheduled to begin after the 4th of July holiday and upgrading the restroom to provide for handicapped access will follow shortly.



The groundbreaking followed the extensive process of obtaining the necessary permits and agreements to allow the work to proceed. Now that these requirements have been met, Nathan Stewart plans to develop a detailed schedule for the project. Mr. Stewart currently anticipates that the project will require 3 months. Public access to the building may be limited while construction is in progress.

See more photos on page 2



Original Sculpture for Museum

The Savannah River Site Museum soon will have a large sculpture to emphasize the new role of the iconic building originally occupied by the Dibble Memorial Library. The exterior of the building has not changed since it was built in 1926. The new sculpture is intended to indicate that it's not business as usual" inside the building.

The Leadership Aiken County Class of 2015-2016 sponsored a public art project to "highlight Aiken's unique culture by enriching various areas of downtown with public art". Dr. Elizabeth Hoffman of SRNL approached the SRS Heritage Foundation about selection of the SRS Museum for one of the pieces of original art. After discussion, the Foundation Board agreed to co-sponsor a piece of sculpture. Dr. Hoffman brought David Cianni, an experienced local metal sculptor, to tour the Museum and discuss possible concepts for the sculpture. Mr. Cianni developed a proposal for a large, free-standing metal sculpture titled "The Atom in Space" in recognition of the SRS production of plutonium-238 that powered exploration of the moon and our solar system from 1969 to the present time.

The full-size sculpture will be 15 feet tall and will be located at the south end of the Dibble Building adjacent to Hoods Lane. The sculpture is being fabricated and will be installed when Phase 1 construction on the building is completed.



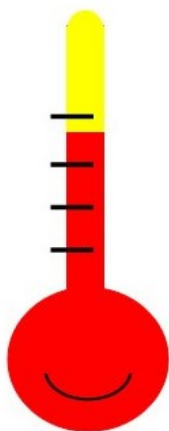
Elizabeth Hoffman and David Cianni with model of sculpture



Exhibit Designers Visit

Exhibit designers Andrea Rolleri and Dennis Van Sickle visited Aiken May 11th and 12th to gather background on the Site and the SRS Museum in preparation for developing plans for space utilization and budgets for exhibit fabrication. They toured the Curation Facility at SRS and the Aiken County Historical Museum in addition to studying plans for the SRS Museum.

Capital Fund Raising



The Aiken Together capital campaign has begun the second phase of raising funds for the SRS Museum, the Aiken Visitors Center and Train Museum and the Center for African-American History, Art and Culture. The first phase of the fund-raising effort was managed locally and aimed at local businesses and industries. The 5-year campaign raised about \$800,000 divided between the 3 organizations.

The second phase is being led by First Community Development, a professional fund-raising organization from Atlanta. Brian Abernathy is directing the campaign for First Community from a recently-established Aiken Office. The second campaign is being launched this spring and is intended to produce \$1.75 million in 5 years.

The SRS Museum share of these campaigns is expected to provide funds for building modifications and exciting exhibits for the SRS Museum.

Public Tour Registration Continues



Registration is continuing for the SRS 2016 Tour Program. Free tours are scheduled twice each month through December. Tours begin at 12:30 pm at the Aiken County Research Center, located off Highway 278 near New Ellenton. Each tour lasts approximately 2 hours.

Applications for a tour may be made at:
www.srs.gov/general/tour/public or at 803-952-9472.

Albert H. Peters, 1929-2016



The small surviving group of SRP-startup DuPonters is one person smaller now with the passing of Al Peters on June 18, 2016. Al came to Aiken in 1952, and was the last DuPonter out the gate in March, 1989 when Westinghouse became the prime contractor.

Al hired in the Savannah River Lab with a chemical engineering degree from Clemson. He was assigned to the CMX semi works, a small technical development facility on the banks of the Savannah River, miles from civilization. After completing tests of the river water/HX coolant systems, the CMX group began an extensive series of process water system tests. Al was instrumental in designing and operating the “crossflow” tank, a 60 degree-sector mockup of the reactor tank.

Results of their many hydraulic experiments were essential to the power ascension program of the SRP reactors. During his 16 years in the hydraulics group, Al established himself as an enthusiastic, energetic, and motivated young man with a special talent for initiating new programs, then carrying them to completion. However, his transfer to Reactor Tech in 1969 marked the end of the hands-on engineering portion of his career.

Al’s career next entered its management phase, and was a resounding success. He received several promotions over the next 20 years.

Reactor Technology – Chief Supervisor
Reactor Department – Superintendent of P-Reactor
Reactor Department – Assistant Superintendent
SRP Staff – Assistant Plant Manager
Victoria, Texas – Assistant Plant Manager
SRL Staff - Manager of Laboratory Services
SRP Staff – Manager of SRP Operations

Al’s last two SRP assignments were:

- 1) the liaison between DuPont and Westinghouse, culminating in the 1989 turnover, and
- 2) the overall supervision of an SRP history book (Bill Bebbington is listed as its primary author).
Al took a personal interest in preparation of the history; he was not satisfied with a similar book describing the DuPont experience at Hanford, Washington.

I was privileged to be part of a group that prepared an audio/video interview of Al just before his passing. He was not in good health, but forced himself to appear at our very last session. It was a pleasure to hear him recall with clarity events and stories from long ago. It was apparent that he had worn the DuPont oval proudly throughout his entire career. Two things he mentioned as important to him personally:

- Couldn’t recall a single dull day working at the plant.
- Information talks he and Bob Morgan gave to various community groups throughout South Carolina, trying to put nuclear matters into perspective. He particularly enjoyed the audience interaction.

Tom Gorrell

Documenting Audio/Visual Interviews By Tom Gorrell

Audio/video interviews of individuals have been shown to be an effective component in documenting the history of large, news-making events. We have completed interviews of over 60 former employees, spouses, and seniors who lived in the CSRA during the SRP era. This historical, documentary material will become an integral part of the SRS Heritage Foundation's efforts to preserve SRS history. The program was made possible, in part, by a grant from the estate of Bea and Todd Crawford.

Persons interviewed had a wide variety of backgrounds and experiences. Many were former SRP employees. Others were residents who witnessed the changes in local communities resulting from the arrival of SRP. All were encouraged to describe their personal memories that made SRP a human experience as well as a unique technological one.

The transcription of the audio material to written documents is vital for the ready retrieval of small bits of information from the mountain of words. A ten-page printed document of a forty-minute tape containing 5,000 words can be read in just a few minutes, with useful information extracted easily. However, preparing the transcription is a very slow process. The method used consists of playing the audio into a voice recognition program,

followed by extensive editing of the results. Punctuation, paragraph grouping, and spelling corrections are achieved only after much TLC. We have transcribed 14 interviews thus far, a total interview time of about 12 hours. This process will proceed, but at a deliberate, methodical pace.

A few little gems have appeared from this transcription effort, reflected in the personal pleasure or personal satisfaction experienced by the interviewee:

Ed Albenesius discovery that tritium is a fission product (ternary fission) in one out every 10,000 fissions.

Harry Brady's description of Reines and Cowan's glee one graveyard shift in P-Area after they had interpreted data that proved the existence of the neutrino.

Al Peter's astonishment in the courage of one of his maintenance mechanics who lost an entire finger in a home accident, but showed up for work the next day because he was convinced of the importance of Off-the-Job-Safety!

Bob Fogle's description of the robotics group's support in NYC after 9/11.

Clarence and Mary Bush's recollection of their one-room school (Bean Pond School) in El-lenton, a building with several floor planks missing.

THANKS TO OUR SRS HERITAGE FOUNDATION SPONSORS 2016

We are please to recognize our sponsors who have made substantial contributions to Foundation programs.

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A special thank you to the individual members for their continued support of the Foundation

Please, No Drop-Offs



Recently, several contributors have left unsolicited packages at the door of the Museum. We appreciate contributions of artifacts but need to review them before they are accepted into the Museum collection. Please contact Museum staff about artifacts you might want to donate.

Thank you

LIKE US ON FACEBOOK! We will be posting news and tidbits during these exciting times of Foundation progress. The SRS Heritage Facebook page is open for business. Please join us at <http://www.facebook.com/srs.heritage>. And don't forget the news and archives at the website, <http://www.srsheritage.org/> or check out the srsmuseum@aikencountysc.gov

We're working hard to make the SRS Museum a place where you can learn what contributions the Site has made and continues to make to the CSRA and a place to enjoy with family and friends.

Dear ,

Thank you for your past membership in the SRS Heritage Foundation. We could not do our work without your loyalty and support.

Your membership enabled the Foundation to accomplish much in 2015:

- We upgraded the Museum building and installed fire and security systems and a handicapped-access ramp.
- We were able to open the SRS Museum on a limited basis to the public and community groups.
- We built exhibits including the SRS Timeline, Cold War and Fallout Shelter, SRS Plutonium in Space, Underground Counting Facility, Defense Waste Processing Facility, and the Simulated Glovebox and Radiation Gallery—and plan for more.
- We opened the Ellenton Heritage Trail and operated our first public tour.

We are proud of our accomplishments and could not have done it without you.

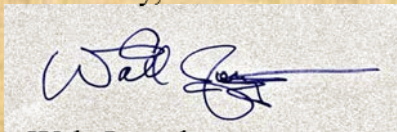
Building on these successes, we plan to achieve even more in 2016.

- The Museum is a work in progress and work on the building will accelerate as we install a handicapped rest room, put in a fire suppression system, modify the heating and ventilating system and restore the building exterior.
- We will complete existing exhibits on the first floor and begin to design exhibits for the second floor.
- We will conduct scheduled public tours of the Ellenton Trail.

Please renew your membership today. If you renew your membership in December you can take a tax deduction **and** have membership through 2016. Consider renewing at a higher level or adding an extra amount.

Thank you again for your loyalty and support.

Sincerely,



Walt Joseph
Executive Director
SRS Heritage Foundation

**DON'T MISS OUT ON ALL THE GREAT NEWS AND EVENTS
THAT ARE COMING....JOIN TODAY...(use this form to become a member)**



SRS HERITAGE FOUNDATION MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

I would like to become a member of the SRS Heritage Foundation in the following level. (Please Check One)

<i>Benefactor</i>	<i>\$120.00</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<i>Patron</i>	<i>\$ 60.00</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<i>Sustaining</i>	<i>\$ 35.00</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<i>Student</i>	<i>\$ 15.00</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<i>Small Business</i>	<i>\$ 250.00</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<i>Corporate Member</i>	<i>\$1,000.00</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<i>Corporate Sponsor</i>	<i>\$5,000.00</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>

*I would be willing to help with Publications____, Membership____,
Fundraising____, Publicity____, other____*

This membership is valid through December 2016

Name:
Address:
City, Zip Code:
Phone:
Email (s):
Fax #:

My check, made out to the SRS Heritage Foundation, Inc. is enclosed. Contributions to the Foundation are tax exempt. Federal ID#20-1629370

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