

SRS HERITAGE FOUNDATION

NEWSLETTER

February, 2015

Preserving & Interpreting Savannah River Site History

SRS Museum...a Work in Progress

Foundation members were pleased and excited recently about the installation of our new handicapped access ramp. The ramp is the first substantial change to our new building as we adapt it for use as the Savannah River Site Museum. A generous contribution from Savannah River Remediation allowed us to pay cash for the ramp without having to go into the capital funds we have received from the Aiken Together campaign.

Estimates of the cost of further capital improvements to be funded by the Aiken Together campaign are being prepared. When these estimates are complete, we will be able to prioritize the work to match available funds. Required improvements will include construction of a handicapped restroom and an upgraded security system. Monitors have been installed to measure building temperature and humidity in preparation for redesigning the heating and air conditioning system. Engineers from the local chapter of the Society of Fire Protection Engineers have inspected the building and are planning to assist with the design of a fire suppression system. As funds become available, an elevator will be required to provide access to the second floor where most of the exhibits will be located.

Foundation volunteers have completed cleaning and painting most of the first-floor areas that will be used for initial exhibits. Initially these exhibits will be primarily photographs accompanied by text. Artifacts from the SRS collection will not be available until DOE requirements for environmental controls required to safeguard these artifacts can be provided. We are proceeding with plans for a mannequin dressed in protective clothing as part of the SRP safety exhibit. The interactive exhibit will encourage young people to try on safety equipment to emphasize the commitment to personnel safety.

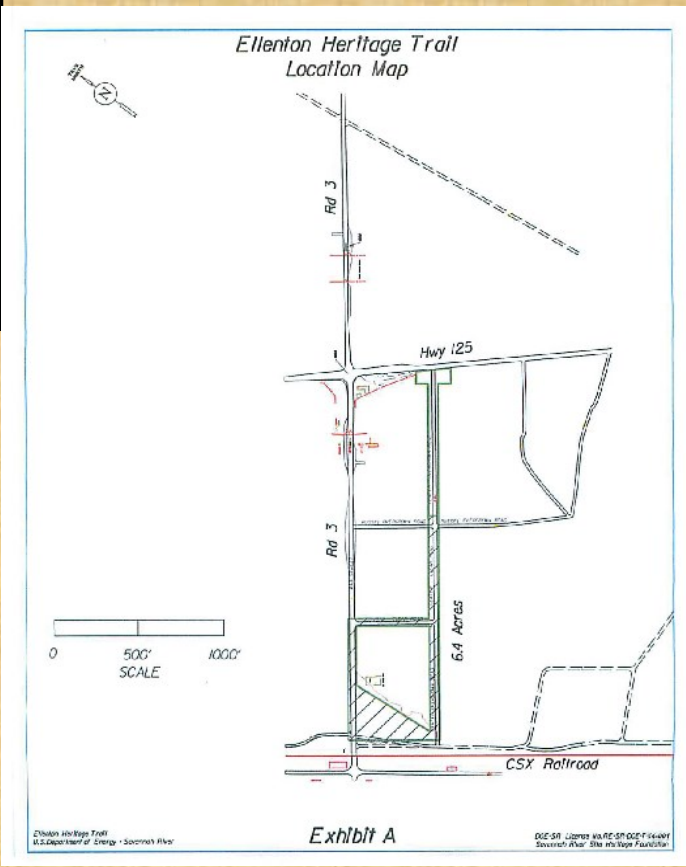
Work on the Museum building and exhibits will not be completed for several years. But the Foundation plans to open the Museum while work is in progress. We plan to have occasional weekend openings in March and would like to have a grand opening during Masters Week in April.

Newly installed
handicap ramp



Stay tuned for further updates

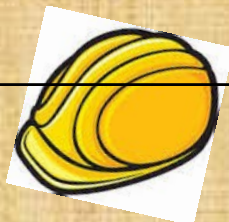
Ellenton Heritage Trail News



Memorabilia Needed

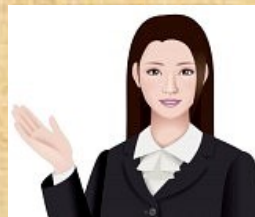
The SRS Museum will not be eligible to receive loaned artifacts from SRS until DOE requirements for security, fire protection and control of temperature and humidity are established. In the meantime, we will build exhibits using photographs, brief descriptions and the artifacts that are owned by the Heritage Foundation and the Aiken County Historical Museum.

The Foundation is in the process of adding artifacts to our collection. We are particularly interested in photographs, reports and items of protective clothing such as hard hats, coveralls, lab coats, etc. If you have such items that you are willing to donate, please call Walt at 803-648-5634 or write to the SRS Heritage Foundation at PO Box 2226, Aiken, SC 29802.



Bruce Wilson and Kent Sullivan are assisting Gayle Bumgarner in finalizing plans for opening the Ellenton Heritage Trail to the public. They are working to complete training, prepare required documents, obtain radios, and other last-minute arrangements. Plans are to offer the first public tour of the Ellenton Trail in mid-April.

Museum Guides/Docents Needed



The Foundation needs volunteers who enjoy meeting people and are willing to work occasional shifts of 3-4 hours when the SRS Museum is opened to the public. Volunteers will work in teams of 2-3 on each shift when the building is open. Docent duties will include:

- Opening or closing the building
- Greeting guests
- Providing a brief description of the building and the Museum arrangement
- Responding to questions
- Answering the telephone

A name badge, a Guide for Docents and a brief training session will be provided.

Experience at the Savannah River Site is valuable but not essential.

Please call Walt at 803-648-5634 or write to the Foundation at PO Box 2226, Aiken, SC 29802 if you are interested in becoming a Docent.

CNTA Board to Meet in Museum

The Board of Directors of Citizens for Nuclear Technology Awareness (CNTA) has expressed interest in holding monthly meetings in the SRS Museum. We share many interests about SRS with CNTA so the Foundation Board approved the CNTA request. The CNTA Board will begin meeting in the Museum starting in March.

TIME TO RENEW!

2015 is a watershed year for the SRS Heritage Foundation because...WE HAVE A MUSEUM! A 10-YEAR DREAM HAS COME TRUE.

The museum is part of Aiken County and is located in the old Dibble Library on Laurens Street. An opening ceremony/ribbon cutting and reception were held last October.

It is very important that you renew your membership and encourage others to join us. We need your financial support to continue work on the museum and to develop exhibits to tell the story of the Savannah River Site.

The membership term is on an annual basis running from January through December of each calendar year. The SRS Heritage Foundation is a 501(c) 3 non-profit organization open to all individuals, businesses and corporations. Membership dues are tax deductible for federal income tax purposes.

Please renew your membership today and continue your support of the SRS Heritage Foundation as it works to preserve and present the heritage of the Savannah River Site. Complete the membership form and mail it to:

SRS Heritage Foundation
P. O. Box 2226
Aiken, SC 29802

Note: If you are renewing your membership it is not necessary to include the membership form with your check, unless your information has changed. Thank you

The membership list is confidential and is not released or sold.

Preserving & Interpreting Savannah River Site History

Manhattan Project National Park Authorized

The bill authorizing the Manhattan Project National Park has been passed by Congress. The new National Park will be administered by the National Park Service and will include facilities at Oak Ridge, Tennessee, Los Alamos, New Mexico and Hanford, Washington. The Departments of Energy and Interior are to sign an agreement by the end of this year defining their respective roles...DOE will administer its properties included in the Park and DOI will interpret the history.

Although the K-25 gaseous diffusion plant at Oak Ridge has been demolished, a history center and extensive interpretive exhibits describing the plant are being designed to be part of the National Park. The historic Alexander Guest House in Oak Ridge is being restored and will include Manhattan Project memorabilia in the renovated lobby.



Heritage Museum Chronicles History of SRS

by Susan Elder (Bella Magazine March Issue—Feature Story)

A few steps off the sidewalk on Laurens Street, just south of Park Avenue, stands a small brick building. A scalloped pediment adorns the door and the words “Dibble Memorial Library” are printed in gold in the door frame.

Inside the sunny front rooms of this building once sat Aiken County’s first public library, established in 1926 by friends of Henry Dibble. In the early 1950s the library expanded. Two floors, built to hold the weight of thousands of books, were added in back, with a parking space for the Bookmobile. The library eventually outgrew that space and moved to Banksia, now the Aiken County Historical Museum. The Dibble Library became a storage building for county records. When the new county offices were built, the records were moved there, and for a time the old library stood empty.

History Needs a Home

Coincidentally, about that time, the SRS Heritage Museum was in search of a place to set up shop. The Dibble Memorial Library was the perfect spot, and Aiken County agreed to let the foundation use the space.

It has been more than nine years since The SRS Heritage Foundation held its first meeting, a dozen years since the project was first conceptualized. Its object, “... to chronicle the experiences of those who spent careers working to win the Cold War, to celebrate the technical and scientific achievements of SRS employees of the past six decades, and to show the impact on the CSRA by the huge influx of people moving to the region to work at the Site.”

Founding Fathers

Walt Joseph, one of the project’s founders, came to work at the Savannah River Plant in

1954 and worked in both the Savannah River Lab and the Savannah River Plant for the next 39 years. Like thousands of men and women who still live in Aiken, most of his career was spent in various locations on the 300-square-mile site. An amateur archeologist, Walt has always had an interest in unearthing and preserving the past. After he and some other retirees heard that many artifacts from the Savannah River Site might be headed for the dumpster as buildings were torn down in order to reduce the Site’s “footprint,” they met with the Department of Energy in a public meeting to give input on the preservation of these Cold War resources.

In the weeks and months that followed, Walt and the late Todd Crawford, with the backing of the Citizens for Nuclear Technology Awareness, began plans for a visitors center and museum with an eye toward preservation of artifacts from the Savannah River Site and to developing public awareness of the considerable impact the Site has made on Aiken, the United States, and on the world since the plans for it were first announced in 1950.

In May 2005, the SRS Heritage Foundation was granted non-profit status. In August of that year, the CNTA transferred responsibilities, including consulting party status, to the new SRS Heritage Foundation. On September 6, the first meeting of the Heritage Foundation Board of Directors was held.

In 2006, the first SRS Heritage Day was held at Ruth Patrick Science Education Center at USCA, while plans were underway to build the Heritage Center. In 2008 a new logo was introduced, and in 2009 the movie *Displaced*, premiered. *Displaced* tells the story of the removal of the towns of Dunbarton, Myers Mill and Ellenton, South Carolina, to make room for the

huge government complex.

What's Behind the Handsome Door

The Museum's story begins in the front rooms of the Dibble Library, where there's a timeline of events over the Site's history, a library and reading room for visitors to examine some of the many volumes written about the Cold War and the development of the nuclear age.

Initial exhibits include a space to view videotaped interviews with residents and employees who have worked with or who have been affected by the Savannah River Site in its 60-year history. There will also be demonstrations and hands-on displays of safety equipment and procedures. Displays will tell about the Savannah River Lab and the Savannah River Ecology lab.

Once an elevator is installed, the space upstairs will hold more exhibits, host talks, and provide space for research.

Walt Joseph credits the Aiken County Historical Museum for helping catalog the SRS Museum's artifacts. There were many.

On October 27, 2014, officials from the Savannah River Heritage Foundation, Aiken County, and Savannah River Nuclear Solutions gathered for a ribbon-cutting ceremony to launch the new SRS Museum. Work has continued, mostly carried out by volunteers, since then. "We project a 'soft' opening in March," Walt says. "The grand opening is planned for Masters Week, when regular visiting hours may begin."

"We don't want this to be only history," Walt declares. "We want to show how events that began in 1950 impact work carried on today. Homeland Security, ecological programs, and the FBI have all benefited from work begun and carried on at the Savannah River Site."

Funding for the SRS Museum comes from several

sources:

- Corporate Sponsors: Savannah River Nuclear Solutions and Fluor International
- Corporate Members: Savannah River Remediation, WSI-SR
- Business Members: New South Associates, and Security Federal Bank

- The "Aiken Together" Fund, which

supports capital improvements for The SRS Museum, The Railroad Museum, and The African American Cultural Center. Private donations are, of course, welcome.

For more information about volunteering or helping support The SRS Heritage Museum, visit the website at srsheritage.org The SRS Museum is located at the former Dibble Memorial Library Building at 224 Laurens, Street SW. Aiken, SC 29802



The Dibble Memorial Library was built in memory of Henry Dibble, an Aiken banker who helped create Aiken's avenue of live oaks along South Boundary. Until the mid '50s, it served as Aiken's only library.



Peaceful Reading Room honors Henry Dibble, in whose name the building was first built.

Photos by Susan Elder

Radiation is a naturally occurring physical process. It has been a part of the universe since there was a universe. We all live in it and use it daily as we go about our lives. Radiation is energy emitted in the form of waves or particles. The term includes microwaves, radiowaves, and even visible light. In relation to atomic energy radiation refers to the energy emitted from an unstable molecular nucleus when it is decaying naturally or is broken apart by other means like neutrons in a nuclear reactor. This type is called ionizing radiation because it is energetic enough to strip electrons from molecules and thereby create molecular ions. There are four types of nuclear radiation; alpha, beta, gamma, and neutrons.

Radiation is measured by two main yardsticks; curies and rems. The curie measures the rate of decay of a source and thereby its rate of energy emission. One curie is 37 billion decays per second. The rem is an approximation of the effect of radiation on living tissue. Rem is an acronym for roentgen-equivalent-man. The Roentgen is the amount of radioactivity necessary to strip electrons from molecules and thereby affect these molecules. This action of radiation on living tissue molecular structure creates the health effects of radiation. Today when we hear radiation discussed or reported it is usually in terms of rem or mrem (thousands of a rem). The average annual radiation exposure for an American is about 360 mrem. The table lists this average and the radiation sources.

Dose (Mrem/year)

Radiation Source	Average Annual Whole Body
Natural: Cosmic	26
Terrestrial	29
Radon	200
Internal (K-40, C-14, etc.)	40
Manmade: Diagnostic X-Ray	39
Nuclear Medicine	14
Consumer Products	11
All Others (fallout, nuclear power plants, Air travel, occupational, SRS, etc.)	2
Average Annual Total	361 mrem/year

In 1951 national information for radiation and radiation safety and health was limited to industrial operational safety and health protective measures. These were learned, defined and taken during the Manhattan project in WW II. Natural environmental radiation was known but essentially not defined. There also was the growing and somewhat alarming reality of atmospheric borne radioactive nuclear fallout. You could not call Washington and ask for the experts and data. Given these conditions, in June, 1951 a landmark radiation study was begun by DuPont under the direction of William (Bill) Reinig. This study's objective was to measure and record the naturally occurring radiation on the SRS and surrounding area. This entailed sampling and establishing monitoring stations over a 6000 square mile area in Georgia and South Carolina. Reinig led the DuPont Survey and completed the initial study in 1953.

Radiation measures were taken in the atmosphere, soil, and water. Stations and monitoring points were established on site. By early 1953 the preliminary work was complete. The natural radiation in a 1500 square mile area was determined, measured and defined. This initial study was completed in 1953 and served, and still serves, as a national benchmark for responsible environmental stewardship. Reinig's team also put into in the personnel, stations and equipment needed for future monitoring. These measure have taken been taken ever since and the data is updated annually and reported to the public. They show the SRS has a miniscule effect on the level of natural radioactivity in the CSRA. Bill Reinig's comment on this study says it well;

"Why should this study made 50 years ago be considered significant? My answer is simply this - the pre-operational environmental survey inaugurated the long tradition of environmental stewardship that has served the site and its neighbors so well. By focusing on environmental radioactivity, it helped to imbue in the institutional consciousness of the site the importance of controlling releases to the environment."

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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

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FOUNDATION
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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/>.

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 2015

Name:
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Aiken, SC 29802

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Email: SRSHeritageFoundation@gmail.com or qualityprt@aol.com