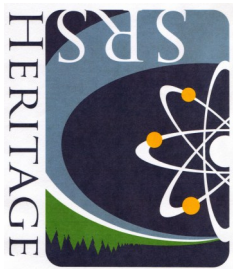


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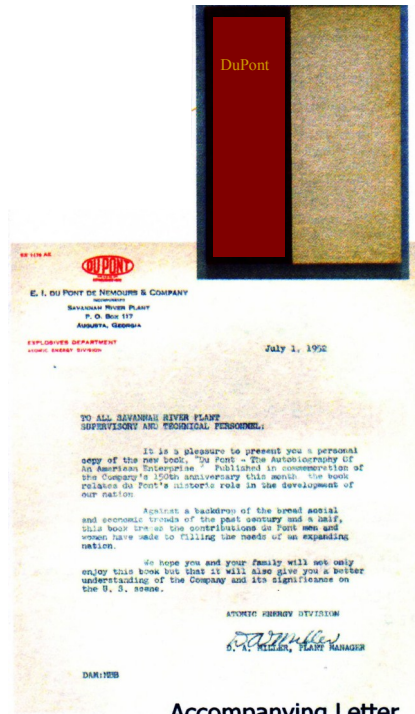


To:

SRS Heritage Foundation

November 2008

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Accompanying Letter

Featured Artifact— Du Pont: Autobiography of an American Enterprise

In 1952, DuPont produced a hardbound book entitled, DuPont: *Autobiography of an American Enterprise*. This retrospective was published in commemoration of the 150th anniversary of the DuPont company. The book was bound in DuPont's PX cloth, a Fabrikoid cloth designed for book binding that DuPont introduced in the late 1930s.

Each member of the Savannah River Site technical and/or supervisory staff received a copy of the book. The copy recently collected by the Savannah River Site Cold War Artifact collection includes a letter sent by Don Miller to accompany each book. In Miller's words:

“Against a backdrop of the broad social and economic trends of the past century and a half, this book traces the contributions DuPont men and women have made to filling the needs of an expanding nation.”

Although Savannah River site could not be included in the book—the project was too new and too secret, a spread was devoted to ATOMIC ENERGY—to the Manhattan Project, the Hanford Engineer Works, and the precedent that DuPont had set for quality contribution to the new field. In short, the Savannah River Plant was part of a new tradition of excellence in the atomic age.

SRS Heritage

SRS Heritage Foundation Newsletter



November 2008

SRS Heritage Day Joins Atomic City Festival

The Foundation sponsored a second SRS Heritage Day on October 11th in partnership with the New Ellenton Atomic City Festival. The partnership proved to be mutually beneficial.

Foundation activities essentially filled City Hall for the day. Video histories were recorded by Mark Albertin in Mayor Dunbar's office while documents were scanned by Dr. J.W. Joseph and artifacts were collected by Caroline Bradford of New South Associates in the council chamber. Oral interviews were conducted by Mary Beth Reid, also of New South, in a trailer loaned and set up for us by Goodman Chevrolet. Foundation volunteers staffed exhibits and guided visitors during the day.

Several SRS exhibits were grouped in and around City Hall. The Savannah River Ecology Lab brought Carolina dogs (see article on page 4) including puppies that delighted the visitors. SREL also exhibited an extensive collection of snakes and turtles. The US Forest Service furnished Smokey Bear, a fire truck and coloring books. The hydrogen powered vehicle from the Hydrogen Lab provided contrast as it was included among a display of antique automobiles and motorcycles.

Inside City Hall, the Savannah River Archaeological Project provided an exhibit about the original town of Ellenton that was displaced to make room for SRS. Several interesting examples from the Cold War Artifact Collection were on display.

Story Continued on Page 2....

The President's Corner

The Foundation has made good progress during 2008. Our organization is growing and developing. Volunteers have stepped forward and committees are meeting regularly to accomplish good work. The premiere of our eagerly-awaited video on the vanished communities will be held early next year, the Ellenton trail is approaching reality and SRS Heritage Day was a success as described in this Newsletter.

However, the economic downturn, political considerations and the delayed contractor transition at SRS delayed raising capital funds for the SRS Heritage Center. We are continuing to work on this issue and are optimistic for 2009.

I have enjoyed serving as Chairman of the Heritage Foundation Board of Directors for the past two years but will step down in January. I will remain on the Board and look forward to continuing Foundation progress under the leadership of Mal McKibben.

By Bill Mottel, President

SRS Heritage Foundation

November 2008

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Volunteers came in steadily during the morning to share their stories about the displaced communities and the early history of SRS and to contribute artifacts or have them scanned. Meanwhile the Festival featured a carnival, live music and numerous vendors selling a variety of foods and crafts. Unfortunately, the morning mist turned into serious rain after lunch and the crowds dwindled.

Despite the rain, the Foundation collected good information and made new friends. We plan to participate again next year.

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 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 Government Group

Corporate Members

- Energy Solutions
- Security Federal Bank
- Washington Group Int’l
- Nuclear Fuel Services

Small Business Member

- New South Associates

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



SRS Heritage Foundation banner proudly hung at the New Ellenton City Hall. Festival planners were kind enough to let us use the facility for the event.

One of the displays inside City Hall shows the History of the Savannah River Site and the future of the SRS Heritage Center.



The Hydrogen Powered Truck and classic cars displayed at the Atomic City Festival in New Ellenton on October 11th & 12th



SNAKES, critters and motorcycles galore!



Museum Revitalizes SRS Exhibit



The SRS exhibit at the Aiken County Historical Museum has been upgraded and expanded in recent months. The exhibit has been relocated upstairs to more spacious quarters and is divided into three parts dealing with construction and early history, impact on surrounding communities and current programs. Material on the SRS Heritage Foundation is included in the Museum presentation.

(Photo - Elliott Levy, Director of the Aiken County Historical Museum, and Karen Bonavita at the new Heritage Foundation exhibit in the Museum)

Foundation Exhibit at Aiken’s Makin’



Karen Bonavita and Paula Joseph attend the Heritage Foundation exhibit at Aiken’s Makin’ on September 5th. Alice Boni and Merrilee Anderson entertain young visitors at the exhibit. The guests are Alice’s granddaughters and grandson.

The Sands of South Carolina

(with apologies to the 1949 film, “The Sands of Iwo Jima” starring John Wayne) by Patrick Harris, formerly of the 33rd Antiaircraft Artillery Battalion at SRP

The Air Force called a readiness alert for the SRP batteries one evening. Our new battery commander, Captain B, had never before commanded an antiaircraft unit. Also, he had never been in charge of our battery during an alert and had not familiarized himself with the fixed ground clutter on the radar scope.

Captain B designated a target for the radar tracking team which quickly locked onto the target. He asked what the range was and was told X thousand yards. “Height?” “About 150 feet, sir.” “Ground speed?” “Zero ground speed, sir”, came a voice from the tracking team. “What are you locked onto”, queried the Captain. “Sir, we locked onto the target you designated.”

Visibly disturbed, Captain B ordered, “disengage and reengage.” Range, height and speed data were repeated again. Now thoroughly annoyed, the Captain shouted, “what the (expletive deleted) have you locked onto?”

The response came back, “Sir, that’s the water tower in Williston, South Carolina.”

Captain B was not amused but the enlisted men in the radar platoon thought it was funny as H...

Proposal for Ellenton Trail Submitted



Summer intern, Catlin Buxton with members of the Ellenton Heritage Trail Committee

Following much research and discussion by the Ellenton Heritage Trail Committee, the SRS Heritage Foundation submitted a letter to Mr. Jeffrey Allison, DOE-SR Manager, for the Proposed Ellenton Heritage Trail. Walt Joseph, Executive Director, met with Mr. Allison to discuss any potential show-stoppers. DOE staff is currently reviewing the proposal, and a response is expected by end of November. The Foundation was able to utilize the services of a summer intern, Caitlin Buxton, a rising junior at Wofford College, who collected information on specific sites for the proposed walking trail. The committee is continuing that effort with the development of a document of the historic sites to include information which can be used for many purposes such as for signs, markers, guide script, brochures, etc.



Ellenton Remembered at the Atomic City Festival in New Ellenton.

REQUEST FOR NEWSLETTER ARTICLES—If you have a story about working at the Savannah River Site that you would like to share with our membership, please send to Walt Joseph at qualityprt@aol.com.



Caroline Bradford, Curator for the SRS Heritage Center displays some of the many artifacts that have been collected.



J.W. Joseph from New South Associates prepares to log-in photos and other items collected from individuals who lived and/or worked in the area.



Video taping Mr. & Mrs. Clarence Bush..



Mary Beth Reid and Dr. Joseph of New South Associates talk with contributors of photos and papers to scan.



The US Forest Service sent Smokey to entertain the group!



US Forest Service also sent one of their fire trucks to the Atomic City Festival.

THE CAROLINA DOGS AT THE SRS

Since the time that the lands of the SRS were closed to public access over fifty years ago, the resident wildlife of this area has flourished as a result of its isolation from human disturbance and development. In one case however, the isolation provided by the SRS boundaries has apparently provided an opportunity for a unique population of resident primitive free-ranging dogs to survive free from the genetic contamination of hybridization with modern domestic dogs, such as has been occurring elsewhere throughout the southeastern United States. These dogs thus continue to live under conditions similar to those of the dogs which earlier occupied the bottomland swamp forests and other wild habitats surrounding the town of Ellenton and other rural settlements of the area.

Dr. I. Lehr Brisbin, a Senior Research Scientist Emeritus at the University of Georgia's Savannah River Ecology Laboratory, first noticed these dogs in the 1970's as he was conducting furbearer studies at the Site. He found that these canines closely resembled the Australian Dingo as well as cave paintings, sculptures and the mummified remains of the first dogs which accompanied primitive humans who crossed the Bering Land Bridge into North America over 14,000 years ago. This led to the hypothesis, still being tested, that these dogs from the SRS may be among the last living remaining remnants of dogs that first came to occupy this region with primitive man.

Over the ensuing years, Brisbin has established a captive breeding population of these dogs, with their progeny being recognized under the breed name "Carolina Dog" by the American Rare Breed Association and the United Kennel Club. A description of Brisbin's work with these dogs was published in the Smithsonian Magazine and has been featured in a documentary made for National Geographic Television.

Adult dogs are 17 to 24 inches tall and weigh 35-40 pounds. The most common colors are generally red-ginger to pale yellow with fox-like ears and a fish-hook-shaped tail that curls up over the back when the dogs are excited and on alert. Carolina Dogs are generally shy but have apparently been common residents of the areas surrounding Native American settlements and other areas of early human habitation throughout the world for thousands of years.

When properly socialized from a young age, Carolina Dogs can become excellent family companions, as exemplified in the well-known movie "Old Yeller". Puppies from Dr. Brisbin's research program can occasionally be made available at no cost to appropriate persons, with a preference being given to those with an interest in Native American heritage or who wish to experience life with a unique remnant of the early days of the rural south.



Carolina dogs courtesy of Lehr Brisbin.



Candi and G. Floyd Watson cuddle with Carolina puppies.

IT'S TIME TO RENEW!



It's time to renew your membership in the SRS Heritage Foundation. Renew now and your membership won't expire until December 2009. You are an important part of our base of supporters of the SRS Heritage Foundation.

The Foundation is a relatively new organization, but is growing steadily and working toward three major activities:

- Establish the SRS Heritage Center with classrooms and exhibit areas
- Create a Heritage Trail at the site of Ellenton
- Give guided tours of C Reactor Area

2008 has been a busy year of accomplishments. A new Foundation logo was created. We were present at the Atomic Festival in New Ellenton and recorded oral histories and collected photographs and artifacts for the Heritage Center. A video about the communities displaced by SRS is nearly complete.. Work has gone forward on the Ellenton Heritage Trail. Board members met with the new SRS leadership team to explain Foundation goals and reiterate the need to preserve SRS artifacts.

Your continuing membership is **very** important to the Foundation. Financial support helps us with projects to preserve Site history. But, **numbers** of members are also important to establish a broad base of support and to show to government entities and other sponsors that the Foundation represents a strong percentage of the population.

Please renew your membership and continue your support of the SRS Heritage Foundation.

COMPLETE THE ENCLOSED APPLICATION AND MAIL YOUR CHECK TODAY,
YOUR SUPPORT IS SO IMPORTANT!



By Merrilee Anderson