

SRS HERITAGE FOUNDATION NEWSLETTER

April, 2019



Director Hired for SRS Museum

The SRS Museum will soon have a full-time professional Director. This appointment represents a major milestone in our efforts to create a viable self-sustaining museum that is a credit to the Savannah River Site and our communities.

The new position has come about because the Department of Energy Savannah River Operations Office (DOE-SR) authorized New South Associates to hire a museum professional to serve as full-time Director of the SRS Museum. The financial commitment is continued evidence of DOE-SR support of Museum efforts to interpret the SRS Cold War legacy and contributions to national security. The new Director will provide for greater public access and improved programming and for securing grants and future funding for Museum sustainability.

Lauren Miller was the unanimous choice of the selection committee to become the new Director of the SRS Museum. She plans to arrive May 28th. Lauren holds an Advanced Degree in Museum Studies and has worked in non-profit museums and other organizations for approximately ten years. Much of her experience has involved working with volunteers, writing grant proposals and teaching. She is currently employed in Utah and is looking forward to getting back to her southern roots. We look forward to welcoming her in May and the beginning of a new era for the SRS Museum.

“GREETINGS FROM LAUREN MILLER”



“Greetings from snowy Salt Lake City, UT! I'm thrilled to introduce myself to you as the new Director of the Savannah River Site Museum. I graduated with a Masters Degree in Museum Studies from the University of West Georgia with a focus in Modern American History, and have spent the years since running the gamut of experience from education to volunteer coordinating. My passion lies in connecting communities with their local history, and, after a few years serving a museum of living plants, I couldn't be more excited to return to my roots, both as a southerner and a historian. I look forward to getting to know you over the coming months; please don't hesitate to reach out. - *Lauren Miller*”

Museum Renovations Continuing

The SRS Museum has been closed to the public for several weeks to accommodate interior restoration of the 1926 Dibble wing of the Museum. Plaster repair, painting and floor refinishing were required to prepare this portion of the Museum for an exciting new exhibit sponsored by the Department of Energy Office of Legacy Management. Plaster refurbishment and painting have been completed by Aiken County and lighting has been restored. Floor refinishing removed the glue used to attach several generations of carpet to expose the original hardwood floor. After many hours of hard work, the restored floor is beautiful and the Museum is ready for installation of the new exhibit. The Museum will be reopened to the public as soon as the SRS Timeline exhibit is reinstalled. Installation of the new exhibit is not expected to cause serious access issues.

The exciting new exhibit is being designed by New South Associates and installation will begin as soon as building renovation is complete. The new exhibit is scheduled for unveiling in late 2019.



Ellenton Heritage Trail

This trail was funded by a 2018 Legacy Grant furnished by the US Department of Energy. The interpretive signs were collaboratively produced by the Savannah River Archaeological Research Program (SRARP), the SRS Museum, and the SRS Cold War Historic Preservation Program. Ms. Betty Green's memory map of Ellenton, her hometown, was adopted for use in the interpretive signage along with quotes from former inhabitants excerpted from Memories of Home, a SRARP study.

DOE Funds New Exhibits for Ellenton Trail

The Office of Legacy Management grant includes funds for improving the experience of visitors to the Ellenton Heritage Trail. Trail exhibits will complement the permanent exhibits at the SRS Museum.

Exhibit designs by New South Associates use material developed by the Savannah River Archaeological Research Program and the SRS Heritage Foundation. Several large signs with text, quotations and photographs will be erected along the trail to show the arrangement of the historic town of Ellenton and to emphasize education and worship in the community. Street signs will provide a sense of community for the former village.

Blue Goose

"At the intersection of Main Street and Highway 28, the Blue Goose and Café... in 1942 set up in it. During the first few years after WWII, when local business early offers, I would sometimes stop in to the Blue Goose for a drink. I don't think I had family around."

The Very Entertaining Jean Shaw

"I may not be correct on this, but Jean went to work in Mr. Herman Brinkley's store at an early age, perhaps even working for Marion Brinkley later on. To me, Jean was somewhat of a mystery - for as long as I have known her, she worked very hard in the grocery business, and I was seldom one to see her in a dress - she always wore a plain, simple white dress with more buttoning for modesty... occupation the 1940s when handling heavy cartons of grocery supplies, shifting crates of soft drinks, sweeping floors and managing the parking lot. When Jean decided to go into business for her self, she started her own store away from the front of our property. It was a small, Colonial-style store and was attached to the left end of our building. The very entertaining Jean Shaw cut a door between the larger building and the additional smaller one, and created an entrance from the store into her postbox. Jean and her mother were always good to me, and I can still recall her mother's laughter and chuckling over... and those wonderful blue handkerchiefs that she made on Friday and Saturday nights!"

Main Street

1950 MEMORY MAP

1 Blue Store	17 Celia Williams Owned by George Williams
2 Cecil Thomas's Upper Store	18 Hutchins
3 Cecil Thomas's Grocery Store	19 Russell Sailer's Grocery Store
4 Cecil Thomas's Home	20 Peggy's Meat Market
5 Henry and Alice Baker's Home	21 Fruit and Vegetable Stand
6 "Z" and Mary Marley's Home	22 Ellenton Agricultural Club
7 Ray and Mrs. Barney Farnham's Home	23 Garage for Fire Truck
8 Ellenton Methodist Church	24 Dr. Paul Calverly's Office
9 Mrs. Rebecca Thomas' Home	25 Robert's Ice House
10 Helen Duster and Director's Home	26 J.B. and Cyrene Marley Home
11 Mrs. Russell Bailey's 2-Story Home	27 Helen Duster and Director's Home
12 Waco Chemical Company Owned by Irving Farnham	28 2-Story Brickstore, Owned by Fred Brinkley
13 Mr. Charles Bell's Home	29 Coney Swenson Family Home
14 Arthur and Marie Farnham's Home	30 Lloyd Store
15 Dairy and Ethel Ashby's Home	31 O'Berry's Theatre
16 Arthur and Marie Farnham's Home	32 Ray Shaw and Fred Shaw's Grocery Store, Managed by Jack Shaw
17 Dr. Paul Calverly's Office and Clinic	33 Small Grocery Store, Owned by Dr. Calverly
	34 Artisan Hall
	35 Dr. Paul Calverly, Managed by Mrs. Thompson
	36 Dr. Paul Calverly's Office and Clinic

We Were Immortal Then

Dr. Fred Brinkley had his office in the rear of the building on first floor. The front was occupied by what we call a drug store - one who sold a couple of shelves and several shelves were filled with patent medicines, cosmetic and soaps, while the other side was filled with a wide variety of ice cream bars, and domestic with candy and cigarettes. Mrs. Wilton operated it. There was also a building on which we played the music of the late 30s and early 40s. We danced in that music on some of the streets, on the sidewalk in front of the drug store and inside the store - and that made us so nice. Besides our drug store there was a room enclosed by barbed wire of my best about 2' x 30' and with a hard wood floor. Another building stood in the middle of the town. For every group 15 to 20 years of age, it was the grandest ballroom in the world. We jittersbugged and he treated to the Burrows, Gene Miles, Arnie Shaw, Duke Ellington, and a hundred others. We WERE IMMORTAL THEN. ©Betty Smith

N01

N03 **N04**

N05 **N06**

N07

N08 **N09**

N10

N11

N12

N13

N14

N15

N16

N17

N18

N19

N20

N21

N22

N23

N24

N25

N26

N27

N28

SRS Museum Welcomes Visitors

From the United Kingdom

By Carl Fields

The Savannah River Site Museum recently welcomed two visitors from the United Kingdom. Jillian Widgery and Timothy Bond, spent about 1.5 hours touring the museum on the morning of March 25, 2019. They were accompanied by SRS employees Alice Doswell and Omar Cardona-Quiles.

Jillian and Timothy were on the first day of a brief assignment for their UK organization and SRS to share information and techniques on benchmarking Contractor Assurance Practices. Omar had arranged the visit to the museum as an efficient method of bringing the visitors up to speed on SRS history and past Site operations.

Jillian and Timothy work at locations in the UK where defense nuclear materials have been produced using Magnox-type nuclear reactors. The UK's Magnox-reactor-based program has certain similarities with SRS: the first UK facilities were constructed in the 1950s, the Magnox reactors produced defense-related nuclear materials, the reactors were fueled with natural uranium (as the SRS reactors were initially), and all of the Magnox reactors have been retired. Differences are that Magnox reactors were moderated by graphite and used carbon dioxide gas as the primary coolant (the SRS reactors used heavy water as both moderator and primary coolant). The UK Magnox reactors were designed to produce electricity in addition to weapons materials. The SRS reactors were designed for materials production only, they did not operate at high enough temperature and pressure to be able to generate electricity.

The Museum has been closed since early February for plaster repair and painting in the older (1926) portion of the building. All of the museum exhibits have been removed from that portion of the building and placed in storage. The UK visitors therefore experienced a truly one-of-a-kind tour, but the exhibits on display in other portions of the museum were able to fulfil the purpose of the visit.

Museum volunteer docents Ellyn McNair, Rex Nordeen, and Carl Fields hosted the visitors.



UK Visitors starting their tour of the museum.

Anniversary of Moon Landing



The first humans to land on the moon were the Apollo 11 astronauts, Commander Neil Armstrong and Lunar Module Pilot Buzz Aldrin on July 20, 1969. The astronauts deployed an Early Apollo Scientific Experiments Package (EASEP) to transmit information about moonquakes, temperatures and other data. The EASEP deployed on the moon included two 15-watt Radioisotope Heater Units (RHU's) to warm the instrument package in the cold lunar environment; the RHU's contained plutonium-238 manufactured at the Savannah River Plant. Subsequent moon landings and other space missions used SRP plutonium in Radioactive Thermionic Generators (RTG's) to generate electric power for instrument packages.

The Ruth Patrick Science Education Center will recognize the anniversary with special showings of "To the Moon and Beyond" in the DuPont Planetarium at 7:, 8:, and 9:00 pm on July 20th.



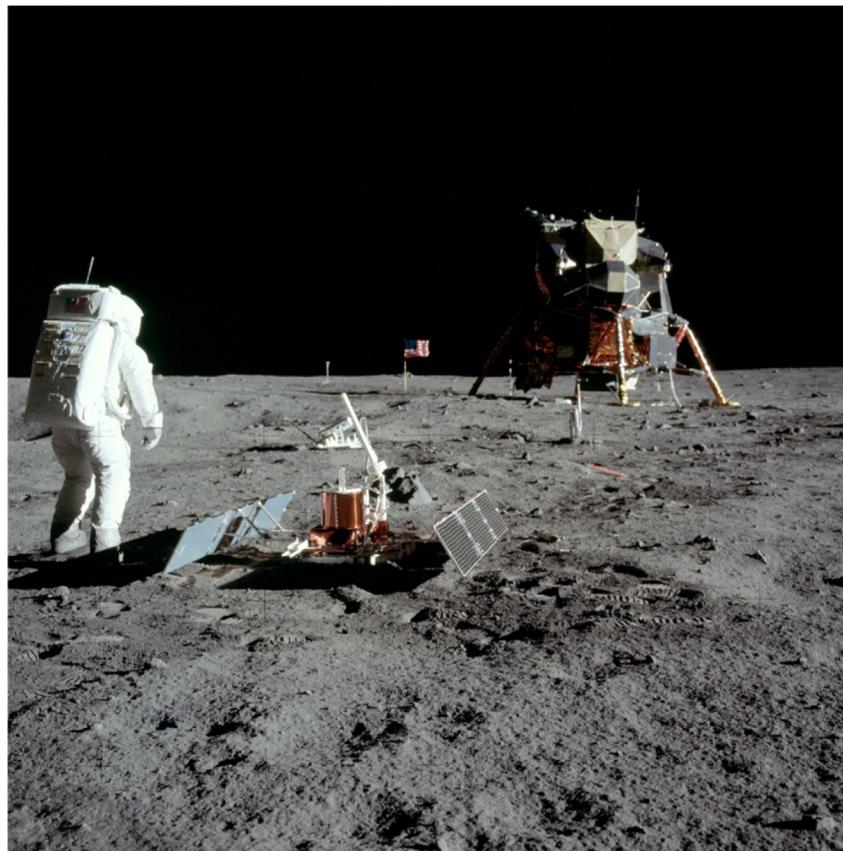
Footstep on the moon..



Lift-off of Apollo 11



Lunar module inspection after undocking



Buzz Aldrin with EASEP...Apollo 11 Lunar Module in background

The SRS Museum is currently closed for building repairs and the installation of a new exhibit. This exhibit will highlight the displaced communities and the sacrifices people were required to make. It will also highlight the attention that was designed into the work to ensure the environmental effects necessary to complete the site's mission were minimized, measured and documented. It is a good time to reflect back to that point in history.

Reaction to the public announcement of the site selection on November 28, 1950 was jubilant in Georgia and South Carolina. Newspaper headlines clamored that Augusta would become a metropolis, Aiken a "fast growing city," and Barnwell and environs would quickly follow suit. In stark contrast, residents of the proposed site area listened sadly and carefully as U.S. Corps of Engineers (COE) officials outlined an eighteen-month staged evacuation of 1500 families. The communities of Ellenton, Dunbarton, Myers Mill, and Leigh would disappear and about 6,000 people would have to resettle.

The project actually began earlier. During 1949 and 1950, the Atomic Energy Commission and its statutory committees, national laboratory personnel, and government agencies worked in concert to plan the expansion of its production facilities for the nation's defense. When Du Pont came on board, the project moved from the planning stages to the banks of the Savannah River at warp speed. The site selection process was carried out in relative secrecy until November 28. After that, the construction force and their families appeared in droves to participate in an industrial and engineering project that ranked with the construction of the Panama Canal. Urgent schedules, flexible design, safety, and security were defining forces in the construction of the plant.

The area's character changed. In the words of social critic Dorothy Kilgallen, "It is as if Scarlett O'Hara had come home from the ball, wriggled out of her satin gown, and put on a space suit." These changes affected politics, education, and social relations as the newly arrived operations personnel settled into the area. With families in tow and degrees in hand, these atomic age homesteaders came to the Savannah River Valley from all over the United States, bringing diversity to the Central Savannah River Area. The economic impact of the project on the area was tremendous, with SRP becoming a major employer in the state with an average operating budget of over a hundred million dollars by 1960.



View of Laurens Street in downtown Aiken, Aiken County's seat. Courtesy of Walt Joseph.

The "New South" programs of the 1880s and 1920s were eclipsed by the amount of industrial change that World War II brought to the South. The military-industrial complex developed to win World War II amounted to a "virtual affirmative action program" for the American South. The federal government spent about seven billion dollars on military bases and industrial plants in the South during the war; another billion dollars of new business was generated in the private sector. Southerners left their rural homes in the millions to take advantage of the job market now open to them, and began to rub elbows with the over six million non-Southerners who

came south as part of the military influx or in search of jobs. Statistics show that between 1939 and 1972 the number of southern factories rose 160 percent and that the number of workers in them increased 200 percent. The per capita income reflected this industrial expansion, rising 500 percent between 1955 and 1975.

**It's a great time to join the
SRS Heritage Foundation, there are lots of new
displays and events coming very soon.
JOIN NOW!!! (application on Pg 7 or visit our website)**

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

Museum Seeks Volunteers

The SRS Museum has opportunities for several additional docents to assist visitors interested in learning about the Site. Volunteers work in pairs in 4 hour shifts from noon to 4:00 pm. Present openings are on Friday or Saturdays each month, but the addition of a full-time Director will permit expansion of the public openings. Docents report enjoying meeting interesting people, learning about activities at SRS, and contributing to the Museum and their community.

SRS experience is desirable but not required. On-the-job training will be provided and a Docent Manual is available to explain the Museum and specific exhibits. If you would like to join the Museum team and contribute a few hours of your time to this worthwhile effort, please contact Walt Joseph at qualityprt@aol.com or Carl Fields at ccf149@bellsouth.net



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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 web-site, www.srsheritagemuseum.org/ or check out the srsmuseum@aikencountysc.gov



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2019

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Please make out checks to SRS Heritage Foundation

Mail to: SRS Heritage Foundation, Inc.,

P.O. Box 2226, Aiken, SC 29802

Contributions are tax exempt-Federal I.D. #20-1629370

I would be willing to help with:

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You're welcome to check one or more to help support the Foundation.

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