

# More adventures at 101 Bus Terminal Road and Katy's Kitchen

D. Ray Smith | *Historically Speaking* | The Oak Ridger | December 4, 2007

Over the last three weeks we have explored many aspects of a most unusual addition to 101 Bus Terminal Road. It has been found to have nothing to do with a jail. Rather, it has been proven to have been a security communications center connected to Building 9213 where the enriched uranium from Y-12 and K-25 was stored.

We also noted that Building 9214 - built to resemble a farm barn and silo and known first as Operation Dog - later known as Katy's Kitchen, was the next innovation in storing enriched uranium after Building 9213. It too had a tremendous bank-type vault door similar to the one remaining at Building 9213. That vault door is now in storage at the American Museum of Science and Energy.

We learned that the Oak Ridge Police Department remained in 101 Bus Terminal Road after the Security Forces moved out. In fact, ORPD used that building until their present facilities at the Oak Ridge Municipal Building became available. However, the first Oak Ridge Jail was not located at 101 Bus Terminal Road at all. It was located at the Town Hall near Jackson Square.



Ed Westcott poses as a "jail bird"



I couldn't resist – self-portrait in first Oak Ridge jail

Ed Westcott, the official Manhattan Project photographer, was captured on film as an "inmate" in that first Oak Ridge Jail! Can't you just see Ed Westcott as a young man in his twenties clowning around getting his photograph taken "behind bars." See Ed's self portrait in the Oak Ridge jail accompanying this article. I just couldn't resist getting my photo taken in that same jail. Denise Stallions took me there and made the photo for me.

Ed also served as a reporter for the local newspaper. You may also recall that he reported the earliest record of the John Hendrix story in a 1944 Oak Ridge Journal article. Ed is an Oak Ridge treasure of the highest order. Without his photographs we would not have nearly as much of our history recorded. I am proud that we have chosen to use Ed's black and white photographs to decorate the New Hope and the Jack Case centers at Y-12. Visitors can see some of them in the New Hope Center and also tour the Y-12 History Exhibit Hall.

Now you know the location of the original Oak Ridge Jail from three reliable sources, Bill Sergeant, Harry Thomas and Ed Westcott, all of whom speak from personal experience. You also know that the special

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room in the building at 101 Bus Terminal Road has absolutely nothing to do with a "jail," but was built as a special security measure to help protect Oak Ridge's first product, enriched uranium.

What fun this has been to ferret out the facts about that unusual section of an Oak Ridge landmark. Let's do more of that! I still wonder about those bars? I called Bill Sergeant to see if he recalled the bars and he did not. So, I still don't know why the bars.

There is a more recent story about Katy's Kitchen, or Building 9214, that Gordon Fee told us at Y-12 when we were creating the Katy's Kitchen Cookbook. The following is taken from the "Memory Lane" section of the introduction to the cook book.

In the spring of 1982, the World's Fair officials ran a security exercise in which Gordon's "son" (played by an FBI agent's son) and I were captured and held hostage. Three hundred security personnel including national guards and the FBI terrorist team from Quantico, Virginia, came to Oak Ridge to play the bad guys.

Gordon's stand-in son and he were "captured" around 6 a.m. near Bull Run Steam Plant and taken to Katy's Kitchen. They were placed in handcuffs and hoods and held for more than 12 hours. Each hour, a psychologist came by to see if we wanted to leave the exercise.

When it came time for supper, the meal was served by Oak Ridge's first robot – an 18-wheel truck and trailer with a small robot unit tethered by cable. The truck pulled into the woods near Katy's Kitchen, and the robot, named Herman, climbed the hill to serve dinner to Gordon and his "son." This robot can be seen now in the lobby of the American Museum of Science and Energy.

Ultimately, to enable Gordon to meet a commitment to be in Washington the next day, his captors simulated his execution. While he traveled to Washington, the exercise continued on to a fight at the World's Fair Park (not yet open at the time) and then on to McGhee Tyson Airport, where Delta provided an airplane that could be stormed as part of the exercise. Gordon is one Y-12'er who can say he did actually eat dinner at Katy's Kitchen!

So, our story of 101 Bus Terminal Road took us to several other interesting locations. It also led us to learn that at 101 Bus Terminal Road, although there is an area that looks much like it might have been a "jail," it never was used for that purpose. We found the original jail elsewhere – at the old Town Hall building.

101 Bus Terminal Road was used as the headquarters for the Oak Ridge Police Department for a number of years. The existing location of the Oak Ridge Police Department in the Municipal Building is the location where the department moved when it left 101 Bus Terminal Road.

There is one story that I recently learned that will cause many of you who remember it to chuckle. It seems a prominent citizen of Oak Ridge actually took a shotgun and blew the glass front door to the police station at 101 Bus Terminal Road to pieces on an occasion when he was quite inebriated and obviously mad at the police.

Lastly, I was recently contacted by Howard Rosser who worked for Bill Sergeant for a number of years. He told me that the Headquarters Security Forces moved from 101 Bus Terminal Road to Lafayette Hall on Jefferson Circle. There was a security communications center there as well. The security forces did not move to Building 9705 at Y-12 until 1949. This likely coincided with the opening of the city of Oak Ridge to public access.

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Howard also told me that there was someone still living who functioned as a courier for the enriched uranium taken from Oak Ridge to Los Alamos in that "briefcase." You know that will produce yet another story, huh. He also told me he had been the radio technician on his ship when they received the coded message from President Truman at the end of World War II. Howard has a copy of his original transcript. I have to see that!

If you know other stories about 101 Bus Terminal Road, or other subjects for *Historically Speaking*, please contact me at 482-4224 or [draysmith@comcast.net](mailto:draysmith@comcast.net).