

Oak Ridge Heritage & Preservation Association shares Manhattan Project History at Secret City Festival on June 2 and 3, 2017

(As published in The Oak Ridger's Historically Speaking column on May 22, 2017)

Oak Ridge Heritage & Preservation Association welcomes you to attend this year's 2017 Secret City Festival History displays, in our own site, at 102 Robertsville Rd., Midtown Community Center in the "Wildcat Den." The exhibit will be open from **10AM to 6PM on Friday, June 2, 2017 and Saturday, June 3, 2017.**

"Yes" the well-known hangout if you grew up here in Oak Ridge. Plans are to celebrate the roots of Oak Ridge rich history with the public and extend a welcome to the first year for the Manhattan Project National Historic Park - Oak Ridge unit. You won't want to miss this!

See <http://www.celebrateoakridge.org/secretcityfestival> or <https://www.facebook.com/SecretCityFestival/>

Come to the Midtown Community Center at the corner of the Oak Ridge Turnpike and Robertsville Road and say "Hello" to the ORHPA volunteers!

Some examples of the exciting exhibits in the Wildcat Den will be:

Mick Wiest will provide a display of *"Lives Saved - Lives Lost" in WWII.*

Tom Evans "Sunday Punch Pilot" plans to visit us on Sat, June 3rd

Tom Walker *"Faith and Courage"* exhibit used during the opening display for the National WWII Memorial in Washington, D.C. An Exhibit Honoring the Service and Heroism of U. S. Military Chaplains of World War II

Bobbie Martin will display a vast treasure of Oak Ridge photo albums, mostly photos by Ed Westcott the US Official Government Photographer

The Stokes Collection display includes one of a kind items from *WWII and 1940's Oak Ridge memorabilia*, along with an enlarged panoramic mural, taken by Ed Westcott from the Y-12 water tower.

Don & Emily Westcott Hunnicutt to bring Ed Westcott, visit with him and see his "War Ends" display

Mike Stallo will be in charge of ORHPA Products sales, introducing our new Oak Ridge 75th Anniversary License Plate and updated Tour Guide Booklet

Anne McBride will be accepting ORHPA memberships and promoting our Capital Fund Raising Campaign

COROH, "Center for Oak Ridge Oral History" will be there so, be sure to sign your loved ones up to be interviewed about their life in Oak Ridge

Friends of the Oak Ridge Public Library will bring in local authors to sign their books.

Other displays include: Ed Westcott photos, Early Iron Bridge Plaques, A fully decorated 1940's Dormitory Room, Bill Pollack Record Collection and Fred Heddleson pin & ink house drawings

There is a whole world out there to explore and enjoy. But, have you ever stopped to think what our world would have been like if the Manhattan Project had never existed? There are many of the second and third generations who don't know the story and how it has affected our lives. Our past is a gateway to our future and the freedom we have today.

ORHPA members have countless collections pertaining to this era and are eager to share with you. Several individual displays will be included in the overall displays. Do come by and see the unique collections.

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Before the United States of America entered World War II there was concern of a nuclear threat from the Axis powers. President Franklin D. Roosevelt received a letter from Albert Einstein, who had concerns about uranium being used by Germany. Fully understanding the potential power that could be released with explosive force from nuclear fission, he recognized the possibility of an Atomic Bomb.

The Manhattan Project allowed the United States to unlock the mysteries of the atom. Not only did the Atomic Bomb result, the technological advances emanating from the Manhattan Project resulted things we take for granted today.

In the decades that followed the Manhattan Project, the City of Oak Ridge and its three major government sites contributed significantly to the winning of the Cold War, ensured our national security, shared ground-breaking science such as nuclear medicine and nuclear power and continues today to produce substantial breakthrough achievements such as the collaboration that created the new element 117, Tennessine.

Yes, there was many lives saved and numerous lives lost in World War II, some 60,000,000! But keep in mind if not for the Manhattan Project, World War II would have lasted a lot longer and taken countless more lives.

Mick Wiest will provide a display of "Lives Saved - Lives Lost" to help visitors to the Secret City Festival to understand these important facts. Also, a special exhibit was developed by Tom Walker, former exhibit designer for the American Museum of Science and Energy in Oak Ridge, TN. He will set up that portion from the "Faith and Courage" exhibit used during the opening display for the National World War II Memorial in Washington, D.C. This really well done Exhibit Honoring the Service and Heroism of U. S. Military Chaplains of World War II is one you will not want to miss.

In the words of President Harry S. Truman, "Our debt to the heroic men and valiant women in the service of our country can never be repaid. They have earned our undying gratitude. America will never forget their sacrifices."

On September 19, 1942, a site was chosen to further the plans for the Manhattan Project and Clinton Engineer Works, the U.S. Army built a brand-new government town called Oak Ridge and known as a "Secret City" to house thousands of the Manhattan Project workers and their families.

Don Raby with the Kingston Demolition Range graced us many years to show his Anderson and Roane County area with photos taken by the U. S. Government and information on the owners. Unfortunately, Don lost his battle with cancer, we wish to show our gratefulness to him.

The city was originally intended for 13,000 people but within two years the population had grown to 75,000 people by August 1945.

Accommodations could not support all the site's workers, many residents lived in small houses or apartments. The rest made do in temporary housing, including dormitories, trailers, barracks, and temporary plywood structures called hutments. Many thousands lived in the surrounding areas and commuted to the site daily. Bobbie Martin will display a treasure of Oak Ridge photo albums, many photographed by Ed Westcott the US Government's Official Photographer

The Secret City developed the 9th largest bus system in the nation, carrying 120,000 passengers a day and traveling 2.4 million miles per month. The Stokes Collection artifacts from the AIT bus lines is just one of the many, many specially developed historic presentations. Their display will also include one of a kind items from World War II and 1940's Oak Ridge memorabilia, along with an enlarged panoramic mural, taken by Ed Westcott from the Pine Ridge water tower overlooking the city from the South.

The family of William "Bill" Pollack, *the Music Man*, donated a numerous amount of his record collection that was once played at the Tennis Court Dances. And a collection of Fred Heddleson pin & ink drawings from Westcott photos are on display. Remember to visit our fully decorated 1940's Dormitory Room, from numerous items on loan from many ORHPA members.

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The Manhattan Project had brought World War II to an end. But the Project did much more. It has prevented World War III. It provided a wealth of scientific technology, helped to revolutionize bio chemistry, medicine and other fields.

"COROH" Center for Oak Ridge Oral History project is looking to interview those who have lived and experienced the Oak Ridge story, please allow them to schedule a time to collect this valuable information for future generations.

Oak Ridge, Tennessee truly helped end the worst war in human history and opened the modern and very exciting nuclear age.

For further information, contact ORHPA - SCF chair Bobbie Martin @ 482-4327.



The Stokes Collection of Lloyd and Betty Stokes has a tremendous amount of World War II era memorabilia

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War Ends exhibit created by Ed Westcott's family featuring the iconic photographic image known far and wide and recognized by all who see it as being typical of famous Ed Westcott's photography

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Caption: SCF 2015 070.jpg:



Some of the “crew” Standing: Don Raby (we miss him!), Margaret Allard, Martin McBride and Anne McBride; Seated: Lloyd Stokes and Bobbie Martin, co-chairs of ORHPA’s Secret City Festival team

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Historic artifacts such as a chair of the type used in the iconic Robert Oppenheimer photograph originally made at the Guest House near the mantel – today there is a copy of that photograph placed on the very mantel in the main lobby of the Alexander Guest House!