

Students Share Views on the Historical Museum

Last spring, students in the enrichment program from Artesia, New Mexico, Zia Intermediate School toured the Los Alamos Historical Museum and took the Historic Walking Tour. Docent Tom Sandford led the tour, and the class wrote letters of thanks to him and to the museum staff.

We thought our members might enjoy reading what these sixth and seventh grade students think of the museum, historic Fuller Lodge and Bathtub Row, as well as the history of the Manhattan Project and Los Alamos Ranch School. Here are excerpts from some of those letters.

“...The Lodge for boys was the overall class favorite place. Our tour guides gave us such good information we could envision all of the boys sitting at a table eating with their masters. We also enjoyed the small Indian ruins and learning about the houses and laboratories of the Manhattan Project scientists. The museum at the end of our tour was amazing!...”

Special thanks from (signed by the entire class)

“I want to thank you so very much. You made it understandable to learn. You gave us the opportunity to learn more. I appreciate you giving us and telling us information about Fuller Lodge. I never knew the Fuller Lodge existed until I went to tour it.

“I felt astonished when I went into the Fuller Lodge. The site...was so beautiful. I appreciate you talking to us about the Fuller Lodge. ... If I can, I would go again. I loved it....

“The Fuller Lodge was maintained so well...It was so clean. The Fuller Lodge was so quiet which I thought was good. You were so welcoming.”

Karsten Garcia

“Thank you so much for letting us go to

your museum. You explained things very well. I really appreciate your volunteer work. You were very nice to us....

“This experience helped me learn different things. These included the firehouse, Bathtub Row, and many other things. It also helped me learn more about how the houses were built. I thought that the birds on the sidewalk were interesting.

“I will always remember this experience. I think it will bring knowledge about the Fuller Lodge up. I will be ahead in my future classes. I will ... recommend this to people.
Hannah Boyse, 6th grade

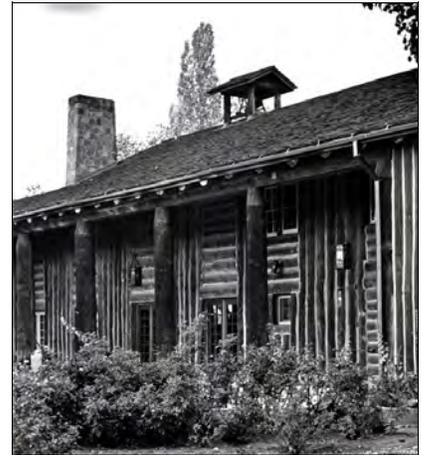
“The Historical Museum was cool. I liked the lodge and how it was built. Thank you for letting us tour ‘Bathtub Row.’ I enjoyed this history of Bathtub Row because it’s hard to imagine not having a bathtub to bathe in. It’s a good thing Los Alamos is in the mountains and not in the desert like Artesia, so you won’t have to bathe as much.

“I liked the story about how they chose Los Alamos to do the secret project. I could see the benefit of hiding out in a dense forest while working. Thank you for letting us tour and I hope to come back or bring my family and tell them what I learned.”

Matt Flores

“Thank you for showing us the Lodge and Bathtub Row. I didn’t know Oppenheimer and his wife lived in one of the Bathtub Row houses. I will tell everyone that I know what you told me.

“I think that you are one of the best tour



guides that I have ever met.”

Brandon Nelson

“Thank you for giving us a tour of Fuller Lodge, Mr. Sanford [sic]. You taught us a lot, like how the fireplace was made out of a marvelous type of rock from a volcano. The rock can be formed by a hatchet. If I didn’t go, I would not have learned about the Boys Ranch.

“The lodge was fabulous how the outside was made with logs and in between the logs were smaller logs...

“That was awesome when you told us about Bathtub Row. The bathtubs were on



that row. I remember the little ruins behind the lodge. The fire house that you use for storage was cool...[it had] the

same texture and the same rock that was in the fireplace.”

Bobby Sanchez

“...I loved the historical museum. I know it is small but very informative and cute. I loved the plastic scout and the atomic bomb cake...”

Gregory Burwell

“...Going to the museum taught me more about some things I knew and some things I didn’t know. For example, I knew about the development of the atomic bomb but you taught me more about that. Something I didn’t know that you taught me was about Bathtub Row.

“Going to your museum will change my future because I will tell other people about it and they will probably want to go over there. I will take my children to go see the museum and teach them about it. I will

go again and have a fun learning experience again...”

Angelica Olguin, 7th grade

“...Among the great tour guides was Tom Sanford [sic].

This guide gave many excellent descriptions of what happened during the second world war. Mr. Sanford made it as if we were actually there during the war...

“...Since this was founded by Boy Scouts, we will bring down our own Boy Scout Troop, Troop 219. I believe this would help them come to know about ...what they take for granted...”

Konan Flynn

Finally, from teacher, J. St. Louis, in its entirety:

“Once again, your guiding my group of Enrichment students from Artesia Intermediate School was excellent from the moment you met us getting off the bus until our final goodbyes in the bookstore.

“Every time I visit the museum, I learn new information such as the exact number of timbers in Fuller Lodge! Your love of the history of Los Alamos is evident in the way you relate personal anecdotes about your experiences to a new generation that needs to know about this important chapter in American history. I know that it is your hope as well as mine that they will become fully aware of our American legacy, add to it, and pass it on.

“Thank you for doing such a tremendous job of helping to make that happen.”



Tom Sanford guides a student tour in Fuller Lodge. (Photo by Hedy Dunn)