

Los Alamos Historical Society



Nancy Bartlit, past president of the Historical Society, U.S. Senator Jeff Bingaman, and Los Alamos County Council Chair Sharon Stover pose with sculptures of Dr. J. Robert Oppenheimer and Gen. Leslie Groves after an event promoting the Manhattan Project National Historical Park. (Photo Courtesy of Nancy Bartlit)

Annual Report September 2012

<http://www.losalamoshistory.org>

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PRESERVING THE PAST; MOVING (LITERALLY) INTO THE FUTURE

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

By Heather McClenahan

New programs such as the Atomic Film Festival, new initiatives such as the Oppenheimer House interpretive plan, and new exhibits have us reaching broader audiences and sharing our history with more people than ever before.



The Los Alamos Historical Society has experienced a terrific year with new events as well as the continuation of favorites. The centennial lecture series played to full houses. A series of changing exhibits showcased everything from the local opera guild to historic maps of New Mexico, and the outreach program reached every school in the district. More information on this year's accomplishments can be found throughout this Annual Report.

For the coming year, one of our biggest and most exciting challenges will be moving the archives and museum collection from the Community Building and Fuller Lodge into new space. Designed as part of the new Los Alamos Municipal Building, the more-than-5,000-square-foot facility will safely and securely house the documents, photographs, and artifacts of the collection. With mobile shelving, the space is intended to allow for 20 years of growth. The building is ahead of schedule and may be ready by spring. Planning, preparing, and packing for the move will tax the collections staff, but their jobs should be easier in the new, consolidated space.

Our most popular public program, the monthly lecture series, will focus this year on science and history, two favorite topics here in Los Alamos. See more on Page 4.

The publications committee has been working energetically, getting out both the hardcover and softcover versions of the award-winning book, *At Home on the Slopes of Mountains: The Story of Peggy Pond Church*. After a slight delay, the reprint of the popular *Los Alamos Place Names* by Craig Martin is expected this fall. We also anticipate at least two Nutshell publications this year—109 E. Palace and Romero Cabin (more on Page 16).

In the past months, our summer education program expanded. Along with the weekly children's program, which focused on culture and community, the Society spearheaded a program with other cultural service providers called "Los Alamos Friday Night," which made available cultural activities downtown every Friday in June and July.

We could not do all of this without you. So, thank you to our tremendous, dedicated volunteers who run the museum, help in the archives, and assist with events and day-to-day operations. Thank you to our generous and supportive membership, and thank you to everyone who brings visitors to the museum, attends our lectures, brings children to our summer program, donates to the museum collection, buys our books, and supports preservation efforts in our community.

History and Science:

Upcoming Lectures for 2012-2013

Lecture Series sponsored by Los Alamos National Bank

All lectures are at 7:30 p.m. in the Pajarito Room of Fuller Lodge.



September 11: “Madame Curie: A Living History.” Her discoveries of radium and radioactivity revolutionized the world. She opened the doors of science to women yet, ironically, Curie almost never made it into the

laboratory. Witness an incredible Chautauqua performance by Susan Marie Frontczak as she shares a life that challenges assumptions about what one person can achieve and the responsibilities of science.

October 9: Paul Bauer, “Geology of the Rio Grande.” Bauer is principal geologist for the New Mexico Bureau of Geology and Mineral Resources at New Mexico Tech in Socorro. He has a fondness for writing books on New Mexico geology for the general public and will explore his latest about the Rio Grande. Bauer will also sign copies of his book.

November 13: James Petersen, “A Brief History of Wendover Airfield.” Listed in 2010



as one of the National Trust for Historic Preservation’s Most Endangered Places, Wendover Airfield re-

presents the endangered history of the Manhattan Project. Petersen, director of the Wendover Airport and part of the Historic Wendover Foundation, will tell of the field where B-29 bombers trained and the work that is being done to restore the historic site.

January 8, 2013:

Jack Shlachter, “Jews in Theory.” The Los Alamos Theoretical Division in 1945 had a leadership structure that was disproportionately of Jewish heritage: the division leader, deputy division leader, chief consultant, and six of eight group leaders were “Jewish” by some definition of the term. Shlachter will explore members of this leadership team and speculate on the connection between their presence in Los Alamos and their Jewish roots.



February 12: Cary Skidmore, “The Seven LANL Explosives Fatalities: Technical and Human Perspectives.” With the development of implosion, the science of high explosives took off at the laboratory. Three accidents in this area in the 1950s caused instant death for seven workers. In recent years, information on these accidents has become more accessible, and Skidmore will explore what happened.

March 12: John Anderson, “Hiroshima and Nagasaki 2010.” A docent at the National Museum of Nuclear Science and History in Albuquerque, he spent 52 years in the nuclear business with Sandia National Laboratory and the U.S. Army. Anderson will present an account of his visit to museums and memorial parks in Japan.

History and Science: Upcoming Exhibits and Programs for 2012-2013



April 9:
Dale Coker,
“Bandelier
Trails:
Before and
After.” A
ranger at
Bandelier
since 1988,
Coker will

share a brief history of the monument’s trails, an update on their current status, and what the back country has to offer.

May 14, 6 p.m.: Annual Meeting featuring Robert Kuckuck, “On Being a LANL Director.” Celebrate a year of science and history with pizza, ice cream, the annual “Experience Auction,” and a great lecture by former laboratory director Robert Kuckuck.

Museum Exhibits

September 1-October 31: *Jack Aeby: His Life and Work Beyond the Blast*

November 1-December 31: *Hal Olsen Nose Cone Art*

Jan. 1-Feb. 28: *Community Photographs: Landscapes of Los Alamos*

March 1-April 30: *Pottery* (in conjunction with the Fuller Lodge Art Center)

Brown Bag with the Collection

November 6, 12:30 p.m. New Items in the Collection

February 2013 (date TBA) We’re Moving! Culling Items from the Collection

May 2013 (date TBA) 3rd Annual What’s In Your Historic Collection?

Atomic Film Festival

Tuesday, October 23, 7 p.m.
in Fuller Lodge

THEM, a 1954 Science-fiction thriller. The earliest atomic tests in New Mexico cause common ants to mutate into giant man-eating monsters that threaten civilization.

Volunteer Needed to Head Hospitality Committee

Most of our members and guests enjoy a little snack after the lectures or at exhibit openings. We are looking for someone to chair a hospitality committee to arrange for light food, drinks, and decorations at Historical Society events. If you are interested or know someone who might be, please contact the office at 662-6272 or e-mail historicalsociety@losalamoshistory.org.

President's Report for Year Ending June 30, 2012

**By Ron Wilkins
President**

In reflecting on the year past one is tempted to focus on the new initiatives undertaken because that is where the excitement is. However, in doing so we risk forgetting how important it is to just keep all the day-to-day things going: putting on the monthly lecture series, operating the museum and book shop, managing the archives, carrying on with our outreach programs, and promoting our publications. So, let me first take this opportunity to thank our excellent staff for all the ordinary things they do.

In addition to these ongoing operations, there are several other areas I would like to highlight.

Strategic Plan: The board finalized a new strategic plan in August 2011. This document is intended to guide our decisions over the next several years leading up to the 50th anniversary in 2018 of the opening of our museum; it is not just another plan that will gather dust while sitting on the shelf. If you want to know where we want take the society, you can read the plan on the web (<http://www.losalamoshistory.org/stratplanfinal.pdf>)

Historic Properties: August was also the month when the Historic Properties



The World War II home of Dr. Robert Oppenheimer and his family.

Committee chaired by board member John Ruminer completed the historic structure report for the Oppenheimer House. This report, available on the web (<http://www.losalamoshistory.org/oppiehsr.pdf>) is the first step in developing a preservation and interpretative plan for the house. In February 2012 we hosted a community meeting to gather additional input for developing the Oppenheimer House interpretative plan. The final report is still being developed. John has also been carrying out some very interesting research on 109 E. Palace Avenue, work he reported on in June 2012 when the New Mexico History Museum hosted a Los Alamos County Day. This work should be ready for publication soon.



Members of the Archives and Collections Committee tour the new archives storage facility that is part of the new Los Alamos Municipal Building.

New Archives: September 23, 2011, was the date when ground was broken for the county municipal building which includes the new historical archives facility. Our Archives Committee headed by board member Art Freed has been monitoring the construction and interacting with the county to ensure that this facility meets our needs. Originally scheduled for completion in the fall of 2013, it now looks

like we may be able to occupy the facility by late spring or early summer of 2013.

Endowment: The Society received a bequest from the estate of our friend, colleague, and former board vice president Beth Plassmann in October 2011 for the purpose of establishing an endowment fund. Following her wishes the fund was setup with LANB Investment Services in December 2011.

Publications: We published a new book in November 2011, *At Home on the Slopes of Mountains*, a biography of Peggy Pond Church by our own Sharon Snyder, who is also a board member and our Publications Director. This award-winning book has sold very well. There are only a few hardbacks remaining and the book is now out in softcover. In March 2012 we reprinted *Inside Box 1663*, which has sold well since its last printing in 2007.

Manhattan Project National Historical Park: We have been involved in the development of the proposal for the creation of a Manhattan Project National Historical Park (MPNHP) for many years, beginning with the National Park Service study in 2006. Activity has increased significantly in the past year as both the U.S. House and Senate committees moved to develop legislation to create the MPNHP. In April 2012 I participated in a MPNHP meeting in Richland, WA, that included representatives from Los Alamos, Oak Ridge, and the Hanford area. The excitement was truly contagious, and I think we all came away committed to working

together to make this park a reality. In June 2012 our Executive Director Heather McClenahan testified before the House committee on the proposed legislation. Video of that testimony and more information on the current status of the legislation are available on our web site at <http://www.losalamoshistory.org>. (The text of the testimony is on the following page.) You will find a link by which you can easily contact our senators and representative to voice your support of the legislation.

Looking forward, our first priority will be to make a successful move into our new historical archive facility and to continue along the path laid out in our strategic plan. As always, we will need your continued support in this effort.



Jason Lott, superintendent at Bandalier National Monument, talks about the National Park Service view of the Manhattan Project National Historical Park at an event at the Los Alamos Historical Museum on Aug. 13, 2012.

New in the Museum Shop

Trinity: A Graphic History of the First Atomic Bomb

by Jonathan Fetter-Vorm

Madame Curie: A Biography by Eve Curie

Testimony on the Manhattan Project NHP

On June 28, Executive Director Heather McClenahan testified before the U.S. House subcommittee on National Parks, Forests, and Public Lands in support of H.R. 5987, a bill to establish the Manhattan Project National Historical Park. This is her testimony.

Chairman Hastings, Congressman Lujan, and members of the committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify this morning.

My name is Heather McClenahan. I am executive director of the Los Alamos Historical Society. Among our many activities, we operate the Los Alamos Historical Museum and own, in a life trust, the World War II home of Dr. J. Robert Oppenheimer, scientific director of the Manhattan Project. Speaking about the history of Los Alamos is a passion of mine. I am here in support of H.R. 5987, a bill to establish the Manhattan Project National Historical Park. First, let me say how pleased we are that the National Park Service and Congress have recognized the magnitude of the history of the Manhattan Project. Numerous historians have called it the most significant undertaking of the 20th century.

I have three points to make: One, why this history should be commemorated in a national park; Two, why this will have positive impact on northern New Mexico; and Three, why partnerships are critical to making this park a reality. In 2007, recognizing the impact of a possible national park to our community, the Los Alamos County Council appointed an ad hoc committee to determine what such a park might look like in Los Alamos. I served on that committee, and the details of our recommendations are included in my written testimony. In summary, we envisioned a downtown national park visitor center where guests would learn about the Manhattan Project, and then be sent to existing venues to

learn more, a recommendation the Park Service adopted in its final report to Congress.

Tied together under the auspices of a national park, the Manhattan Project industrial sites in Los Alamos, Oak Ridge, and Hanford, and the places where soldiers and scientists lived and formed communities, will create a full picture of the history.

Some critics have said that a national park dedicated to the Manhattan Project will glorify the atom bomb or create a theme park for weapons of mass destruction. I disagree. I have never visited a national park that was anything like a Disneyland. In fact, the National Park Service, of all government agencies, is the most trusted for telling complete stories from all sides—the good and bad, the painful and the poignant. Parks and monuments that commemorate battles or massacres do not celebrate ugly moments in American history. They teach about them; they help us, as a nation, to reflect and learn. So, in the rich tradition of our national park system, the Manhattan Project National Historical Park will need to include stories about the devastation in Hiroshima and Nagasaki, environmental damage, and the fear of atomic annihilation that are its legacies, along with the stories of great technical and scientific achievement and the decisive ending of World War II. The nation needs to understand the Manhattan Project from all sides.

My second point is that the Manhattan Project National Historical Park will provide economic benefits to northern New Mexico. With, by the park service's own estimations, hundreds of thousands of additional annual visitors, Los Alamos will need workers not only in tourism and service industries but in construction and other related industries. As our ad hoc committee suggested, the story of the Manhattan Project isn't just about world-

class scientists. The story includes people from the rural communities and pueblos surrounding Los Alamos, mostly Native Americans and Hispanics, who provided the backbone of a labor force that built the laboratories and facilities, cleaned the houses, and drove the trucks. The Manhattan Project forever changed rustic northern New Mexico. In fact, the Manhattan

Project National Historical Park will, once again, transform these communities, creating an economic driver based on heritage tourism that provides jobs, educational opportunities, and improved futures to traditionally underserved communities.

Third and finally, we appreciate with enthusiasm the statement in Section 3 of this bill that one purpose of the park is to assist the Department of Energy and other interested parties in efforts to preserve and protect the historically significant resources that remain from the Manhattan Project. It's something we've been working on for nearly 50 years. Partnerships and cooperative agreements between agencies, non-profit groups such as ours, and even private property owners will make this park happen—bringing together widespread resources for the benefit of our nation—as the Manhattan Project did years ago.

In sum, along with many community partners who have worked on this project, the



Cindy Kelly of the Atomic Heritage Foundation, Heather McClenahan, and D. Ray Smith from Oak Ridge, in the U.S. House subcommittee hearing room. (Photo by Alex Levy)

Los Alamos Historical Society fully supports the establishment of the Manhattan Project National Historical Park in order to preserve and teach this important history. We believe it will have great economic benefit to northern New Mexico. We are heartened to see the Department of Energy willing to work with the Department of Interior and other partners to make this world-changing history accessible.

At its heart, the story of the Manhattan Project is an amazing episode of our great nation's history. It brought together the brightest scientists, many of them immigrants who came to this country seeking freedom. They faced pressure to end the world's most horrible war by creating something that had existed only in theory. It is a story about young people with a can-do spirit who brought about a great technological achievement. It is the story of unleashing a mysterious force of nature and fostering fear and uncertainty about the future of humankind. It is a story about creativity and about destruction. It is a scientific story, a soldier's story, a spy story, and a human story. The story of the Manhattan Project is one that, from the perspectives of all who participated and all who were affected, must be told.

Again, thank you for inviting me to testify. I would be pleased to entertain your questions.

Archives & Collections Report, 2011-2012

By Rebecca Collinsworth Archivist

Much about the last year has seemed like a trial run for our eventual move to the new archives space in the Los Alamos Municipal Building. We continued to experience the effects of dislocation on many levels of operation, including customer service, collections care, volunteer services, security, communication lines, and general efficiency. This could get worse before it gets better as a result of the upcoming move to the new archives space when we recombine the staff operations and collections areas.

Registrar

As the museum's registrar, Stephanie Yeamans did a fantastic job over the last year. She recorded nearly 100 donations to the collections, issued gift agreements and accession numbers for all of them, and managed the accession log as well as the donor files. When time allowed, she also cataloged photographs waiting to go into our files so they are now available for researchers and our own exhibits.

Volunteers

Many thanks go out to volunteer teams organized by Stephanie who twice sacrificed their time and talents to help the archives staff move shelving, cabinets, textile racks and boxes of artifacts from the third floor of Fuller Lodge to the second. Negotiating the narrow third floor stairwell proved hazardous at times. Even after these heroic efforts, about one third of the artifacts in storage still need to be moved off the third floor.

Our regular archives volunteers, Mary Lou Othoudt and Molly Spingler, continued to contribute their time on a limited basis due to limited space in the Community Building. Mary Lou manages the periodicals and edits

oral histories while Molly helps sort document collections. Both helped with the textile collection and helped move artifacts and textiles down from the third floor.



The narrow staircase that leads to the third floor of Fuller Lodge.

Photo Work

Photo cataloging slowed to a crawl for more than a year when the Community Building operation was disconnected from the cataloging databases on the main server. This problem was solved this spring with a remote access WiFi connection that allowed direct communication with the server and the number of images cataloged jumped to ten times the former level.

Because the archives has operated a digital photo lab for the last eight years, we are no longer dependent on most darkroom services. Our professional-level scanner allows us to produce prints from all sizes of film, and we are slowly building a digital library of historic images as well as producing digital prints for customers, exhibits, and for our own archival photo files.

Researchers and Research Requests

The archives continued to host researchers as our tiny space allowed and to

answer research questions submitted via telephone and email. Same day service was seriously curtailed during busy times as researchers queued for appointments a week or more in advance.

Facilities

Archives and Collections continued to be split between the Lodge and the Community Building. The old archives space on the second floor of the Lodge (West Wing) was remodeled by the County at the end of 2011. After the staff installed window blinds, erected shelving units, and the county facilities department eventually repaired the air conditioning, artifacts and textiles from the third floor of the Lodge began to be transferred. At the same time, plans went forward with storage in the new municipal building where installing new museum



Storage on the second floor of Fuller Lodge.

standard compact shelving required the addition of a rail system. The old shelving we are currently using will also be transferred to the new location at the time of the move.

Selected Donations to the Collection, 2011-2012

By Stephanie Yeamans Registrar

J. Arthur Freed: 25th and 50th anniversary coins for the Atomic Age; "The Archives and History Program Menu," a list of material available via the LANL Archives; *Nuclear Weapons Testing at the Nevada Test Site: The First Decade* (CD) by Hopkins and Killian; "University of California Group and Division Leaders as of December 15, 1947" (document).

J. Robert Oppenheimer Memorial Committee: Forty-first Memorial Lecture, "Great Ideas of Biology," by Paul Nurse (DVD, with Introduction by Larry L. Deaven, June 23, 2011); six programs for the 41st Memorial Lecture of the J. Robert Oppenheimer Memorial Committee; three flyers for the 41st Memorial Lecture of the J. Robert Oppenheimer Memorial Committee.

Allen Church: *How Los Alamos Ranch School Turned into the Atomic Weapons Lab that Changed the World* (VHS).

Heather and Bob McClenahan: "Memories of Los Alamos Ranch School from a Faculty Wife" by Elizabeth Walen; black and white photograph ca. 1941–1942 of Betty Walen, Harry Walen, and their son Benson Walen; one piece of borosilicate glass from nuclear waste disposal attached to a card explaining waste disposal by the Department of Energy; library card belonging to Robert L. McClenahan Jr. with expiration date of June 1976; a shelter assignment card belonging to Robert L. McClenahan; LAHS program from February 1, 2012; information sheet on LAHS school and construction; map of LAHS A-wing.

Jan Novak: A corn dryer; two 1943 steel pennies; a Los Alamos Handbook; LASL

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Open House booklet from 1955; Los Alamos map from the handbook.

Georgia Strickfaden: "In Memory of Manuelita Romero 1910-2011" (newspaper clipping); three Class of 1964 high school graduation transparencies; "Bandelier National Monument Frijoles and Alamo Headwaters Public Access Project June 2005" (CD).

Mike and Mary Lou Othoudt: *Secrets & Spies: Behind-the-Scenes Stories of World War II* (book); newspaper articles related to the Cerro Grande and Las Conchas fires; two issues of *Roll Call*.

Anonymous Donor: Description/floor plan for north community homes (document); list of residential vacant lots in Los Alamos and their fair market value (document).

Paul Bauer: *The Rio Grande: A River Guide to the Geology and Landscapes of Northern New Mexico* (book) by Paul W. Bauer.

Rose Marie McClenahan, Estate of: Miscellaneous newspaper clippings and newspaper photos; a Bandelier National Monument annual vehicle permit from 1962; Elks Lodge survey from 1963; money bag from the First National Bank of Santa Fe; program for the dedication and open house of the LAHS gym, 5 February 1965; *The Trails to Frijoles Ruins* (booklet), published in the early 1960s; Los Alamos Civil Defense Shelter Assignment card belonging to Robert McClenahan Sr.; blank postcards from Robert McClenahan to his mother from Nagasaki after the war; copy of a photograph of Robert L. McClenahan with other members of the Protective Force.

Robert Walsh Birge, Estate of: Obituary for Robert Walsh Birge.

Harvey Linda Cruz: One book: *A Book of Myths: Selections from Bulfinch's Age of Fable* (book), 1946.

Jo Ann Johnson: Miscellaneous political brochures, *Los Alamos Monitor* clippings/newspapers on candidates (1982-1996); an

8½ x 11 black and white photo of the ice house memorial by Bill Jack Rodgers; obituary for Bill Jack Rodgers.

Dennis Erickson: *Megagauss Technology and Pulsed Power Applications* (book) by Fowler et al.

Theresa Sandlin: *Los Alamos Monitor*, October 31, 1973 (silver anniversary edition for Los Alamos businesses).

Albert A. Bartlett: *New York Herald Tribune*, April 14th and August 7 & 8, 1945.

Majorie Bell Chambers, Estate of: Town Council documents from 1943-1946; documents on Royal Crest Trailer Court, Traffic Board, Streets and Roads, Bus Transportation; Town planning board meeting minutes, May 1951–November 1952; Town Planning Board, March 1950–December 1950; documents and newspaper clippings on the Los Alamos Town Forum (1948–1952); 4 photo negatives of Morgan Type Houses; 188 photos and photo negatives of various Los Alamos buildings and sites.

Edward Macmann: *The Atomic Bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki* (book); *Photographs of the Atomic Bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki* (book); Los Alamos 30th Reunion Anniversary memories (booklet), 1975; periodicals: *The Atom* (March 1968, May 1972), *LASL News* (Jan 1963), *Dateline Los Alamos* (1995); "Dedication and Open House of Los Alamos High School Physical Education Facility" (program), 1965.

Dan and Ruth Stillman: Nine books on Nuclear Criticality; a set of DVDs from a conference on nuclear criticality; reports on TA-18; *Critical Dimensions of Systems Containing ²³⁵U, ²³⁹Pu, and ²³³U* (book), published by LANL in 1986; *Russian Personal Names* (book); reviews by LANL; Route Map for Continental Airlines in the Pacific; Enewetak Atoll Catering Exploration Completion Report, September 1985; miscellaneous documents (two on Kwajalein Atoll and site maps for Bikini and



Eniwetok); packet of postcards from Russia; book on Troitsk, 1991; eight books in Russian; CIA map of the USSR; *Science and Technology: USSR: Engineering & Equipment* (report), 1990; *Myths and Realities of the Soviet Atomic Program* (report), 1994.

Kathy Campbell: 32 photographs from the Larry Campbell collection of Los Alamos sites and buildings; 12 maps of areas in New Mexico; two Chigaco, IL, pamphlets, 5 topographic map symbol legends, map prices and discounts for 1996; USGS map order forms for Colorado; USGS topographical map indexes; 24 CDs including oral histories; PowerPoint presentations on travel in New Mexico; audio CD Road Trip: High Road North; 14 DVDs: including HLM talk/Robbins group, Romero Cabin Restoration 2009, The New Mexico History Museum, Painted Chairs Supporting History, 2010 New Mexico History Conference Series, Race for Atomic Power, and A Sense of Place; *John Richter*, 4-8-08 (LAHS VHS); *The Final Days of Raton's York Canyon Coal Mine* (VHS); 29 black and white photographs of petroglyphs; 39 black and white photographs of Los Alamos and people in Los Alamos, including photos of Fuller Lodge in different decades and the restoration of the Romero Cabin.

Anya Byers: 17 photographs of Bandelier and the Valle Grande by LASL photographers.

Fray Angélico Chávez History Library: 285 books with primarily nuclear themes.

Camilla Trujillo: One copy of *Espanola* (Images of America series) by Camilla Trujillo.

Robert L. Cady: One copy of Genealogy Family History Project containing obituaries from 1963-1988.

Jack House: *Time Magazine* from May 4, 1962.

Kandy Frame: *Living in Los Alamos* (booklet, ca. 1961), *30th Anniversary Reunion Memories, June 20-21, 1975* (booklet), and *Los Alamos Bradbury Science Hall and Museum* (booklet).

Sara Dubberly: *Holiday* magazine with an article on New Mexico, November 1946.

Anonymous Donor: *Los Alamos Handbook of Radiation Monitoring* (book, 1970), *Civil Defense: A Soviet View* (book, 1970) by Yegorov et al.; two cans for pipe tobacco; rusted railroad spike and railroad nail.

Jeffrey Howell: Two LASL brochures.

Joyce Hunn: A clipping from *Newsweek*, July 3, 2000; emails containing news and stories about the Cerro Grande Fire.

Janie O'Rourke: Fire Map of the Jemez National Forest from 1914; Map of Santa Fe National Forest, 1929.

Teresa Russel: Three black and white photographs of an Indian pot collection found by three Los Alamos boys (Conway Smith, Mike Burkheimer, and unknown companion).

Hank Blackwell: Three security badges belonging to H. Jack Blackwell, Area Manager, Los Alamos Operations, 1969-1975 (red badge issued 6 October 1947, Z13692; permanent AEC badge, serial no. 15, area 15, Z1000; War Department badge issued 11 November 1947, Z1000).

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Roger and Kyla Thompson: Scrapbook belonging to Mildred “Mickey” Wilson Thompson, secretary of the metallurgy group at the University of Chicago (news clippings and letters, mostly regarding the atomic bomb, and drawings of the CP-1 or Chicago Pile); color photograph of Mildred Thompson with her daughter Keitha, 1941.

RERF: Radiation Effects Research Foundation Annual Report 2010.

Alan Carr: 13 DVDs including Heritage lecture series, Trinity films, Tinian (Little Boy and Fat Man), and Bradner Films; 6 CDs of Trinity test photos; “The Los Alamos National Laboratory Archives and History Program”; *Dateline Los Alamos* (1995 special issue); *The Manhattan Project: Making the Atomic Bomb* (December 2005); *Above Ground Testing* (4 DVD series), LA-UR-12-1669.

Kathy Willcutt: A birth announcement for Joan Pond (December 19, 1937), granddaughter of Ashley Pond Jr. and daughter of Ashley Pond III, sent to Kathy (Frost) Willcutt’s parents, Mr. and Mrs. Reuben Bernhard Frost.

Ken Holmes/Los Alamos High School Library: ten boxes of books, most having belonged to the Los Alamos Ranch School.



The Los Alamos High School library donated 10 boxes of books to the Museum Collection, many of which had belonged to the Los Alamos Ranch School.

National Capital Radio & Television Museum: Fallout Protection for Homes with Basements (booklet, July 1966); letters about home fallout shelters in West Virginia, one each signed by A. Ross Eckler, Hulett C. Smith, and Silas F. Starry.

Anonymous Donor: One-page essay entitled “Los Alamos Employment” about the “Gatekeeper of Los Alamos” by Fred W. Postma, Jr.

Kurt Harms: Two CDs with photos and documents relating to Don Harms’ work on the Manhattan Project in Los Alamos.

Harry P. Snowden, Estate of: Six photos with Harry Snowden and six photos of MPs training with horses; photos of the Forked Lightning Ranch near Pecos owned by Buddy Fogelson (Greer Garson’s husband).

Lisa Gonzales: Family history for Raymond P. Gonzales from his wife Lisa Gonzales; four photographs (photocopies) of Gonzales family and home; modified register for Alejandro Gonzales.

David Bradbury: Japanese leaflet (possibly announcing the atomic bomb).

Elizabeth and Janet Elmore: Two notebooks with a CD of letters, photographs, documents, booklets, maps, and newspaper clippings regarding Bill and Barbara Elmore’s association with the Manhattan Project; three certificates regarding service on the Manhattan Project; certificate for designation as a Technical Advisor at the 2nd International Conference on the Peaceful Uses of Atomic Energy in 1958.

Galen Kennedy: M. Klein & Sons Pliers (black electrical tape on the handles) used by Galen C. Kennedy in the late 1940s to tie reinforcing rods while building the power house and other CMR-10 buildings.

TJ Taub: Yellow letter sweater from Los Alamos High School.

Francis H. Harlow, Jr.: One copy each of *Late Pennsylvanian Brachiopods from North-Central New Mexico* by Patrick K. Sutherland and Francis H. Harlow, 1967, and *Pennsylvanian Brachiopods and*

Biostratigraphy in Southern Sangre de Cristo Mountains, New Mexico by Patrick K.

Sutherland and Francis H. Harlow, 1973.

Bill Cooper: Postcard and personal letters from Norris Bradbury to Immetta Davis.

Elizabeth Sebastian: Notebook containing blueprints for parts used in aircrafts (belonged to Frances Dunne, who worked at the Laboratory during the war).

Haskell Sheinberg: Los Alamos Handbook, first printing, April 7, 1947; Los Alamos Telephone Directory from 1945 (contains both military and civilian personnel).

Robert Schwerin: "The Day General Groves Waited for Me" (essay).

Anonymous Donor: 36 color photographs of Bill Clinton's May 1993 visit to Los Alamos.

Colleen Hanlon: A yellow sign with red print and a radiation symbol reading "Caution Radiation Area"; plastic top from the Shop Department on Family Days in 1980; a black bag for the LANL 50th anniversary; five red Bradbury Science Museum napkins; two red plastic Bradbury Science Museum cups; three red, white, and black Bradbury Science Museum pins.

Laura McFarland: One copy of *J. Robert Oppenheimer: Shatterer of Worlds* by Peter Goodchild, 1985.

Diana Bigelson Pearson: "Injuries Resulting from Atomic Explosions" (booklet), 1953; Officer Directory from the Manhattan District, Oak Ridge, TN, June 30, 1946.



Maenette Smith: Secundino Sandoval painting of Camp May done in a combination of watercolor, pen, and (likely) acrylics.

Anonymous Donor: Five copies of *Historical Botany of the Romero Cabin: A Family Homestead on the Pajarito Plateau* by Teralene S. Foxx and Gail D. Tierney, November 1999.

Phil Fox: CD of photos of the Fox family in Los Alamos, ca. 1948–1953; two small photo albums (captioned) of the Fox family in Los Alamos from ca. 1948–1953.

Carroll Thomas: One Kodak instamatic camera; 25 copies of *The Atom* 1964–1981; *Solar Energy Research at LASL July 1, 1976–September 30, 1977* (report) by Charles A. Bankston and Donald A. Neeper, April 1978.



Just Crazy to Ski Raffle

The Los Alamos Historical Society has teamed up with Pajarito Mountain Ski Area for a raffle featuring our publication, *Just Crazy to Ski: A Fifty-Year History of Skiing at Los Alamos*.

For \$10, raffle participants receive a copy of the book and a chance to win a 2013–2014 season pass to the ski hill. Drawing is Nov. 1, 2013.

(Yes, that's over a year away.)

Only 700 tickets will be sold. They are available in the Museum Shop.

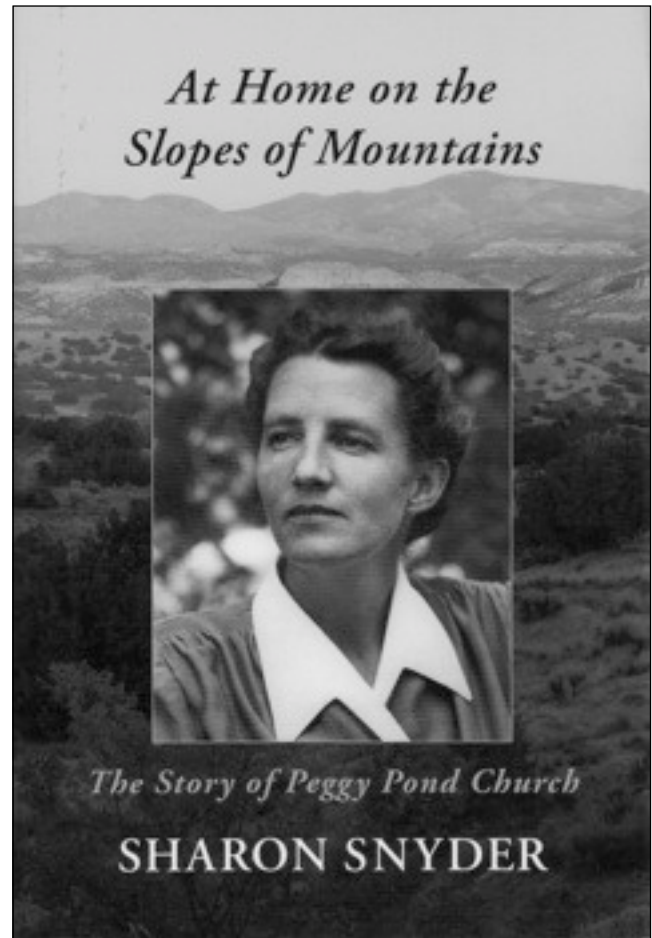
Annual Report from the Publications Committee

**By Sharon Snyder,
Publications Director**

In 1974 the first edition of *When Los Alamos was a Ranch School* was released, and the Society became a publisher under the imprint of Los Alamos Historical Society. In 2011, the publications group began considering a new imprint name for business and publicity reasons. A new choice was approved by the board of directors, and henceforth we will be BATHTUB ROW PRESS. We are proud to say that the upcoming second edition of *Los Alamos Place Names* will be the first book issued under our new imprint.

Our fiscal year began on a sad note provided by the Las Conchas fire. In looking for a way to help some of our neighbors affected by this disaster, the Society donated copies of our book *The Forest and the Fire* by Alison Carlisi and Teralene Foxx to children at Santa Clara Pueblo and co-sponsored an event designed around this title with the Pajarito Environmental Education Center on July 30. Artist and fire ecologist Terry Foxx gave a reading and signed books, and there were hands-on ecology activities for children and a discussion of forest fires and recovery for adults. The events and donation made good use of this beautiful book that we still have in print.

In August, the Society became a co-author, along with Toni Michnovicz Gibson and Sharon Snyder, of *Los Alamos and the Pajarito Plateau*, a photographic history book in the Images of America series by Arcadia Press. Michnovicz and Snyder presented a lecture and book signing in Fuller Lodge, and the book continues to be popular. Though the Society did not publish this title, we are proud to have contributed to the growing number of books about our community and its significance.



The long-awaited *At Home on the Slopes of Mountains: The Story of Peggy Pond Church* by Sharon Snyder was released in November to a packed house in Fuller Lodge. This title marked a milestone, being the first hardcover book produced by the Society. The limited edition, hardcover printing of 500 copies sold within the first few months. A softcover run was then ordered and is selling well. Promotion for the book has included talks and book signings in Los Alamos, Bandelier, Santa Fe, Taos, and Albuquerque, and it is being sold in book shops in all of those places. The book has been selected for use this fall in a women's biography course at Colgate University, and Snyder will travel to Hamilton, NY, as a guest lecturer for three class sessions.

In May, our publications sold well at the Historical Society of New Mexico’s annual conference, and *At Home on the Slopes of Mountains* earned the state society’s Lansing Bloom award for Outstanding Publication by an Institution of the Society.

The Nutshell Series continues with three manuscripts in progress, a tribute to the energy and financial support of its founder, Larry Campbell. His estate has provided for the publication costs of two more titles, and the Society will sponsor the series thereafter.

The classic *Inside Box 1663* by Eleanor Jette was reprinted this past year, and a second edition of Craig Martin’s *Los Alamos Place Names* is being readied for press and should be on our shelves early this autumn. Another title, *The Secret Project Notebook* by Carolyn Reeder, has low shelf numbers and will need reprinting soon. Other books we hope to reissue in the future include *Manhattan District History*, *Plutonium Metallurgy*, and *Quads, Shoeboxes and Sunken Living Rooms*.

Museum Offers New Atomic Film Festival

Judith Stauber
Museum Specialist

This summer Los Alamos Historical Museum kicked off a new community program with the Atomic Film Festival—ironically the first of its kind in Los Alamos. The idea for the festival emerged this past spring as a way to expand programming efforts beyond the walls of the museum and was fueled by the understanding that there is an important goal shared by both museums and cinema—the art and joy of storytelling as a means to communicate with an audience.

The Atomic Film Festival offers an educational experience for the public in an interactive space for viewing and discussion that has been of interest to Society members



as well as new and younger community audiences to learn about atomic history in new ways through the great storytelling

genre of film.

Three films were chosen to kick off the series this summer. *Day One* in June told the story of the Manhattan Project. In July, *The Atomic Café* explored edited, nuclear-themed recordings of the 1940s and 1950s in an era marked by much public concern over the possibility of nuclear war. A post-film discussion was led by John Hopkins, former associate director for nuclear weapons at LANL. Finally, in August we presented the cult classic *Dr. Strangelove* to round out the summer series.

The Atomic Film Festival is a celebration of the broad range of cinematic narratives on the history and impact of the atomic bomb produced in our country and around the world. With such a rich history available, we plan to continue presentations on a regular basis throughout the 2012-2013 program year and into the future. Stay tuned for dates and titles coming soon.

All films are free and donations are encouraged to support the continuing efforts of the Atomic Film Festival. We are grateful for financial support from RE/MAX of Los Alamos and Arthur Montoya Jr., DDS.

Call Judith at 695-5254 or e-mail her at judith@losalamoshistory.org for more information.

Treasurer's Report for Fiscal Year 2012

**By Carole Steward
Treasurer**

For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2012, the Society had operating income of \$231,104 and expenses of \$240,027, resulting in an operating deficit of \$8,923. Both operating expenses and operating revenue were slightly under budget. Gross sales for the Museum Shop and publications were up over fiscal year 2011 by about \$4,500, although they fell below the budget target by nearly \$8,000. Heritage Partner/Membership contributions also fell slightly below the budget target (\$48,386 to the budgeted target of \$51,000).

The Society maintains adequate reserves with Schwab, which are managed by the LANB Investment Group. As of June 30, 2012, the market value of this account was \$355,324. The Society also holds cash reserves in savings with LANB. The balance of that account was \$38,621 as of June 30, 2012.

The Society was grateful to receive a bequest of \$200,000 from the estate of our friend and colleague, Beth Plassmann, for

the purpose of establishing an endowment fund.

The Finance Committee received guidance from the LANB Trust and Investment group in the establishment of this fund, and in December the Board passed a resolution to establish the Los Alamos Historical Society Endowment Fund. This fund is currently being managed by the LANB Investment Group. The June 30, 2012, market value of the fund was \$206,405. We look forward to opportunities to increase this endowment, in order to provide a source of stable income for the Society for future years.

The Board is committed to maintaining a sound financial foundation for the Society. We are on the cusp of many exciting initiatives and continue to ask for your support as we move forward.

The financial records of the society are available in the Executive Director's office. To view them, please contact Heather McClenahan at 662-6272.



Museum Educator Has Busy Year

Museum Educator Raffi Andonian organized History Adventures at Fuller Lodge with eight community organizations to co-sponsor the presentations. For ten Mondays over the course of the summer, we conducted a public reading and hands-on activity for children, with a different theme related to our local history each week. For a broader audience, the educator coordinated Friday Night Out Los Alamos, which was aimed at providing opportunities for cultural and economic development utilizing our designated Main Street area to build upon

and sustain our historic downtown. The educator also presented the suitcase program to students in our local elementary schools, and he led tours for field trips to the museum by schools both local and out-of-state. He has participated in events for National History Day, Co-Op Rocks, and Family Fun Day at Mountain Elementary School. He also gave a talk on the Homestead Act and led a tour to local homesteads for the Los Alamos Senior Center. Look for him acting in a commercial for our museum playing at the Reel Deal movie theater!

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November to March, Monday to Friday 10-4, Saturday 11-4, Sunday 1-4

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Mission: The Los Alamos Historical Society preserves, promotes, and communicates the remarkable history and inspiring stories of Los Alamos and its people for our community, for the global audience, and for future generations.

Vision: The Los Alamos Historical Society is respected worldwide as the source and repository for the compelling history of Los Alamos and its people from prehistory to contemporary times.

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