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**Bethe House, Take Two**

The scene: A lonely log and stone house, beautifully restored with historical accuracy, once lived in during the Manhattan Project by two future Nobel Laureates, sits at 1350 Bathtub Row with a For Rent sign outside the fence.

Enter the villain: The harsh January weather of 2013, bringing with it sub-freezing temperatures.

Action: The cottage sits in the cold night air, empty but warmed inside by its 80-year-old furnace. Suddenly, the unthinkable happens. The boiler fails! Water begins to freeze in the steam-heat pipes, and they burst. Water spews throughout the house, destroying new oak floors, fresh plaster, and painted wooden doors. Much of the proud interior becomes a loss overnight.

But a new day dawns for the historic structure. The owner, heartsick at all his efforts lost, is willing to sell the house “as is” at a generous price. The Los Alamos Historical Society is eager to buy the old cottage that means so much to the community, but can it find the money for the purchase and the needed repairs?

Enter the heroes stage West: Donors who are willing to buy and donate the house and, in addition, pay for repairs and for exhibits that will turn the restored building into a museum to focus on the role of Los Alamos during the Cold War. (Continued on page 3)
Upcoming Lectures and Events

Special Lecture


Carr, LANL historian, will explore the political landscape of the later Cold War years from the Los Alamos perspective and introduce the Laboratory leaders and technologies that helped win history's most dangerous conflict.


April 15, 2014: Patricia McCraw, “Tiffany Blue: Turquoise in Frontier New Mexico”

May 13, 2014: 6 p.m. Annual meeting and Experience Auction. Lois Rudnick, “Frontiers in Art: Georgia O’Keeffe’s Influence on Cady Wells Post-Atomic Apocalyptic Art”

Atomic Film Festival 7:00 in Fuller Lodge except where noted

Sunday, Jan. 26 at 2 p.m. Doctor Atomic

Tuesday, Feb. 25, Operation Crossroads: The Dawn of Atomic Weapons

Tuesday, April 29, “Barefoot Gen”

Museum Exhibits

December: Steve Stoddard’s Life and Legacy

January/February: Doomtown: Paintings from the Nevada Test Site

March/April: Edith Warner: Her Storied Life (Celebrating Women’s History Month)

Brown Bag with the Collection

Tuesday, February 4: Storytelling and the Nevada Test Site

Tuesday May 6: Fourth Annual “What’s In Your Collection?”

LOS ALAMOS HISTORICAL SOCIETY STAFF

Executive Director
Heather McClennen
662-6272
heather@losalamoshistory.org

Museum Specialist
Judith Stauber
695-5254
judith@losalamoshistory.org

Museum Shop Manager
Kathy Ankeny
695-5250
museumshop@losalamoshistory.org

Museum Educator
Raffi Andonian
695-5251
educator@losalamoshistory.org

Archivist
Rebecca Collinsworth
695-5252
archives@losalamoshistory.org

Registrar
Stephanie Yeamans
695-5253
registrar@losalamoshistory.org

Publications Outreach Manager
Aimee Slaughter
662-2660
publications@losalamoshistory.org

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

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.
The amazing donors are Clay and Dorothy Perkins of Rancho Santa Fe, California, and the Historical Society and the community of Los Alamos owe them a large debt of gratitude. Clay and Dorothy are collectors of Manhattan Project memorabilia, probably the only couple to have a life-size model of Little Boy in their back yard, a replica designed by the same artist who made the model in the Bradbury Science Museum. They own also safety plugs from the original bomb, saved by one of the Enola Gay crew members.

“I was only 11 years old in 1945, so I couldn’t get in, but the Manhattan Project got into me,” Clay said, explaining his intense interest in project history.

Clay Perkins studied physics in college and worked in the space industry before becoming a real estate developer in California. “I’ve accumulated enough money that I have been able to come back, if not to nuclear physics, to nuclear history,” he said.

Built in 1931 for the Los Alamos Ranch School’s business manager and bookkeeper, the house at 1350 Bathtub Row was originally called Master Cottage #1 and occupied by Fred and Edna Rousseau. After the Manhattan Project took over the Ranch School and surrounding area in 1943, Edwin McMillan, who would later win the Nobel Prize in Chemistry in 1951, moved into the house with his wife, Elsie. As soon as the war was over, the McMillans moved back to California, and Hans Bethe, who would win the Nobel Prize in Physics in 1967, occupied the house with his wife, Rose.

The Bethes lived in the house only a few months, but in an interview in 2004, Rose Bethe recalled how happy Hans was to be living next door to Robert Oppenheimer. He and Rose enjoyed also the cottage’s bathtub as well as its spacious interior and lack of stairs. They had lived in a small, upstairs apartment for most of the war.

Hans Bethe was head of the Theoretical Division during the Manhattan Project. His continued influence on the Laboratory, his contributions to arms control, his testimony on behalf of Oppenheimer during his security hearings, and the extraordinary number of scientific awards received during his lifetime led the Historical Society to name the house in his honor.
After the Bethes moved from the house, Max Roy, head of the weapons division for the Laboratory, lived in the house from 1946 until his death in the early 1990s. Subsequent owner Richard Morse, who greatly appreciated the history of the home, suffered medical problems and moved out in 2011. Morse’s son, John Chalfant, renovated the house with an eye to its history. He attempted to rent it, but the disaster struck in January 2013.

The Perkins donation includes $130,000 for repairs as well as $100,000 toward the exhibits of the future Harold Agnew Cold War Museum. Clay and Dorothy Perkins were good friends with Agnew, who died this past September.

“It’s a great pleasure to be able to use this house for him,” Clay said. “It’s most fitting for it to bear his name. He once told me the legacy he leaves behind is that three-fourths of the American nuclear weapons were built under his tutelage.”

Historical Society staff and volunteers are working already on plans for the gallery displays. Exhibits on people who played significant roles in Los Alamos and the tense drama of the Cold War, the role of mathematics in science, and development of the hydrogen bomb will be included. An opening date for the new museum will be announced as the exhibits near completion.

Meanwhile, the Historic Properties Committee is overseeing renovations of the house at 1350 Bathtub Row, including new wiring, plumbing, furnace, plaster, paint, and floors. That work is expected to be completed early in 2014.
Bathtub Row Press is delighted to announce the publication of "109 East Palace Avenue: A Microcosm of Santa Fe's Four Hundred Year History." Written by local author John Ruminer, this article is the fourth in our Nutshell Series and is available for $10 in the Museum Shop and at our web store. The article is richly illustrated and includes historic maps of the area around 109 East Palace. The address is well known as the office of Dorothy McKibbin and the point of contact between residents of the secret city of Los Alamos and the Outer World—but as Ruminer shows, the history of 109 East Palace was tied to other important New Mexicans since colonial times. The stories of the people of 109 East Palace reflect the cultures and political practices of three different nations over four hundred years and provide this fascinating glimpse of Santa Fe's history.

We also have new accounts on Facebook and on Goodreads, so come and join us there for conversations about local history and great books! Would you like to see us on other social media sites? Do you have questions about the new publication? Or anything else? Let us hear from you at publications@losalamoshistory.org.

Volunteers Needed

We have a wide variety of volunteer opportunities available. We are always in need of docents in the Museum. Docents are asked to work a regular shift, either weekly or bi-weekly, engaging visitors, selling items in the Museum Shop, and being alert to any issues with exhibits. We also need volunteers at the Romero Cabin in the summer months.

Come be a guide! From May through mid-October this year, we ran a successful guided tour program. Guides spent time leading groups through the Historic District and sharing all aspects of Los Alamos history. If you have a background in office work and would like to share your skills, we would love your help in the administrative offices! We will train you for any and all of these positions. If any of these are of interest, please contact the offices at 505-662-6272.
Just in Time for the Holidays: New Items in the Museum Shop

If you are looking for the perfect gift for a scientist, a student of science, or a historian, this holiday season, the Los Alamos Historical Museum Shop offers a wide selection. From new books about the Manhattan Project and World War II to science kits to the ever-popular wind-up lab rats, you can find something for everyone on your list.

If the scientist in your life is a coffee lover, we recommend the mug with the chemical formula for caffeine. Include some Los Alamos Ranch School Coffee, and you have a complete gift.

Our new and popular robots made out of leftover electronics are fully stocked and just waiting to be taken home.

New adult books in the Shop include the acclaimed Ray Monk biography of J. Robert Oppenheimer, *A Life Inside the Center*. A great little gift, “109 East Palace Avenue: A 400 Year Microcosm of Santa Fe History,” recently published by Bathtub Row Press is also available.

For children, the new book, *Red or Green: The Colors of a Family Tradition* by Albuquerque author Lori Martinez Conticelli tells about about growing and harvesting chili in Chimayo. The *Great Southwest Activity Book* provides hours of interactive fun. A new array of science kits has arrived, including Create Spiral Art, Weaving Loom, the Plastic Bag Monster, Make-Your-Own Hovercraft, the Lemon Clock, and the Refrigerator Rover.

The Museum Shop will again be selling U.S. Forest Service Christmas tree permits from the day after Thanksgiving through Dec. 24. The permits are $10 each.

For those of you who live out of town but find any of these gifts interesting and would like to purchase them, please call our Museum Shop Manager Kathy Ankeny, at 505-695-5250, and she will help you place a mail order.
Doctor Atomic

The Metropolitan Opera Orchestra, Chorus and Ballet production composed by John Adams, with libretto by Peter Sellars. Run time: 2 hours, 51 mins. Special guest Lois Rudnick will facilitate a brief post-film discussion. Rudnick is Professor Emerita of American Studies at the UMass Boston, where she chaired the American Studies Dept. for 26 years. Rudnick has lectured and published extensively on modern American history and culture, and will be the featured speaker at the Historical Society annual meeting in May.

The Atomic Film Festival was established by Los Alamos History Museum in 2012. All films are FREE in Fuller Lodge.

with sponsorship support from
Dr. Art Montoya, DDS, and Re/MAX Los Alamos

Info/Questions? Contact: Judith@losalamoshistory.org 505.695.5254
HAROLD M. AGNEW
1921–2013
Excerpted from the Los Alamos Daily Post, Sept. 30, 2013
Harold M. Agnew, died Sept. 29, 2013, at his home in Solana Beach, CA. Agnew was present at Enrico Fermi’s first neutron chain reaction in 1942, director of the Los Alamos Scientific Laboratory for ten years, and president of General Atomics for ten years. He had been afflicted with chronic lymphocytic leukemia since spring.
Agnew was born in Denver, CO. After receiving his undergraduate degree in chemistry from the University of Denver in 1942, he joined Fermi’s research group at the University of Chicago. He worked on the Manhattan Project at Los Alamos from 1943 to 1945 and flew as a scientific observer during the mission to Hiroshima Aug. 6, 1945, to measure the yield of the atomic bomb explosion.
After completing his graduate degree under Fermi at the University of Chicago in 1949, Agnew returned to Los Alamos and became the Laboratory’s Weapons Division leader from 1964 to 1970. He served as Director of the Laboratory from 1970-1979.
Current Director Charlie McMillan, referred to Agnew as “a national treasurer,” adding that the United States “will be forever in Harold’s debt.”
Agnew retired from Los Alamos in 1979 and served as a scientific advisor to NATO, chaired the General Advisory Committee of the Arms Control and Disarmament Agency (1974-1978), and served as White House science councilor (1982-1989). He received the E. O. Lawrence Award (1966) and the Department of Energy’s Enrico Fermi Award (1987). Along with Hans Bethe, Agnew was the first to receive the Los Alamos National Laboratory Medal.
Agnew is survived by a daughter, Nancy Chapman, and a son, John, along with grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

RALPH C. SPARKS
1919–2013
Excerpted from BlueRidgeNow.com
Ralph C. Sparks, 94, of Hendersonville, NC, died Nov. 1, 2013. A native of Providence, RI, Sparks was born on August 11, 1919. He received his Journeyman's Certificate in tool and dye making and an associate's degree in mechanical engineering before serving his country in the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Special Engineer Detachment. In his book, Twilight Time, Sparks wrote of his wartime experiences (published by Los Alamos Historical Society, 2000).
After the war he worked in manufacturing and later as a professor
for Westchester Community College. He also volunteered at Blue Ridge Community College and Habitat for Humanity, helping to build homes. He is survived by his wife, Margaret, his four daughters, and numerous grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

ALBERT BARTLETT
1923–2013
Excerpted from the University of Colorado website

Albert Allen Bartlett, professor emeritus of physics at the University of Colorado Boulder, was remembered as a revered teacher who had a major impact on his students, the university, Boulder, and far beyond. Bartlett died on Sept. 7 at the age of 90. “Al Bartlett was a man of many legacies,” said CU-Boulder Chancellor Philip P. DiStefano. “His commitment to students was evidenced by the fact that he continued to teach for years after his retirement. His timeless, internationally revered lecture on the impacts of world population growth will live beyond his passing, a distinction few professors can claim. And we can all be thankful for his vision and foresight in making the Boulder community what it is today.”

When Bartlett first delivered his internationally celebrated lecture on “Arithmetic, Population and Energy” to a group of CU students on Sept. 19, 1969, the world population was about 3.7 billion. He proceeded to give it another 1,741 times in 49 states and 7 other countries, speaking to corporations, government agencies, professional groups and students from junior high school through college. His talk warned of the consequences of “ordinary, steady growth” of population and the connection between population growth and energy consumption. Understanding the mathematical consequences of population growth and energy consumption can help clarify the best course for humanity to follow, he said.

The talk contained his most celebrated statement: “The greatest shortcoming of the human race is our inability to understand the exponential function.” A video of his lecture posted on YouTube has been viewed nearly 5 million times.

Bartlett was born on March 21, 1923, in Shanghai, China. He earned his bachelor’s degree in physics from Colgate University and spent two years as an experimental physicist at Los Alamos as part of the Special Engineer Detachment during the Manhattan Project. He later earned graduate degrees in physics at Harvard and started his teaching career at CU-Boulder.
Memorials (Continued)

Bartlett won the American Association of Physics Teachers’ Distinguished Service Citation, the Robert A. Millikan Award, and the Melba Newell Phillips Award. He served as the society’s national president in 1978. Teaching and service awards from the University of Colorado include Boulder Faculty Assembly Excellence in Teaching Awards, the Robert L. Stearns Award, the Thomas Jefferson Award, the University of Colorado Centennial Medallion, the President’s University Service Award, the University Heritage Center Award, and the Presidential Citation.

Bartlett was preceded in death by his wife, Eleanor, and is survived by their four daughters.

FRANK OSVATH
1920–2013
Excerpted from the LA Daily Post

Frank Osvath, 93, of Los Alamos passed away at the Los Alamos Medical Center on October 31. Frank was born in 1920 in Detroit, MI, and as a teenager trained and worked at Henry Ford Trade School. He moved to Los Alamos to work as a machinist in 1943, where he met Florence, whom he married in 1947. After a year of service in the U.S. Army in 1946, Frank returned to work for the Los Alamos National Laboratory until his retirement in 1982.

Frank was active in the First Baptist and then White Rock Baptist Churches from the inception of each. Frank loved to sing with the Choral Society and was the interim choir director several times at his churches. He also played the French horn, trumpet, and violin. He was forever curious about things, traveling with Florence to more than 40 countries, on every continent except Antarctica. He loved hiking, having climbed more than a dozen 14,000-foot peaks, many after the age of 70. He could name most of the mountain peaks in New Mexico and Colorado and instilled a love of nature in his daughters and grandchildren. He began skiing in Los Alamos at Sawyer’s Hill before the present hill was opened. He won a prize at the 2012 Skiesta for having skied the longest time in Los Alamos. He retired his skis when he turned 89.

Frank is survived by his wife, Florence, and their four daughters—Amy Swennes, Ginger Meehan, Lisa Lanterman, and Mary Keller—as well as grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Frank Osvath
The office of the Publications Outreach Manager is now occupied by Aimee Slaughter, a former docent with the Historical Society who brings both skill and enthusiasm to this new staff position.

Working in conjunction with the Publications Director, Aimee will take on a number of much-needed tasks that include managing the database, invoicing and shipping, book inventory, marketing, internet research, transitions to digital technology, grant writing, and integration of the Society’s publications into museum exhibits and programming. These tasks are in line with Aimee’s view of the Society as “a dynamic environment,” and she is “excited to be helping the Society plan for future changes to the museum and the historic campus in downtown Los Alamos.” The job of outreach manager will allow her to aid every aspect of the Society’s mission.

Aimee holds M.A. degrees in physics and history from the University of Rochester and will complete her doctorate in the history of science from the University of Minnesota this month. She and her husband moved to Los Alamos in 2011, and while looking to become involved in the community, Aimee volunteered with the Historical Society. In addition, she taught a course on Science and the Popular Imagination at UNM-LA this past fall and has volunteered with the Pajarito Environmental Education Center, teaching science topics to elementary and high school students. With her educational background, her experience and computer skills, and her enthusiasm for engaging people, Aimee will be an asset to the Society.

Do Something Historic
This Holiday Season:
Visit the Historical Museum with Family and Friends. Open every day except Christmas and New Year’s. Admission is always free!
The Los Alamos Historical Society and Museum

Open free of charge every day except New Year’s Day, Thanksgiving, and Christmas.

May 1-Oct. 15, Weekdays, 9:30-4:30
Weekends, 11-4

Oct. 16-April 30, Weekdays 10-4
Weekends, 11-4

Address:
P.O. Box 43, 1050 Bathtub Row
Los Alamos, NM 87544

Administrative Offices: 505-662-6272
Archives: 505-695-5252
Museum Educator: 505-695-5251
Publications: 505-662-2660
Shop Manager: 505-695-5250

Email: historicalsociety@losalamoshistory.org
Website: www.losalamoshistory.org
Online shop: shop.losalamoshistory.org
Facebook: Los Alamos Historical Museum
Twitter: twitter.com/losalamosmuseum

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