



NEWS NOB



Newsletter for Members of the Nevada Test Site Historical Foundation

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Collector's Edition

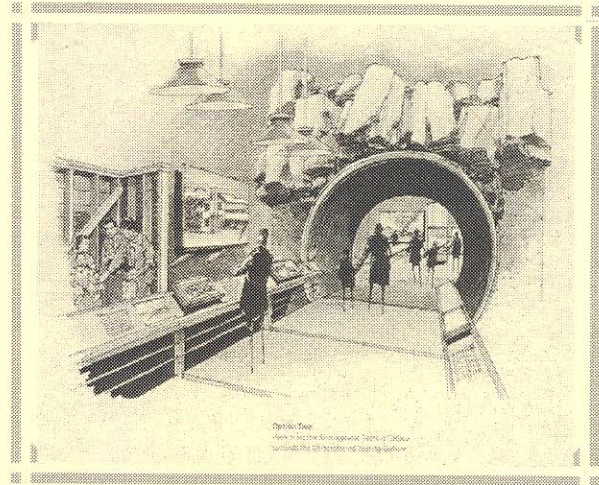
NTS 50th Anniversary Calendar Available

A one-of-a-kind commemorative year 2000 calendar highlighting 50 years of the Nevada Test Site is available at the NTS History Center gift shop for \$15 (see page 5). If you wish to order by mail, see the memorabilia order form on page 11 of this issue of the *News Nob*. Order forms can also be obtained by calling 295-1198 and leaving the following information: Your name, address, and phone number. The calendars are a wonderful keepsake as well as a useful part of your home or office.

Atomic Testing History Institute Plans Progress

The Nevada Atomic Testing History Institute (NATHI) is part of the Phase II expansion at the Desert Research Institute's campus in Las Vegas. See page 15 for a copy of the site plan.

The Program Resource Document, which outlines the building occupants' requirements in great detail, was handed over to JMA Architecture Studios on October 5, 1999. The Exhibit Master Plan, prepared by J.J. Andre Associates, Ltd., was delivered November 15, 1999. The Exhibit Master Plan will be used by the Foundation as a fund-raising tool for the exhibit component of NATHI. The NATHI team met at JMA Architecture Studios on November 16 to discuss the initial building schemes developed by JMA based on the Program Resource Document.



Artist's rendering by J.J. Andre Associates of the view from the Atmospheric Testing Gallery towards the Underground Testing Gallery

Foundation's First Annual Meeting Draws Enthusiastic Crowd

Nearly 100 members of the NTS Historical Foundation gathered at the Nellis Air Force Base Officers' Club on Monday, October 18, 1999, for the organization's first annual meeting. The purpose of the event was to provide the membership with an update on the progress of the organization since its inception, to elect designated Board of Trustee members, and to offer an opportunity to socialize.

Board member Terry Vaeth served as the master of ceremonies. A highlight of the evening was a keynote presenta-

tion by Dr. Robert Kuckuck, Deputy Director, Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory, who gave a brief and colorful history of the nuclear weapons testing program, emphasizing the importance of the program to this country's national defense and the conclusion of the "cold war." He also gave perspectives on the current program as well as options for the future.

Board Chairman Troy Wade updated the membership on the progress of major initiatives, including the opening of the History Center at the DOE/NV

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PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Things are still going well for the Foundation. A lot has happened since our last issue of the "Nob." Hopefully, between this column and the rest of the issue, we will have caught you up with most of the happenings.

Our first annual meeting for the members was a big success. The program was enjoyed by nearly 100 of us who were in attendance. We especially enjoyed Bob Kuckuck's talk, bringing us up to date on stockpile stewardship programs, and what the country may be missing by not having a full scale underground testing program.

Another highlight of the evening was a display of the architect's renderings of how the NTS historical exhibits will appear in the new display space of the NATHI building. J.J. Andre Associates Ltd., of Canada, a professional museum architect firm, displayed a number of posters that depict the storyline development and theme structure for the future Foundation exhibits. Words can't adequately describe how good the quality is and how well they captured the NTS events. They are very talented people and know their business. The big challenge for the Foundation is to find the funding to build what they have created on paper. It will be a masterpiece, if we can complete it as envisioned. We have now been furnished 50 copies of the 56-page Exhibit Master Plan which we can use as a fund-raising tool. This document is excellent as it colorfully shows the proposed exhibits, photos, themes and storyline.

We have expressed much gratitude to the General Services Administration (GSA) and specifically to Susan Alexander. The GSA funded this exhibit space design work for us, and Susan continues to find inventive ways to help our project. Her enthusiasm for this project is only exceeded by our own and the folks at J.J. Andre Associates.

Those in attendance at the annual meeting were issued our first annual report, which discusses our goals, Objectives, and budget for the coming year. My intent is to mail all those not in attendance to the meeting a copy of the annual report. Election of Board Members went smoothly and was presided over by the chair of our Nominating Committee, Nick Aquilina.

We have had a big change in our office operations. Marcella Guerra has moved to Phoenix, Arizona, and

JoAnne Thomas was recruited to fill that vacancy. JoAnne is coming up to speed with handling our Foundation office operations, which amazingly takes about 20 to 30 hours a week. We sent Marcella off with a big "thank you" at the annual meeting and gave her a beautiful bouquet of roses.

Be sure to check out our new Web page for which we owe many thanks to our new Webmaster, Sean Crawford. Sean is a DOE employee and creates and maintains Web pages in his off hours. We hope to soon achieve the ability for you and others to order items from the gift shop off the Web page. We now have beautiful 50th year anniversary calendars (a keepsake item) for the year 2000 and coffee mugs (with the kit foxes and our logo) in the gift shop. These, along with the post cards, hats, T-shirts, etc., are making up quite an interesting list of memorabilia which can be purchased to not only assist with fund raising, but to show off the history, culture and events of the NTS.

We have had other personnel changes. Richard Nutley resigned as Vice President and chair of the Volunteer Committee. We wish to thank him for all his hard work on behalf of the Foundation over nearly the past two years. Layton O'Neill has taken over as chair of the Volunteer Committee and is looking forward to opening the NTS History Center on Losee Road four or five days a week. To do this we need volunteers to staff the facility for about four hours each day. This is a good way for a couple to spend an afternoon once a month and get to see all the NTS history at their finger tips. Ernie Williams is now the chair of the Gift Shop Committee. He, along with the capable help of Phyllis Donaldson, has created this great stock of items I mentioned above, which lists only a few of the items available. We are still recruiting for a Treasurer, Vice President, and chair of the Membership Committee.

Troy Wade and Retta Helling had a recent successful trip to the offices of the Smithsonian Institution in Washington, D.C., where they delivered our application for affiliation status. Watch for an upcoming news release that will detail the process and the value of this relationship.

Our membership seems to be steadily, albeit slowly, growing. We are close to 300, and still aiming for 1000

(Continued on page 3)

PROFILES

Layton J. O'Neill



Layton O'Neill previously cochaired the NTSHF Retail Sales Committee and is currently serving as chair of the Volunteer Committee. Layton's work experience began with off-site fallout monitoring during atmospheric testing while assigned to the U.S. Public Health Service in 1958.

Layton then moved on to health physics operations and oversight, emergency response and training, and environmental monitoring with the Idaho Operations Office and the Nevada Operations Office of the U.S. Atomic Energy Commission. He retired from the U.S. Department of Energy, Nevada Operations Office in August of 1994 after 35 years in federal health physics. The last eight years were in managing the low-level radioactive waste disposal program at the Nevada Test Site.

After retirement, Layton has traveled and worked part time at the Harry Reid Center for Environmental Studies, University of Nevada Las Vegas, developing a reliable estimated isotopic waste inventory for the Area 3 and Area 5 radioactive waste management sites on the NTS, and performing accuracy reviews of documents concerning the low-level radioactive waste program.

Layton has also devoted about 36 years to Boy Scouts as a Scoutmaster and also is an active participant in the leadership of his church.

Layton is married to Melva and has one stepdaughter, five children by a previous marriage and 10 grandchildren.

President's Corner (Continued from page 2)
by 2000 (the end of 2000, that is) but we need everyone to help recruit. I don't think anyone who ever worked at, or was affiliated with, the NTS will be disappointed with a membership in the Foundation. The preservation of artifacts, memorabilia and history being planned for the museum should make all current and former NTSers proud.

Lastly, I want to mention that with this issue we are trying to start an NTS alumni news column to serve as a focus of news about the people who worked at the NTS. Please furnish our editor, Don Wruble, any news of which you are aware. Also, Don is looking for a volunteer to take responsibility for preparing this alumni news column in each upcoming issue of the *News Nob*.

Many of you may not know that PAI contributes the time and expense of their employees who do the layout, editing and put in the time required to organize each issue of the *News Nob*. For this we want to thank PAI's Chief Executive Officer, Doan Phung, along with Don Wruble, manager of the Las Vegas office, and all the hard working folks at PAI. If you get a chance, give Don a "thank you" when you see him. Also mention thanks for the same kind of work they did for the Annual Report. It also looks great.

Warm Regards,
Bruce W. Church

NTS HISTORICAL FOUNDATION BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Troy Wade, Chairman

Executive Committee

Bruce Church, President
Linda Smith, Secretary

Members

Robert Agonia
Nick Aquilina
Charles Costa
F. Claudette Enus
William Flangas
Dale Fraser
Dan Gouker
Marcella Guerra
E. Chris Hagen
Joan Huey-Kane
Rose McKinney-James
Richard Land
Phyllis Martin
Charles "Bama" McKnight
John Mitchell
Allison Newlon
Layton O'Neill
Grace Plummer
Charles Silvestri
C. John Smits
Elmer Sowder
John Thorndal
Dina Titus
Terry Vaeth
Bill Vasconi
Mark Vincent
Stephen Wells
Ernest Williams
Donald Wruble
Peter Zavattaro

Ex-Officio Members

Susan Haase, NTSDC
Loretta Helling, DOE
Marilou Jarvis, DRI
Elaine Mew, Bechtel Nevada
Darwin Morgan, DOE



A PLACE TO HANG OUR HATS. . .

The NTS Historical Foundation's office space is provided by the NTS Development Corporation (NTSDC), thanks to the generosity of Tim Carlson.

The NTSDC is also providing a furnished office, including computer support, to the Foundation.

Our address is:

**2330 Paseo del Prado
Suite C-101
Las Vegas, Nevada
89102**

Telephone:

**(702) 257-7900
(ask for the Historical
Foundation)**

Fax :

(702) 257-7999

E-mail address:

jthomas@ntsdev.com

History Center Telephone:

(702) 295-1198

The office is staffed
Monday through
Thursday.

The Nevada Test Site: The Past, The Present and The Future

by Troy Wade

This article is reprinted from a guest editorial written for the October/November 1999 issue of Nevada's Washington Watch, by Troy Wade, President of the Nevada Alliance for Defense, Energy and Business.

Prologue

[As we enter the new century and millennium, the following article by Chairman Troy Wade is a particularly timely reminder of the approaching 50th Anniversary of the Nevada Test Site.]

The Nevada Test Site, known throughout the world as the NTS, will celebrate its 50th birthday in January of the year 2001. The contribution of that effort over those years, to Nevada and to the nation, has been remarkable, and the current view of the future shows as remarkable a transition as we have seen in the past.

The NTS was officially "founded" by President Harry Truman in the latter months of 1950. The cold war with the Soviets was in its infancy, and as the United States determined that nuclear deterrence would become the foundation of our national defense, the need to develop a system that supported nuclear research, test, and production became paramount. After the end of WW II, brought on by the use of nuclear weapons at Hiroshima and Nagasaki, the U.S. began a series of nuclear weapons development tests in the Marshall Islands (Bikini Atoll, etc.). It soon became apparent that the logistics and costs issues associated with testing only at the Pacific Proving Ground, as it was called, were neither necessary nor affordable, so a decision was made to locate a domestic nuclear testing site. In late 1950, a recommendation was made to President Truman that a site located on the Nellis Bombing and Gunnery Range, north of the small city of Las Vegas, would be the most appropriate and safe site to conduct the weapons tests then proscribed as necessary to build and maintain the nuclear deterrent. Accordingly, in October of 1950, the first contingent of construction workers arrived at the NTS, and the first nuclear test was conducted on January 27, 1951.

Over those intervening years, the NTS has played a major role in the defense of the United States. Scientists from the national laboratories at Livermore, California; Los Alamos, New Mexico; and the Sandia Laboratory in Albuquerque, New Mexico have used the NTS as the engineering development center for designing, building and maintaining the nuclear deterrent that has kept the United States and the world free from a world war since the end of WW II. From that time to the present, the major emphasis of the NTS has been to support the national defense needs of the Nation. Over those many years, and projected into the future, that basic mission will not change; only the method of carrying out that mission will change.

National and international politics have always dictated how the missions at the NTS were conducted. In the early years, all nuclear testing was conducted in the atmosphere, both in Nevada and in the Pacific. Except for the U.S. self-imposed moratorium (signed by President Eisenhower) that lasted from late 1958 until 1961, atmospheric testing continued until August of 1963 when the U.S. and the Soviet Union signed the Limited Test Ban Treaty, prohibiting testing in outer space, underwater, or in the atmosphere. As a result of that agreement, all nuclear tests were conducted underground until testing ended in 1992. Another important milestone was the signing of the Threshold Test Ban Treaty in 1974, which limited all nuclear tests to yields of less than 150 kilotons. In October of 1992, President Bush signed a nine-month moratorium.

The last test was conducted in 1992, followed shortly by a decision by President Clinton that the U.S. would conduct no more nuclear tests pending the ratification of the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty, now pending before the U.S. Congress. The NTS contribution to the Nation has been enormous, providing a safe and reliable location for testing that indeed maintained our prominence as a Super-

(Continued on page 5)

Nevada Test Site: (Continued from page 4)

Power, and provided a venue for the kinds of state-of-the-art science that was necessary to achieve those goals. The NTS contribution to the economy of Nevada has been equally impressive, providing thousands and thousands of jobs over almost fifty years, and billions of dollars invested in the economy of Nevada. In fact, in the late fifties and sixties, the NTS was the largest single employer, behind the gaming industry, in the state, and enjoyed a prominent economic role in Southern Nevada. Thousands of Nevadans proudly worked at the NTS and proudly contributed to the sense of patriotism that has always dominated the work ethic at the NTS.

Currently, the NTS continues to play a major role in the defense of the Nation, although in a reduced way. Although nuclear testing is now prohibited, the defense of the Nation still depends on a nuclear deterrent made up of thousands of nuclear weapons. The challenge now presented to the national labs and to the NTS is to maintain the safety and reliability of the enduring stockpile without nuclear testing. The NTS role, therefore, has now moved from atmospheric testing to underground testing to the current role of non-nuclear testing, using the NTS for a series of tests involving high explosives and nuclear material known as subcritical tests.

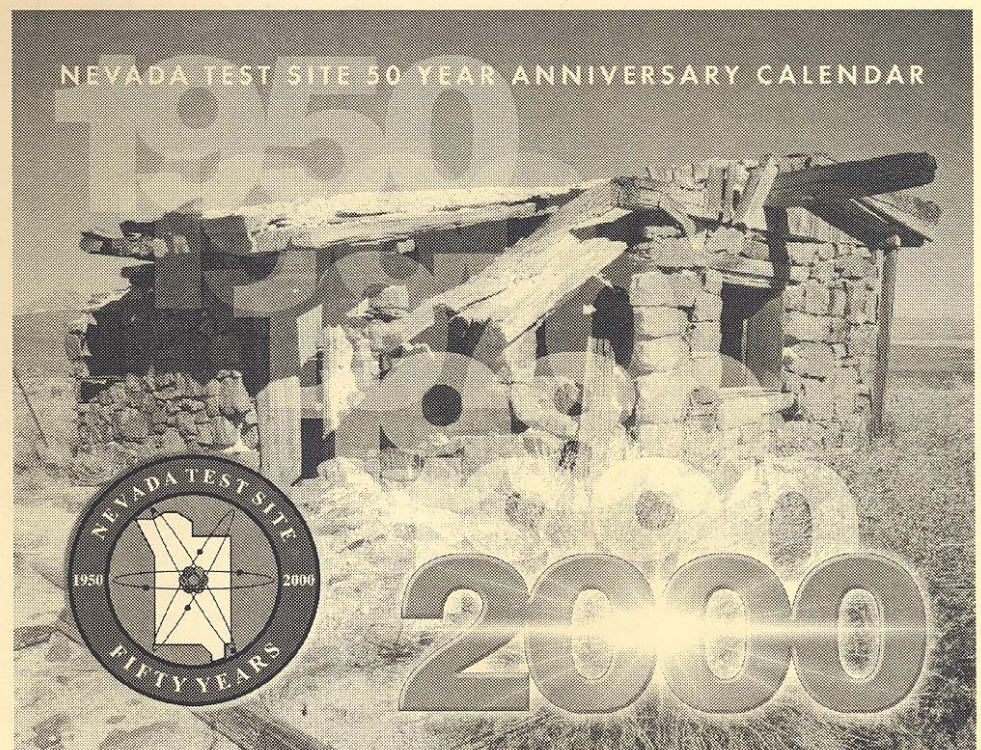
Thus, another major transition of NTS has begun. From the mushroom clouds of atmospheric testing to the bricks

and mortar of underground testing, the NTS is now moving toward a role of major scientific contribution to the continuing defense needs of the Nation. There are two small facilities now planned for the NTS in the next few years; one described as a two-stage gas gun, an experimental system that will measure materials' behavior, and an accelerator that will begin to develop advance x-ray techniques. Both of these facilities are precursors to major physics research machines that will be required over the next several decades to maintain the safety and reliability of the U.S. nuclear deterrent without testing. The major facilities now on the drawing boards include such things as the Advanced Hydrodynamic Facility, a kind of three-dimensional x-ray machine that could be built at the NTS toward the middle of the next decade. A facility of that magnitude would mean that instead of fly-in science, with experts coming to the NTS and then returning to their respective Labs, the machines and the scientists would reside in Nevada, and would bring world-class basic physics research to the NTS and to the University System in Nevada. When one thinks of diversifying the economy of Nevada over the next couple of decades, what could be better than a preeminent Nevada role in international science?

Nevadans can be proud of the contribution they have made to this nation as individuals and as supporters of the Nevada Test Site. The future of NTS now takes on a tone of international science, something that should continue to make all Nevadans proud.

This beautifully colored 8-inch by 10-inch calendar (when folded closed, as shown with its cover here on the right) opens up into a wall-hanging calendar with 12 crystal clear, high quality photographs of various Nevada Test Site landmarks, installations, test-effect sequences, and official visitors (including President John F. Kennedy). These photographs appear over monthly calendars carrying annotated dates of historical events that have occurred at the NTS.

See pages 1 and 10 for ordering or copy-reservation information



Foundation Web Site

The Nevada Test Site Historical Foundation Web site is currently being revamped with a new easy-to-use graphical interface, merchandise for sale, additional content, feedback forms, and much more. This new Web site will provide the look and feel of the Nevada Test Site and the history behind it.

The Web site development will be an ongoing effort throughout the year, but will be useable by January 30th, 2000. Information, merchandise, and contacts about the history of the NTS can be found at:

<http://www.geocities.com/NTSHistorical>

Webmaster: crawford@nv.doe.gov

Sean Crawford
(702) 295-3381
(702) 295-1810 Fax

NTSHistorical POC:
churchbw@connett.net

Correction

The *News Nob* issue numbering sequence has been revised, effective with this issue. This issue is designated as Volume 3 Issue 6, to reflect the history of two issues published in 1998 (Volume 1) and three issues published in 1999 (Volume 2).

I REMEMBER. . . Atmospheric Nuclear Testing

by Colin McKinlay

About the Author:

After obtaining his degree in journalism in 1951, Colin edited the weekly East Los Angeles Gazette for about 20 months before relocating to Las Vegas, Nevada, to work on the Las Vegas Sun newspaper, working a reporter's beat, operating the city desk, and editing copy. In 1957, he left the Sun to work at the Las Vegas Review-Journal. He covered the nuclear testing for the Sun and R-J, United Press International, Los Angeles Mirror, Deseret News, Hollywood Reporter, and the New York Times.

He left the R-J in 1969 to work for and then own a newsletter specializing in gambling information, finally ending up his career as editor of the weekly Las Vegas Business Press. He is now retired and living in Pine Valley, Utah.

[This "I Remember . . ." article will be presented in two installments, the second of which will appear in the next issue of the *News Nob*.]

When I arrived in Nevada in 1953, atmospheric nuclear testing had already started a year earlier. The Atomic Energy Commission, forerunner of the Department of Energy, wasn't announcing in advance that a test was scheduled. Then a couple, driving their car to Las Vegas in the vicinity of the Nevada Test Site, nearly lost control of their vehicle and had a wreck as a result of being startled by the brilliant flash from a detonation.

The policy was quickly changed, and thereafter, the AEC announced the time and place of its tests. But, they announced little else. This policy gave rise to a lot of speculation, and the AEC never confirmed or denied anybody's speculation.

The testing fell into two major categories, scientists from the Livermore Laboratory and the Los Alamos Scientific Laboratory wanted to proof test their theories, and the Department of Defense wanted to test its "bombs." The AEC never called them bombs, though. They were "devices."

In those early days of testing, circa 1953, the Air Force delivered some of the devices. But, when one of the delivery air-

craft missed the target by about a mile, a more accurate means of delivery was decided upon. Instrumentation required a more precise detonation point. The AEC began erecting towers at the Test Site.

I was a 26-year-old reporter on my first daily newspaper job at the *Las Vegas Sun*. The reporter assigned to covering the testing was removed from his assignment because he refused to include some of the drama of the tests in his story. The stories were just dull. The assignment was offered to me, and I readily accepted, although it meant getting up at 2 and 3 a.m. to be on hand for the shots.

The shots were drawing press from across the nation. The ideal weather conditions were usually in the dead of winter, and shot time was usually half an hour before dawn. A nuclear test was usually a front page story in the afternoon metropolitan newspapers across the nation.

We had one observation post on Angel's Peak, part of the Spring Mountain Range outside of Las Vegas. In the early days of testing, the sheriff would provide an escort to Angel's Peak. Then, if somebody's car broke down, help was immediately available. From Angel's Peak, we could see directly down into Frenchman and Yucca Flat. We were warned that the flash could blind us and cause permanent eye damage, so none of us challenged that advice.

The trouble was, there were no telephones at Angel's Peak. We had to hop in our cars and speed to the Mt. Charleston Lodge to call before deadline. Some of us who had deadlines several hours away could eliminate the telephone at the lodge and just go back to the office and write our story.

However, that would change. United Press (it hadn't yet merged with International News Service) was sending its Reno bureau manager to Las Vegas to cover the nuclear testing. They offered me the job, since I was doing it anyway for the Sun. I

(Continued on page 7)

I Remember . . . (Continued from page 6)

readily accepted since it meant a wire service financial bonanza in addition to my \$60 weekly stipend from the Sun.

About the only change would be calling the Los Angeles bureau of UP immediately after the shot. In most cases, they had already seen the flash and knew that the shot was detonated. In many cases, in addition to Nevada, the flash would be seen in Utah, Idaho, California, Arizona, Oregon, and Colorado. Frequently, the number of states where the flash was seen was the lead. UP bureau managers in the western states were routed out of bed to watch for the flash and report to Los Angeles on what they saw.

By the end of the day prior to a test, we were usually briefed on all of the details which the AEC wanted made public. That meant that we could prepare the meat of our story in advance, put it on tape, and have it ready to transmit. If the AEC said there were a lot of naval observers at the test site, we speculated that a nuclear torpedo was being tested. The presence of Air Force personnel indicated an aerial bomb was being tested.

The trip to Angel's Peak in the winter time had its hazards. An open jeep, the lead vehicle in a convoy to the mountain top, had its clutch freeze after a few minutes on the mountain top. It was thawed out with a road flare. Once I had to stop on the way up the mountain to put chains on my tires. The site was the scene of fisticuffs between two hotel public relations men. One of them had erected some signs which stated, "You are watching this courtesy of the Sands Hotel." A public relations man from El Rancho Vegas Hotel pulled the signs down. A fight ensued, and the TV crews got none of it on tape.

There were times when the coverage was a little easier. Occasionally, the AEC would allow the press to view the shot at News Nob, a spot [on the Nevada Test Site] set up with bleachers and telephones. The government would hand out goggles with red filtered lenses to protect the eyes for those who wanted to look directly at the blast. From News Nob, we were 15 to 20 miles away from the detonation. The blast was characterized by the following events – within a second, there was heat from the blast, then 10 to 20 seconds later, came the shock wave.

Sometimes the AEC, at the behest of the Department of Defense, wanted to test the effect of a nuclear detonation

on housing, tanks, war materiel, and even trees. They dug up scores of pine trees on Mt. Charleston and transplanted them to the test site. The classic film footage of a nuclear blast on houses has been seen countless times on TV.

The media was invited to tour the war material and tanks. They were positioned at various distances from ground zero, and most of them survived the blast. Some time later, some media representatives would be invited to experience a test from the protective confines of a tank, positioned with its crew just two miles from ground zero.

The experience was a frustrating one for me in that the test was postponed at least three times due to weather conditions – which usually meant the wind would blow the radiation in the wrong direction. Getting in position in the tank meant taking a bus from Las Vegas about 2 a.m.

When the signal indicated that the test would finally go, we found that the hatch on the tank wouldn't close. There was about a four-inch gap topside. When that shot was finally fired, the hatch closed, but good. It sounded like someone had dropped a curbstone on top of the tank.

We went into our assigned maneuver, which was to proceed in the tank to ground zero. Along the way, a yucca tree fell on the tank. Nobody wanted to leave the tank to push the tree off for fear of radiation. We proceeded along the desert with the turret rotating back and forth, like a giant windshield wiper, trying to dislodge the yucca tree. It finally fell off.

The AEC wanted to demonstrate its cloud tracking capability so it invited some of us to ride in one of the tracking aircraft, a WW II two-engine bomber. We took off after watching the blast. The plane was equipped with instrumentation which would read radiation levels. We would penetrate the cloud until there was a reading, then we would make a 180-degree turn and enter the cloud from another angle. We kept this up for about an hour. When we returned to base, I had a reading of a couple of Roentgens on my hands. I washed them with soap and water and all was back to normal.

[More of Colin McKinley's reflections on the early days of testing will appear in the Spring *News Nob*.]

NTS Alumni News

At the suggestion of Bruce W. Church, this is (hopefully) an inaugural attempt at a feature column in each issue of the *News Nob* on current events involving Nevada Test Site alumni. Contributions are solicited from all NTSHF members and also nonmembers.

We would also appreciate someone to volunteer to prepare this column for each issue. If you are interested, please contact Don Wruble, chairman of the Editorial Committee, at (702) 633-5300, extension 234, or e-mail at paicorpnv@aol.com.

Many alumni will be interested in news about well-known alumni Bama McKnight, who was featured in the last issue of the *News Nob*. Friends of Bama report that he has received a diagnosis of a serious illness and messages of support from his NTS colleagues would be greatly appreciated.

Alumni passings since the last issue of the *News Nob* include Bob Thalgott, who served as Test Manager for the U.S. Department of Energy in the 1960s and 1970s. Bob passed away on December 7, 1999.

Esther Gates, long-time supporter of the Nevada Test Site was recently given national recognition for a beautiful poem she authored about Alaska. The poem may be found at the following web address:

[http://www.alaska.net/
%7Eswani/poem.html](http://www.alaska.net/%7Eswani/poem.html)

Esther is married to former DOE/Nevada Operations Manager Mahlon B. "Ink" Gates, and they now reside in San Antonio, Texas. They are members of the foundation. Her most recent book of poetry, *Views from the Towers*, is available in bookstores.

First Annual Meeting (Continued from page 1)

complex on Losee Road, plans for the new NATHI facility at the DRI campus, and major fund-raising initiatives which will occur in the near future. Foundation President Bruce Church concluded the business portion of the meeting with a "State of the Foundation" report which highlighted efforts to increase Foundation membership, a major source of funding in the near term; and the activities of the new Foundation gift shop, located in the History Center. He also provided a financial report.

Preliminary designs of the new NATHI facility and artist's renderings of the exhibit area were on display for members to view. General Services Administration representative Susan Alexander and Bianca Message, of J.J. Andre Associates, the exhibit design firm, were at the meeting to seek input from the members and to provide information on the status of the project. Many attendees expressed strong interest and agreed to provide input to the architects as the project progresses.

Nick Aquilina, who chairs the Nominating Committee, presented a slate of candidates for existing and new Board member positions. For the next two years, one-third of the past Board members, chosen randomly, are up for reelection. Thereafter, only the expiring terms are to be Reelected. In addition, new Board members representing various diverse interests were nominated. The following existing Board members were reelected by acclamation:

Nick Aquilina
Richard Land
Charles 'Bama' McKnight
John Mitchell
Senator Dina Titus
Bill Vasconi
Dr. Stephen Wells

The following new Board members were also elected by acclamation:

- ◆ Bob Agonia, DOE/NV
Industrial Relations
- ◆ Chuck Costa, Los Alamos
Scientific Laboratory,
Nevada Test Site
- ◆ Claudette Enus, former REECO
Industrial Relations, NTS
- ◆ Chris Hagan, Scientific Adviser
to the Governor of Nevada
- ◆ Joan Huey Kane, Grants
Development Specialist
- ◆ Rose McKinney James,
President of CSTRR
- ◆ C. John Smits, Clark County
Community College
- ◆ Mark Vincent, Financial
Manager, City of Las Vegas

Board member Marcella Guerra, who moved to Phoenix, Arizona, was presented with a letter of commendation and a dozen roses in recognition of her outstanding service to the Foundation. Marcella served as Chair of the Membership Committee and also as the Foundation's business representative in the NTSHF office. She will remain on the Board.

Gift items, including T-shirts, cups, postcards and other memorabilia, were sold at a rapid rate. Members were encouraged to visit the History Center and gift shop to see the excellent displays and the full line of gift items.



NTS 50th Anniversary Logo Contest

DOE Nevada Operations Office recently sponsored a NTS 50th anniversary logo contest open to all DOE and contractor employees. The winners were announced on November 23, 1999. The winning design was submitted by Paul Duke, an employee at Bechtel Nevada. The second place was awarded to Richard Hand, with Science Applications International Corporation (SAIC). The new logo can be seen on the cover of this issue of *News Nob* and will appear

throughout this next year on other items at the NTS History Center gift shop.

One new item that will be available in early January is a NTS 50th anniversary 2000 calendar. The calendar will have a NTS photo for each month and highlight specific historic events for that month. The calendars are available at the NTS History Center gift shop or through the order form included in this issue.

Volunteer History Center Attendants November/December

Nov. 3	Phil Allen
Nov. 10	Elmer and Jeanie Sowder
Nov. 17	Layton O'Neill
Nov. 24	Ed Beecher
Dec. 1	Phil Allen
Dec. 8	Ernie Williams
Dec. 15	Phyllis and Jerry Donaldson
Dec. 22	Elmer and Jeanie Sowder
Dec. 29	Layton O'Neill

Board of Trustee Changes

New Members:

- Dan Gouker
- Bob Agonia
- Chuck Costa
- Claudette Enus
- Chris Hagan
- Joan Huey Kane
- Rose McKinney James
- C. John Smits
- Mark Vincent

Resigned:

- Ernie Campbell
- Richard Nutley
- Curt Schryer

We wish to thank all the volunteers who have assisted in staffing the Gift Shop in the NTS History Center on each Wednesday. The volunteers are involved in opening, hosting (answering questions about displays and the NTS), sales of memorabilia in the Gift Shop, and closing the Center to visitors.

The History Center is open to the general public every Wednesday from 12 noon to 4 o'clock in the afternoon. If you haven't seen it, please come visit!

The Foundation is looking for additional volunteers to assist in operating the Center for more than one day during the week. We also would like to cater to all NTS tours by opening the Center for one to two hours when tours return to Las Vegas.

If you are interested in being a volunteer, please contact Layton or Melva O'Neill at 648-4144. If they are unable to answer your call immediately, leave a recorded message after the fourth ring.

Best regards,

Melva and Layton O'Neill

(Layton serves as chair of the Volunteer Committee, with the full-time assistance of Melva.)

VOLUNTEER

How can you get involved with the Nevada Test Site Historical Foundation? Volunteer to help with:

- | | |
|---|---|
| marketing | - call Layton O'Neill, (702) 648-4144 or Ernie Williams, (702) 870-2243 |
| staffing the NTS History Center
retail sales (gift shop, etc.) | - call Layton O'Neill, (702) 648-4144 |
| grant writing | - call Phyllis Martin, (702) 658-4679 |

TRIVIA

(answers on page 13)

1. What did NERVA stand for?
2. What was the Toilet Bowl?

New Gift Shop Items Available

New (and some that you may already know about) items available in the NTS History Center Gift Shop (at the corner of Losee Road and Energy Way in North Las Vegas) are:

- ◆ Coffee mugs with the NTS Historical Foundation logo.
- ◆ Postcards: one with a photo of the Grable atmospheric nuclear test; and one of Fremont Street (downtown Las Vegas), circa 1950s, with an artist's drawing of an atomic test in the background.

- ◆ Video tapes: "Trinity and Beyond," "The Atomic Filmmakers," "Atomic Journey," and "Nukes in Space."
- ◆ Water bottles.
- ◆ 2000 NTS 50th Anniversary calendar.
- ◆ From the Test Ban Treaty Seminars: Badge lanyards and tote bags.

A gift shop order form is included in this issue for your use, if you wish to order by mail rather than take a trip to the gift shop.

Still Wanted

The following items are wanted for historical exhibits and displays. Both donations and loans are welcomed.

- ◆ A male mannequin to portray security forces at the NTS.
- ◆ 1953 Las Vegas High School Yearbook which has an atom symbol on the cover.
- ◆ Menu from the Mizpah Hotel in Tonopah, circa 1960s or early 1970s, which has menu items like "atomic stew."
- ◆ Memorabilia representing past or present NTS activities, such as participant certificates, stickers, patches, and pins.
- ◆ Board games with an atomic theme; examples are "Nuclear War" and "Up An Atom – Game of the Atoms."
- ◆ Everyday items/memorabilia with an atomic theme; atomic beer, atomic cheese, etc.
- ◆ T-shirts or sport jackets from NTS or Pacific nuclear weapon test activities.
- ◆ Newspapers or magazines with front page headlines or articles about the Nevada Test Site or related test sites from the 1950s to the present.
- ◆ Joint Verification Experiment 10th Anniversary Celebration memorabilia or gifts presented by representatives of Russia.



**NTS HISTORICAL FOUNDATION
ORDER FORM**

NAME _____
 ADDRESS _____
 CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

T-SHIRTS \$12.00 EACH

Fireball Logo - small shoulder imprint			
Sizes:	Quantity	Price of Item	Total Price
Small	_____	_____	_____
Medium	_____	_____	_____
Large	_____	_____	_____
Ex-large	_____	_____	_____
2Xlarge	_____	_____	_____
3xlarge	_____	_____	_____
Fireball Logo - large front imprint			
Small	_____	_____	_____
Medium	_____	_____	_____
Large	_____	_____	_____
Ex-large	_____	_____	_____
2xlarge	_____	_____	_____
3xlarge	_____	_____	_____
Fireball Logo - large back imprint w/front pocket			
Small	_____	_____	_____
Medium	_____	_____	_____
Large	_____	_____	_____
Ex-large	_____	_____	_____
2xlarge	_____	_____	_____
3xlarge	_____	_____	_____

NTS Historical Foundation T-shirts \$12.00 each

NV and NTS outline - small shoulder imprint			
Medium	_____	_____	_____
Large	_____	_____	_____
Ex-large	_____	_____	_____
NV and NTS outline - large imprint on back w/front pocket			
Medium	_____	_____	_____
Large	_____	_____	_____
Ex-large	_____	_____	_____

CAPS One size fits all \$5.00 each

Fireball Logo Imprint	_____	_____	_____
NV and NTS Outline Imprint	_____	_____	_____

(THERE'S MORE-SEE REVERSE SIDE)

	Quantity	Price of Item	Total Price
VIDEOS by Peter Kuran			
"Trinity and Beyond", VHS 92 mins.	_____	@\$20.00	_____
"The Atomic Filmmakers", VHS 45 mins.	_____	@\$16.00	_____
"Atomic Journey", VHS 52 mins. B/W	_____	@\$16.00	_____
"Nukes In Space", VHS 52 mins.	_____	@\$16.00	_____
Tote Bags	_____	@\$10.00	_____
Badge Lanyards	_____	@\$2.50	_____
Water Bottles	_____	@\$5.00	_____
PINS - Fireball Logo	_____	@\$3.00	_____
Mug - with logo	_____	@\$5.00	_____
PENCILS			
NV and NTS Outline	_____	2/\$1.00	_____
POSTCARDS			
Atomic Cannon - Grable Shot	_____	2/\$1.00	_____
NTS 50th Anniversary Items			
2000 Calendar	_____	\$15.00	_____
<hr style="border-top: 1px dashed black;"/>			
		POSTAGE and HANDLING	\$ 5.00
		TOTAL ORDER	\$ _____

Send order and check payable to:
 NTS Historical Foundation
 2330 Paseo del Prado Suite C-104
 Las Vegas, NV 89102

Membership 2000 Drive Continues

The NTS Historical Foundation, organized a little over two years ago, is now nearly 300 members strong. While progress in expanding our membership base has been steady, the Executive Committee will be working hard to meet the goal of "1000 by 2000" — that is, one thousand members by the end of the calendar year.

President Bruce Church has emphasized the importance of this goal to the overall success of the organization. Membership dues are a major source of revenue to the organization,

and an expanding and dedicated base of volunteers is critical to the accomplishment of the Foundation's goals.

In this year of the new millennium, we ask each and every one of you to seek new members, and encourage existing members to renew their membership. We need your help in reaching "1000 by 2000" in time for the 50th Anniversary of the founding of the Nevada Test Site.

NTS HISTORICAL FOUNDATION

The Nevada Test Site Historical Foundation was established on April 15, 1998, to establish, promote, and support a nuclear testing research center and exhibits for scientific, historical, educational, and charitable purposes.

The Foundation organizes volunteer services, acquires and donates monies, exhibit materials, and assists in land/building acquisitions for a Nevada Atomic Testing History Institute (NATHI). The NATHI will consolidate, preserve, and make accessible to the public historical and archival records, films, photographs, testing and archaeological artifacts associated with the Nevada Test Site.

NEWS NOB

Published quarterly for all members of the Nevada Test Site Historical Foundation.

Editorial Committee: *Donald Wruble (Chairman), Wayne Bliss, Stuart Black, Loretta Helling, Robert Friedrichs, and David Jackson*

Layout and Graphics: *Sami Barrett*

TRIVIA *(answers to questions on page 9)*

1. Nuclear Engine for Rocket-Vehicle Application, an early '60s program conducted in Area 25 of the Nevada Test Site, originally aimed at research and engineering for flight and later nonflight systems.
2. An intra-departmental flag football game between Mercury Rad-Safe (radiation safety personnel stationed at the Mercury base camp on the Nevada Test Site) and forward-area Rad-Safe personnel (those stationed at other areas on the Nevada Test Site).

FOUNDATION MEMBERS NEEDED/WANTED

So much has been accomplished, but the Historical Foundation is losing new membership momentum. Additional membership is badly needed to help keep the Foundation functioning.

As of December 29, 1999, there were 276 individual and corporate members of the Foundation. We have a long way to go to reach our goal of 1,000 members by the end of year 2000.

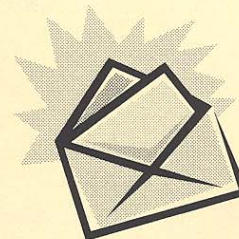
All members are asked to "spread the word" about the important work of the Foundation and to encourage membership. Members are encouraged to provide mailing lists of interested friends and associates to the NTS Historical Foundation, 2330 Paseo del Prado, Suite C-101, Las Vegas, Nevada 89102.

JOIN US

Annual membership in the Nevada Test Site Historical Foundation is open to anyone interested in preserving the history of the Nevada Test Site.

All members will receive a membership card, newsletter, and invitations to special events and tours.

<u>MEMBERSHIP LEVEL</u>	<u>ANNUAL DUES</u>
Individual	\$ 25
Family	\$ 50
Sustaining	\$100
Corporate	\$500



Your tax-deductible contribution will be used to support the development of exhibits.

For information on membership, contact the Foundation office at (702) 257-7900.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

Since the inaugural list of 21 Foundation members was published in our first issue (Summer 1998) of the *News Nob*, the NTSHF roster has grown to 276 members as of December 31, 1999. Anyone wanting a complete list of all members may call the NTS Historical Foundation office. Every "old" and new member is

urged to help us reach our "Membership 2000" goal of 1,000 members by December 31, 2000.

A list of corporate members, and individual, family, or sustaining members joining the Foundation since we published the new member list in the last issue of the *News Nob* follows below and on the next page.

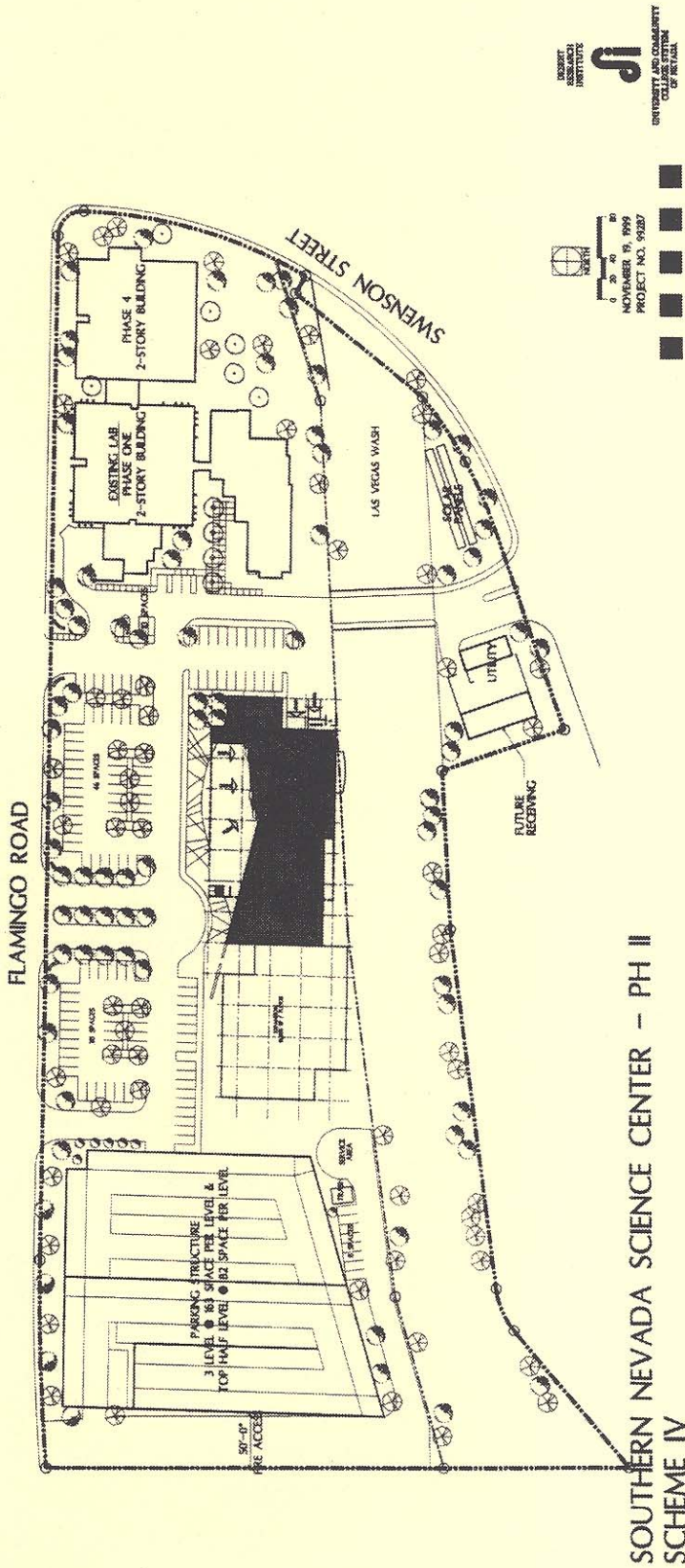
Corporate Members

JMA Architecture Studios
SAIC Corporation
PAI Corporation
Bechtel Nevada

NTS Development Corporation
Desert Research Institute
Wackenhut Services, Inc., NV
IT Corporation

(Continued on page 15)

Site plan of future Nevada Test Site Historical Foundation artifact display and historical records archive center (blackened area shows building location) in Las Vegas, Nevada. [Prepared by JMA Architecture Studios]



New Members (Continued from page 14)

Individual, Family (F) and Sustaining (S) Members

- William F. Woodman
- Stephen Skartvvedt
- Robert Hayden
- Charles A. Silvestri
- Dan Gouker (F)
- Arden E. Bickero (S)
- Paul & Pat Bolton (F)
- Gregory Cook
- Sean Crawford
- John Gilpin
- Richard & Roberta Dye (F)
- Arlin R. Givens (F)
- John C. Hopkins
- Pete Horner
- George F. Hughes
- Rose McKinney-James (S)
- Mary Ann Novak
- Marvin Rehkop
- JoAnne S. Thomas
- Frank A. Spenis



A MEMBERSHIP FORM FOR YOU TO CUT OUT AND MAIL IS LOCATED ON THE LAST PAGE OF THIS NEWLETTER!



Nevada Test Site Historical Foundation
2330 Paseo del Prado, Suite C-101
Las Vegas, NV 89102

Bulk Rate
U. S. Postage Paid
Las Vegas, NV
Permit #2528



NTS Historical Foundation Membership Form

NAME(s) or COMPANY/CORPORATION:		MEMBERSHIP CATEGORY (check one)	
ADDRESS:		<input type="checkbox"/> INDIVIDUAL	\$ 25
CITY:		<input type="checkbox"/> FAMILY	\$ 50
STATE: ZIP:		<input type="checkbox"/> SUSTAINING	\$100
TELEPHONE:		<input type="checkbox"/> CORPORATE	\$500
FAX:		<input type="checkbox"/> Historical items to loan or donate?	
		<input type="checkbox"/> Volunteer as a docent or gift shop attendant at the NTS History Center?	
		E-MAIL	

Mail this form and a check payable to:

Nevada Test Site Historical Foundation
2330 Paseo del Prado, Suite C-101
Las Vegas, NV 89102

Comments/Suggestions: _____