

SRS Heritage

SRS Heritage Foundation

March 2009



Premiere of “Displaced” Film March 20th

The historical documentary film, “Displaced...the Unexpected Fallout of the Cold War”, will debut on March 20th at the Etheredge Center on the USCA campus. The film, which was sponsored by the SRS Heritage Foundation and produced by Mark Albertin of Scrapbook Productions, tells the stories of the 5,000 residents of rural South Carolina who were displaced from their homes and livelihoods in the early 1950’s to make room for the Savannah River Site.

A VIP reception and matinee will be held at 3:30pm on the 20th for residents of the displaced communities, sponsors and contributors. The evening showing for the general public will be at 7:30. Admission to the premiere on is free and seating is limited.

The documentary depicts former residents of the displaced communities describing family and community life in the 1940’s and the traumatic disruption that accompanied confiscation of their homes by the government at the height of the Cold War. The personal reminiscences are filled with nostalgia, history, humor and grief and are accompanied by archival photographs and films. Historians provide background to supplement the personal recollections.

Continued on Page 2...

The Chairman’s Corner

By Mal McKibben

The arrival of 2009 finds the SRS Heritage Foundation very active, growing, and full of enthusiasm. A lot is going on, and a lot is planned, thanks to our secret weapon, our many volunteers.

Officers will be elected at our Board Meeting this week (as I write this), and I am very pleased that so many highly talented people are willing to give their time to further our cause. I am personally pleased that Ann Loadholt has agreed to serve as Vice Chair of our Board.

The resignation of Bill Mottel as our Board Chairman disappoints us all, but we are very appreciative of Bill’s leadership in recent years. Bill has been a distinguished leader and supporter of SRP/SRS, almost from its inception. We wish him and Carol the very best in their retirement at Hilton Head.

Some really good news, however, is that Walt Joseph is continuing as our Executive Director, ably assisted, perhaps even nudged, by Paula.

This year we will be activating our Executive Committee of the Board, as our Bylaws call for. It will meet regularly, as needed, and prior to Board meetings.

Upcoming immediately is our grand premier of the movie “Displaced” on March 20, documenting the displacement of thousands of people from the site. This part of SRP/SRS’s heritage is a story that must be told. Marc Albertin of Scrapbook Video Productions has made highly professional one and a half hour, and 30 minute versions of this story, including many personal testimonies. It is something that we will all be very proud of, that will be shown widely for years to come.

Many things are on our plate, including fund raising. We are going to need your help.

WHAT'S INSIDE:

Photos "Displaced"	2 & 3
Site Tours	4
Pins	5
Reunions	5
Board Elections	5
Membership	6
Life in '1958'	7
Artifact	8

Continued from Page 1.....

The film is narrated by acclaimed singer and songwriter, Betty Johnson, a member of the Johnson Family singers in the 1940's and 50's. Popular regional musicians, Eryn Eubanks and the Family Fold created original music for the film.

Filming of interviews and production of the documentary began in 2005. Members of the SRS Heritage Foundation learned of Albertin's project in 2006 and agreed that it fit the preservation goals of the Foundation. The Foundation has sponsored the film since that time and raised money for the project with a gift from Fluor Daniel and an Accommodation Tax Grant from Aiken County. The Savannah River Archaeological Research Project also provided substantial support for the film.

The film is being produced in a 90-minute edition and a 30-minute edition. The 90-minute edition will be shown at the premiere and will be marketed to educational television. Copies of the 90-minute edition will be for sale at the premiere for \$20 to non-members of the Heritage Foundation. Current members of the Heritage Foundation will get \$5 off the purchase price and will pay only \$15 for the video.

The 30-minute edition is being produced for classroom use and will be distributed free to middle schools in the area.

Information on the video can be viewed at www.displaced.us

**SRS HERITAGE
FOUNDATION
SPONSORS
THANK YOU**

The SRS Heritage Foundation is a relatively new organization but, thanks to our strong base of supporters, we are growing steadily. We are particularly pleased that several organizations have such faith in our future that they have made substantial financial contributions to get our programs started. Among these supporters are:

Sponsors

- DWashington Group International
- DSoutheastern Environmental Management Association (SEMA)
- DFluor Daniel Government Group

Corporate Members

- DEnergy Solutions
- DSecurity Federal Bank
- DWashington Group Int'l
- DNuclear Fuel Services

Small Business Member

- DNew South Associates

A special thank you to the individual members for their continued support the Foundation



Mark Albertin holds up the "Displaced" poster



The SRS Heritage Foundation Publications Committee working on Premiere

scrapbook
VIDEO PRODUCTIONS

P R E S E N T S

DISPLACED

The Unexpected Fallout from the Cold War

*The first recorded memories of the residents of Ellenton and
the surrounding towns erased from the landscape as a patriotic sacrifice...
a world that can never be reclaimed.*

One night only!

Friday, March 20, 2009 - 7:30 p.m.

Limited Seating! • Admission is Free

USC Aiken, The Etherredge Center - Aiken, SC

www.displaced.us • Box office: 803-641-3305



Sponsored in part by donations from:



FLUOR DANIEL

Savannah River
Archaeological
Research Program

The Augusta
Chronicle

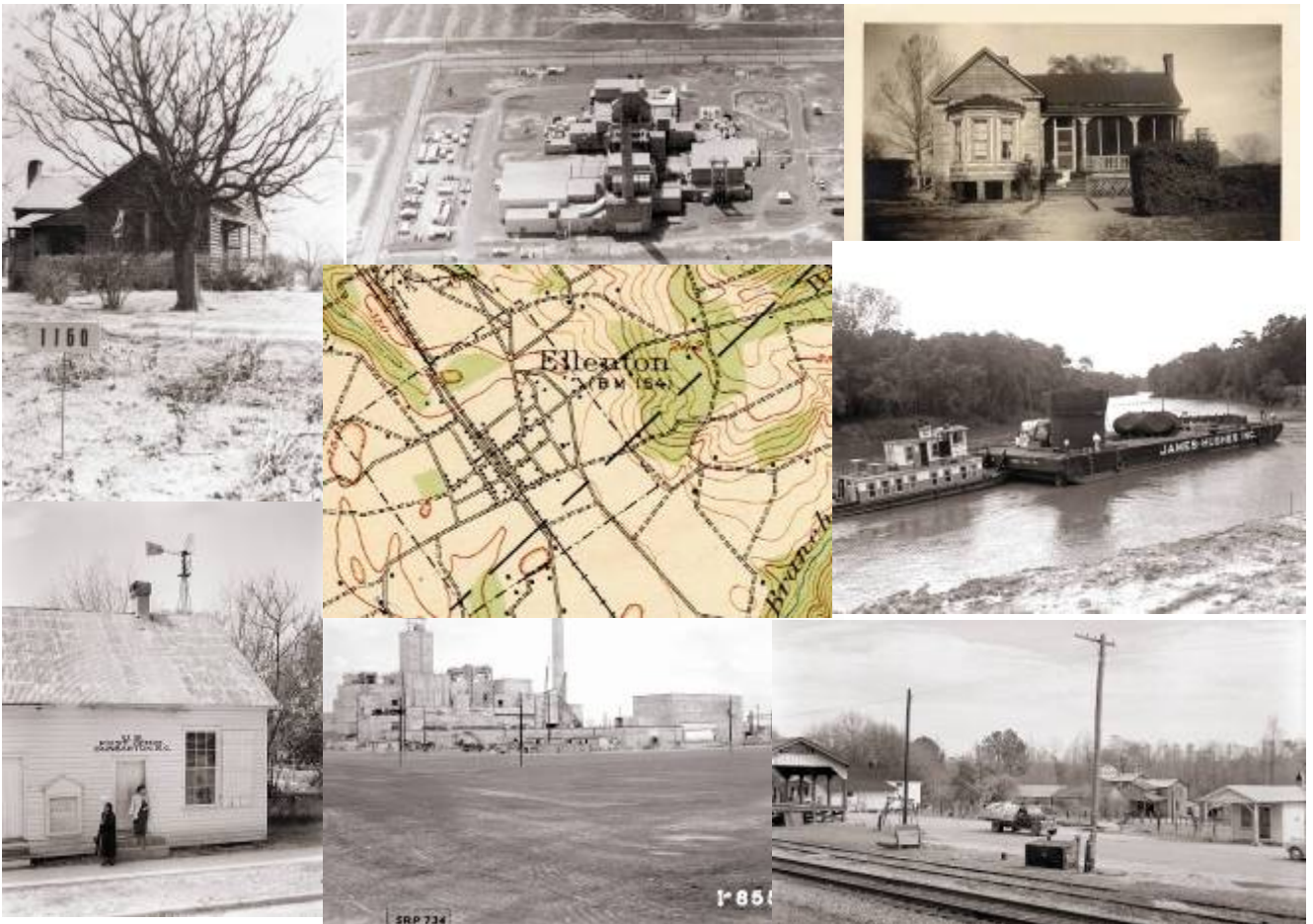
NBC
AUGUSTA

Site Tours for the General Public Resume

Guided tours “inside the fence” of the Savannah River Site will resume after a long absence. A limited number of tours for the general public are being offered on a trial basis. Six tours will be conducted in March for the first 300 individuals who registered online January 26th. Interest in the tour offer was very high and the available seats were filled in about an hour.

Two three-hour tours are being offered each day on March 5, 11 and 24. Tours will begin and end at the Aiken Center for Hydrogen Research campus near the Site. Each tour will drive-by the Savannah River National Laboratory, the site of M Area where fuel and target assemblies for the reactors were fabricated, administration facilities in B Area, F Area with the large separations canyon, low level waste disposal activities in E Area, the Defense Waste Processing Facility in S Area, and P, R, and C reactor Areas. Morning tours will visit the site of the displaced community of Ellenton and afternoon tours will visit Dunbarton. Visitors will leave the buses for a walk through the Defense Waste Processing Facility.

The potential for further tours by the general public will be evaluated after the trial series is completed. The high interest in seeing the Site, as evidenced by the rapid filling of the available seats, will be a strong argument for continuing the tours in the future.



FREE FOUNDATION MEMBERSHIP PINS AVAILABLE

New membership pins are now available for all paid-up Foundation members. The handsome pins have a full-color rendition of the Foundation logo and are free to all 2009 members. If you have not yet joined, see the application insert in this newsletter.

Pins will be available at the Foundation membership table in the Etherredge Center on March 20th during the premiere of "Displaced".



DUNBARTON AND ELLENTON REUNIONS SCHEDULED

The annual reunions of former Dunbarton and Ellenton residents have been scheduled for May 3rd and June 14th respectively. These gatherings provide opportunities to renew old friendships and to reflect on the days before the coming of the Savannah River Site. This year, for the first time, the reunions will be followed by walking tours of the town sites.

Dunbarton Reunion...May 3, 2009, 11:am
Barnwell State Park
Catered lunch at 1:pm,donation, bring a dessert
Contact Tonya Browder

Ellenton Reunion...June 14, 2009, 11:am
Silver Bluff High School, Commons Area
Catered lunch at 1:pm, donation, bring a dessert
Contact Betty Greene

The walk-through will be conducted the day following each reunion. Contact Joanne Zobel for details.

FOUNDATION BOARD ELECTS NEW OFFICERS

The Board of directors of the SRS Heritage Foundation elected a new slate of officers at the meeting on February 25. The Board also announced a new Board member. Deidre Martin, Vice Chancellor for University Advancement at USCA was welcomed to the Board, she will be a great addition.

Mal McKibben moved up from Vice Chairman to Chairman, succeeding Bill Mottel who has been limited by ill health in recent months.

Ann Loadholt moved up from Secretary to Vice Chairman/Chairman Elect.

Dr. J. D. Chiou agreed to serve as Secretary.

Chris Verenes will serve another term as Treasurer.

JOIN THE SRS HERITAGE FOUNDATION

By Merrilee Anderson,
Membership Chair



The heritage of the Savannah River Site must be preserved and the SRS Heritage Foundation was formed in 2005 to do just that. Thousands of artifacts have been saved for future exhibits, the Ellenton Heritage Trail is being developed and a building on the Site has been designated as the Heritage Center, in essence a museum to house exhibits and classrooms to educate visitors.

The SRS Heritage Foundation has a board of directors, a membership committee and is actively involved in fundraising and educating citizens in the area about the history and achievements of the Savannah River Site and the goals of the SRS Heritage Foundation.

The Foundation has sponsored production of a historical documentary film “Displaced...the Unexpected Fallout of the Cold War”. It tells the story of the 5,000 residents of rural South Carolina who were displaced from their homes and livelihoods to make room for the Savannah River Plant in the early 1950’s. Former residents of Ellenton, Dunbarton, Myers Mill and other small agricultural communities describe family and community life in the 1940’s and the traumatic disruption that accompanied government confiscation of their homes. The premiere of this documentary will be Friday, March 20, 2009 at 7:30 P.M. at the Etherredge Center. Admission is free and seating is limited.

Membership in the SRS Heritage Foundation is open to everyone who believes the history and achievements of the Savannah River Site should be preserved. We invite you... current employees of the Site, retirees, and interested citizens to join the SRS Heritage Foundation and be a part of preserving Site history.



**COMPLETE THE ENCLOSED APPLICATION AND MAIL
YOUR CHECK TODAY,**

YOUR SUPPORT IS SO IMPORTANT!

REQUEST FOR NEWSLETTER ARTICLES—If you have a story about working at the Savannah River Site that you would like to share with our membership, please send to Walt Joseph at qualityprt@aol.com.

Life in 1958—Parking-Lot Living, a Story in Reminisce Magazine

By Moody Grubbs, Houston, Texas

My dad, a pipe fitter in the 1950s, was in a union, and we moved frequently because he had to go where there was work.

We rarely stayed in one place for more than a year, and I lived in all parts of this great country. By the age of 10, I knew more about the cities and states and their topography than did most adults.

It was in the early '50s when an atomic-bomb plant was built between Augusta, Georgia and Aiken, South Carolina. Workers were needed to build the plant, as there were more construction jobs than qualified people in the area.

There was also a problem of resources. The area did not have the public works, schools, stores and medical facilities to service the thousands of workers and families that would be arriving.

The communities wanted the revenue those workers would bring. However, there was concern among the local citizens about all the people of different backgrounds and cultures who would be moving in.

To solve these problems, the federal government leased large tracts of land and hauled in hundreds of trailers to house the workers and their families. Trailer cities were created, each with its own sewage-treatment plant, water-storage tank, grocery store and laundry.

The nearby communities increased the number of doctors and teachers and added temporary facilities to handle the extra students and patients.

The trailer cities were huge. The one where we lived, in Aiken, and another in Augusta held 1,300 trailers each, with a population of 3,000 to 4,000.

Aiken had a population of about 4,000 then, and the trailer city put a strain on some local resources. Augusta, with a population of about 40,000, was better able to handle the additional workers.

The makeshift cities were laid out in rows of 50 trailers on each side of a street, and the streets were in alphabetical order. We lived in trailer 20 on G Street.

Each trailer was only 5 yards apart. That was a good thing for me when I was lucky enough to get a paper route. Although I had 750 papers to deliver, it took me only about 2 hours.

Each trailer was 27 feet long and 8 feet wide and came in two colors, blue and green. There was one bedroom in the rear, a shower, a toilet and a kitchen with a table that folded into the wall. There was also a couch in the front that opened into a double bed.

It was a good place to live. Many in the trailer city knew each other from other jobs, and some became lifelong friends.

The pay was good, too, and everyone had money to spend. We ate out once in a while, or we stayed home and listened to the radio or played cards.

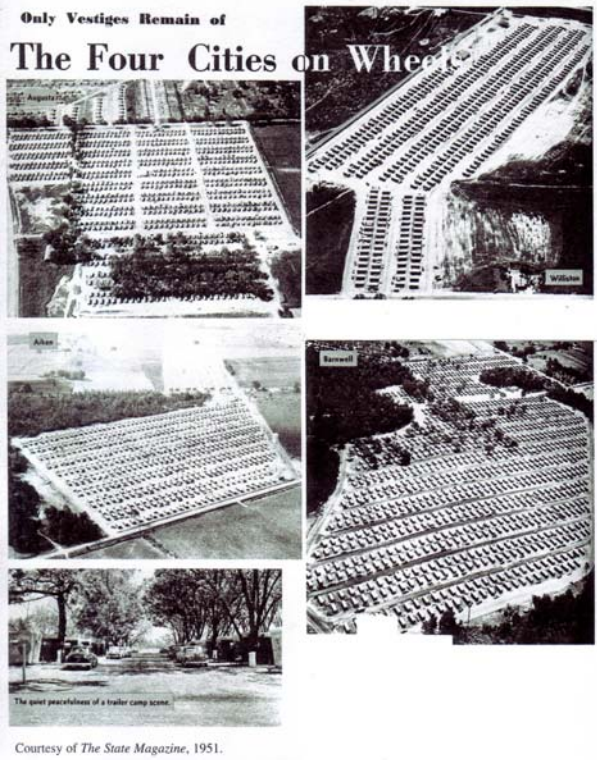
A drive-in movie facility was eventually built, with movies shown every night. A carnival also came around frequently to help us spend our money.

It took about a year to build the plant. When it was done, everyone moved on to find other work.

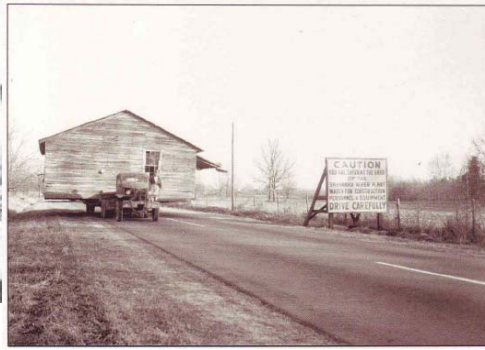
The trailers were sold and moved elsewhere. Over the next several years, during our travels, we'd come across many of those trailers, scattered across the country.

Some still had their original paint and numbers, but we never did find the one we lived in.

IF ANY OF OUR READERS HAVE KNOWLEDGE OF WHERE WE CAN LOCATE ONE OF THESE TRAILERS, PLEASE CONTACT WALT JOSEPH AT 803-648-5634 OR EMAIL INFORMATION TO QUALITYPRT@AOL.COM



Photos of rows of trailers. (The above photos published in The State newspaper in 1951)



To:

PRESORTED STANDARD
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
AIKEN, SC 29801
PERMIT NO. 59

J. W. Joseph
340 Cherbourg Place
Aiken, SC 29801

