



February 2007

Telling the Oak Ridge Story - Preserving Oak Ridge History

Ted Lollis to share “Underappreciated Monuments of Oak Ridge” at February meeting

The February meeting of the Oak Ridge Heritage and Preservation Association will feature Guest Speaker Ted Lollis. A retired Foreign Service Officer and a master researcher, Lollis will speak on “The Underappreciated Monuments of Oak Ridge and How They Could Save the Day.”

As a retired career Foreign Service Officer who specialized in Africa, international energy policy, and development economics, Ted served at stations all over the world. After living in many places, he and his wife Schera decided in 2002 to retire in Knoxville, TN. While waiting for their home to be built, Ted and Schera stayed in an apartment in Oak Ridge. While they were here, the Lollis's developed what's grown into a love affair with our town's heritage. In these few years, Ted has dug deeply enough into the history of the Friendship Bell, for example, to have talked and published papers about it, and gathered enough detail for a book. A master researcher, he has already compiled arguably the world's most complete collection of pictures of Oak Ridge's monuments - he classifies them as “Intentional” and “Unintentional” - and he presented an impressive fraction of his collection to a fascinated ORICL class on “Monuments of ‘Oak Ridge” this past fall.

ORHPA President Keith McDaniel said, “I am delighted that Mr. Lollis is going to share with us, not only his vast knowledge - but his contagious enthusiasm.” The February ORHPA meeting will be held Thursday Feb. 8th at 6:00 PM at the Midtown Community Center, on the corner of Oak Ridge Turnpike and Robertsville Road. The public is cordially invited to attend at no charge, of course.

Special Thanks to Ed Westcott

ORHPA thanks Ed Westcott for generously donating the proceeds of the sale of his book, on December 3, 2006, to our organization. Ed is truly one of our most beloved members and one of our city's most respected and admired citizens.

2007 ORHPA Committees and Chairpersons

Executive Committee

Keith McDaniel, Steve Stow, Anne McBride, Kathy Moore, Dave Miller

Nominating Committee

Lloyd Stokes, D. Ray Smith, Kathie Shearer, Mick Wiest, Bill Wilcox

Archives - *Dave Miller*

Communications - *Anne McBride*

Exhibits - *Margaret Allard*

Government and Public Affairs - *Lloyd Stokes*

Membership - *Harold Jernigan*

Membership Meetings/Programs - *Keith McDaniel*

ORHPA Property - *Howard Harvey and Judy Clevenger*

Partnership for K-25 Preservation (PKP) - *Bill Wilcox*

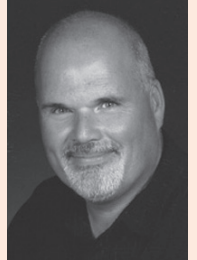
Preservation Award - *Mick Wiest*

Product Development and Sales - *Betty Stokes*

Structures - *Mick Wiest and Howard Harvey*

From the President

WOW! What a great turnout we had for our January meeting. More than 70 people attended our first meeting of the year and I couldn't be more excited about our work and our future. Speaking of our work and our future - we have a few new committees and committee chairs for our organization. (See list of committees and Committee Chairpersons to the left.) We want all of our members - who are willing and able - to help ORHPA achieve its mission. One of the ways you can do that is to volunteer to help out on one or more of our committees. Let our committee chairpersons know if you have expertise or are interested in working with them on their committee. We have a lot to do and need everyone who can to help with our work.



I also want to remind everyone about memberships dues. This past year, the board decided to have our membership follow the calendar year, so if you haven't paid your dues for 2007, please do so. Board Member Harold Jernigan is in charge of membership. So see Harold at our meeting in February and let's get everyone caught up on membership.

In an effort to make our meetings more accessible to our membership and to the public, the board has decided to change our monthly meeting time from 6pm to 7pm. THIS CHANGE WILL TAKE EFFECT IN MARCH. Our February meeting will begin at 6pm and it promises to be a great meeting with our special guest Ted Lollis and his entertaining and informative look at the Underappreciated Monuments of Oak Ridge. Refreshments will be served afterward. So come join us February 8th at 6 pm at the Midtown Community Center!

Keith McDaniel
ORHPA President

Studies Underway on How Best to Save K-25 – Oak Ridge’s “Biggest” WWII Secret

A very welcome Congressional 2006 appropriation of \$500,000 for ETTP historical preservation is being invested in Oak Ridge’s historic preservation, saving part of one of its most significant monuments, the historic K-25 “U” plant. The Department of Energy’s Oak Ridge Operations Office awarded the grant to the City of Oak Ridge to administer in September.

Under an agreement with the City, \$340,000 is now being put to work by the Partnership for K-25 Preservation (PKP), a partnership of our local Oak Ridge Heritage and Preservation Association (ORHPA), and the Atomic Heritage Foundation of Washington, DC. Contracts have been awarded to two Nashville firms, both well qualified in the field of interpretation of important sites, both of whom have already been working on preliminary concepts for preserving the K-25 “U” building and interpreting its history.

Bill Wilcox, co-chair of the local PKP group of ORHPA, said, “We are delighted to be able to develop in more detail how to ‘show and tell’ the story of this national treasure for future generations.” DOE-ORO intends to seek National Historic Landmark status for the entire 43 acre footprint of the historic U-shaped building – the largest single process building of the Manhattan Project– and to save just one small part (5%) of the mammoth structure, the base of the “U” or North Tower. This remnant will still give visitors a sense of the enormity of the “U” since it is over a football field wide and over one long.

The Atomic Heritage Foundation has been working with the Department of Energy and other Federal, State and local partners to preserve the most significant Manhattan Project properties across the country. AHF’s President, Cindy Kelly, commented, “The K-25 plant is a monument to the most ambitious scientific and engineering undertaking of the last century. When the National Park Service makes its recommendations to Congress in 2009 on whether to designate a national historic park for the Manhattan Project, the K-25 plant site and North End will be a central feature. The Department of Energy lists it as one of Oak Ridge’s three ‘Signature Facilities of the Manhattan Project,’ along with the Y-12 Calutrons and X-10 Graphite Reactor.”

The purpose of the new contracts is to figure out the best way to preserve the K-25 property and create a compelling heritage tourism destination. The public has never been permitted to see inside this first-of-a-kind facility that worked so well that it remained the state-of-the-art for enriching uranium for decades. As museum exhibit designer Johnny Gruber commented, “At 43 acres, this is the biggest secret of the Secret City!” Heritage tourists will relish the opportunity to see some of the actual so-secret equipment that as it started up in 1945 helped our WWII Y-12 Plant a little to provide the fuel for the first bomb, and then proved so pivotal in supplying the highly enriched fuel for the Nation’s Cold War nuclear defense stockpile. The firms now working together on developing a master plan for interpreting the Historic K-25 “U” are Tuck-Hinton, Architects and Access Museum Services, both of Nashville. Among many commissions, Tuck-Hinton designed and developed the great Bicentennial Mall in Nashville, the Frist Center for the Visual Arts, and is now designing the Fort Campbell Military Museum. Access Museums people designed and helped develop over 70 historical and other specialty museum exhibitions such as the Women’s Basketball Hall of Fame, Aviation Museum at Marietta, GA, Kentucky Music Hall of Fame, National Model Railroad Museum, and numerous others over the last 25 years.

Bill says that even though their work on these contracts will not be finished for several months, their early findings will be an important input to the Heritage Tourism Implementation Master Plan being developed for the City by Akins Crisp Public Strategies under the direction of Katy Brown of the City’s Convention and Visitors Bureau. As Ms. Brown said, “An investment in the heritage tourism resources in Oak Ridge, preserving and promoting its unique role in World War II and its continuing achievements ever since on the frontiers of nuclear science, could pay important economic dividends for the City of Oak Ridge and Anderson and Roane Counties.”



Working on plans for the Preservation of K-25 are (from left) Will Jenner from Tuck-Hinton; Bill Wilcox, ORHPA PKP Chairperson; Keith McDaniel, ORHPA President; Steve Johnson, Tuck-Hinton; Johnny Gruber, Access Museums; and Kem Hinton, Tuck Hinton. (Photo by Dave Miller)