

## **Special announcement: Building 9731 shines again**

Over the past several weeks, concentrated activity in and around Building 9731, the first building completed at Y-12 and the building that was known as the Pilot Plant, has brought that facility back to life. Before it was identified as a key historic structure and one that should be included in public tours, it was deteriorating and rarely got much attention.



Now, it has been transformed into a showplace of history. The tours taken by the media on Monday, June 14, 2010, raised the interest substantially. I have been getting constant e-mail and phone requests for information about how to be a part of the tours planned for Saturday, June 19, as a part of the Secret City Festival.

The one-hour tours will begin and end at the Y-12 New Hope Center. A shuttle bus will take people from the American Museum of Science and Energy to the Y-12 New Hope Center.

The tours will include special hosts Martin Skinner and Jane Puckett. Both these individuals worked in Building 9731 during its early days of experimentation with isotopes.

Jane was a statistician (the first female one to graduate from the University of Tennessee), who kept the data for the uranium separation in Building 9731.

Martin was an electrical engineer in Building 9731 and is the person who designed the historic display that demonstrates how a calutron functions.

Both these ambassadors for Y-12 will greet visitors as they arrive in Building 9731. Visitors will then see the sole remaining Alpha Calutron magnets (three of them) that made up two calutrons. They will also see two Beta Calutrons and three Beta Calutron magnets. A special video series "Our Hidden Past" is being featured that tells the history of Building 9731 and these special experimental calutrons. Copies of the DVD will be available to tour participants.

After experiencing historic Building 9731, the tour participants will be taken to the top of Chestnut Ridge, where they will have an excellent overview of the entire Y-12 site. The Highly Enriched Uranium Materials Facility will dominate the scene along with the Jack Case Center and the huge Alpha-4 and -5 buildings.

Visitors will be able to see actual progress being made on the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act projects. Two of the buildings are in the process of demolition. The scrap metal yard is being cleaned up. Some activities will be going on even on that Saturday that can be seen from atop the ridge.

Additionally, the return portion of the tour will go right past the Highly Enriched Uranium Facility and the Jack Case Center. You will see them up close as the bus drives back down Bear Creek Road.

Won't you join us on Saturday and see Y-12 as the public has never seen it before. The changes taking place on our site are significant, and these Secret City Festival tours have become known as the way the public can catch up on what's happening here.

The one-hour tour will be one you will long remember. You are being a part of history as we take you back in time to World War II and the Manhattan Project era in Building 9731. See you at New Hope Center where the tours start at 8:30 AM and the last tour starts at 4:00 PM. Y'all come!