

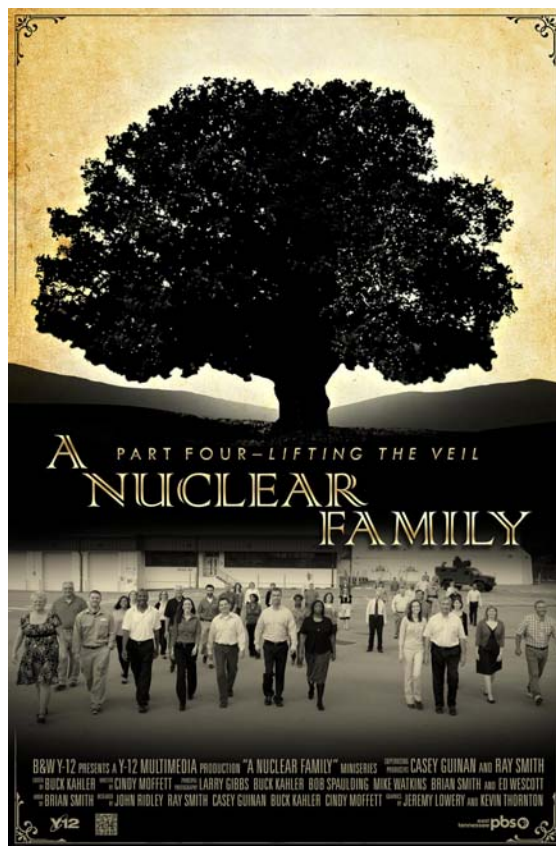
Y-12 and East TN Public Broadcasting System – A Nuclear Family Video Miniseries

The fourth and final episode of *A Nuclear Family: Y-12 National Security Complex* documentary film miniseries is complete and East TN PBS is showing it this weekend. The next opportunity to view it will be Sunday, April 29, 2012, at 7:00 PM. This history of Y-12 documentary film consists of four 30-minute episodes, *I've seen it*, *Manhattan District*, *A race for peace*, and *Lifting the veil*.

The program agreement with East TN PBS included running one of the four 30-minute episodes in sequence in January, February, March and April 2012. Consideration is now being given to run the entire four episode miniseries on a Sunday afternoon in June.

We have been assured the documentary film series will be picked up by Middle TN PBS and there is also interest in making it available nationally to all PBS stations. We are also planning to make the programs into a DVD set. Those sets will be available at the Y-12 History Center in the New Hope Center.

This documentary film of Y-12's history helps fulfill the requirements of the National Historic Preservation Act to interpret the history of Department of Energy sites. It is also intended to bring a better understanding and appreciation of Y-12 heritage to the present and future workers at the Y-12 National Security Complex.



Our mission is one of immense importance to the nation and the world. It is imperative that not only those who work here realize that, it is important that the community realize it too. Oak Ridge serves as a center of excellence for nuclear materials, nuclear science and practical nuclear technological advancements. Oak Ridge has a tremendous history and the Y-12 heritage is a significant part of the ongoing and ever expanding endeavors of this historic city of science.

Documenting that history and assuring the lessons learned are passed on is an important element of historic preservation, not just keeping representative structures where the history was made. That element of historic preservation, while it is important to retain physical reminders of our past, does not convey the stories that can be told by the people who actually lived the history. Y-12's past is recalled in this miniseries by many who are former and present day Y-12'ers.

Many stories have been told about Oak Ridge and the Manhattan Project and Y-12's role in each of these eras has been documented through the Ed Westcott photographic images. Many of these images are used in *A Nuclear Family*. Thanks Ed!

Not as much documentation about the Cold War era has been captured. Even less has been formally documented about the more recent history of the fight against terrorism and protection of nuclear materials to prevent further spread of nuclear weapons. It is not too soon to start doing that.

This series for East Tennessee PBS has taken a uniquely different approach in telling the story of Y-12. The story is focused on the unique perspective of the people who actually lived it. Oral histories are a

large part of telling the story. They tell the story of Oak Ridge – the life, the people, the work, the missions – from its humble beginnings through current day.

This series of television programs are a part of the overall B&W Y-12 public outreach and educational effort. Preserving the heritage of Y-12 history is a multi-method and many-faceted effort to encompass the message needed to help the public and community leaders understand and appreciate the positive impacts Y-12 has had locally and worldwide. It also helps to show the important and continuing role of Y-12.

Access to the actual Bear Creek Valley site remains limited because of the nature of the national security mission of Y-12. The medium of television has brought insights to the actual Y-12 of the past, present and future into the homes for people to experience who would otherwise never get a chance to see it, experience it and understand our unique and extensive heritage.

The pride the programs have brought to the employees, as well as retirees and the community at large is evident and helps keep Y-12 history alive to viewers. The positive feedback has been enormous, steady and consistent as well as rewarding and flattering.

Not a single day goes by that I don't get approached by several individuals telling me how much they enjoy the programs. Of course, we have the videos running daily in the lobbies of the Jack Case Center and New Hope Center and have them available on the public Y-12 web site, <http://www.y12.doe.gov/about/history/video.php>.

So, the miniseries, *A Nuclear Family: Y-12 National Security Complex*, that has been the focus of our efforts for the past few months is "in the can!" Thanks go to a whole host of folks who worked hard and helped at every turn to make the project successful.

A huge sigh of relief and a swelling of pride in accomplishment are expected and realized reactions. Pride in the product and humble thanks for the opportunity to work on something that will have lasting historic preservation value for the foreseeable future are feelings that come with the closure of the project.

And last, thanks to you who view the films. The audience is the real key to creating lasting value through the medium of film.