

National Park Service Department of the Interior

Manhattan Project National Historical Park
Oak Ridge, Tennessee



February
2018



We've Expanded Our Footprint Across Oak Ridge and now have our offices and Visitor Contact Desk at the Children's Museum of Oak Ridge, 461 W. Outer Drive. One of the highlights of our Open House event on January 24th was having as a special guest, Ed Westcott, the photographer who worked for the U.S. government and captured the images of Manhattan Project and Cold War Oak Ridge operations. Ed met with our 3rd and 4th graders of Girls Inc. of Oak Ridge who had created a Parks in Focus photography exhibit as a tribute to Ed's Manhattan Project era work.



This Month's Feature from AMSE's Curatorial Collection is an Ed Westcott photograph from 1945 of a group of African American residents of Oak Ridge outside a row of hutments in the snow. Some of the people photographed must be getting ready to go on shift because they are wearing heavy work books and clothes, while others are wearing their Sunday best. During the Manhattan Project, Oak Ridge operated 24-hours a day with three shifts.



Walk with a Ranger on Saturday, February 17 for a program around Bissell Park at 10 am (ET). The event will begin at the Secret City Commemorative Walk and last ~45 minutes. Along the way we will discuss how Oak Ridge came to be and the many ways workers were encouraged to work on the secret task of the Manhattan Project.

Manhattan Project History in February

- Construction of the pilot plant the X-10 graphite reactor began on February 2, 1943. Just a few short months later on November 4 the reactor went critical and continued to operate until it was permanently shut down in 1963.
- In February 1943 construction was already underway on the X-10 reactor and the first calutron buildings were being constructed at Y-12.
- Los Alamos received their first shipment of plutonium from the Hanford site on February 2, 1945. Just five short months later the Trinity test took place.

**Park Visitor Center Desk
at the**

**Children's Museum of Oak Ridge
461 W. Outer Drive, Oak Ridge, TN 37830
(865) 482-1942**

or visit us at:

www.nps.gov/mapr

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