

# National Park Service Department of the Interior

Manhattan Project National Historical Park  
Oak Ridge, Tennessee



## May in MAPR History

- British physicist James Chadwick would later be awarded the Nobel Prize in Physics for his discovery of the neutron in May 1932.
- Gorge Kistiakowsky and Vannevar Bush discussed the possibility of producing U-235 by using gaseous diffusion in May 1940.
- On May 27, 1940, the discovery of radioactive element 93, neptunium, is announced in a report submitted by Edwin McMillan and Philip Abelson. The same day Leo Szilard received a manuscript from Louis Turner arguing that the isotope of element 94, still undiscovered plutonium, should be highly fissionable like uranium-235.
- Glenn Seaborg was able to prove on May 3, 1941, that plutonium-239 was more fissionable than uranium-235 through his research at the University of California, Berkeley.



## April Showers Brings May Flowers and Also Cabbage, Tomatoes and Green Beans.

We are hard at work in the Victory Garden next to the Flat Top House with students from Willow Brook Elementary every Wednesday. Students have been planting and caring for the garden and learning about war time rationing.

## Learn about the Upcoming Total Solar Eclipse on Thursday, May 18.

Join us for a lecture featuring Chap Percival who will speak on the upcoming August 21 solar eclipse. This free lecture will be held at the American Museum of Science and Energy. A reception will start at 5:30 p.m. (ET) and the lecture starts at 6 p.m.

## This Month's AMSE Curatorial Collection Highlight is Jack Beers' Library Card

from his time in Oak Ridge while working on the Manhattan Project. Jack developed a method that decreased the time it took to install

## Ride With a Ranger Program on Saturday, May 13.

Join us as we begin at Elza Gate Park, former entry point to the secret city, and continue down Melton Lake Greenway. Rangers will stop along the bike ride to point out the rich history that is found within the Oak Ridge area.

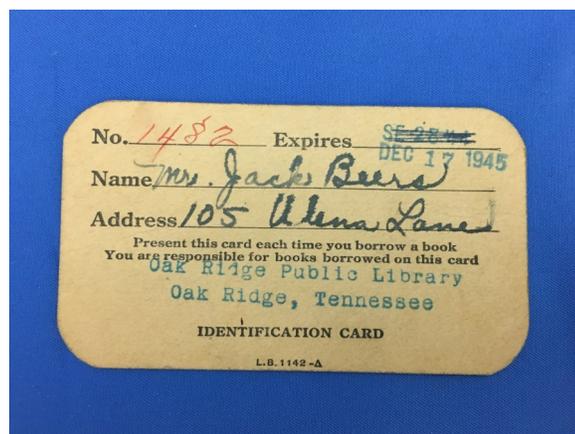
## Join Us for "Secrecy, Security and Spies" on Friday, May 26,

at 3 p.m. (ET) at the Turnpike Gatehouse at 2900 Oak Ridge Turnpike. The program will give some insight to what life was like during the Manhattan Project with all the security, need for secrecy, and ever-present threat of espionage. There is limited parking so try to carpool if possible.

## Learn about The Mysterious World of Lightning Bugs

on Saturday, May 27, at the UT Arboretum from 7:30-9:30 p.m. (ET). We'll discuss the life cycle of the firefly, what makes them glow, different species in the area, and how they have been used in the past for military uses and scientific research. As the sun sets, we will move outside and attempt to catch and observe fireflies (and later let them go).

certain large components at Y-12. After the war, Jack went on to achieve many other things including installing the radio tower spire on the Empire State Building.



## Park Visitor Center Desk

at the

## American Museum of Science & Energy

300 S. Tulane, Oak Ridge, TN 37830

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