



The Catalyst

A Newsletter for the White Sands Missile Range Historical Foundation

Volume 2, Number 1

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Foundation to Salute Donors in 2002

The Historical Foundation's Board of Directors is currently making plans for recognition ceremonies to salute some of its large donors.

For instance, Lockheed Martin Missiles has made a pledge of \$25,000 to be paid in 2002 and 2003. In addition, museum curator, Ron Burkett, is working with Lockheed Martin officials on acquiring a HIMARS vehicle for the missile park.

When the HIMARS vehicle is installed in the park, the current thinking is to hold a ceremony in the park to dedicate the launcher and publicly thank Lockheed Martin for their generosity.

A Frances Williams Note

Board member Frances Williams will be in Germany in April. She will be the guest speaker at a Department of Defense Days of Remembrance event to honor the victims of the Holocaust.

She urges members of the Foundation to donate in a family member's or friend's name to honor their birthday, anniversary, or other event. She notes that the money can be designated for the operating fund or building fund. The key is that every donation, no matter how big, is important.

By the way, HIMARS (of course) is an acronym which stands for High Mobility Rocket System. It is currently being tested before being placed in the Army and Marine Corps inventories. It is capable of carrying and firing a six-pack of rockets from the Multiple Launch Rocket System or a single Army Tactical Missile System missile.

Another upcoming ceremony will be held to thank and publicly acknowledge the generous gifts of Linda Epstein and Major General (ret) Niles Fulwyler. Together they donated \$10,000 for the museum's new patio. The donation was made in memory of Gerald Epstein who

was Civilian Aide to the Secretary of the Army for New Mexico from 1982 to 1993.

If you haven't seen the completed patio, it is a wonderful shady spot in the summer. It is 16 by 25 feet and covered with beams and latillas. The floor is concrete which has been stamped and dyed to look like old saltillo tile. There are benches and a table so visitors can eat a picnic lunch in the shade. In fact, the day the furniture arrived and was set out, visitors used it.

Details on the upcoming ceremonies will be sent out as they are finalized. The board hopes to conduct these recognition ceremonies several times a year.



This is a promotional photograph of a HIMARS vehicle with a six-pack container of Multiple Launch Rocket System rockets on the launcher.

Museum News

New Exhibits on Display & Volunteers Needed

By **Terrie Cornell**

Two new exhibits are in the museum: one commemorating the 20th anniversary of the Space Shuttle Landing at Northrup Strip – March 31, 1982 – to be on exhibit until December; and a traveling exhibit from the New Mexico Historic Preservation Office, called “A Handful of Soldiers,” about V Site at Los Alamos where explosive charges for the first atomic test were assembled. It will be up until mid-April, when it will go to Alamogordo’s Space Museum.

Our next commemorative exhibit will be for the 40th anniversary of John F. Kennedy’s visit to WSMR. We will welcome any artifacts, photos or news clippings.

The Las Cruces Cactus Club is assisting with our nature trail and the Las Cruces Archeological Society is locating and photographing sites on the range. The nature trail be located just east of the museum and missile park.

In the last few months, we have taken in much of the Public Affairs Office archival material from old Bldg. 122 (the building is having the asbestos removed). There are many, many files and photographs waiting to be sorted, identified and added to our database. We are always looking for retirees to serve as subject matter experts. No matter what your field here at the range, your knowledge can be of use to:

- ☛ establish provenance and historical significance for artifacts in storage,
- ☛ identify unlabeled photographs,
- ☛ high-grade and identify old videotapes,
- ☛ sort publications and
- ☛ input archival material into the database.

In 2001, our cadre of volunteers donated 2993 hours to the museum. Come out for a morning or an afternoon, or on Thursdays when other retirees are here. We need your knowledge and skills for the benefit of our visitors, researchers and the future. To volunteer, call Terrie Cornell at the museum, 678-3358, or email me at cornellt@wsmr.army.mil

The Foundation is Looking for Growth in 2002

By **Karen Douds**
Foundation President

I must tell you that exciting events are taking place in the White Sands Missile Range Historical Foundation.

We now have a Memorial Board in the museum to honor those who have died. It is in same hallway as the Hall of Fame.

If you wish to have a name placed there, it is a minimum donation of \$150. We are also working on an endowment plan and will have more information on that in a later newsletter.

We are planning to have at least one recognition ceremony in April to pay tribute to our large donors. We have received \$12,500 from Lockheed Martin with another \$12,500.00 to follow later.

We have a \$10,000 donation from Brigadier General (ret) Niles Fulwyler and Mrs. Gerald Epstein for the construction of the Museum patio in memory of Gerald Epstein.

There is also a pledge from Chris McDonald of \$25,000 in memory of Mary Bochman.

Finally, we just received a donation in kind from Ron C. Nims, President of Studio D Architects. Ron has kindly agreed to do the needed design work for the new museum building.

All of this money goes toward building the Phase II, 12,000 sq. ft., exhibit hall. We have a good start toward the approximately one million dollars we need to raise for the construction.

I would like to thank the many volunteers who put in so much time

and effort last year for the Fund Raising Dinner, the Renaissance Fair Booth, and the Pioneer Group for co-sponsoring the two Historical Luncheons and the cake for General Engle's welcome ceremonies. Thank you, thank you. It takes all of us to make these events a success.

We need more "hands" to help us continue the work toward a new Exhibit Hall and many other projects we have going. If you think you would like to help us do something to keep the memory of all the work and technological advances that have taken place at White Sands Proving Ground and White Sands Missile Range, please get in touch. Call me at 505-524-7916 or e-mail me at: president@wsmr-history.org.

Archive and Website are Flourishing

By Doyle Piland

Work continues on the Museum's Archival Holdings on a weekly basis (every Thursday). Our volunteers are making steady progress documenting and cataloging the Archival materials held by the Museum. As the documenting is completed, the information is entered in a database, which can be used by researchers to find items that may be of interest to them.

Bill Jones and Glenn Moore are busy reviewing videotapes to determine their content historical significance. They have completed a hundred or so, but have hundreds more to review. We have other videotape review stations that aren't being used, if there are any additional volunteers to use them. Robert Nichols is taking care of all the V-2 material we have in the Archives while John Douds takes care of logistics and acts as a consultant on various topics.

Fred and Debbie Walters have been driving all the way from Cloudcroft to volunteer. They have

been hard at work reviewing and documenting items, which have been donated by various people and organizations over the years. Unfortunately, Fred had surgery for an aortic aneurism on December 14 and they haven't been down from the mountain for a while. Fred says he is recovering nicely and they expect to resume their volunteer work in April.

We also have an ongoing effort to enter the White Sands Proving Ground/Missile Range firing records into a database. We started with the first firing (a Tiny Tim Booster) at WSPG on September 26, 1945. We currently have 2075 entries going to April 28, 1955. Jim West has been faithfully entering the firing record data in the database.

The Museum Website continues to expand as time permits. This now includes both the Archives and Firing Record databases. You can take a look at the Archives database at www.wsmr-history.org/Archives.asp and the



Volunteers Fred and Debbie Walters

Firing Records at www.wsmr-history.org/FiringRecords.asp. As a matter-of-fact, just go to the Museum website at www.wsmr-history.org/ and spend some time looking around and remembering those bygone years. If you have any suggestions, contact us.

As always, the museum needs volunteers. Almost any background will be helpful. If you can help us, please contact the Museum Volunteer Coordinator, Terrie Cornell, at 678-3385 or email her at cornellt@wsmr.army.mil.

Yes, the Newsletter is Going to Look a Little Different Now

The newsletter looks a little different this edition because there are new editors. Jim Eckles and Audrey Paczynski have volunteered to takeover the newsletter from Jon Gibson who is overburdened with being treasurer and head of the concept committee.

We decided to give the newsletter a name and came up with "The Catalyst." Hope you like it.

If you have something for the newsletter, mail it, fax it or email it to us. You can fax stuff to Jim's office at White Sands, (505) 678-

7174. His email address is fiddlebike@zianet.com. Just use the return address on the newsletter for snail-mail.

If you email us a photo, make sure it is in jpeg format and about 150 dpi -- that resolution is just right for our black / white printing.



The new Memorial Boards are up in the Museum.

The Back Page

One of the more interesting displays in the Museum is this cutaway of a V-2 rocket engine. Visitors can see the tubing and nozzles which sprayed alcohol and oxygen into the combustion chamber. Of course, some of our smaller visitors may need a boost up to look inside.

