

Ex-Hanford, White Bluffs Residents To Gather In A-City

"Be it ever so humble, there is no place like home."

Former residents of the Hanford Project may observe John Howard Payne's famous quotation when they hold two celebrations this summer.

July 14 Richland expatriates, who were forced from their homes when the government seized their property in early 1943 to make way for the atomic bomb plants, will meet in Richland for the first time in 25 years.

Hanford and White Bluffs expatriates also will meet in Richland for the first time, Aug. 3-4. Many residents of the three former communities have not been back since they left.

EX-RESIDENTS

Richland Mayor Fred Clagett has said the city's celebration of the 25th anniversary of the Hanford Project and 10th anniversary of the city's reincorporation in 1958 is for all former residents of the project area.

They will get the keys to Richland—the only one of the three cities that survived.

Construction boom days and

early development of the project will be recalled in a June 6-8 celebration.

Celebrities at this earlier program will include Dr. Glenn T. Seaborg, AEC chairman; Gen. Leslie R. Groves, who was in charge of the Manhattan Engineers District under which the atomic project was developed; E. T. Matthies, who was in charge of Hanford Construction as a colonel in the Corps of Engineers, and James T. Ramey, member of the AEC.

In the July and August celebrations expatriates will be able to visit the sites of their old farms. They also will visit the former Hanford and White Bluffs town sites.

Razed in 1943 to make room for the nuclear reactors, little of the communities now remains.

The visits will be arranged in tours. The groups also will be able to visit the Hanford Science Center in Richland's Federal Building.

Picnics for both gatherings will be in Riverside Park, formerly known as Amon Park.

The park and the Richland Community House will be headquarters.

A committee of former Richland residents who stayed with the city after the government seizure, is expecting 200 expatriates.

TOUR

An automobile tour of the Hanford Project will start at 9 a.m. July 14 at the community house parking lot. The rest of the day will be devoted to a picnic in the park and tours of the science center.

Most of the former residents live in the Grandview and Prosser area. Some live in Pasco and Kennewick. A few have moved to other states.

The Hanford - White Bluffs group has held annual picnics, in Prosser. Invited by the city, both groups will picnic in Richland this year.

On the eight-member committee heading the Richland expatriate program are: Ed Peddicord, Mrs. John Dam, Mr. and Mrs. Lester Fishback, all Richland, Mr. and Mrs. Lyman Nelson, Twin Bridges, and Mr. and

Mrs. Fred Culp, Grandview.

Registration and more information may be obtained by calling Martha Weidte Nelson, Rt. 1, Box 347, Richland, or Mrs. Culp, Rt. 2, Box 2, Grandview.

Visiting White Bluffs and Hanford expatriates may number 240-400.

Registration will be 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m., Aug. 3, in the lobby of the Richland federal building.

A welcoming address and a movie "Miracle in the Desert" will be shown in the federal building auditorium 1:30-2 p.m.

A tour of the science center, plus auto tours of the city will run 2-4 p.m. The group will have free time 4:30 p.m. and reconvene for dinner at Roy's Chuck Wagon, 1007 Wright Ave., at 6:30 p.m.

Free time and social hours are scheduled at the VFW and Elks clubs after 9:30.

The group will reassemble at 9 a.m. Aug. 4 in the Riverside park's north parking lot. A tour of the Hanford Project and the former Hanford and White

Bluffs town sites will begin at 9:30 a.m. A potluck picnic in the park will be from 12:30-3 p.m.

Showing of White Bluffs-Hanford movies will be in the Richland community house, 3:30-4:30 p.m.

for the WB-HAN reunion

* Over 400 persons have submitted early registrations and that many more are expected, some coming from as far as Alaska, Hawaii, Canada and Washington D.C. A number of those returning resided in the area prior to the turn of the century and some served in WW I. An overnight trailer-camper area has been established at Columbia Park and over twenty trailer-campers will be present. The White Bluffs - Hanford Pioneer Association is sponsoring the event. If you have any information concerning former residents of these communities or are one yourself contact Mrs. Wayne (Annette Buckholdt) Heriford or Harry E. Anderson, Richland or Mr. George Gilhuly, 1411 W. Chestnut St., Yakima, Washington.

continue

Editor note:

It might be nice to have a picture and appropriate caption of

Mrs. Matt (Hattie) Wiehl 1509 Summit Avenue, ~~xxx~~ Apt. 106, Yakima, Washington

(She came to White Bluffs in year 1891 and was residing in area when government came in to build wartime reactors) *And is looking forward to the Reunion*

She is the mother of Judge Lloyd ^{L.}Wiehl, Yakima, and grandmother to ~~Richard~~

Wiehl (US Attorney ?)

This should make a nice write up and would like to see it appear in a Sunday edition. This would give appropriate coverage to several hundred White Bluffs - Hanford expatriates living in areas covered by your paper.