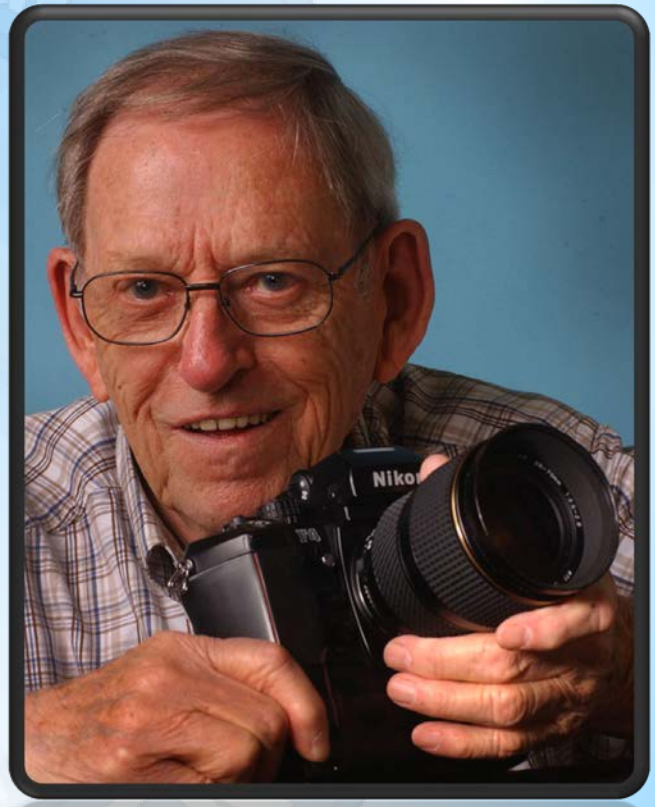
Welcome to Oak Ridge, Tennessee
The "Secret City" . . .

Introducing
James Edward (Ed) Westcott
1922 - 2013



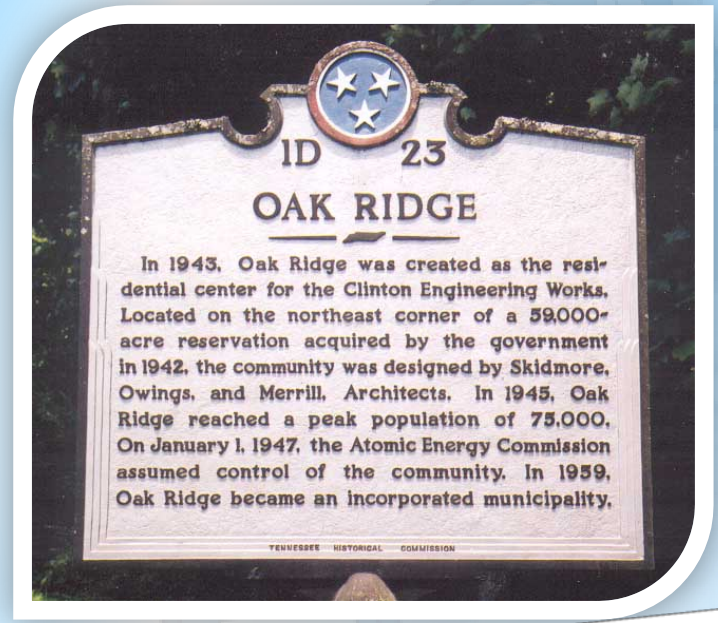
Ed Westcott served as a government documentarian and a civilian photojournalist for the first newspaper at Oak Ridge, the *Oak Ridge Journal*.

1942-46 – He worked as a photographer for the Army Corps of Engineers' Manhattan Engineer District in the "secret city" of Oak Ridge, Tennessee.

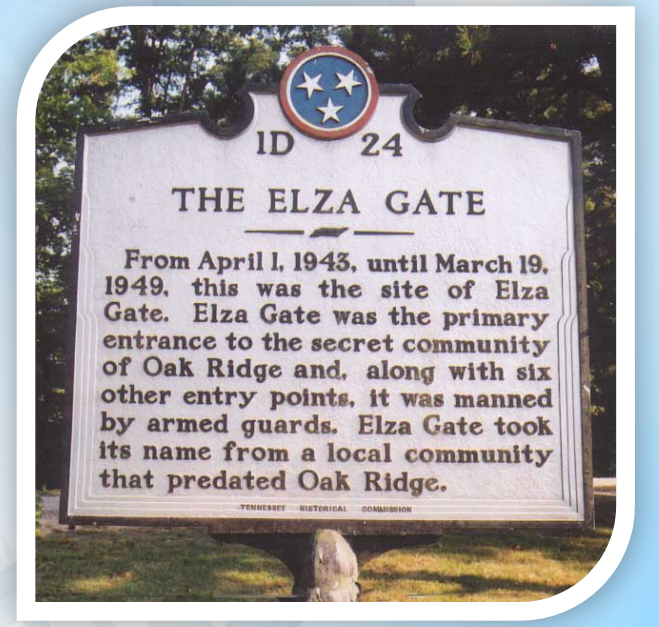
1946-59 - The post-war, early Cold War era when control of the Oak Ridge Reservation passed to the Atomic Energy Commission.

Our thanks to James Edward "Ed" Westcott for the wonderful photos that have preserved the "Secret City" of Oak Ridge, Tennessee.

Welcome to Oak Ridge, Tennessee



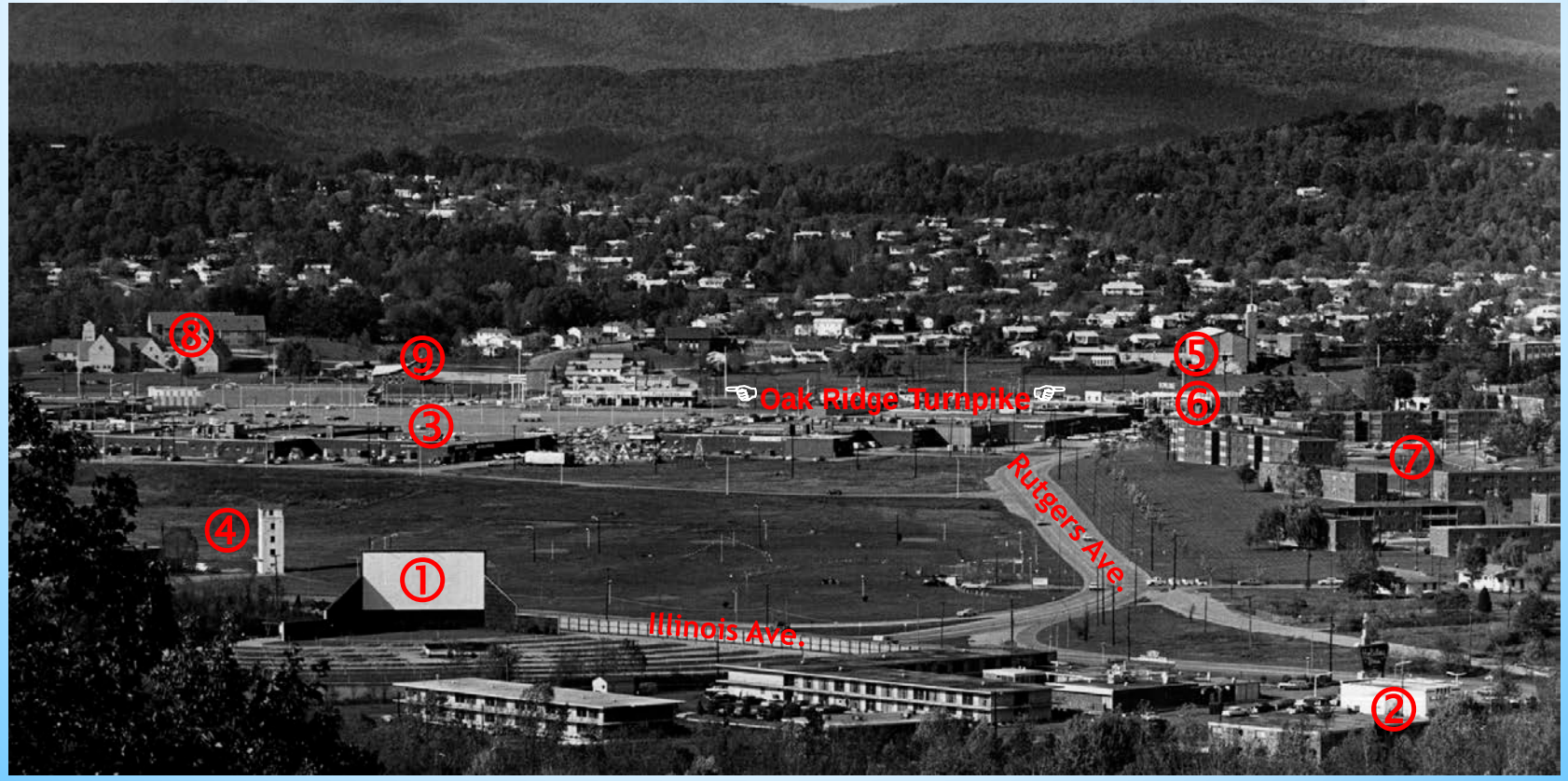
The City of Oak Ridge really was a "Secret City" from 1942 to 1949. It was not on any map and a badge was required to enter the gates. Vehicles were searched before entering.



The eastern edge of the Oak Ridge city limits was the main entrance into Oak Ridge known as the Elza Gate (named after the local Elza community).

Oak Ridge, Tennessee
Aerial View from Chestnut Ridge

① Skyway Drive In
② Holiday Inn
③ Downtown Area
④ Fire Station, Illinois Ave
⑤ St. Mary's (school and church)
⑥ A&P Grocery Store and Bowling Alley
⑦ Manhattan Apartments
⑧ First United Methodist Church
⑨ Lutheran Church

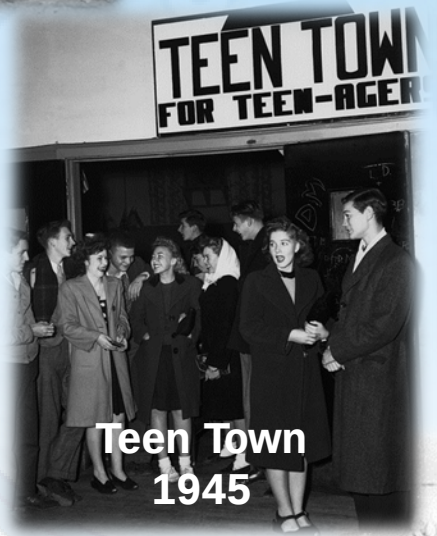


Entertainment in Oak Ridge, Tennessee

Grove Center Theater - 1944

Recreation Hall - 1945

Malt Shop
1944



Teen Town
1945

Oak Ridge Municipal Pool - 1946

1948

Jefferson Theatre - 1949

Billboards Around Town . . .
Introducing Ed Dougherty

In 1942, while teaching at Central High School in Knoxville, he tried to volunteer for military service but was rejected because of age and was told he could serve his country by working in the government project at Oak Ridge.

He was hired as a sign painter and was used as an illustrator when pictorial content was needed. The "security boards" were his specialty.

An individual in the administration planned the boards and would suggest the themes; then, Dougherty would do a preliminary sketch. After approval, a new billboard urging silence and keeping government secrets then emerged. When the atomic bomb became news, he told his family that he was surprised that it was the big secret being developed in Oak Ridge.

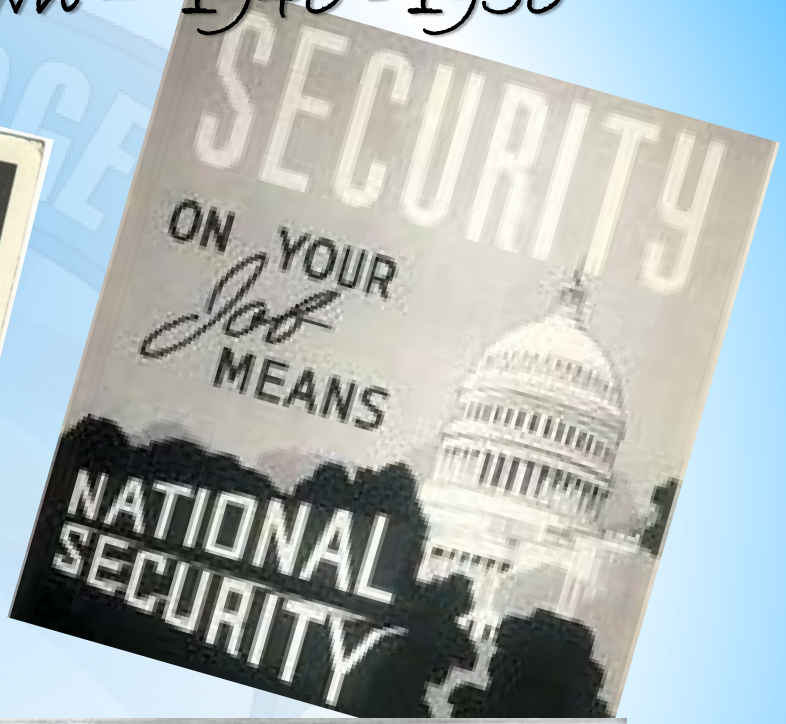
Submitted in 2013 by James A. Dougherty, a retired Methodist minister living in Knoxville TN

Safety Billboards Around Town . . .

From concept . . .

To design . . .

Safety Billboards Around Town — 1940 - 1950



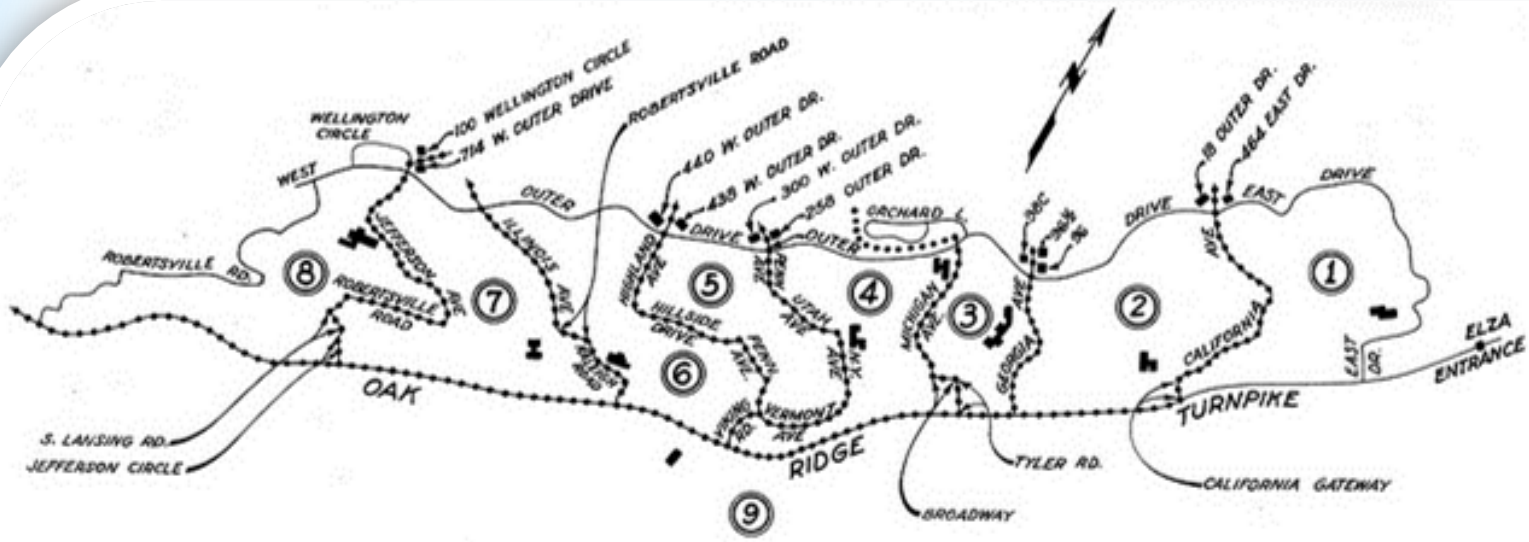
Oak Ridge Fire Department
1947

Fire Chief and Mascot

Fire Prevention Week

Oak Ridge Fire Department
Illinois Avenue

Voting Districts in 1948. . .



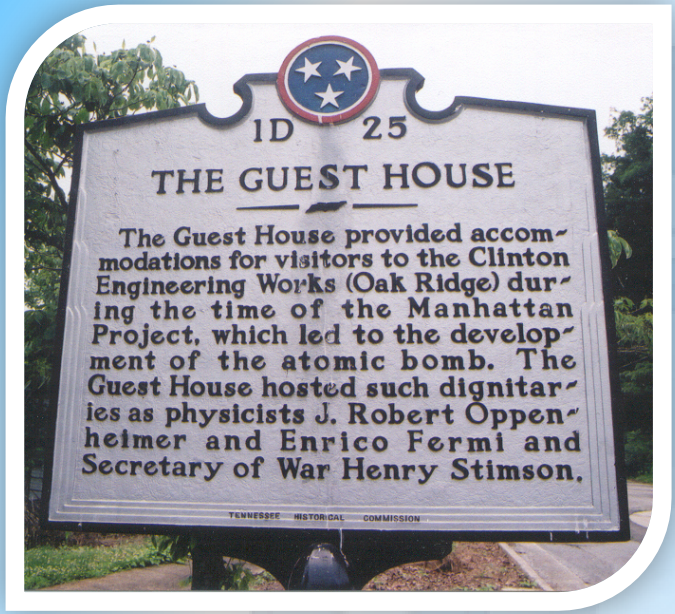
DISTRICT	POLL LOCATION
1	GLENWOOD SCHOOL
2	ELM GROVE SCHOOL
3	OAK RIDGE HIGH SCHOOL
4	CEDAR HILL SCHOOL
5	PINE VALLEY SCHOOL
6	GROVE RECREATION HALL
7	JEFFERSON JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL
8	LINDEN SCHOOL
9	FAIRVIEW SCHOOL {ALL AREA SOUTH OF OAK RIDGE TURNPIKE.

LEGEND

STREET
DIST. BOUNDARY
POLL LOCATION

OAK RIDGE TOWN COUNCIL ELECTION DISTRICTS 1948

Around Oak Ridge . . .



Guest House — 1946

J. Robert Oppenheimer
at the Guest House in 1946

Guest House — 1949 (addition)

Renovations are ongoing at The Guest House (now known as the Alexander Inn)...

September 2013

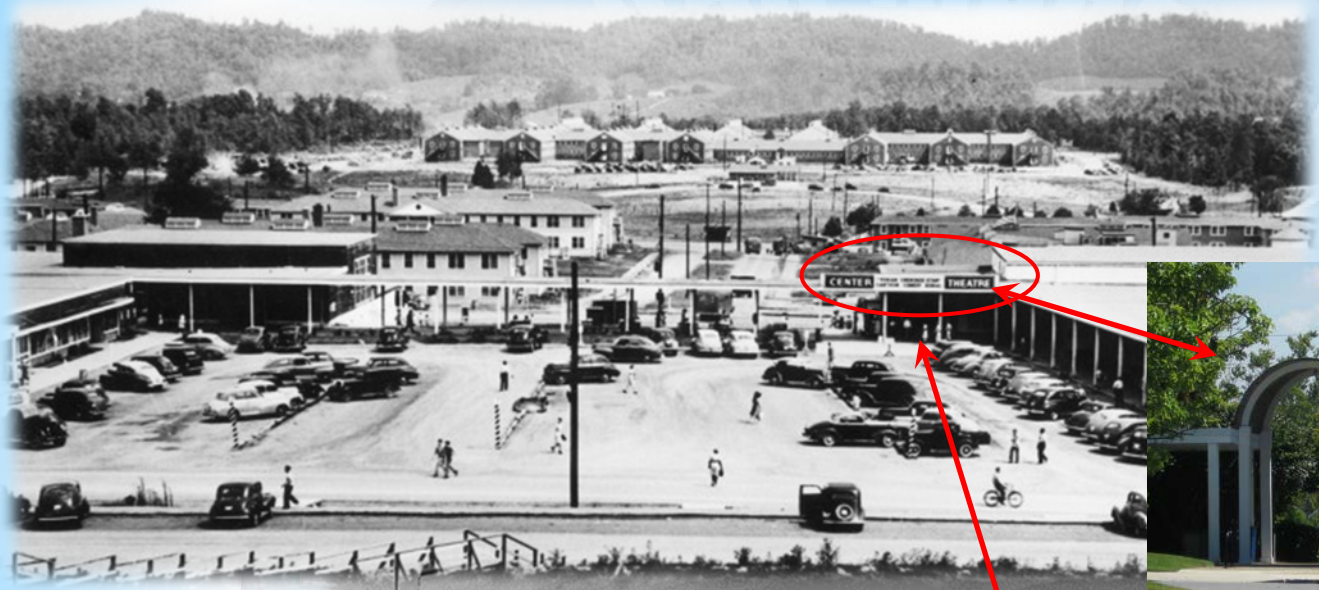
Jackson Square

1946

1948

2013

Around Oak Ridge . . .
Jackson Square (1948)



The Oak Ridge Post Office on Tennessee Avenue. The lower side (back) of Jackson Square.

Around Oak Ridge . . .
Jackson Square (1948)

Around Oak Ridge . . .
Jackson Square (2013)

A little further down the road on Oak Ridge Turnpike (1948)

Cheyenne Ambulatory Center now stands where the City Administration building was in 1948.

Around Oak Ridge . . .
Grove Center (1948)

Around Oak Ridge . . .
Grove Center (2013)

Around Oak Ridge . . .
Grove Theater

1944 (Then)
Grove Theater

2013 (Now)
High Places Community
Church at the Grove

Around Oak Ridge . . .
Municipal Swimming Pool

☜1946

1948☞

☟1968

Shopping in Oak Ridge . . .

Corner of Illinois Avenue and Oak Ridge Turnpike
Shopping Center

Then (1944)

Now (2013)
Building site for
the new Kroger

Shopping in Oak Ridge . . .

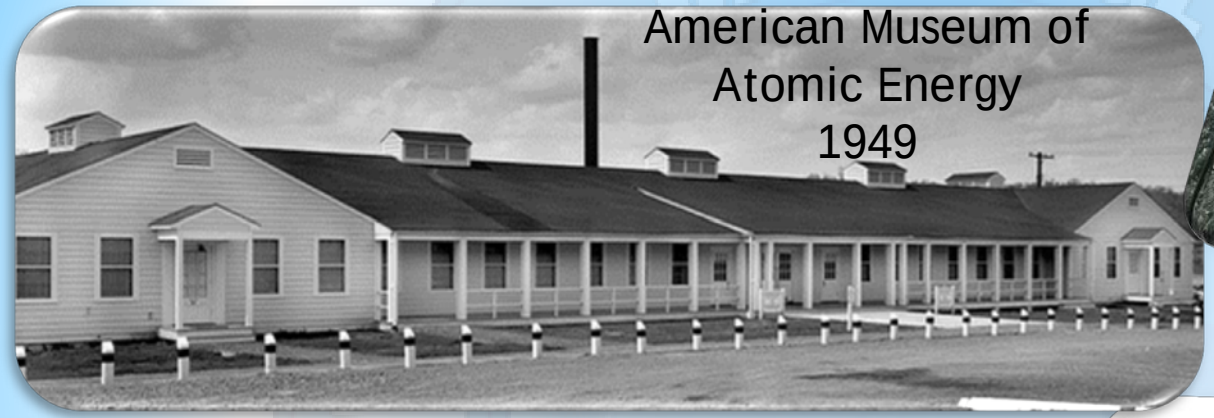
Oak Ridge Turnpike and Lafayette
Shopping Center
1940's

Shopping in Oak Ridge . . .

French's Food Market — 1960

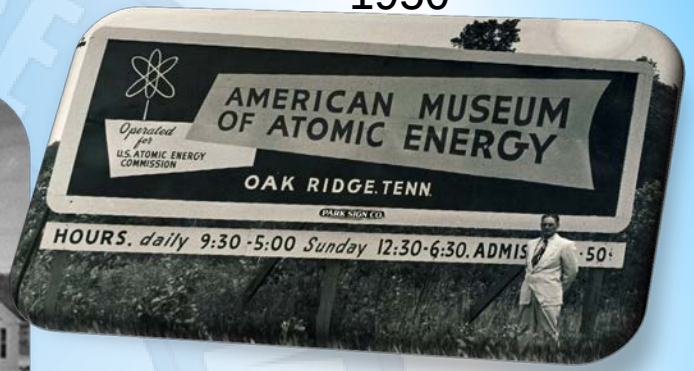
Downtown Shopping Center — 1960

Around Oak Ridge . . .
Jefferson Avenue Area



American Museum of Atomic Energy
1949

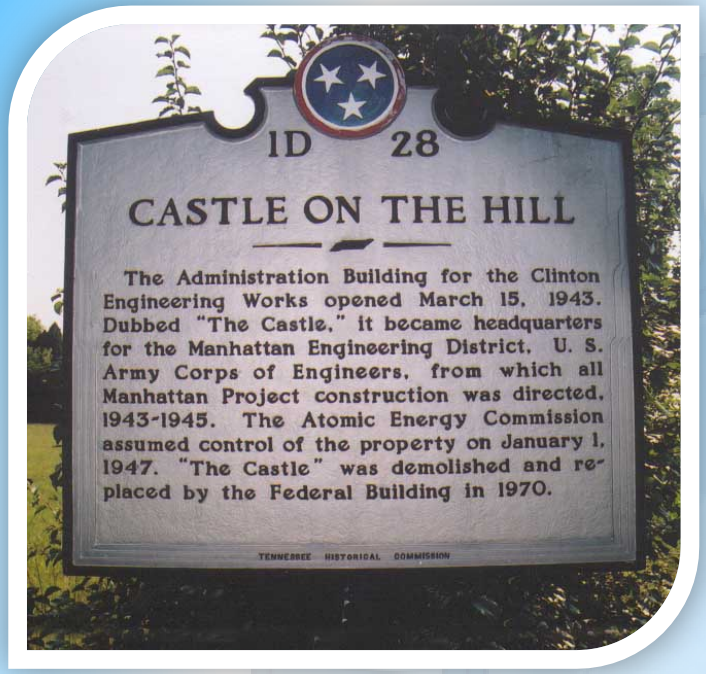
1950



1949

1950

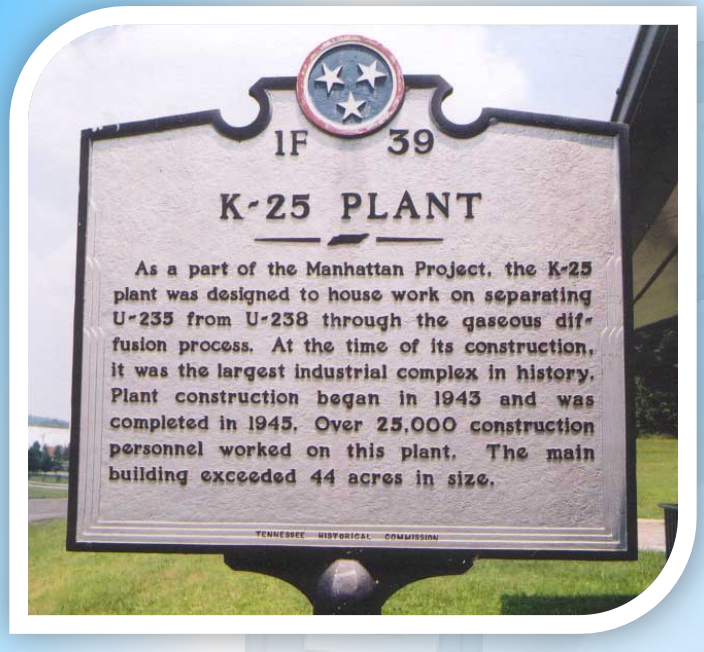
2013 — American Museum of Science & Energy


ID 28
CASTLE ON THE HILL
The Administration Building for the Clinton Engineering Works opened March 15, 1943. Dubbed "The Castle," it became headquarters for the Manhattan Engineering District, U. S. Army Corps of Engineers, from which all Manhattan Project construction was directed, 1943-1945. The Atomic Energy Commission assumed control of the property on January 1, 1947. "The Castle" was demolished and replaced by the Federal Building in 1970.
TENNESSEE HISTORICAL COMMISSION

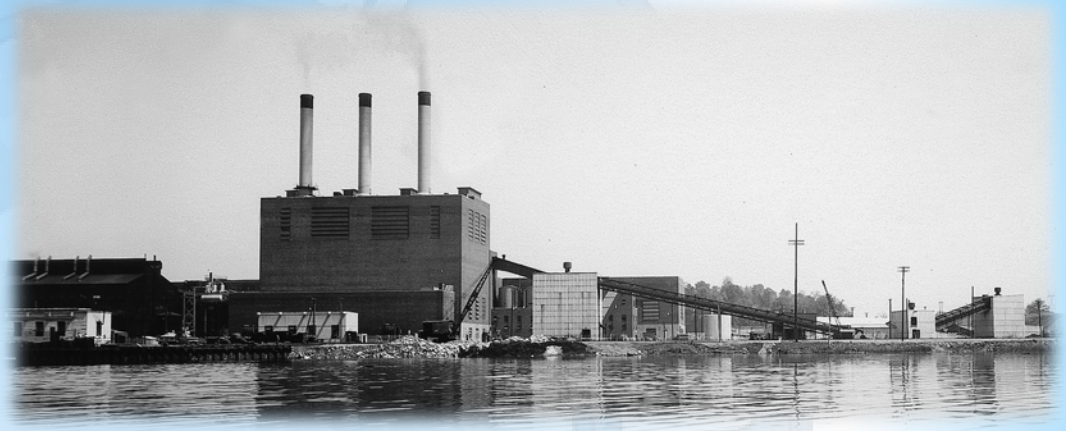
From "The Castle" to "The Federal Office Building"

Then

Now



K-25 was the world's first fully automated plant.



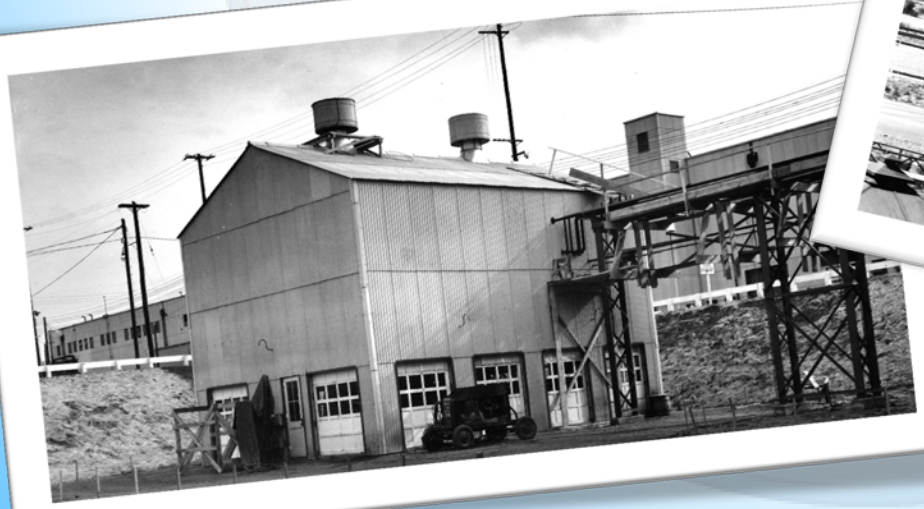
1943

K-25 was named for the construction company, Kellex Corporation, that built it.

K-25 Plant Through the years . . .
1945

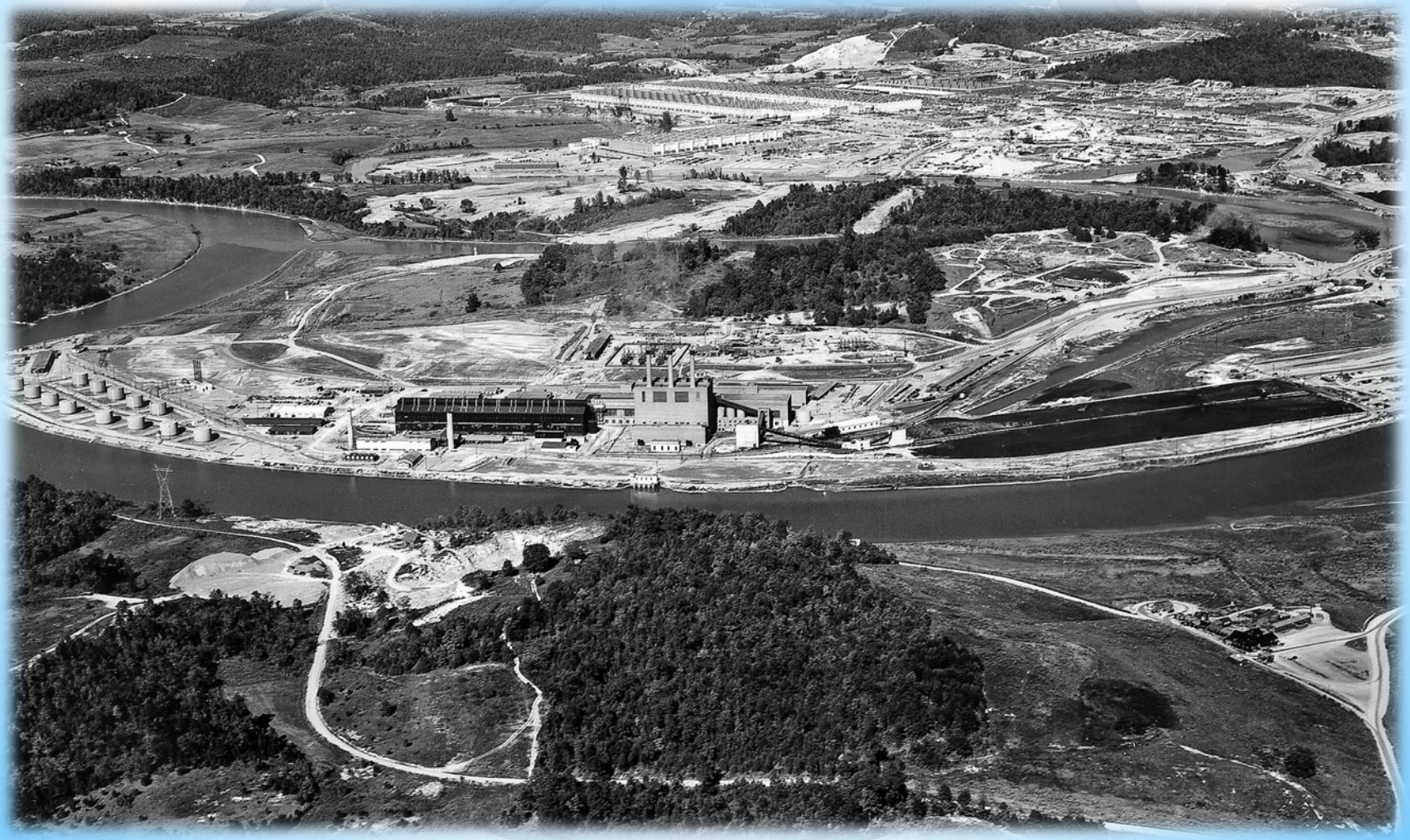
K-25 Plant
1945

K-730 Building

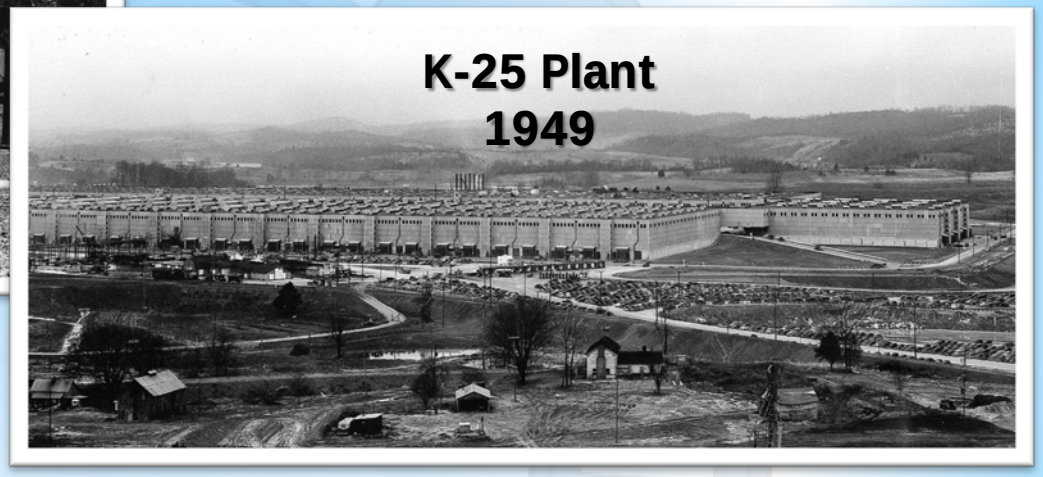


K-1001 Administration Building

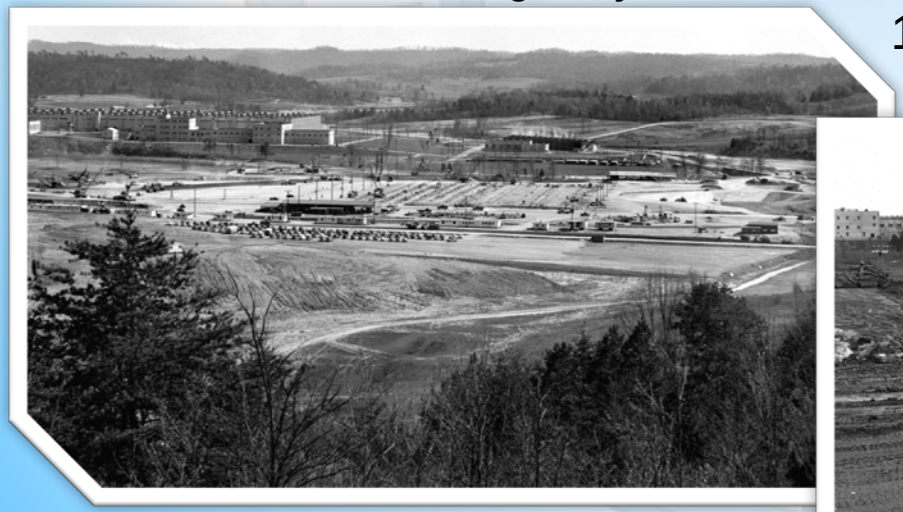
K-25 Plant South West View
1945



K-25 Plant Through the years . . .



K-31 Building Project



1950

K-31 Construction

K-25 Plant Through the years . . .

View from the Tower 1960

1989

K-25 Plant Through the years . . .

K-1001
Administration Building
1945

K-1001 Building was demolished in 2013 as part of the ETTP Cleanup Initiative

Around the K-25 Plant . . .

Telephone Switchboard
Shift Change
1946

K-25 Plant
Shift Change
1950

East Tennessee Technology Park (K-25 Plant)...

Drum Storage — 1989

Brightfield 1 Solar Farm at ETTP

K-25 Demolition of the North Tower — 2012

X-10 Plant (Oak Ridge National Laboratory) . . .

Graphite Reactor Construction 1943

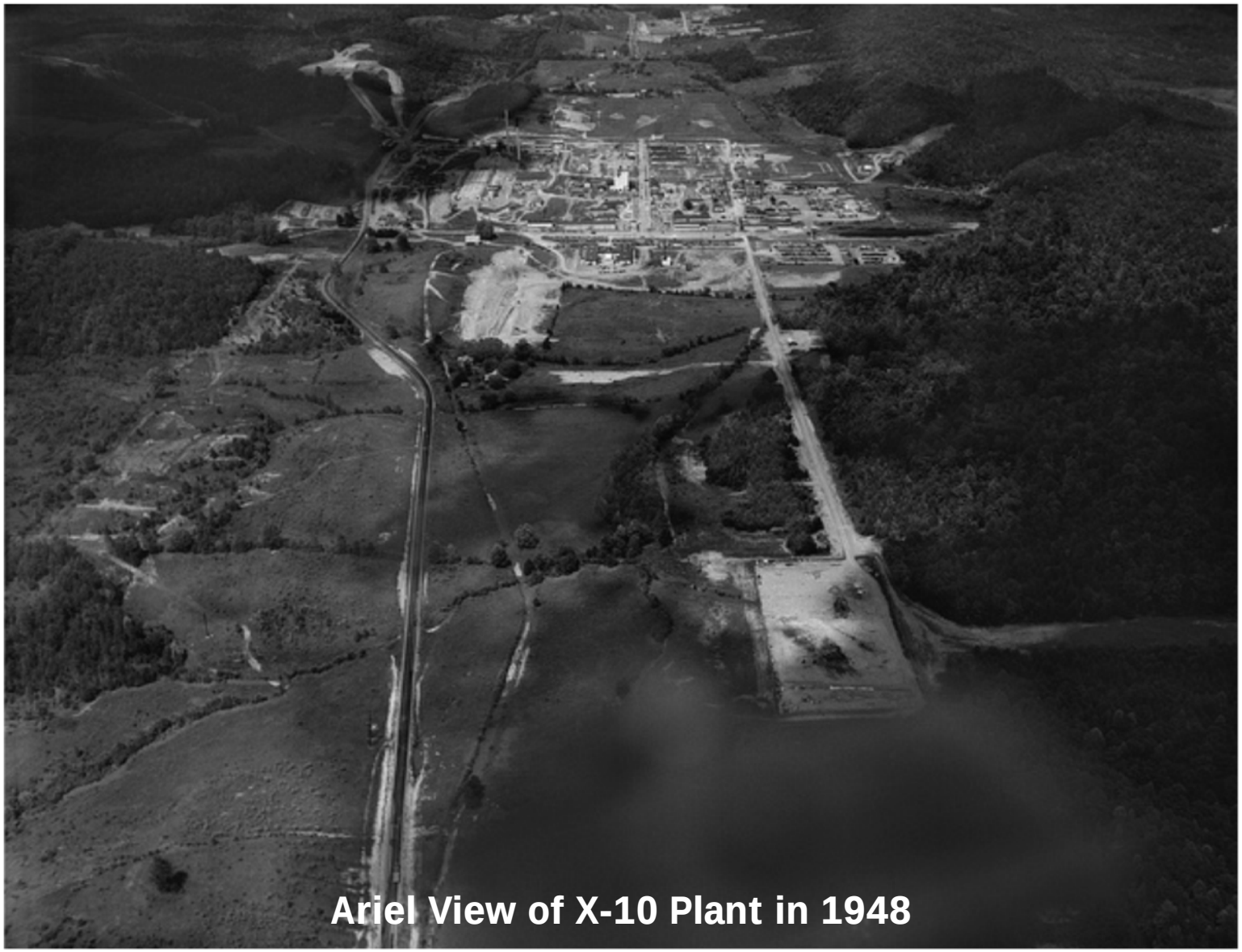
The Graphite Reactor (now a National Historic Site) can be visited by taking the public tour that leaves from the American Museum of Science and Energy.

X-10 Plant (Oak Ridge National Laboratory) . . .

View of the X-10 Plant
from the north
1943

Gunite Tank Construction
1943

X-10 Plant (Oak Ridge National Laboratory) . . .



Ariel View of X-10 Plant in 1948

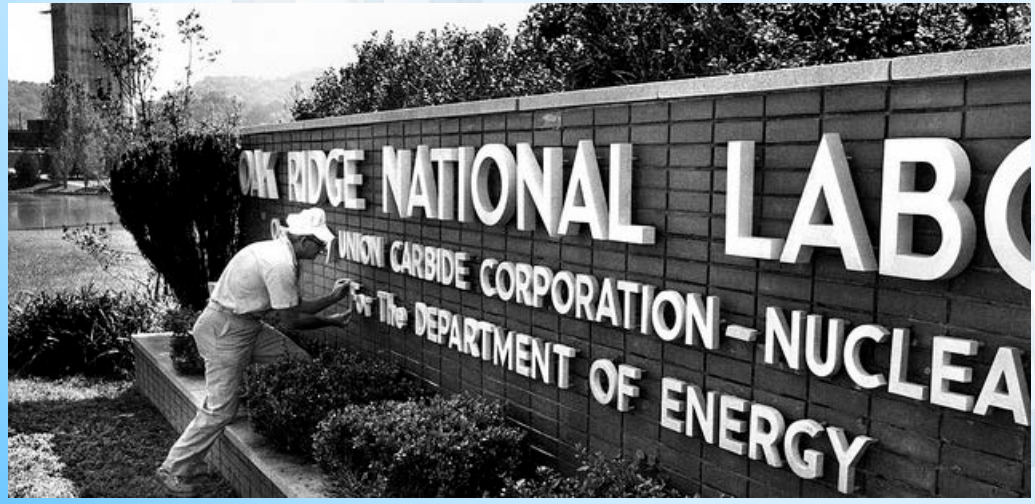
X-10 Plant (Oak Ridge National Laboratory) . . .

Graphite Reactor in 1949 . . .

X-10 Plant (Oak Ridge National Laboratory) . . .

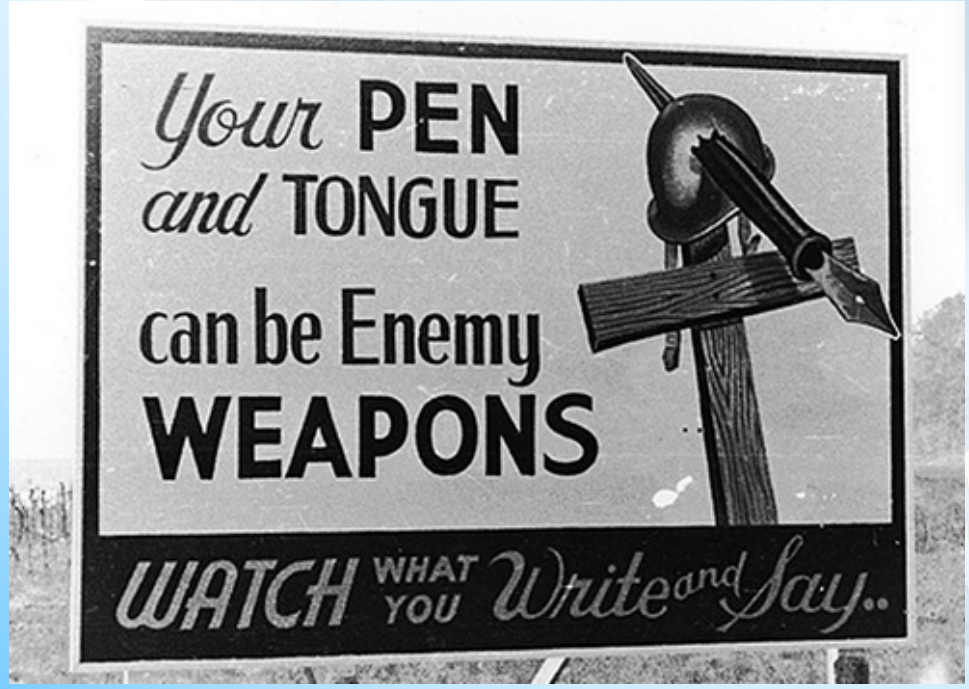
Guard Tower — 1943

ORNL Steam Plant — 1950



ORNL — Union Carbide Corporation

Oak Ridge Y-12 Plant
(Y-12 National Security Complex)...



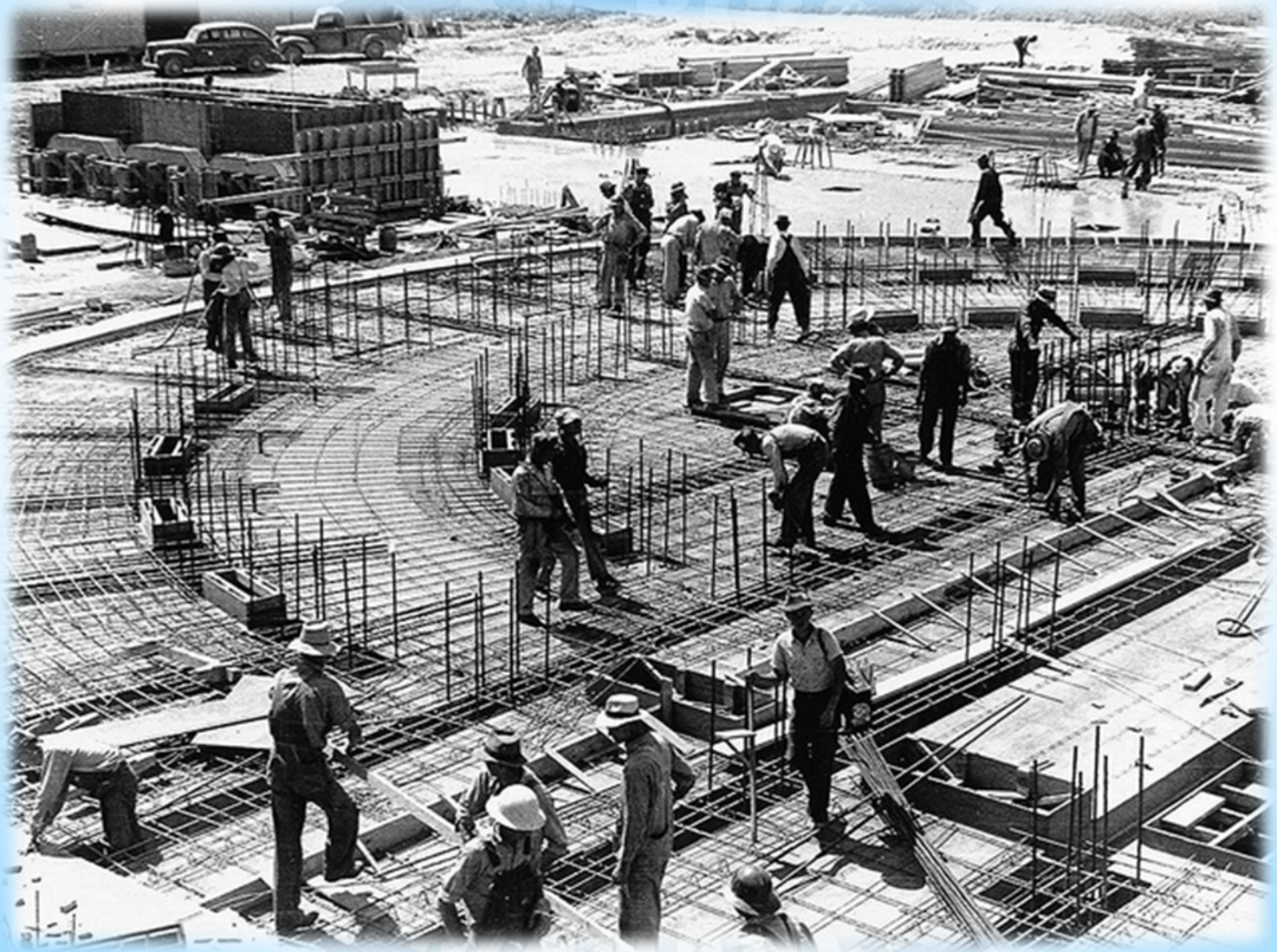
Billboard warning for Manhattan Project employees

Oak Ridge Y-12 Plant
(Y-12 National Security Complex). . .

Construction of the Oak Ridge Y-12 Plant - 1943

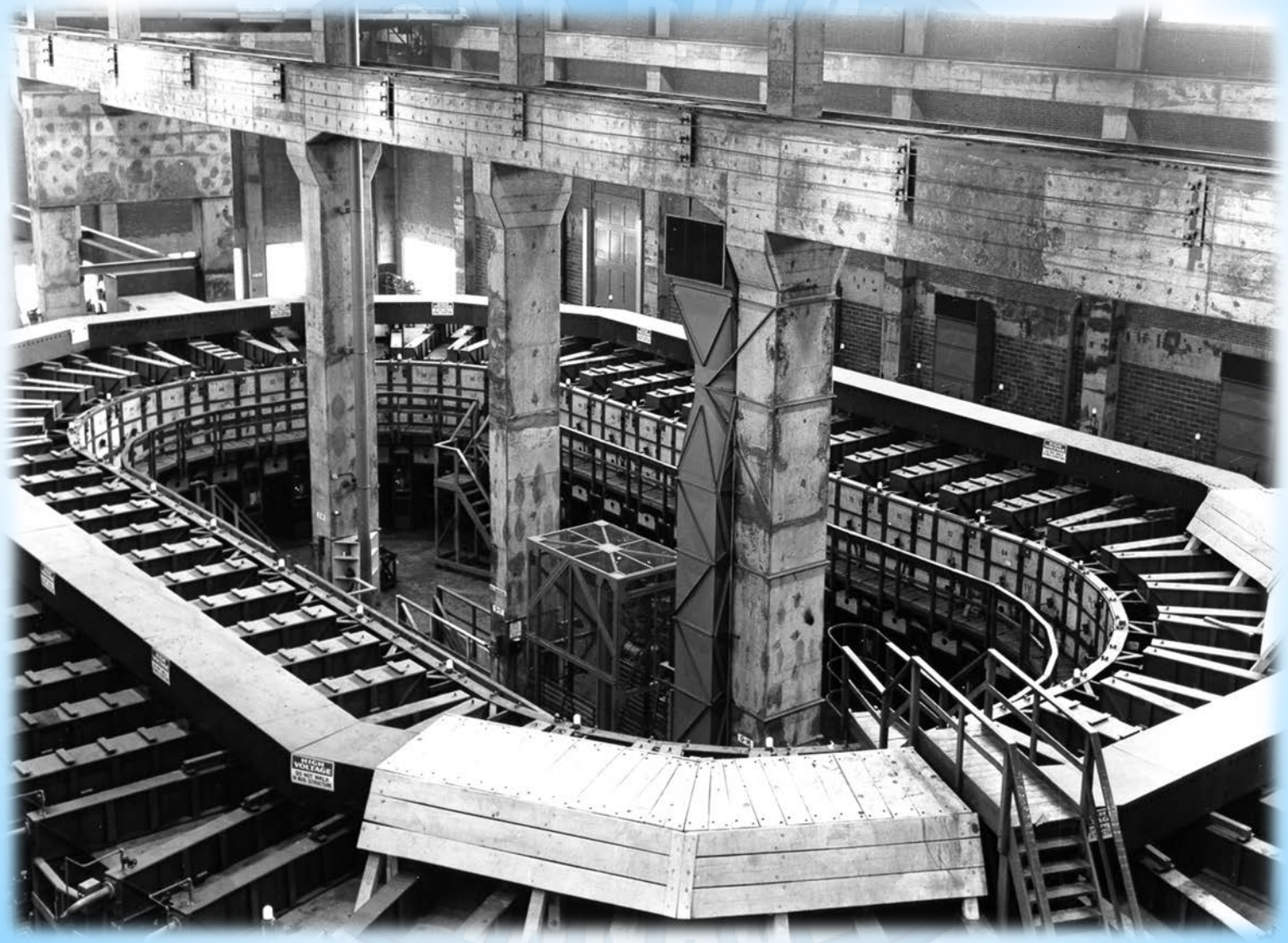
Construction of the Oak Ridge Y-12 Plant Electromagnetic Isotope Separator. . .

Oak Ridge Y-12 Plant Calutron Construction



Calutron was derived from the words "California", "university" and "cyclotron."

Calutron at the Oak Ridge Y-12 Plant



Alpha Track Calutron at the Oak Ridge Y-12 Plant

Oak Ridge Y-12 Plant . . .

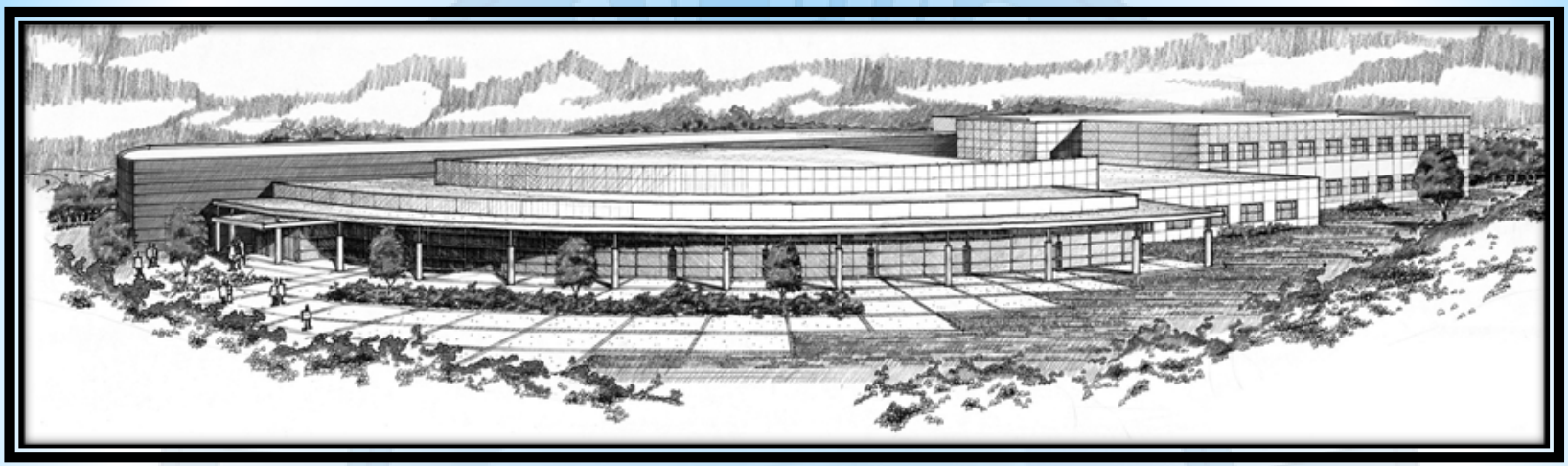
The Calutron Girls
1944

Fifty years after these photos were taken, Gladys Owens, the woman seated in the foreground, discovers what she had been involved with after seeing this photo in a public tour.

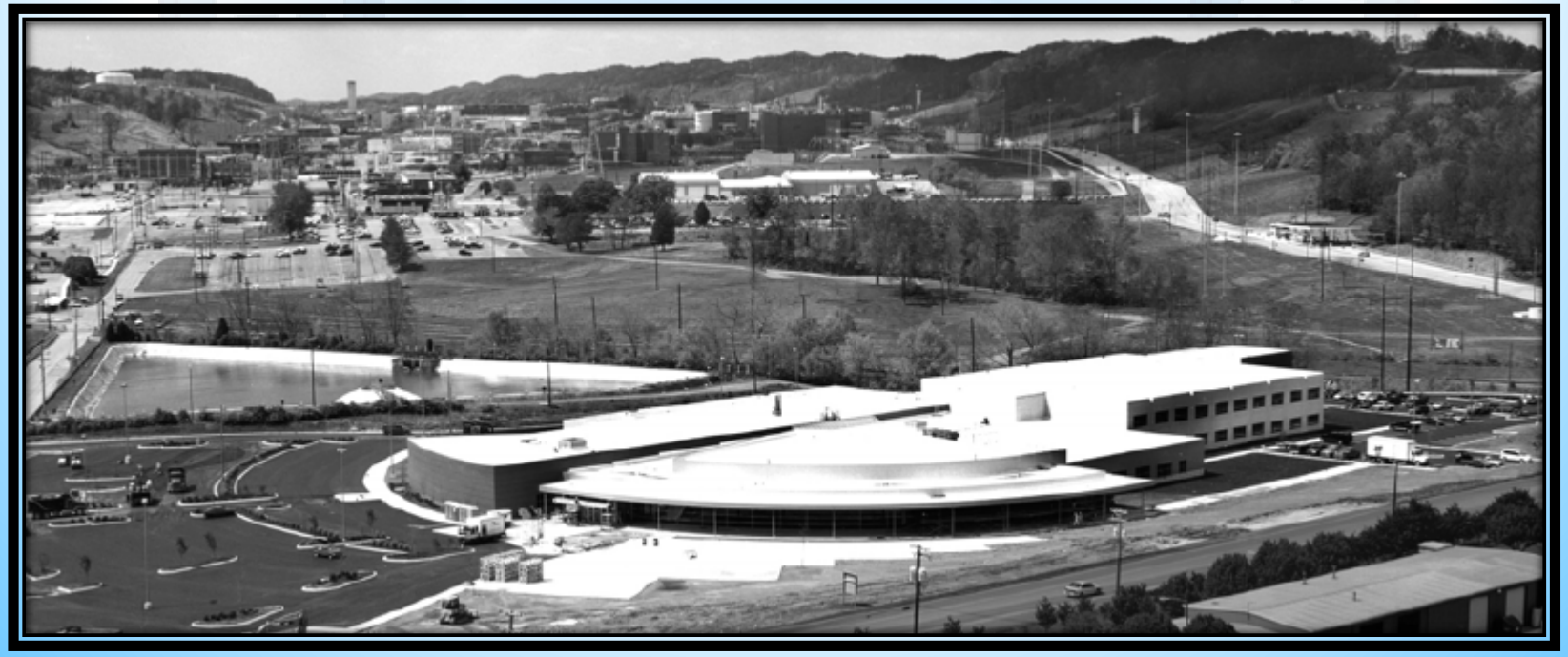
Oak Ridge Y-12 Plant . . .

Shift change at Y-12 — 1945

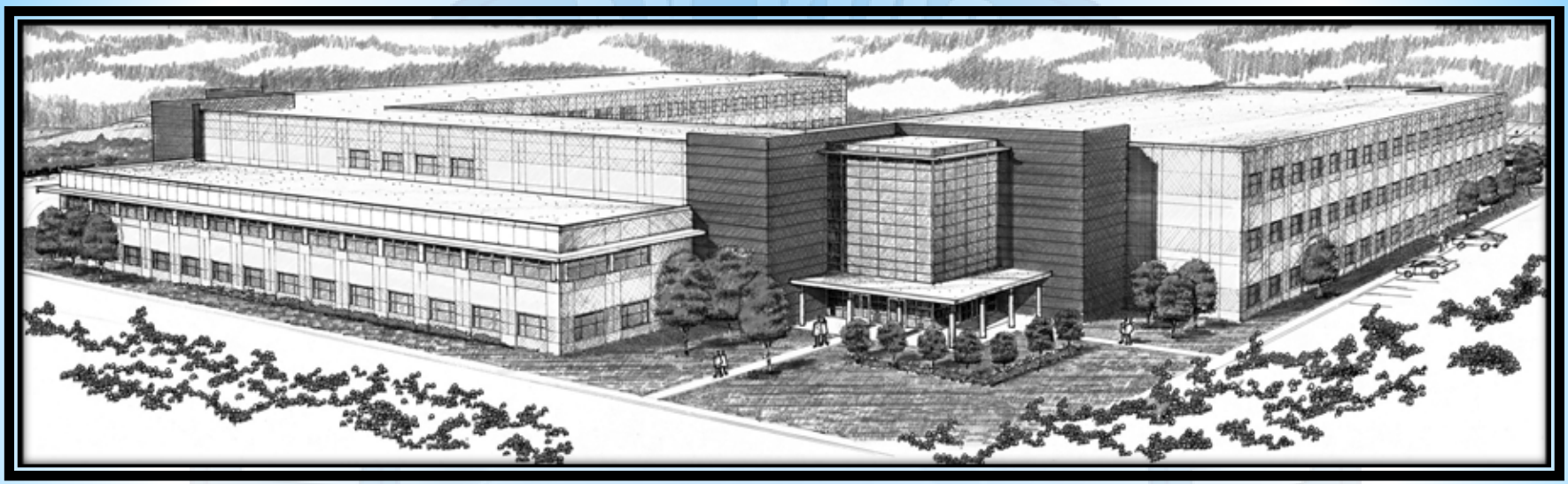
Y-12 National Security Complex Today . . .



New Hope Center — From concept to reality



Y-12 National Security Complex Today . . .



Jack Case Center — From concept to reality