

July 9, 2001

Dennis Faulk  
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency  
712 Swift Boulevard  
Richland WA 99352

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EDMC

Dear Mr. Faulk:

My name is Betty (nee Hiser) Gulley. I was born in Kings Mills, Ohio, during the Great Depression to Floyd and Viola Hiser. My father started to work with Peters Cartridge Company, which was taken over by Remington Arms Company, and Remington was acquired by E. I. du Pont de Nemours Company.

In 1944 du Pont closed the plant at Kings Mills. Employees had the following options: retire, quit, work either at Bridgeport, Connecticut or a new plant being built at Hanford, Washington. My father was too young to retire, did not want to quit, and had been to Bridgeport, where he learned about a new type of ammunition. He told my mother Bridgeport was highly industrialized, too big, old, dirty, and not a place to raise children. He decided to interview for the job at Hanford and was hired.

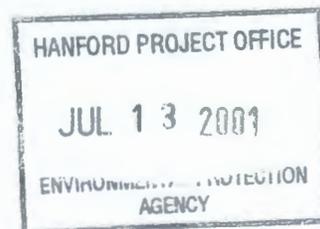
The interviewer told him Uncle Sam (Federal Government) would pay his way to Pasco, Washington, where he would be picked up and transported to Richland (where the Hanford workers would live). They would also move the furniture, car, and his family. We looked at a Washington State map and finally located Pasco. So far away!

Daddy's train ticket arrived and he left Kings Mills on June 26, 1944 (my birthday) – which became his seniority date at Hanford.

My father neglected to tell us the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) would be checking on him. His father called (who never called unless there was an emergency) to find out what kind of trouble my father was in as the FBI was talking to all of daddy's school teachers, school mates, friends, and family friends. We only knew the FBI chased criminals. Daddy wrote to tell us that in order to work on the Hanford Project they did background checks on everyone.

My mother, sister, and I left Kings Mills 2 ½ months later on the train and arrived about 10 days before the startup of 105-B. Daddy was at the 105-B startup. Although he could not tell us what was going on he did say, "If they ever find out what is being made out there everyone will be surprised." Since du Pont was the contractor everyone assumed it must be some type of explosive.

We arrived in Richland during one of the "termination winds." As we were going across the Yakima River into Richland you could not see the bridge (which looked similar to the current railroad bridge – it was enclosed). School was 3 weeks late starting because they were still bringing in trainloads of people to work at Hanford.



It was a great experience living in Richland and putting up with the spinning clothes lines; dust, dust storms, and the never ending dirt; black bathtubs; going to overcrowded schools; standing in long lines to buy everything, get the mail, or go to the movies; houses that all looked alike; and no trees, sidewalks, streets, or grass.

I finished high school. Due to health problems I was not able to get a job at Hanford for 2 years. I had two major problems corrected and finally started to work – working in 700 Area, B Area, H Area, B Area, F Area, B Area, 105-DR Reactor, B Area, 105-N Reactor, 300 Area, 105-N Reactor, N Area, and ended up in 200-E Area. I spent one-fourth of my working career in B Area.

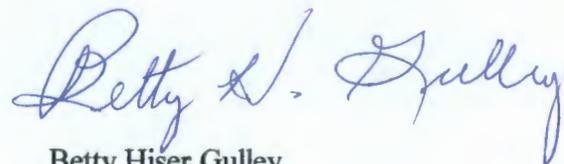
I was able to visit (tour) or work in all nine reactors. My father's last job was in the 105-KE Reactor and I was able to go through KE before it started up. He was assigned to work in all of the reactors (as a reactor operator) except KW and N. I was particularly interested in going through KE because I had worked in GE Purchasing and helped purchase materials that were used to build both 105-KE and 105-KW Reactors.

I have lived in Richland 56 ½ years and worked on the Hanford Project for 39 ½ years and was devastated when I found out the reactors were going to be destroyed. I was elated when I found out they were going to allow 105-B Reactor to remain intact because it was the "first" plutonium-producing reactor.

I joined the B Reactor Museum Association (BRMA) and am proud of the work they do to try to save the reactor. Americans are so quick to destroy buildings but I hope you can help us save 105-B. It means so much to me, personally, but should mean a great deal to former Hanford workers, City of Richland, State of Washington, and to the American people. I realize it is going to cost a lot of money to save the reactor and make it into a museum. I, and the members of BRMA, want the EE/CA Alternative #3.

I was a typist, stenographer, word processing technician, and secretary during the time I worked at Hanford and never was able to attend college so do not know all of the technical aspects required to "save" the reactor. After working on the Project I do know that Uncle Sam moves slowly – unless there is an emergency. I hope to be able to see the B Reactor Museum dedicated before I die. I take tours of 105-B as often as possible. Please help us.

Thank you.



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