Manhattan Project History in December

- The December 7, 1941 surprise attack on Pearl Harbor Hawaii by the Empire of Japan set off a chain of events in American history. The following day, December 8, Congress declared war on Japan with only one dissenting vote. Two days later Germany and Italy declare war on the United States, entering the U.S. into a global conflict.
- December 2, 1942, working around the clock for over two weeks Enrico Fermi and his team produced the first controlled nuclear reaction. Chicago Pile-1 lasted over 4 minutes on a squash court in the University of Chicago. Two months later, February 1943, construction of the X-10 Graphite Reactor began in Oak Ridge, TN.

This Month’s Highlighted Curatorial Item from the Children’s Museum of Oak Ridge’s Collection is a Tea Set, that was given as a Christmas gift to Anne Hamman at Christmas, 1945. The 25 piece set is made of glass. Glass was more readily available than china or metal as both metal and porcelain had gone to support the war effort.

Park Visitor Center Desk at the
Children’s Museum of Oak Ridge
461 W. Outer Drive, Oak Ridge, TN 37830
(865) 482-1942
or visit us at:
www.nps.gov/mapr
Twitter@MnhtnProjectNPS
www.facebook.com/ManhattanProjectNPS
www.Instagram.com/ManhattanProjectNPS

Take a Break from the Hustle and Bustle of the Holiday Season and Join Park Rangers on Saturday, December 22 at 3:30 pm ET for a discussion of what life was like during the Manhattan Project with the overwhelming need for secrecy, security and the worry of spies. Rangers will present a free program inside the Turnpike Gatehouse (2900 Oak Ridge Turnpike).

We’re Excited to Announce Our Newest Member of the Manhattan Project National Historical Park Team. Ranger Darryl Long has accepted a position in Oak Ridge. Darryl has a Bachelor’s degree in Education and Master’s degree in Curriculum and instruction from Tennessee Tech. He retired after 20 years from the U.S. Army where he was a Pharmacy Technician and a Nuclear Biological Chemical Non-Commissioned Officer and served a tour in Iraq in 2005. Darryl has taught math, science and social studies in both public and private schools. He is married to a kindergarten teacher and has two children, Darryl loves hiking, woodwork and visiting National Parks.

DYK? Copper was rationed so strictly that in 1943 pennies were made out of steel. The Manhattan Project also had to do without copper in the calutrons at Y-12. As a substitute to the copper needed for the mass spectrometers, over one billion dollars worth of silver was borrowed from the West Point Bullion Depository.