

Man Who Made Manhattan

"It will be a treat to see and hear Gen. Groves again."

"Say hello to General Groves for me. Now that it can be told, I doubt if anyone could have done a better job than Gen. Groves."

Those two comments from those who know him well bespeak in essence of what the appearance of Brig. Gen. Leslie R. Groves at Saturday's 20th anniversary ceremonies will mean to Oak Ridge. For it is now, twenty years later, that full awareness of his accomplishments is finally realized.

He has been termed "The Man Who Made Manhattan" (Project) and it has often been noted that if there is one man alone to be credited for the success of the project; for ushering in for the Allies the last phase of the war; for the world the beginning of the Atomic Age, it is the man, Groves. Fitting words too, were those written just after August, 1945, "A soft-spoken Major General with a flair for the impossible."

For it was Gen. Groves, as officer in charge of the whole atomic bomb project, who fitted together the multifarious pieces of the vast, countrywide jigsaw puzzle. Upon his shoulders rested all the responsibility. His were the decisions of manufacturing process, design, conciliation and comprising of various scientific, engineering and construction viewpoints, complete guidance of a complex organization.

Perhaps Gen. Groves' own masterpiece of understatement says it best. According to a New York Herald Tribune report sometime after the war, he termed the atomic bomb project "a two-billion dollar calculated risk." What a way to convey the responsibility that was his!

And just now coming into fullest light is the contribution he made in maintaining an airtight security system; in seeing to it that atomic energy be put to work for peacetime purposes in industry and medicine.

For it was Groves' primarily, who kept the country's hand firmly in control of the direction this power should go. In his recent

book he mentions various special interest groups who wanted to put this power to their own uses both here and in other countries and what he did to prevent this from happening.

Just now coming to light are more aspects of this power struggle and the debt owed to him by altruistic scientists concerned with what atomic energy could mean to the world.

Reference to this debt was made here in Oak Ridge just last week. Louis Kowarski, an internationally known nuclear physicist now with C. E. R. N. in Switzerland was visiting ORNL. At dinner with a group of local scientists, he was questioned about Gen. Groves — about the power struggle that took place, particularly in England.

Kowarski explained, "I feel about Groves just the way Sir James Chadwick did at the height of the war" (Chadwick being one of Britain's outstanding nuclear physicists.) And the visiting scientist went on to quote Chadwick, "There's been a lot of nonsense stated about Gen. Groves recently, but you know, he's a very sensible fellow, really."

Gen. Groves deserves all of the recognition he has gotten past and present, but it would be unreal to pretend that all has been orchids for him. During World War II days, here and at all other installations, he was far from a popular man. It would be more honest to say that he was a vastly unpopular man.

There were, first of all, the inevitable gripes against the commanding officer — those that one could find at any wartime installation and at most peacetime establishments as well. There were also some special frictions, the military and the scientific mind, though each vital to this project, nevertheless not wellknown for their compatibility. Add the immense pressure of time and the moral conflicts posed by war in general, and the first nuclear warfare in particular, and it was not exactly a situation for the top man to be known as good old smiling Charley, the friendly boss.

However, Gen. Groves was not the type to put his own personal popularity first. He was concerned with the job to be done, and it can be said that more of his type would do the country no harm today.

Gen. Groves has been commended highly by the War Department and many others for performance in securing the highly effective development of the bomb in so short a period of time and for his organization of security. He has been praised on many sides for the job he did in organizing into an efficient working unity all the organizations and forces at work at the vast project.

We welcome him back, most heartily and proudly,

in Congress with foreign aid—especially to Communist countries.

In the course of their forthright remarks, the congression-

foreign aid funds even more.

Speaker John McCormack and Assistant Senate Democratic Leader Hubert Humphrey di-

Charles Vanden Bulck

It is ironically appropriate that this 20th Anniversary Edition of The Oak Ridger should carry an editorial tribute to Charles Vanden Bulck, the former assistant manager for operations of the Atomic Energy Commission, who died Saturday. He was very much a part of Oak Ridge's 20 years of progress being celebrated this week.

The tributes to Vanden Bulck have been many already. Fortunately, many of them came well before his death. (Too often we honor only the deceased.) He had received the Legion of Merit citation for his service to the Manhattan District during World War II. He had been granted the AEC's Distinguished Service Award several years before his retirement. He had also been honored that year by the National Civil Service League.

He was a government official in the finest sense of the word. Indeed, in manner he impressed one considerably more as a very efficient and successful businessman. He gave lie to any attempts to establish a sort of federal employe type.

His professional life was crowned with his employment in a top position by a large industry, American Machine and Foundry, one of the many firms that came to respect him as he dealt with them for the government he served so faithfully and vigorously.

Indeed, there are not many men who, on retirement, can command a top industry post, for all the emphasis on youth today. Undoubtedly he would have given this firm many years of valuable service, had not cancer struck him down.

A touching sidelight to Mr. Vanden Bulck's death was the letter from his brother-in-law received here almost coincidentally with the news of his passing. It was in response to an invitation to attend the weekend ceremonies.

"Although Charley may not be among the quick on Saturday Oct. 6," Erich Korman wrote, "trust you will remember him kindly to General Groves and all the many others. He will certainly be present in spirit for his regard for all in Oak Ridge is a lasting and continuing one."

In his passing, Oak Ridge has lost a man who contributed immeasurably to both the plant and community development here—under the stress of wartime expediency, later under the adjustment to the transitions coming with peace — or at least a "cold" instead of a "hot" war.

In his passing the nation's Civil Service system has lost a man who embodied its best traditions.

It is exceedingly fitting that during all of the weekend anniversary celebration — which surely would never dampen— Mr. Vanden Bulck be remembered often.

Our Biggest Ever

Today's issue of The Oak Ridger is the largest in this newspaper's 13½-year history. The only other issue to come close to it is the 64-page edition published Jan. 20, 1959, to mark the paper's tenth anniversary.

An issue of this size is quite an undertaking for a newspaper plant of our size. We are well equipped to handle a normal run of editions — even those of the heavy advertising weeks that will soon arrive with another holiday season. When a big one like this comes along, however, a vital extra ingredient is necessary — staff enthusiasm and dedication.

This, fortunately, we have had here at The Oak Ridger for the past month as this edition has taken shape. Printers, advertising salesmen and reporters have put out much extra effort in preparing today's stack of pages — and carrier salesmen will be adding their extra bit this afternoon as they carry the heavy issue along their

routes.

If some individuals should be mentioned as contributing particularly to this edition they would be three of a staff all of which have worked intently on one phase or another: Leigh Gerth, mechanical superintendent, who has directed the mammoth mechanical job that this issue has been; Evan Pippin, advertising manager, who has directed the solicitation and design of the scores of special advertisements, and June Adamson, of the news staff, who has been on special assignment for the past month as "20th Anniversary Edition Editor."

She has been appropriate in this position, having been one of Oak Ridge's 1943 pioneers herself. She has written and edited a large share of what appears throughout today's 76 pages.

It has been a big job, but it has also been most satisfying to play a major role in this auspicious occasion for Oak Ridge.

The Oak Ridger

Ownership of Alfred G. Hill, Julia G. Hill, Frances H. Holton and Thomas A. Hill.

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