



Rocky Flats Cold War Museum

NEWS RELEASE

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(for immediate release)

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TEEPEE DONATION TO ROCKY FLATS MUSEUM SLATED OCT. 28TH

JEFFERSON COUNTY—An old teepee used in civil disobedience protests of nuclear weapons production at Rocky Flats from 1978-79 will be presented to the Rocky Flats Cold War Museum board Saturday, Oct. 28 at 2 p.m. near the west gate of the former plant on State Highway 93 between Golden and Boulder.

The public is invited to the free event at the site of the former Rocky Flats Nuclear Weapons Plant. It was the only plant in the country which produced the plutonium core for nuclear weapons for the nation's defense from 1952 to 1989.

Denver native Patrick Malone will present the teepee and will talk about his civil disobedience in 1978-79 when the teepee was set up on railroad tracks at Rocky Flats. Others who also led opposition to nuclear weapons production will speak. They include:

- Anne Waldman (with poems from the tracks)
- Judy Danielson (one of the earliest of the activists)
- Eric Wright (with songs of the movement)
- Harvey Nichols (a scientist who studied airborne migration of plutonium)
- Jan Pilcher (who organized to stop incineration of plutonium-laced waste)
- Pat McCormick (a nun who had a vigil at Rocky Flats every Sunday for 14 years)

Many key Rocky Flats artifacts were saved for the Rocky Flats Cold War Museum when more than 100 buildings at the site were decontaminated and demolished as part of the Superfund Cleanup completed in late 2005 by Kaiser-Hill.

“These artifacts tell only part of the story of Rocky Flats,” says Kim Grant, museum board president. “We want to tell the full, colorful and controversial story--from the perspective of employees who made nuclear weapons components at the plant, outsiders who opposed nuclear weapons, and government agencies that supported or oversaw the work.”

The teepee from Patrick Malone was the most visible symbol of resistance in the 1978-79 sustained civil disobedience blockade of the railroad tracks leading in to the former Rocky Flats Plant, according to LeRoy Moore, Ph.D., of the museum board and the Rocky Mountain Peace and Justice Center of Boulder.

The teepee sat on the tracks from April 1978 to January 1979, when officers seized it as evidence, while protesters from students to nuns were arrested. Protests of various kinds continued for years, lessening in the early 1990s, when the decision was made to stop production of nuclear weapons components at Rocky Flats and close the plant.

Attendees are invited to bring artifacts to donate to the museum. Financial contributions to support the museum will be accepted.

MUSEUM PURPOSE:

The purpose of the Rocky Flats Cold War Museum is to document the historical, social, environmental and scientific aspects of Rocky Flats, and to educate the public about Rocky Flats, the Cold War, and their legacies through preservation of key artifacts and development of interpretive and educational programs.

The history of Rocky Flats is marked by striking philosophical differences of opinion about the use of nuclear weapons for national defense. Concerns about worker and citizen health and environmental contamination related to nuclear weapons production in the nuclear age from the 1950s forward grew particularly strong from the 1970s to the 1990s.

MUSEUM COLLECTIONS & ORAL HISTORIES:

The museum board, incorporated in July, 2001, began collecting memorabilia donated by former plant workers, government contractors and citizens. The collection includes glove boxes used in the manufacture of plutonium components of weapons, safety and science equipment used at the site, and hundreds of photographs, films and documents covering everything from the site dedication to anti-war protests.

With a grant from the Colorado Historical Society, nearly 90 former Rocky Flats workers, government officials and activists have been interviewed on videotape to form the core of an oral history of the site. All interviews are or will soon be available on the web site www.bpl/carnegie.org/oralhistory.

Local developer Charles Church McKay has donated 1.4 acres of land for construction of a museum near the west entrance of the site. His family originally owned much of the land where the Rocky Flats Nuclear Weapons Plant was built. Museum funds have also come from grants from Kaiser-Hill and a late 2005 membership drive.

Federal legislation signed into law in 2001 designates most of the Rocky Flats site a National Wildlife Refuge.

For more information about the Oct. 28th speakers and teepee donation, please contact Kim Grant at 720-898-7125 and KGrant@ci.arvada.co.us or LeRoy Moore at leroymoore@earthlink.net. See www.rockyflatscoldwarmuseum.com for more information about the museum. Financial contributions and donations of artifacts may be sent to Rocky Flats Cold War Museum, P.O. Box 871, Arvada, CO 80001-0871.

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