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# Women of Los Alamos

## Women's Contributions to the Laboratory

NATIONAL SECURITY



**Madeline Whitacre**

Historian



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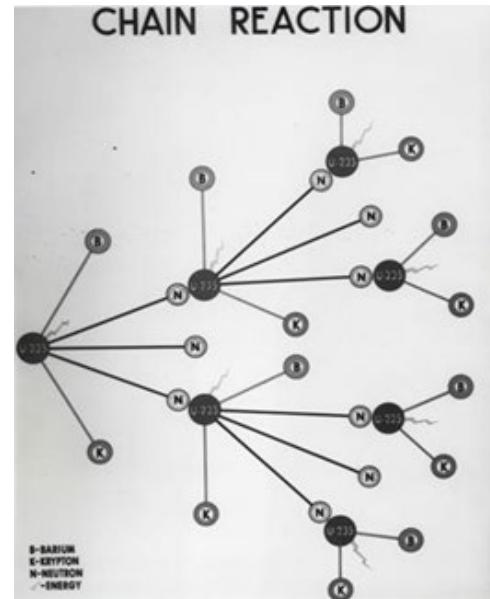
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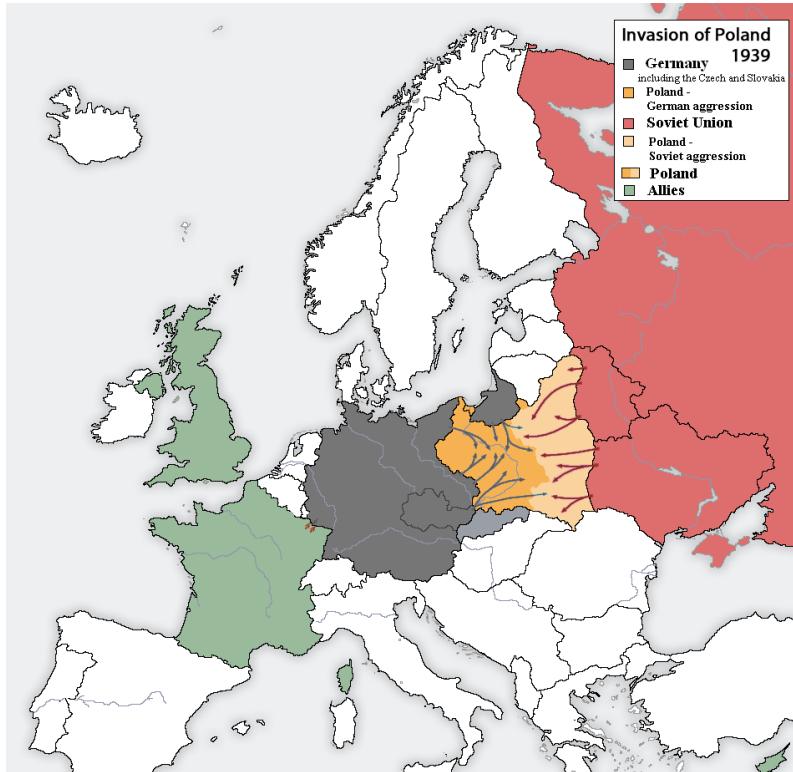
# Physics Developments



Otto Hahn and Lise Meitner



Fission chain reaction



Annexation of Poland



Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor, December 7, 1941



# The Lab at Los Alamos



The Trinity Test – July 16, 1945



Little Boy



Fat Man



# Women in the Wartime Workforce





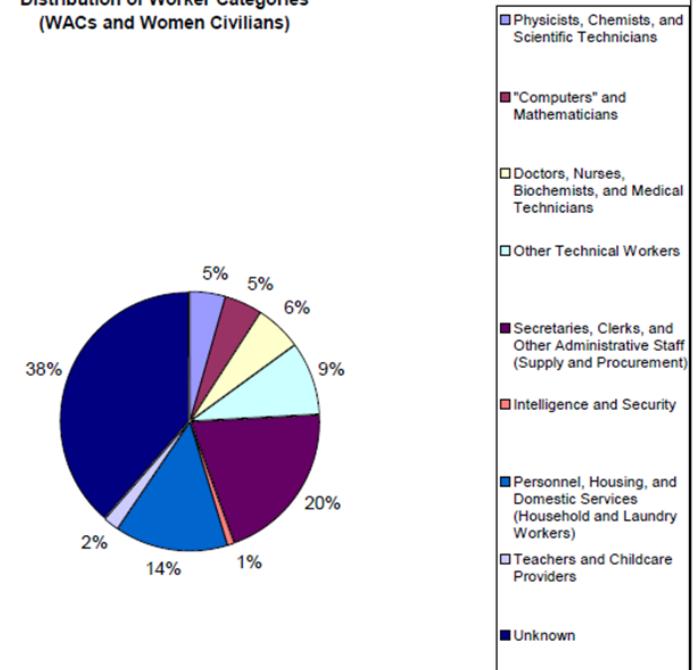
# Women at Los Alamos



*“Some of the wives were scientists in their own right, and they, of course, were in great demand, but with labor at a premium we could put to good use everyone we could get, whether as secretaries or as technical assistants or as teachers in the public school that we started for children.”*

**General Leslie Groves  
Head of the Manhattan Project**

**Distribution of Worker Categories  
(WACs and Women Civilians)**





# Women at Los Alamos

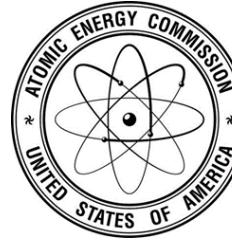
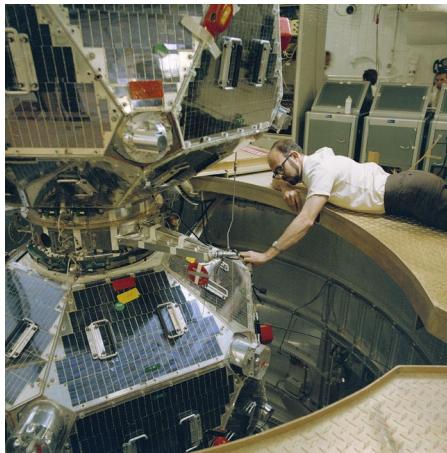


**Charlotte Serber**

*“To have been a working entity on the Project is something we [the women of Los Alamos] don’t forget easily. Even at the time, it was impressive. We were doing a war job in a period when people were needed badly.”*

**Charlotte Serber**

# The Early Cold War

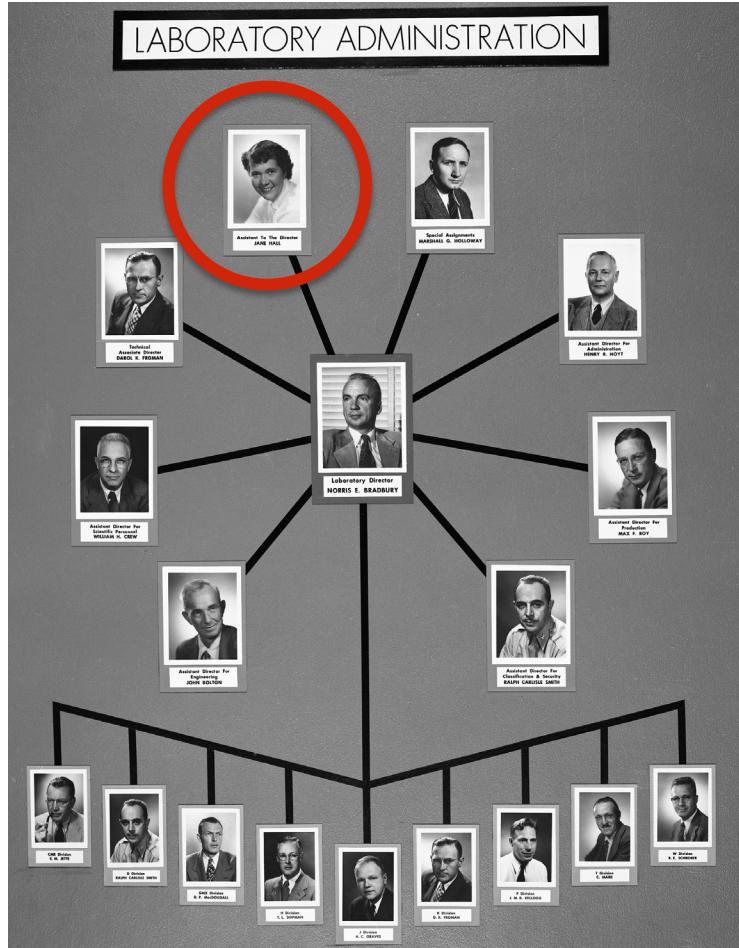


- 1963: The Equal Pay Act is passed, promising equal pay for equal work regardless of race, color, religion, national origin, or gender
- 1965: in *Weeks vs. Southern Bell* sets an important precedent and helps repeal restrictive labor laws, opening more jobs to women
- 1968: Executive Order 11246 prohibits gender discrimination by government contractors and requires affirmative action plans for hiring women

# Women at Los Alamos

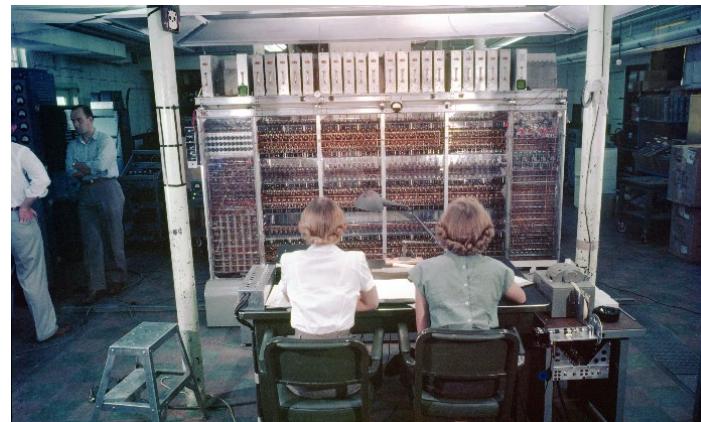


## LABORATORY ADMINISTRATION



Jane Hall

Beverly Wellnitz





# The Late Cold War



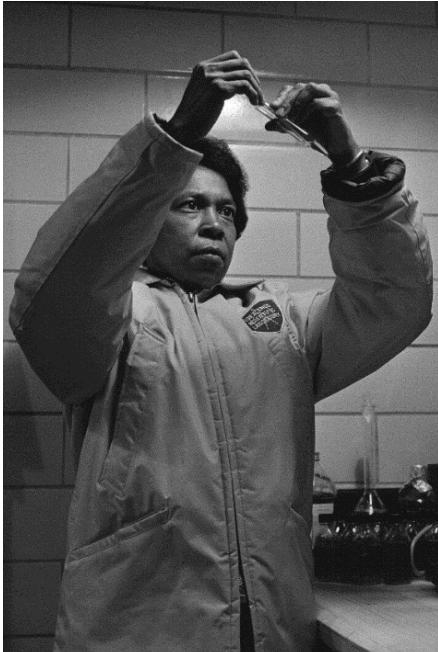
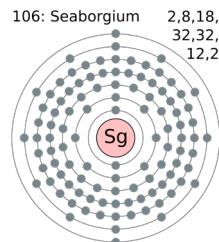
- 1972: Title IX prohibits discrimination based on gender in academic programs that receive federal support
- 1978: the Pregnancy Discrimination Act prohibits discrimination against pregnant women in the workforce
- 1984: in *Roberts vs. Jaycees* the supreme court forbids gender-based discrimination for membership to organizations
- 1994: the Gender Equity in Education Act is passed to train teachers in gender equity



# Women at Los Alamos



Darleane Hoffman



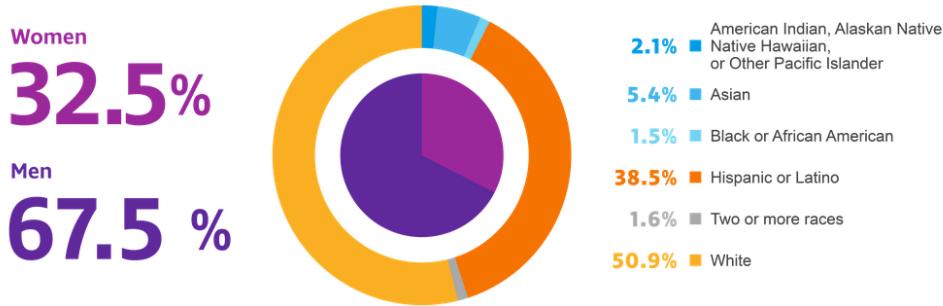
Julia Hardin



Merri Wood-Schultz



# The Lab Today



Types of jobs	% Women	% URM	% OPC
<b>Senior Leadership</b> Director/President, Deputy Director/Vice President, Associate Lab Director	<b>30.00%</b>	<b>6.67%</b>	<b>0.00%</b>
<b>Research/Technical Management</b> (First-line and Mid-level) Engineering Management, Research Management, Technical Management	<b>25.00%</b>	<b>17.11%</b>	<b>5.00%</b>
<b>Operations (or Research Support) Management</b> Business Management, Computer Systems, Communications, ESHQ, Facilities Ops, HR, Legal, Tech Transfer, Strategic Planning	<b>33.12%</b>	<b>44.20%</b>	<b>1.16%</b>
<b>Technical Research Staff</b> Non-management: Researchers, Scientists, or Engineers	<b>25.07%</b>	<b>17.86%</b>	<b>7.90%</b>
<b>Operations Support Staff</b> Non-management: Support Roles	<b>40.97%</b>	<b>54.11%</b>	<b>2.11%</b>
<b>Post Doctoral</b> (Post-doc employees)	<b>25.67%</b>	<b>8.56%</b>	<b>34.72%</b>
<b>Graduate Students</b> (Funded by Lab)	<b>34.07%</b>	<b>23.49%</b>	<b>18.94%</b>
<b>Undergraduate Students</b> (Funded by Lab, do not include undergrad student funded by DOE directly (i.e. SULI))	<b>41.85%</b>	<b>41.34%</b>	<b>7.45%</b>

\*URM = Under Represented Minorities

\*OPC = Other People of Color