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Title: A Valentine's tribute to Lab love: Watch clips from 1943 wedding of two staff

Author(s): Steeves, Brye Ann

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**A Valentine's tribute to Lab love:
Watch clips from 1943 wedding of two staff**
By the [National Security Research Center](#) staff

She was a secretary for Director J. Robert Oppenheimer. He was a physicist who helped create the world's first atomic bombs.

And for 65 years they were Mr. and Mrs. Bradner.

Hugh Bradner was the first person that Marjorie Hall met upon arrival to join the Lab's clandestine war-time efforts. He happened to be in [Dorothy McKibbin](#)'s Santa Fe office when Marjorie walked in. It was love at first sight, Marjorie recalled years later in an interview.

The Bradners were married in September 1943 at McKibbin's home. It was one of many weddings there during the Manhattan Project era. Los Alamos was fenced and guarded during this time, as staff raced to secretly develop nuclear weapons to help end World War II. Most were young – the average age was late 20s – and many, like the Bradners, met their lifelong partners then.

The Bradners left Los Alamos after the war ended in 1945. Hugh is credited with inventing the neoprene wetsuit in 1951. The couple had one daughter. Marjorie, 89, and Hugh, 92, died just a few weeks apart in 2008 in California.

Many of their home movies from their time in Los Alamos are preserved at the Lab. They are part of the collections in the National Security Research Center, which is the Lab's classified library and also houses unclassified artifacts.

See the festivities for yourself

Watch footage from the Bradners' wedding.

Be on the lookout for:

- The bride, **Marjorie Bradner**, wearing a white dress and holding a bouquet;
- The groom, **Hugh Bradner**, wearing a white flower pinned to his suit;
- **J. Robert Oppenheimer**, who gave the bride away in lieu of her father (family members were not permitted because they didn't have security clearances);
- Matron of honor and best man: **Priscilla Duffield**, wearing a pink dress, who was also Oppenheimer's secretary, and physicist **Robert Duffield**, who is opening a bottle of champagne. The Duffields met and married during their time in Los Alamos, too. Theirs was the first wedding to take place at McKibbin's home.
- Other famous faces include Ordnance Division leader **William "Deak" Parsons**, wearing his Navy uniform and physicist **Seth Neddermeyer**, who is on the roof of the house;
- Roma champagne, which was hard to come by during WWII when goods were rationed.

Want more stories from the Lab's past? Visit the [NSRC's website](#) to read, listen and watch. Special thanks to Alan Carr, Ellen McGehee, and John Hopkins for their assistance.

Majorie and Hugh Bradner at their wedding in 1943, which took place at the home of Dorothy McKibbin, one of the Manhattan Project's most famous staff members. The newlyweds both worked at the Lab during its clandestine creation of the first atomic bombs.