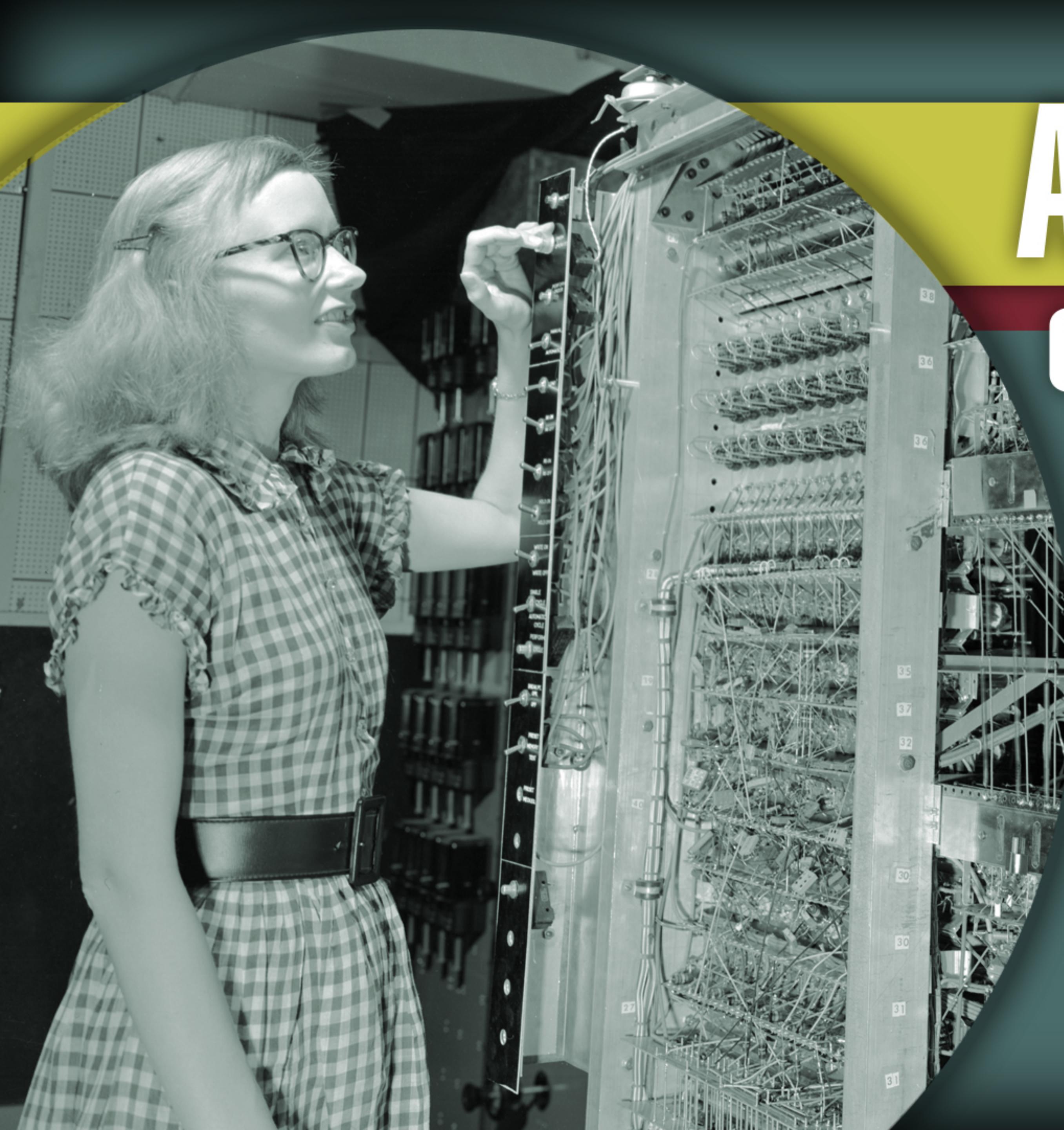




A History of Building the Future

The first computers at Los Alamos were mostly women from the town's civilian community. Professional computers from the Women's Army Corps (WACs) soon grew the ranks of human computers at the Lab to about twenty. Without their skilled and tireless computing work, Los Alamos' wartime mission would not have succeeded.

A History of Building the Future



After World War II, women from the Lab's hand-computing group became the world's first programmers (then called "coders").

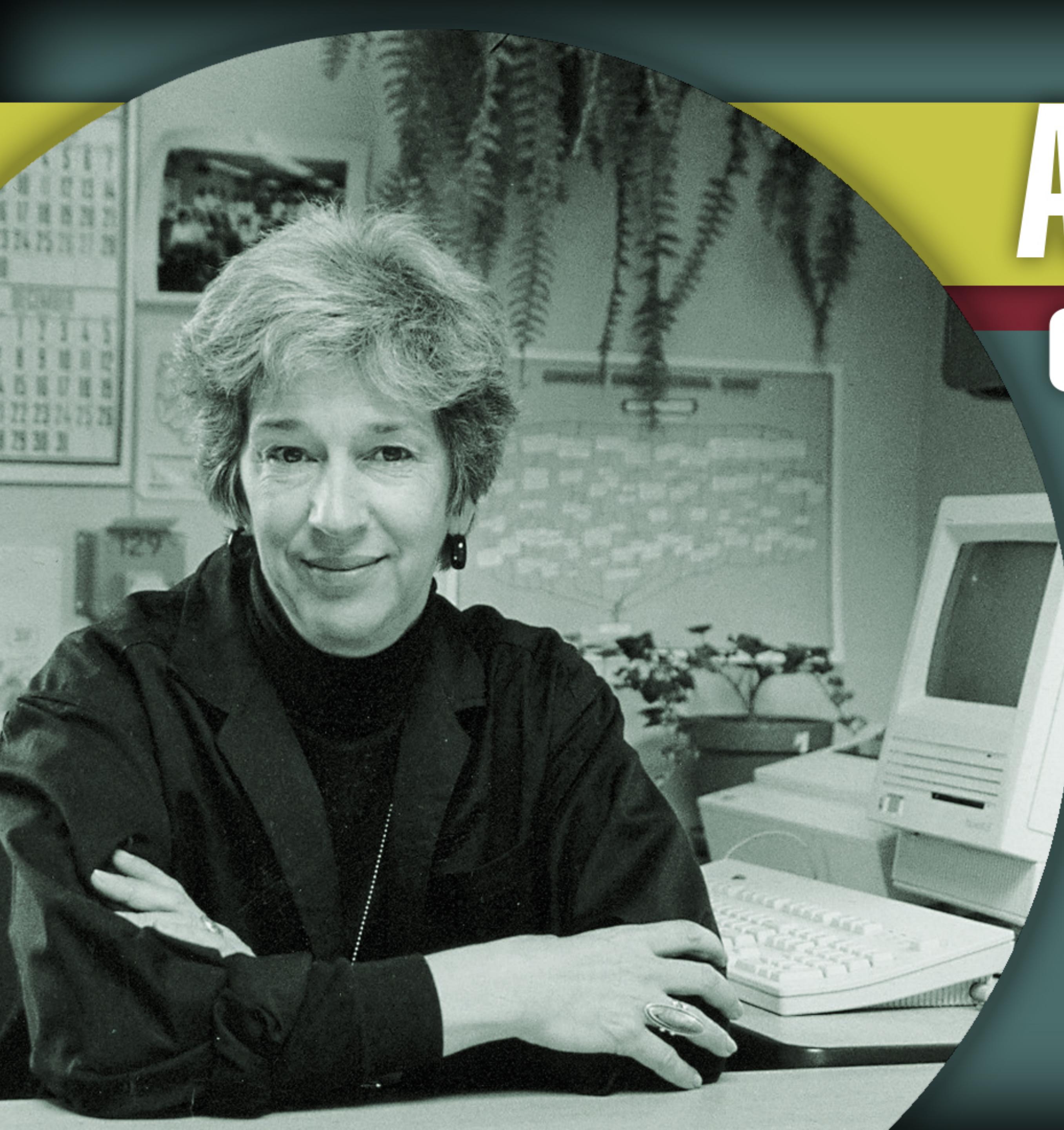
Human computers had the skills needed to translate complex problems into the software "code" that an electronic computer could understand. Women with degrees in science and mathematics came to Los Alamos from all over the United States to meet the Lab's urgent Cold War need for computing expertise.

A History of Building the Future



The 1970s brought many changes to Los Alamos. The Cray-1 revolutionized supercomputer performance and computer networking made the lab a smaller (and faster) place.

Women stepped up to a growing number of roles in computing—from network technicians to group leaders—to make sure Los Alamos continued to set the pace in supercomputer technology and scientific research.



A History of Building the Future

Stockpile Stewardship gave new importance to supercomputer simulations at Los Alamos in the 1990s. Women played key roles in researching and evaluating new technologies (such as cluster computing) that would guide Los Alamos into the twenty-first century of supercomputing, and without the need for live weapons testing.



A History of Building the Future

Today, women are security experts protecting Los Alamos computer networks; they are computer scientists designing programs to combat climate change; they are systems analysts who keep the lab's supercomputers working to serve the national interest; they are experts who make Los Alamos make a difference.

Much has changed at Los Alamos since human computers powered the Manhattan Project, but the legacy of women building the future through computing continues.