

Unlocking the Secrets: The Untold Stories Behind Idaho Falls and the Idaho National Engineering Laboratory 1949-1990



Idaho Falls, situated in the picturesque state of Idaho, carries within its history a hidden gem that transformed the scientific landscape of the United States – the Idaho National Engineering Laboratory (INEL). From 1949 to 1990, INEL played a pioneering role in research, development, and experimentation, becoming a crucial center for breakthroughs in nuclear energy, space technology, and national defense. Join us on an exciting journey as we unveil the extraordinary stories that unfolded within this exceptional facility.

The Birth of a National Treasure

In the aftermath of World War II, the United States found itself at the forefront of a technological race. With the fear of Soviet advancements looming, the Atomic Energy Commission (AEC) sought to establish a research facility that would address the pressing needs of the nation. And so, in 1949, the Idaho National Engineering Laboratory was born.



Coming of Age: Idaho Falls and the Idaho National Engineering Laboratory 1949-1990

by Ben J. Plastino (Kindle Edition)

★★★★★ 5 out of 5

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Word Wise : Enabled
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Located in the desert near Idaho Falls, the geographical location of INEL was strategic, allowing for ample space to conduct experiments and testing without posing a risk to heavily populated areas. The facility quickly gained recognition for its relentless pursuit of scientific breakthroughs and innovative projects.

Nuclear Energy and the Path to Progress

One of the main focuses of INEL was the promotion of nuclear energy and its various applications. From developing breeder reactors to conducting experiments in nuclear propulsion systems, the scientists and engineers at INEL revolutionized the energy landscape. Their groundbreaking research laid the foundation for affordable and sustainable nuclear power.

Furthermore, INEL played a vital role in the peaceful use of nuclear energy. Scientists studied the potential applications of nuclear energy in various industries, including medicine, agriculture, and manufacturing. The laboratory's contributions in this realm shaped the understanding of nuclear medicine and led to advancements in cancer treatments, crop yield improvement, and material science.



From Space Exploration to National Security

INEL's impact reached far beyond nuclear energy. It became a hub for groundbreaking research in space technology, fostering collaborations with agencies like NASA. The laboratory's expertise in nuclear-powered spacecraft and radioisotope power sources enabled humanity to explore the cosmos in unprecedented ways.

Additionally, INEL made significant contributions to national security. The facility played a crucial role in the development and testing of defense technologies, adapting its technical expertise to address the evolving challenges faced by the nation.

Legacy and Looking Forward

As the years passed, INEL garnered a reputation as a center of excellence. Numerous scientific breakthroughs and inventions that came out of the laboratory shaped the world we live in today. However, in 1990, INEL underwent a reorganization and was eventually renamed Idaho National Laboratory (INL). Despite the name change, the pioneering spirit and dedication to advancement continue to drive the researchers and scientists working at the facility.

INL remains committed to solving the world's most significant energy and national security challenges. Today, it focuses on the development of advanced nuclear technologies, renewable energy sources, and the integration of energy systems. The legacy of INEL lives on, as INL strives to build upon the foundation laid by its predecessors.

Idaho Falls and the Idaho National Engineering Laboratory hold stories of innovation, scientific breakthroughs, and national importance. This unsung hero of American scientific research from 1949 to 1990 pushed the boundaries of human knowledge and paved the way for advancements that continue to shape our world today.

Let us not forget the incredible contributions made by the passionate scientists and engineers who unlocked the secrets behind nuclear energy, space technology, and national defense. Idaho Falls and INEL will forever hold a special place in the annals of scientific history.



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Idaho Falls and the Idaho National Engineering Laboratory grew up together. Which one benefited the most is arguable since this truly was a symbiotic relationship. The details of this courtship and ensuing life together are chronicled by longtime Idaho Falls newspaperman Ben J. Plastino. From his perspective in 1990, he traces the creation of the INEL project and highlights the local and national personalities that charted and maintained its success from 1949 until 1990.

This task included interviews held in 1989 and 1990 of more than one hundred persons, including early NRTS arrivals, present and past members of Idaho's congressional delegation, governors and many other political leaders, Idaho Atomic Energy Commission and Department of Energy operations managers, contractor supervisors, and others who had a prime hand in the site's operation.

A person who greatly enjoyed people, Plastino focuses on the human aspects of the "site" and its inseparable relationship with the progressive community of Idaho Falls. A long-time observer of both the INEL and Idaho Falls, he pays

tribute through this book to the innovation, fortitude and brilliance of those responsible for the success that began in 1949.



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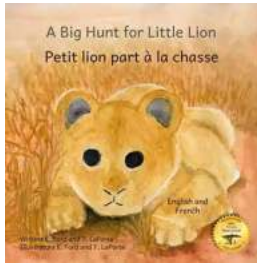
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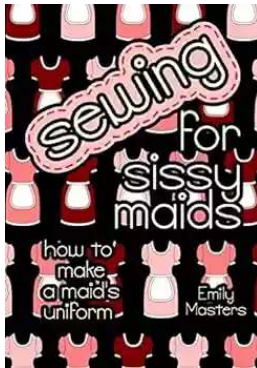
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