

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



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 sites 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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