

PREFACE

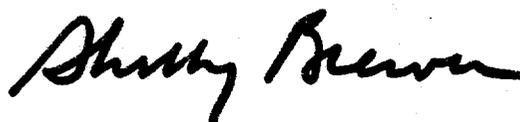
On December 2, 1942, in a racquets court underneath the West Stands of Stagg Field at the University of Chicago, a team of scientists led by Enrico Fermi created man's first controlled, self-sustaining nuclear chain reaction.

Since 1946 the story of this remarkable scientific and technological achievement has been periodically commemorated by those involved. It is now a well known and significant benchmark in the history of nuclear energy technology.

This updated and revised story of the first reactor, or "pile," is based on the firsthand accounts of the participants as told to Corbin Allardice and Edward R. Trapnell. It also includes the postwar recollections of Enrico and Laura Fermi. The text of the three accounts remains largely unchanged.

Forty years after the event, this pamphlet still serves to provide the public with a brief and readable account of a significant moment in American history of nuclear energy.

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