

September 10, 1994

Dear Colleague,

You are doubtless aware that the Tri Cities community recently celebrated Hanford's 50th anniversary. What you may not know is that the "official" celebration is over. The final hurrah took place in August.

For those of us with lives and philosophies inseparably tied to the science and power of the atom, the celebration's termination was a party over too soon. Although the remarkable construction project was, in itself, awesome, the story that changed history began September 13, 1944, when loading of enriched uranium slugs into the world's first full-scale reactor started. The true culmination of the frenzied activity occurred September 26, 1944, when B Reactor attained criticality and initial ascent to power began.

Members of the American Nuclear Society and the B Reactor Museum Association propose a simple public acknowledgement of that momentous occasion on its 50th anniversary. It would be the following unadorned full page ad in the Tri City Herald:

"At 10:48 p.m. on September 26, 1944, a sustained chain reaction was achieved in the first full scale instrumented nuclear reactor in the world. Enrico Fermi, whose team was scrupulously monitoring each step of the process, spoke over the intercom from the glass enclosed control room. "Gentlemen", he said, "the baby is born". Having confirmed that the reaction was stable and that the untried reactor was behaving as predicted, at a few minutes after midnight on September 27 man's first nuclear ascent to power began.

We who have followed the paths first traveled by those remarkable pioneers of the B Reactor startup team, salute the intellect and spirit that was so well displayed on that historic day at Hanford 50 years ago.

The American Nuclear Society

B Reactor Museum Association"

The ad will cost just under \$1,600, must be available to the paper by September 20, and can only be paid for through personal donations. If you wish to contribute to this particular recognition of the B Reactor pioneers, please make your check payable to:

ANS Eastern Washington Section

and mail it to one of the addresses shown below. If adequate funds are received by September 20, we will run the ad. If not, we will return the checks to the donors. In the event donations exceed the cost of the advertisement, the surplus will be donated to the B Reactor Museum's general fund unless a note has been attached to the check requesting otherwise. Thanks for being a part of this small but meaningful effort. We appreciate your passing this notice on to others who may also be interested.

W. I. Munn
on site at HO-32

by postal service to 1104 Pine Street
Richland, WA 99352