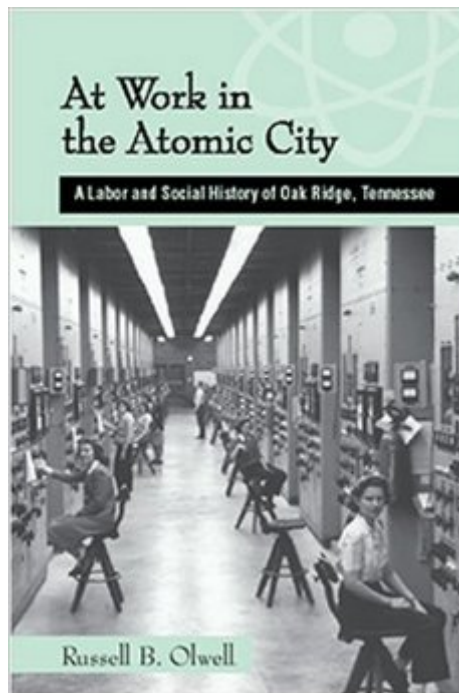


The book was found

At Work In The Atomic City: A Labor And Social History Of Oak Ridge, Tennessee



Synopsis

Founded during World War II, Oak Ridge, Tennessee, was a vital link in the U.S. military's atomic bomb assembly line—the site where scientists worked at a breakneck pace to turn tons of uranium into a few grams of the artificial element plutonium. To construct and operate the plants needed for this effort, thousands of workers, both skilled and unskilled, converged on the city behind a fence tucked between two ridges of sparsely populated farmland in the Tennessee hills. *At Work in the Atomic City* explores the world of those workers and their efforts to form unions, create a community, and gain political rights over their city. It follows them from their arrival at Oak Ridge, to the places where they lived, and to their experiences in a dangerous and secretive workplace. Lured by promises of housing, plentiful work, and schooling for their children, they were often exposed to dangerous levels of radioactivity, harmful chemicals, and other hazards. Although scientists and doctors intended to protect workers, the pressure to produce materials for the bomb often overrode safety considerations. After the war, as the military sought to reduce services and jobs in Oak Ridge, workers organized unions at two plants to demand higher wages and job security. However, the new Taft-Hartley Act limited defense workers' ability to strike and thus curbed union influence. The book examines the ongoing debates over workers' rights at Oak Ridge—notably the controversy surrounding the new federal program intended to compensate workers and their families for injuries sustained on the job. Because of faulty record keeping at the facilities and confusion over exposure levels, many have been denied payment to this day. Drawing on extensive research into oral history collections, transcripts of government proceedings, and other primary sources, *At Work in the Atomic City* is the first detailed account of the workers who built and labored in the facilities that helped ensure the success of the Manhattan Project—a story known, heretofore, only in broad outline. Russell Olwell, an assistant professor of history at Eastern Michigan University, has published articles in *ISIS*, *Tennessee Historical Quarterly*, and *Technology and Culture*.

Book Information

Hardcover: 192 pages

Publisher: Univ Tennessee Press; 1 edition (December 3, 2004)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1572333243

ISBN-13: 978-1572333246

Product Dimensions: 9.4 x 6.3 x 0.8 inches

Shipping Weight: 12.8 ounces

Average Customer Review: 4.0 out of 5 stars Â Â See all reviews Â (3 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #449,076 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #13 in Â Books > Business & Money > Job Hunting & Careers > Job Markets & Advice #8082 in Â Books > History > Americas > United States > State & Local #111568 in Â Books > Reference

Customer Reviews

In September, 1952, 'The Antioch Review, published an article called 'Acorns to Atoms' written by Clifford Seeber. It was later released in booklet form; he was a native Oak Ridger who took up for the reputaiton of his birthplace, saying it wasn't "inhabited by ignorant hill-billies" just because it was fill with Oak trees (acorns). The fertile valleys produced "better families;" the ridges were full of scrubby oak and "poor whites."The Oak Ridge lab (part of the Manhattan Project to develop an atomic bomb) was mainly an assembly line. The workers had no idea what they were doing. Many thought they were producing ice cream sticks and for lollypop novelties. They were exposed to dangerous livels of radioactivity and harmful chemicals which caused many deaths among the government workers. They were pressured to produce materials for the bomb, often overriding safety considerations. Most of the workers were brought in to this "secret, hidden" city (really a very small concentration camp in extremely primitive living conditions) from other places; very few natives were used in this experimental phase which needed discreet and competent people to do dangerous occupations without inquiring the nature of their work. When workers or their families became ill, there was no extended family nosing around. Leaks of the radioactivity uranium and plutonium came all the way over on the wind to Knoxville, causing all kinds of cancer. At my neighborhood school, we had to wear dog tags like soliders in battle wore in case of chemical extermination or serious leaks. We had drills on crawling under our school desks in case we were bombed like London.

[Download to continue reading...](#)

At Work In The Atomic City: A Labor And Social History Of Oak Ridge, Tennessee Kisses Between the Lines: An Echo Ridge Anthology (Echo Ridge Romance Book 2) Atomic Physics (Oxford Master Series in Atomic, Optical and Laser Physics) The Social Work Experience: An Introduction to Social Work and Social Welfare (6th Edition) (Connecting Core Competencies) For Democracy, Workers, and God: Labor Song-Poems and Labor Protest, 1865-95 (Working Class in American History) Labor Economics: Introduction to Classic and the New Labor Economics Social Media: Master, Manipulate, and Dominate Social Media Marketing With Facebook, Twitter, YouTube, Instagram

and LinkedIn (Social Media, Social Media ... Twitter, Youtube, Instagram, Pinterest) Social Security & Medicare Facts 2016: Social Security Coverage, Maximization Strategies for Social Security Benefits, Medicare/Medicaid, Social Security Taxes, Retirement & Disability, Ser Social Media: Master Strategies For Social Media Marketing - Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, YouTube & LinkedIn (Social Media, Social Media Marketing, Facebook, ... Instagram, Internet Marketing Book 3) Social Skills - Social Fluency: Genuine Social Habits to Work a Room, Own a Conversation, and be Instantly Likeable...Even Introverts! (Communication Skills, Small Talk, People Skills Mastery) Fundamentals of Perinatal Social Work: A Guide for Clinical Practice with Women, Infants, and Families (Monograph Published Simultaneously As Social Work in Health Care , Vol 24, No 3-4) Masters Social Work Exam Flashcard Study System: ASWB Test Practice Questions & Review for the Association of Social Work Boards Exam (Cards) The Girls of Atomic City: The Untold Story of the Women Who Helped Win World War II Okoboji Wetlands: A Lesson in Natural History (Bur Oak Book) Natural History of the Oak Tree The New Social Story Book, Revised and Expanded 15th Anniversary Edition: Over 150 Social Stories that Teach Everyday Social Skills to Children and Adults with Autism and their Peers Gilberto Gerena Valentin: My Life as a Community Activist, Labor Organizer an Progressive Politician in New York City Social Insurance and Social Justice: Social Security, Medicare and the Campaign Against Entitlements Child Labor: A Global View (A World View of Social Issues) Social Media: Dominating Strategies for Social Media Marketing with Twitter, Facebook, Youtube, LinkedIn and Instagram: Social Media, Network Marketing, Book 1

[Dmca](#)