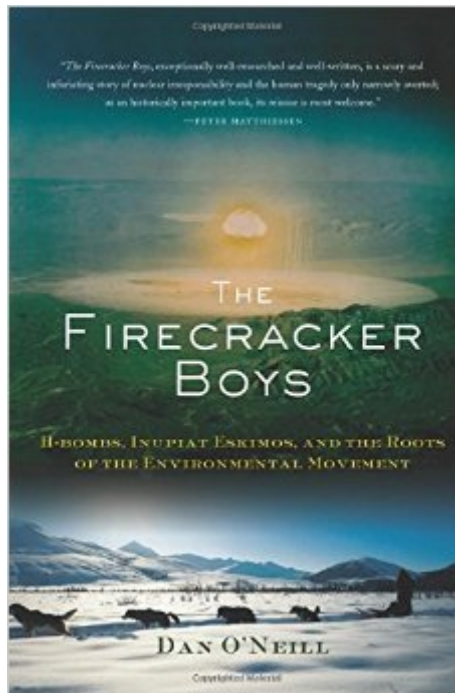


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# The Firecracker Boys: H-Bombs, Inupiat Eskimos, And The Roots Of The Environmental Movement



## Synopsis

In 1958, Edward Teller, father of the H-bomb, unveiled his plan to detonate six nuclear bombs off the Alaskan coast to create a new harbor. However, the plan was blocked by a handful of Eskimos and biologists who succeeded in preventing massive nuclear devastation potentially far greater than that of the Chernobyl blast. *The Firecracker Boys* is a story of the U.S. government's arrogance and deception, and the brave people who fought against it—launching America's environmental movement. As one of Alaska's most prominent authors, Dan O'Neill brings to these pages his love of Alaska's landscape, his skill as a nature and science writer, and his determination to expose one of the most shocking chapters of the Nuclear Age.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

In 1956 the Suez Canal was nationalized which prompted the British and French to attack Egypt in order to secure the strategic passage. Although the conflict was ultimately settled by the United Nations, transportation through this region was halted for many months and the industrialized economies needed an alternative transportation route. During this same period the US and the Soviet Union were testing nuclear bombs and international community was requesting nuclear test-bans. Until reading this book, I was unaware the US Atomic Energy Commission (AEC) developed the Plowshare program to demonstrate the feasibility of nuclear blasts for civil engineering projects, namely the Panama canal. Given that non-military applications of nuclear bombs would have vast economic potential to reshape the globe, there was incredible pressure to

locate a remote US territory where such a non-military nuclear blast could occur. Firecracker boys is the astonishing tale of Project Chariot, a Plowshare program aimed at excavating a large harbor in Point Hope, Alaska using nuclear bombs that would be 100+ times larger than the bomb dropped on Hiroshima, Japan in 1945. I thoroughly enjoyed this book from both the perspective of someone who has lived in Alaska and from the perspective of someone interested in federally mandated science projects. Dan O'Neill does a good job of distilling out the huge amount of information and misinformation that surrounds the events leading up to Project Chariot's termination. This book describes the early days of nuclear testing, the scientific innovations that catalyzed many of today's current policies regarding nuclear energy and the personalities involved.

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