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On the Cover

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On December 2, 1942, Chicago Pile-1 (CP-1) became the world's first nuclear reactor as a part of the Manhattan Project. It was built under the stands at the University of Chicago's Stagg field. It was initiated by Enrico Fermi and became the first man made self-sustaining nuclear chain reaction. The pile was made of graphite and uranium with "control rods" of cadmium, indium, and silver. There was no radiation shield or cooling system. The reaction was allowed to take place for 28 minutes before it was shut down. The image on the cover is a drawing of the reactor.