

This is a voice from the distant past. I have known Chuck since 1970, when we shared an office as postdocs in the Physics Department, along with a third, Don Cox. It was in the basement of Sterling Hall, with a window facing Charter Street. Chuck was a postdoc with Dick Moran, one of the early practitioners of nuclear magnetic resonance as applied to condensed matter physics. I was a postdoc with Barney Webb, doing surface physics. Don was a plasma astrophysicist.

It was an interesting and terrifying year. I came in January 1970 after a year abroad as a postdoc. Both Chuck and Don were already there. The political climate was very unstable. In the years before, the National Guard was on campus and we had widespread protests, with tear gas and clubs everywhere, which I experienced as a grad student. Then in August of 1970, the Army Math Research Center, on the top floor of Sterling Hall just around the corner, was bombed, with severe damage also to the basement, not five hundred feet from our office. One of my friends, Bob Fassnacht, was killed in the explosion.

I wonder if Chuck ever talked about this event?

All of us were looking for a permanent position, although Don apparently had been promised one in the Physics Department. All of us had faculty positions by Fall 1971. Chuck ended up in Medical Physics and I in Materials Science and Engineering.

I would say all of us had remarkable careers (two of us in the National Academy of Engineering), with Chuck clearly the most successful. We spoke occasionally over the years, mostly as I congratulated Chuck on another major award.

My condolences to the family.

Max Lagally