

## Art's Oral History Notes

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### Extended Family

- Lithuania

  - Rumsiskes

    - on river Namen 20 mi upstream from Kaunes

    - family name Pushkantzer

    - village moved to hilltop because of reservoir

  - some went to the Ukraine

- most went to Albany, N.Y.

  - father came in 1911 when he was 10 yrs. old

  - family name Poskanzer with short "o"

  - father went to Columbia College and Law School

  - changed name to Poskanzer with long "o", same spelling

- Family Tree

  - Olga Zabłudorf (2<sup>nd</sup> cousin) obtained data from Lithuanian State Archives

  - I entered into computer

    - now about 1000 people

  - posted on my older son Jef's web server acme.com

    - <http://lisa.poskanzer.org/PoskanzerTree/>

    - now maintained by Lisa Poskanzer Harris (distant cousin)

      - 35 yrs. younger than me

- Mother's maiden name Kerman

- Youth

Rheumatic fever, started school in 6<sup>th</sup> grade

lived in Manhattan, upper West side

brother David 2 yrs. older, 3 years ahead

chemistry set for birthday present

Stuyvesant High School (admission test)

best class was chemistry by Mr. Lepelis

active in Boy Scouts

member of honor society Order of the Arrow, 2<sup>nd</sup> honors

edited their monthly newspaper

summer camp as nature counselor

brother was head of school government

I was editor of the school newspaper

both went to Harvard

freshmen English was tough (term paper on Moby Dick)

music course from Aron Copeland

course in the modern novel from Thornton Wilder

combined honors major in Chemistry and Physics

best course Physical Chemistry by George Kistiokowsky

highest grade on final exam

David went to Harvard Med

neurologist and epidemiologist at Mass General Hospital

died of a brain tumor at age 59

summer jobs

nature counselor

after junior yr. at Naval Research Lab in Washington, DC

solvent extraction

after senior year at Los Alamos

group of Robert Penneman

Friday, March 26, 2021

purify 1 gr. of americium (most of the world's supply)

byproduct of plutonium factory

because of alpha radiation suited up, glove boxes

because of 60 keV gamma used lead bricks

beautiful pink solution

had Q security clearance

Columbia chemistry grad school

fellowship, lived with parents

learned nothing that I did not know as Harvard undergraduate

was supposed to do a thesis with Jack Miller

Radcliffe girl friend, Lucille Block, and I decided to get married

lost Q clearance for a year

spent summer in Albuquerque doing solvent extraction

returned to Cambridge, Mass

MIT physical chemistry grad school

3 yr. Ph.D. thesis with Charles Coryell

on solvent extraction because I knew I could get out quickly

Lucille finished Radcliffe and did 1 yr. grad school at MIT in biochemistry

BNL

Chem. Dept. head thought I would do solvent extraction with him

finally I did nuclear chemistry, high energy reactions

group of Gerhart Friedlander and Morris Pearlman

Cosmotron ( 3 GeV protons) broke just as I got there.

summer with family in Berkeley to use Bevatron (6 GeV protons)

$^{37}\text{Ca}$

Ray Davis asked me to join his Nobel solar neutrino expt.; no

John Bacall needed mirror nucleus  $^{37}\text{Cl}$  to predict neutrino expt.

beta-delayed proton emitter at the cyclotron

Bacall sends champagne with Willy Fowler

drank it with lab director Maurice Goldhaber

$^8\text{He}$

noted that  $^{11}\text{C}$  escapes from plastic foils

irradiated cotton fiber in horizontal cylinder in Cosmotron beam

beam pulse every 6 seconds

Friday, March 26, 2021

then burst of  $^4\text{He}$  thru charcoal liquid nitrogen cold trap  
to vacuum chamber in parafin  $\text{BF}_3$  neutron detector  
multi-scaler to record decay curve of  $122 \pm 2$  msec.

last BNL expt.

after 8 yrs. did not get tenure

LBNL

Earl Hyde hired me as his assistant

He had just finished a book with Seaborg

wanted to get back into research

no more wet chemistry, called myself a nuclear physicist

pushed for Nuclear Chemistry Div. name to change to Nuclear Science

$^{11}\text{Li}$

with Joe Cerny, postdoc Sam Cospers, and engineer Don Landis

high energy protons on uranium

telescope of silicon detectors to identify isotopes

checking Sunday morning I saw a smear in  $^{11}\text{Li}$  position

moved telescope back a factor of 1.4

Monday morning we had  $^{11}\text{Li}$

national nuclear science long range planning

1<sup>st</sup> chaired by Willy Fowler

2<sup>nd</sup> chaired by Gerhart Friedlander

Earl Hyde became Lab Deputy Director

I asked Glenn Seaborg to step down as Division Director

Bernard Harvey was already doing the job

Seaborg asked me to be Division Director

said no because Harvey was doing a good job

Scientific American paper with Joe Cerny

figure by son Jef

LAMPF, Los Alamos Meson Physics Facility

member of many committees

at my suggestion they added Thin Target Area

Paris

sabbatical with group of Rene Bernas and Robert Klapisch

Friday, March 26, 2021

direct mass measurements of Na isotopes at CERN

CERN

sabbatical with ISOLDE group

Bevalac

Idea to connect Hilac to inject into Bevatron by Al Ghiorso  
construction supervised by Hermann Grunder

German collaboration with GSI and Frankfurt to use Bevalac

Rudolf Bock and Reinhard Stock

Bock asked if I had lost any relatives in WWII

said not that I know of, my father emigrated before WWI

made Hans Gutbrod co-group leader

he built equipment, I analyzed data

discovered collective flow of nuclear matter

Central Collisions of RHI paper

coalescence PRL

fireball PRL

Plastic Ball built by Gutbrod and Hans-George Ritter

first 4 pi nuclear physics experiment

elliptic flow with Sergei Voloshin

moved to SPS at CERN as WA80, then NA35, then NA49

spent 2 more yrs. at CERN with these expts.

Friday, March 26, 2021

RHIC, the Relativistic Heavy Ion Collider was being built at BNL

Division Director James Symons asked me to head the LBL group

and John Harris to be spokesman

of STAR (Solenoidal Tracker at RHIC)

Howard Wieman key person of TPC

Jay Marx in charge of construction

too many proposals, but we won

QuarkMatter '95, chaired conference in Monterey

logo by son Harold

after conf., stepped down as RNC group leader

future group leaders: Ritter, Peter Jacobs, Grazyna Odyniec

awards

ACS award in nuclear chemistry

APS award in nuclear physics

PRC 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary significant papers

author on 4 of the 25 papers

recent collaboration with theoretician Jean-Yves Ollitrault

last papers published in 2014