

John Tolls Memorial Remembrance

Johnny would really like this gathering today.  
However, such a coming together would have always been for others.

He had picnics in the Fall for the physicists and their families. It was a great opportunity to meet the new faculty and there were always new members. When Dick arrived in Sept. '53 there were to be eight faculty members and that included the 3 new ones.

Johnnys energy and devotion to creating the outstanding department was boundless. It was at one of these picnics where touch football was played. Dick and Johnny collided. Dick ended up with 2 cracked ribs.

Johnny continued to show sincere interest in the families. Another way to bring the physicists together were great parties at his home in Chevy Chase. Physicists from the Bureau of Standards when located in D.C. and now called NIST and from the Naval Research Lab were included. These were all very happy occasions.

There wasn't any support for entertaining in College Park. The route 1 establishments were for the truck drivers going between New York and Florida.

University Lane, which went thru the Campus in front of the Physics Building, was used by the truckers going West.

I found an invitation for a Sigma Pi Sigma dinner to be held in "The Terrapin Room" located in the student dining hall. Roast top sirloin of beef, oven browned potatoes, cut green beans, salad, dessert, and coffee \$2.50. Prof.

Montroll was the speaker.

Since we arrived back in the U.S. 2 days before Dick's first class, Johnny's mother very kindly took me to the planned Town of Greenbelt to find a place to live. She government was no longer renting, but selling units. We lucked out and were able to purchase a place and move in 2 days later.

After that several more physicists and their families moved into Greenbelt.

Again Johnny was inquiring later if we were happy with our choice. He was the most kind, thoughtful and considerate person. That is why I treasure the memories of Johnny.

Miriam L. Ferrell