

Dear Hannes,

I am really very disappointed that having just started a new job in Prague, it has not been possible for me to join your many colleagues and disciples in celebrating your 80th birthday.

I would have liked to remember our acquaintance from a point of view somewhat different from that of the speakers whose slides I have seen on INDICO.

First, I remember a very long time ago (1976-1980?) when you were coming a few times a year to visit our Group (K. Goebel's RP group) and Klaus was asking you to explain to the Group the latest improvements of your models. I remember you drawing the Feynman diagram of a Pomeron on the blackboard and saying that you were going to cut it: but I was looking around at my RP colleagues and it was clear that nobody was understanding what you said...

And I remember your 14 different programs (CYLCAZ, FLUK00, MAGKA,...) that Helmut Schoenbacher was maintaining on the CDC (the fastest computer in the world!), whose input was a single line of 0s and 1s. And your lecture at the 1978 Erice School. There were many funny things and jokes happening at that School (but Jorma Routti is there and can tell some of them...)

I remember the trip to Leipzig I made with Pertti, the dinner at Dr. Faust's inn, the visit at KMU and Moehre taking us around in the Trabant, and you showing us the secret passage at the Kaminade.

Later on, I remember your collaboration with Ralph Nelson to introduce the VMD model to simulate photonuclear reactions, and the two months I spent with you in Berkeley in 1987 at the SSC Central Design Group chaired by Don Groom. I was trying to find some trick to reduce the number of secondaries in FLUKA when we had a 20+20 TeV proton collision, and you gave me some very useful suggestions.

Directly or indirectly, you have had a lot of influence in affecting the course of my life, and I thank you for that. I hope you will enjoy today's tribute by your friends, and that you will continue for many years to give us new and better physics models...

Alberto