

## **Mike and Me – Over the Years**

**Michael D. Scadron (1939-2022)**

We met as undergraduates at the University of Michigan around 1957 or 58. It was most probably when we, as juniors, both had to take a course in Physical Chemistry. Such a course was required (at that time?, still?) for us physics majors. It was taught by Andy DeRocco in the Chemistry Department and, believe me, it was tough. For some reason, Mike and I got into a rivalry over who could solve the problems DeRocco was posing the class first. My memory is that Mike usually won, but for some reason he said it was the other way around. Doesn't matter. That one-semester course ended, but both of us maintained a relationship with DeRocco for quite a number of years, even after he translated to the University of Maryland.

So, that's how Mike and I became friends. We ended up in different graduate schools but continued to stay in touch with what we were separately working on. In the summer of 1967 we both participated in a University of Wisconsin summer school. By this time I was married to Maggie and Mike to Arlene. And there was a wee person with them named Kari (did I spell that right?). (The other daughter, Lisa, came later.) The kid was fearless, and one time she jumped off the end of a diving board into the deep end of a swimming pool. Maggie jumped in to pull her out before the Scadrons knew what she had done. No harm done.

We both soon after that translated to the Southwest, Mike to the University of Arizona and me to Los Alamos. We then could see each other more often, several times going to one-another's institution to give a seminar. There was a pretty good match in our research interests, and from time to time we would collaborate on a project. However, the only thing we wrote together was a LANL report on pion photo-production near threshold. On that piece, Steve Adler was the referee, and after several exchanges of correspondence, he convinced us not to publish something that wasn't quite right.

On another occasion, when Mike was writing a book on particle physics and advanced quantum theory, he asked me to review a chapter he had written about the deuteron (a bound nuclear state of a neutron and a proton). I guess he considered me more expert in low-energy nuclear physics than I actually am. His point of view of the deuteron was, as usual, a bit unusual, but not wrong.

It was about that time, 1978, that he had a sabbatical year at the University of London. As we were returning to the West from a longish stay in the USSR, Mike invited me to drop by and give another seminar there. Somehow he found a way to put us up in an attic apartment in the Chemistry Building. And he and Arlene took us to a great Indian restaurant which only went by the name of Standard Restaurant.

After that visit our interactions were a little less frequent, but we did see Mike now and then when he came to Santa Fe to see his mother. We would get together to eat at the Museum Hill Cafe.

Richard R. Silbar, October 2022