

Oral History Interview Transcript

Interviewee: Sharon Jensen, Theory Group
Interviewed by: Jean Deken, SLAC Archivist
Date: Wednesday, June 28, 2006

Deken: This is Wednesday, June 28th, 2006. This is Jean Deken, the SLAC Archivist. And I'm speaking with Sharon Jensen, who's about to retire after how many years at SLAC?

Jensen: 40 years

Deken: 40 years at SLAC, and all of those with the Theory Group?

Jensen: The first six months I was here, I worked in the typing pool. Then, I came into the Theory Group to fill in until they hired someone, and I'm still here.

Deken: And that was at six months...

Jensen: 40 years ago.

Deken: That's funny. So, um, the typing pool now that how...?

Jensen: It was run by Mill Strachan, who worked in the A&E [Administration & Engineering] Building, and they hired people to work 40 hours a week. So, I was a permanent full-time employee.

Deken: Mm-hmm

Jensen: But I only went--filled in for people who were on vacation or sick or something. And then if there were times where you didn't have an assignment, you would work in the technical typing area and help with papers.

Deken: Oh, okay. And technical typing. Was that under Mill Strachan. Is that her name?

Jensen: Uh, no, she didn't handle. Oh gosh. What's that lady's name? I can't think of her name.

Deken: Maybe it'll come to you.

Jensen: Yeah, they were in the, A&E Building at the time, and they had two or three typists who just did uh, papers. I remember Madeline Giannotti that was someone that was working there at the time.

Deken: So, they did technical typing for everybody?

Jensen: Yes. Yeah.

Deken: And was it on typewriters--electric typewriters?

Jensen: Yes. Yeah. IBM Selectric.

Deken: Oh, okay.

Jensen: And then they had changeable keys where you could change about six of the keys so that you could put symbols on there.

Deken: Oh, okay. Were those the ones with the typing element? The round?

Jensen: No.

Deken: Okay.

Jensen: These were actual keys.

Deken: They had the actual keys. Okay. So, did you get assigned to that group very often, in your six months?

Jensen: No. No. I was only there a few days. I spent most of my time working with craft shops.

Deken: Oh wow.

Jensen: I was working with Mary Hamilton, and I helped her out for two or three months. And then I worked at various... I worked in the tech planning area for a month or so, and then I came into the theoretical physics group because they were replacing their secretary.

Deken: And who was the head of the theoretical physics group?

Jensen: At that time, Pierre Noyes.

Deken: So, you worked for Pierre?

Jensen: He hired me.

Deken: Okay.

Jensen: He made the decision to give me the position permanently.

Deken: And what were your duties when you first started out?

Jensen: I, well, I mean, I answered the phones. Everybody, most of the phones went through my area. I made the coffee; I typed the papers. I typed the correspondence. I didn't know how to type technical papers very well, but they were really nice about teaching me.

Deken: Was this the TeX days or was this pre-TeX?

Jensen: Pre-TeX

Deken: Okay.

Jensen: ...where you, you actually typed on the typewriter. There was no, uh, computer system and I greeted visitors as they came in, took care of the office supplies. We had a pretty busy summer program, so there are a lot of people coming in, assigned offices.

Deken: When, uh, for, for the summer people, or just in general, you assume...

Jensen: In general.

Deken: Oh, okay. And when you say a busy summer program...

Jensen: 50, 60 people would come and visit off and on over the summer.

Deken: And who, um, invited them?

Jensen: Uh, usually it would be Pierre. Um, Sid Drell was also in our area. He was Deputy Director, but he had been the head of the Theory Group.

Deken: Mm-hmm

Jensen: No, wait a minute. It's the other way around. He was Deputy Director, but Pierre was head of the Theory Group. And then Sid took over as head of the theory, as head of the Theory Group.

Deken: Okay. So, you worked for Pierre first and then for Sid?

Jensen: Well, I never really worked for Sid because he had a secretary. But, uh, I worked with now around him and with him and at the time I came in his secretary's name was Ellen Man. And, uh, she was replaced after about 30 days by somebody.

Deken: Okay.

Jensen: And then Bobbie, later on, Bobbie Russell.

Deken: So, was Bobbie kind of a long time...?

Jensen: Bobbie was, uh, the secretary for the Deputy Director.

Deken: Okay.

Jensen: Uh, and he--Sid--became Deputy Director, so he inherited Bobbie.

Deken: Oh, okay. Who had been Deputy Director before Sid? Dick Neal?

Jensen: No. Um, Sands, Matt Sands.

Deken: Oh, okay.

Jensen: And Bobbie worked for Matt Sands, and then she began to... took over for Sid.

Deken: Okay. So, you're in the Theory Group and taking care of them and the typing pool. Did you still have any, uh, contact with the typing pool? Like did you use typists from the typing pool?

Jensen: Yes. If I had too much.

Deken: Uh-huh. And did that happen very often?

Jensen: Mm-hmm, quite often.

Deken: Yeah. Okay. So, can you recall when the typing pool went out of existence?

Jensen: Maybe 1970.

Deken: Okay. I've always been curious about that.

Jensen: I could be wrong, but I know that my friend Madeline, who worked in the typing pool, I think she left SLAC about 1970. So, I think yeah, something happened.

Deken: Okay. So, over the years, has the summer program stayed that busy? 50 to 60 people?

Jensen: Yeah, it has. Um, not in the last three or four years probably. There was not as large a program. There's always a SLAC Summer Institute, which brings people in, and, uh, we have less money than we used to have. So, we're not as generous about paying people's expenses.

Deken: So, when people come, SLAC pays?

Jensen: It depends, they may set aside a specific amount. They may invite them for a specific time and agree to pay everything. It just depends on who the person is

Deken: And then when they're here, do they have some kind of obligation to fulfill as part of being a visitor here? Do they have to give papers or ...?

Jensen: Well, most people want to, and they're usually happy to be here. And if they're working on anything, having their work come out as a SLAC pub [publication] is always beneficial. So, and we encourage that because, uh, SLAC wants a lot of cited papers and a lot of SLAC pubs, but normally people would come because it's a good place to interact with a lot of different kinds of people. And so, most of our visitors are very happy to be here--excited about spending a few weeks in California, getting to interact with a lot of different people, and they come back again and again, so it's a very popular place.

Deken: So, they get invited back again and again.

Jensen: Yes. Or if they pass through, they may say, "I'm coming, can I get a seminar?"

Deken: Oh, okay.

Jensen: That kinda thing.

Deken: Now, if they're a visitor and they are writing a paper that'll be a SLAC pub, was that something that would go through you?

Jensen: Yes. Um, not as much lately because a lot of people do their using LaTeX. A lot of people do their own, but in the beginning, it was more, I did more or earlier on, I did more.

Deken: And, and when did LaTeX come in?

Jensen: Oh, gosh, I don't know. Maybe five, maybe it's changed. It keeps evolving.

Deken: Oh really?

Jensen: Yeah. That's a part of the problem we're having in my replacement is that it's very difficult to find someone who's had some experience with LaTeX, but it's something you can learn if you are, if you like that kind of thing. Some people are afraid of it, other people like it, so it just depends. So, we're willing we're to train somebody if necessary.

Deken: So how did you learn?

Jensen: Uh, I was here at the beginning when they first started out and, uh, just started working with it and then a macro package came in that made it a little easier and then just went on from there.

Deken: So, you just kind of kept up with it as it evolved?

Jensen: Mm-hmm.

Deken: And has it evolved a lot? Is it very different?

Jensen: Yes. Very, very different.

Deken: Do you think it's easier than it was or just different?

Jensen: It's different. Um, in some ways it's most of the things we do now are, um, presentations, uh, cop they'll go into a, uh, proceedings, and they'll all have their own style file and that will be all set up. So, you have to work with what you're given.

Deken: Oh, so the proceedings has a particular style file that you have to follow.

Jensen: Yes.

Deken: Oh, they're different.

Jensen: And they're different depending on who's publishing it and which proceedings it is. So, it's a lot different now. SLAC has their own set of conventions that we go by and those are pretty basic but depending on where the talk was given or where it's being published, it could vary a lot.

Deken: So, what you have to do is you have to read and understand the style document for the particular convention, and then make sure that the paper from SLAC conforms to that, and then that changes from conference to conference.

Jensen: That's right. And the younger people coming in, um, are all very good at tech, the physicists. Some of the older, uh, physicists don't aren't as comfortable with it, and a lot of what I'll do is I may have a typed document, but it's not formatted, so they'll give it to me along with the formatting instructions and then [I] put it together.

Deken: And is there any sort of movement afoot in physics to sort of standardize the formatting, so you don't have to go through a different style guide for every conference?

Jensen: No, no hope.

Deken: That would be too logical and rational.

Jensen: Yeah. Well, the basic is LaTeX2e that's what everybody's using. But um, everybody still has to put their fingerprint on it.

Deken: Yeah, make it their own. So how do the physicists learn LaTeX? Is it something they just learn in school that, because they need it for the symbols and the math? Do you have any idea?

Jensen: I don't know. I know that our graduate students use it, so they are picking it up in school. I think any physics students would have to use it if they wanna publish because it's so

powerful with equations. And in theory, theoretical physics, the equations are huge. Some of the experimental groups don't have [it], as they aren't as involved as ours are. So, every student I've ever seen can use LaTeX. They might... they're learning. I mean, they might have problems with it, and it's common to discuss ways of getting around some requirement but, uh, they come knowing it.

Deken: So, you're kind of the..., would you say you're kind of the Theory Group LaTeX brain trust?

Jensen: Yes. Yeah.

Deken: Yes. Yeah. So, and you are having trouble finding somebody with that kind of experience?

Jensen: Yeah. It's not gonna happen.

Deken: Yeah. Yeah. Well, are you going to be around?

Jensen: I'll be in the area, but I have no plans to work part-time or anything. I'll be available for questions and whatnot. But it also changes the longer I'm away from it. I mean, if I don't work with it, I'm not gonna see these things evolve.

Deken: How do the changes get disseminated?

Jensen: Well, they'll come out with a new version. They're first we started with TeX and then we went to LaTeX and now we're doing LaTeX2e and then there are other groups. There's AMTeX, mathematical, and they're ... You know, I mean, they're all different kinds of things.

Deken: So, is this an open-source software, or is it commercial, or it's just like buy it?

Jensen: No. Well, you can buy packages that are incredibly expensive, but we don't. We, most of what we buy is free. There is, there's a little bit of the whole thing that goes together in the way that we process it, that we pay for it. We bought a site license for a hundred uses and that's not very expensive, but other groups... You could buy a package that costs \$500. In the beginning, we used to use PC tech and it was for one person, one machine, and it's just not practical. So now we use, we pull different things to get and put them together to accomplish what we want. And it's very inexpensive.

Deken: And so, you, so you just kind of have a site license and it goes by the number of seats, how much you pay for the site license?

Jensen: Most of it's free, but a couple of things cost money. But everybody has it. Every machine around here has it so that people can do their own technical typing.

Deken: So, do people do their own pretty much? I mean, is that part of what's changed-- it's more... More people are coming to you with more complete documents?

Jensen: Yes.

Deken: So then, how else has the job, your job, changed over the years, would you say?

Jensen: The internet. I do a great deal of my correspondence over email. We have a, uh, job, we hire two or three post docs every year. And, uh, the process starts in say October and it's over by maybe February. Last year we had three positions and we got 270 applicants. Oh, and that all goes, I mean, I respond, and I tell them what we need. And then they send the stuff and I keep it filed. And then the list is made of who's applied and then the process, they start going through the applications and then decisions are made, and jobs are offered. And then we sit and wait until they take it. And then we close everything out, notify everybody that the positions are filled and wait until next year to start all over again.

Deken: So, that's like a, almost a six-month process. And do you do that mainly over the internet or via email?

Jensen: Yes.

Deken: Okay. And, and what, what else has changed in 40 years? There has to have been a lot of changes.

Jensen: um, changes for the better or not.

Deken: Whichever you'd like to talk about...well, changes for the worst too.

Jensen: Years ago, it used to be very easy to get things done. I mean, you knew who you had to call. You knew what it took to do it, and it happened very quickly. The longer we exist, I guess, the more checks and balances and ... and procedures get put into place. And I find it much more difficult to get anything done. Ordering supplies used to be very straightforward: it's a headache now,

Deken: Is it really?

Jensen: Yeah. You can do certain things. You can't do other things. Travel is a big part of, travel reimbursement for visitors and our people is a huge part of what I do-- very cumbersome, very difficult...

Deken: Especially with these research changes, I guess it's getting more and more...

Jensen: You can't just do something and know what it is. Two days later, the process has changed and then you have to follow up every step of the way, because something happens, or something doesn't get done. So, it's more difficult. You spend an awful lot of time trying to accomplish something that used to be easy to do so that, from that point of view, it's a little bit frustrating. Some things... what's easier? We get a huge number of people coming in and out all the time, so it's nice to see people again and again, people you've worked with before and there's always, you can always find some friend or, you know, I can hardly, I don't think I

could go anywhere in the world and not run into some high energy physicist who's probably been through SLAC. So that's nice.

Deken: Yeah, that does seem nice... all over the world. What about, the, just the physical location? Have you always been in the A&E Building, I mean, in the Central Lab building?

Jensen: We've always been in the Central Lab and, it's hard for you to imagine, but see where you came through the door and where those cabinets are? From that point forward was the library, the whole library. And everybody else, with the exception of the Director, all the other offices belonged to us. And we were, my office was a little inside office on the other end. And when I got here, we were already doubling up research associates because we didn't have enough space. And then when the library moved out, we thought 'this is wonderful' because we just grabbed all this space back here and that was nice because we live with this spread out, but we never have enough desks. In the summertime, I take over the Green Room for a couple of months and put visitors in there, because there's no place else with them. We do musical chairs, but I'm always happy to hear that one of our permanent people is leaving town so I could put a visitor in their office. And sometimes, I'll move them two or three times depending on who's coming in and who's going out.

Deken: So, how do you track that? Do you have a... a chart of the office?

Jensen: I have a chart of offices. I have a list of ... And if people do what they say they're gonna do, I try to work it out. Sometimes it works. Sometimes it doesn't. During the Summer Institute, it's difficult because there are people everywhere. So, 300 people come and there's no way you can house them and keep them happy. Uh, one thing that's changing a little bit, we've been trying to stay up with, uh, people's computer needs and that was a bit of a hassle, because security is a big problem. And you can't just give people open access to machines. So, we had to put special checks and local accounts on machines and people who brought their laptops in couldn't get onto the system because they weren't allowed to because they didn't have permission. But the last couple of years, we now have wireless, the whole floor, so people can sit anywhere. Oh, if they've got their machine, if they don't have a card, we can go into a couple of offices, have, um, connections that are Visitor, so they can plug their machine into the Visitor account that doesn't compromise our security. And it makes it a lot easier. So, I like that.

Deken: So, and if they have a wireless card, they log on as a visitor?

Jensen: No, they just open up their machine, and there they are. They're not on our system, but they can, they can work. They can, they have access to their own accounts. And if there's something special, maybe that, uh, they want to print, the easiest thing is to have them send it to me, just email it to me and then I'll print. But if they log into one of our guest accounts, you can actually print from the guest account, but then they're not on their machine. They're just on the internet.

Deken: So, is summer the busiest time of year for you?

Jensen: Yes.

Deken: Yeah, because it sounds like you've got maybe almost a couple hundred visitors with...if you count the Summer Institute, too.

Jensen: Yeah. The guest house is wonderful. It's really nice to have, to be able to put people there.

Deken: Has that made a difference for you?

Jensen: Made a big difference especially because lately we've been direct billing. If we're gonna reimburse the person

Deken: Mm-hmm

Jensen: We'll have a direct bill, then that makes it so much easier for them. And then we don't have to worry so much about our dealings with travel. I mean, you have to do the paperwork, but at least they're not out money waiting. So that's very nice. I like that. Spring is kind of quiet.

Deken: I was gonna ask you when you take your vacation, because it doesn't sound like you can take vacation in the summer?

Jensen: No, I do it spring and fall and it's very nice. In September when all the kids go back to school and everything, it kind of slows down. Although October 1st we get all our new people, the new research associates coming in. And so, there's that settlement process, you know, it's kind of hard to get for them.

Deken: And how many usually in a year would that be?

Jensen: Well, we get two or three every fall and two or three leave and two or three new ones come in. But in addition to that, we'll have sabbatical visitors, long-term visitors. So, you never know...

Deken: So, if someone's about to take sabbatical and they want to come here do they request it?

Jensen: Yeah. They'll say, 'I'm gonna be here, can I visit, is it possible to give me any support?' or whatever the circumstances are? Sometimes they come with partial support. Sometimes they come with no support from SLAC. Sometimes they stay six months or a year. We get a lot of people with fellowships, and they'll come for two years. We used to get a lot of Germans. We're not getting quite as many Germans as we did before, but it's not unusual for people to come with their own money. And then we treat them like research associates. They're young people and they've got they're probably a year or two away from their PhD and they come for a limited term.

Deken: So, would you say that this Theory Group is kind of a magnet for theorists? It sounds like it.

Jensen: Yeah, I think so. I think, it's hard to come to California and live as comfortably as you would someplace else. And yet we always get large, huge numbers of applicants. And if you come here, you're bound to meet the most interesting people in the field at one point or another. I mean, in the summer or passing through or whatever. So, for a young person, it's a very good place to come. We do have people who don't accept our offers. Usually, it's because MIT or Harvard has offered them something better and it's less expensive, believe it or not, to live there than it is to live here.

Deken: Cambridge is less expensive?

Jensen: Well, I... I guess if you're moving across the country and, young postdocs don't make a lot of money, but it's only for a short time. So, I think that's why so many people are interested in coming. And what I've seen over the years is all the postdocs coming back and they're so happy to be back and so nice to be in an area that they know and remember and usually they remember it fondly because they're not faculty, they don't have any teaching duties, so it's kind of a carefree time.

Deken: So [they've] been just able to focus on their research. So, you started out working for Pierre Noyes, and then it was Sid Drell?

Jensen: Right, although I didn't do, he had Bobbie. And then after Sid, [we] had Dick Blankenbeckler. Oh, and he was what, maybe five or six years, head of the group. And then we were talking about it the other day. I think it was 1994. Stan Brodsky took over as head of the group. And then probably in 2000, Michael took over as head of the group, Michael Peskin.

Deken: And he's head now, right?

Jensen: He's head now. And I suspect when Michael steps down, Lance Dixon will take over. But I don't know.

Deken: And wasn't the library answerable to the Theory Group? When did that change?

Jensen: Sometime during Dick Blankenbeckler's tenure.

Deken: Okay. So was the library considered part of the ...

Jensen: Only on our organization chart. And Dick was very involved with things going on. They, the library, somehow answered to Theory and then to the head of the Research Division, who was, who? It could have been...

Deken: Joe Ballam?

Jensen: Yeah.

Deken: Yeah. Well, now I think Michael Peskin is head, chair of the Library Committee, so there's still a ...

Jensen: Yeah. And before that involvement, uh, Stan Brodsky was involved in the library committee.

Deken: Right. So, there's still a trace of that relationship or maybe the same relationship, but you were actually physically co-located on this floor when you started and then when they moved, did they move down to where they are now? [Building 040, 2nd floor.]

Jensen: Mm-hmm

Deken: So that's where they've been since that move. Okay. So, it's not been a lot of change. Other changes that you've noticed over the years? SLAC culture?

Jensen: We're all getting older. So, we're seeing a lot of emeritus professors that continue to stay on. And I mean, I think that's a wonderful thing and everybody's really happy, but we've got offices that belong to people who are never here... So, I keep looking at the offices,

Deken: ...speaking as the woman who has the big chart.

Jensen: And we're also attracting, uh, we have now a couple of very influential physicists who have retired and settled in the area who have access. And so that's another group of people that will be here.

Deken: What about among the, the young doctoral candidates and post docs? Have you noticed any changes over the years of sort of the type of person who's been working in the field?

Jensen: Well, I don't know what they're doing, but I know that the focus of the physics they're doing changes. So, one thing that I've noticed lately is that there's kind of a tug of war between campus and SLAC. And it has string theorists versus phenomenologists. And so that gives you kind of....

[Transition to tape B: unrecorded discussion about other "historic" events, including 1971 Klystron Gallery bombing...]

Jensen: down in the end station.

Deken: What about that? I've seen some photos of it. Someone set that or was that naturally occurring?

Jensen: I thought they thought it was sabotage that brought the FBI in, I think, to investigate. I don't remember it disrupting our routine very much. It was just something everyone was talking about. I was amazed at this power outage last year. I had never seen anything like that.

Deken: In your entire tenure at SLAC?

Jensen: Absolutely, to be off for 3 days with some kind of a malfunction. It was just amazing. We used to have brownouts, I remember, very often. You'd shut everything off. The A/C would go down to try to protect the computer building because they didn't want to lose power.

Deken: Now was that part of the energy crisis in the '70s?

Jensen: Yeah

Deken: What about the "Scrooge Days?" Do you remember those?

Jensen: Yes, I do. I thought it was pretty well done. It didn't really impact you very much, because you knew it in advance, and you could plan on it, and it seemed like a good way to try to solve the problem. It was ok with me. Even though money was tight.

Deken: Did life in the Theory Group change when the directors changed, like from Panofsky to Richter, Richter to Dorfman?

Jensen: No, not SLAC Directors. When Dick Taylor took over as head of the Research Division, it was difficult. He has a style that makes you cringe, so there was a lot of trouble in the early... Things didn't run smoothly between Dick Taylor and Dick Blankenbeckler, because that's when Dick Blankenbeckler came over as head of the group. And I don't know how candid I should be? I always thought that it was, up until that time... Sid Drell was head of the Theory Group, and he was also the Deputy Director, and he had a lot of clout, and he built a very strong Theory Group. And I think some of the experimental groups were unhappy with how strong the Theory Group was and then when Sid stepped down, Dick took over, Dick Blankenbeckler took over. And at the same time Dick Taylor took over from Joe Ballam, and he... Everything we asked for, he denied, and every approval you wanted you didn't get... I only saw a little bit, and I might not understand what was going on, but we were happy to see him go someplace else.

Deken: Was he head of the Research Division for very long?

Jensen: No, I don't think he was. I don't think... He just, he's a micro-manager, I don't think it was just us, although I think we got the brunt of it--but I think it was everybody. It was a difficult time. Things didn't go as smoothly.

Deken: Then after Dick Taylor stepped down as head of the Research Division, was it Charlie Prescott?

Jensen: Yes, and that was fine, things worked well.

Deken: And then after Charlie, it was David Leith. So, who was head of the Research Division had more of a day-to-day impact?

Jensen: Yes, from my point of view.

Deken: Is there anything you wish I had asked you about?

Jensen: I think we've hit on the things that I've really seen changes in. I've been here so long that people kind of leave me to myself. I know what needs to be done, and I do it and all that. So, I'm a little... I don't know how to say this, it seems like a waste of time to have to get two signatures on every.... I tried to order some Stanford maps last year and goodness sakes, I had to fax someone's approval to someone else in order to get them to release it, because Stanford maps are not on our list of approved things, and I thought, 'Boy, I've spent the last 45 minutes trying to get Stanford maps, there must be a better way to do this.' In some ways it's very frustrating, because you can't accomplish things easily. It's much more difficult to accomplish anything. And I can understand the reasons for some of it. One of the problems with ordering supplies, I guess, at some point, some secretary at some point took advantage, and we're all paying the price for that. So, it's a little frustrating.

Deken: The bureaucracy has grown?

Jensen: And that was probably what was nice about being so new. We weren't even online in 1966 when I came here, so there weren't all these procedures in place.

Deken: I think life was just very different. The government was less bureaucratic back then.

Jensen: Oh, yes, and because we were new, we didn't have the established procedures that they did have on campus. And the people I've talked to that have come from campus to SLAC in the early days would say, "Oh, it's so nice to be up here and not have to worry about whatever it is."

Deken: So, campus was more bureaucratic even back then?

Jensen: And you can't blame that on the DOE. You know, I think it's just being an established organization and trying to make things work. As time goes on it gets less and less easy to get things done, or at least it seems.

Deken: In your 40 years at SLAC, if you think about what has happened that you think is historic, what comes to mind?

Jensen: I don't know, you mean with regard to SLAC?

Deken: Or just where something happened, you though, well, I'm here seeing...

Jensen: Well, the web of course! SLAC had the first web in the United States. And when that first started, everybody was excited about it but didn't realize what it meant, where we were going with it. I guess it was probably the most significant thing that I can remember in the last 40 years. And the way technology has evolved, the office routine and all that is more interesting to me, I guess, because I like computers. I like being able to take care of things

with regard to visitors and all that. I'm always getting messages, and somebody would say, "Hi, from Berlin" or "Here I am in Australia," but you can still converse and take care of what's required, and that makes it nice.

Deken: In the old days, how did you do that if they were overseas?

Jensen: Well, I can remember trying to get a telegram to somebody in Russia one time. The last resort was a telegram. You'd try to call first, and then a telegram.

Deken: Was it pretty involved to call internationally in the beginning?

Jensen: We went through the SLAC operator. We had an operator. And you would just tell them who you'd want to talk to, and they'd do it.

Deken: And then they'd call you back when they had the call put through?

Jensen: I remember during the earthquake, I got telephone calls, I got emails from everybody all over the world, because they figured that I might be here--that somebody else might be out of town but I was there. And as fast as I could, I would say, "Nobody we know was hurt, everything's fine: no permanent damage." We really got a lot of interaction from a lot of people about that.

Deken: So, the web, and technology changes, and the earthquake...

Jensen: One thing I've enjoyed is watching people grow in their careers--I mean the people that were once graduate students are now retiring--really nice people so that's been very stimulating. I think that's what's going to bother me most about being retired is missing all these interesting people that come through with all these great ideas.

Deken: Now when you see people come through, if they start out as doctoral students, do a large percentage of them stay in the field, as physicists?

Jensen: Well, most of the people stay in the field, and they stay in the academic environment. They go on to be professors, and they teach, or they head departments. The ones that don't, usually go into industry and they triple their salaries and become millionaires. But there aren't that many jobs in physics so at some point, you have to decide which direction you're going to go. I don't know the percentages. Most of the people that came through SLAC were really at the top of the field. So, when the faculty jobs were being offered, these were the guys and the women that applied, and they got them.

Deken: You tend to see them over their whole career?

Jensen: We just had a visit last week from one of the graduate students. We were reminiscing about our 1968 or '69 years. He's still a professor at MIT, but he's working with a government program in Pakistan to establish a university for women and minorities in physics, and he's really excited about that, and I thought, "Wow, you've come a long way!"

People like that are really nice to see. Because I've mostly been the only person, I've had help over the years, but for the most part, I've worked by myself, people had to meet me and had to talk to me. So, they come back, and everybody has been nice. You almost never meet anyone who's a pain in the neck, because they're happy that you're here, they're happy you can help them, they're happy to be in California, they like the good weather, the physics is interesting, they have no responsibilities—academic—they don't have to teach. So, people are pretty happy when they get to SLAC, so that translates into a nice environment.

Deken: Ok, I'm out of questions. Thank you so very much for all your time. This has been really interesting. I've learned a lot about the Theory Group. I know much more than I did before we started here. I hope you have a great retirement

Jensen: You're welcome. I know it'll be different.