

neutron absorption by the impurities was measured by the activation produced in indium metal foils. This was an extremely elegant method which Fermi improvised in one day, it seemed, just out of discussion of this problem of control analyses for the purity of uranium.

The problem of the purity of uranium was solved. The problem of pure graphite was solved. The chain reaction did run, and plutonium is now made in very large quantities. It was a very great experience for all of us to have been in contact with people like Arthur Compton, Leo Szilard, Enrico Fermi, Sam Allison, Herbert McCoy, James Franck, Thorfin Hogness, Warren Johnson, and many, many others that regrettably I cannot name. It was a great human experience!



*Glenn T. Seaborg in
Room 405 in 1942.*

GLENN T. SEABORG Next, I would like to call on Milton Burton who was the chief of the section on Radiation Chemistry. Milton and his group of some 40 or 50 chemists tested, under the radiation conditions that would exist in the actual production, all the materials from the production reactor to the chemical extraction process. In order to do this they used Van de Graaff accelerators at Notre Dame University and MIT and cyclotrons at Berkeley and Washington University. This was an important part of the project because these materials had to stand up under the radiation in order for the project to be successful.