

Physics, edited by Bogdan Maglich, we have a rather good description by Al Ghiorso of the discovery of element 101.

Now I am going to show you the "piece d' resistance." Actually as I have indicated, we have here the unique situation that the discoverers were filmed just a few months after the discovery experiment in a sequence recreating the experiment. Now I happened to have a print of this in my files. Al Ghiorso reminded me that the film existed. I then looked into my files and we found this old film in the warehouse where they keep these things. It is not the greatest in the world, but I think it is good enough for you to be able to recognize the participants in action. And with that, roll the film: (Film shown at this point.)

I am not sure this film was received with the respect that it deserves. Actually, I do not think that the predictions I made at that time were so bad. You must recall that we had not begun to use heavy ions yet, and, of course, everything beyond element 101 was out in the unknown. I do hope that some of the young actinide chemists who are present in the audience this afternoon got some tips on how to carry on their work in this region. Yes, I think there were some practices there that wouldn't be allowed today, even to the extent perhaps of not being allowed to show the samples of actinide elements as I did on educational T.V. I noticed, however, that I didn't have plutonium among those that I demonstrated. I do not recall whether there was a prohibition against that even at that time.