

Introduction of Albert Ghiorso

Dr. Seaborg

Now we get on to the first of those among us who are going to reminisce a bit today, and that is Albert Ghiorso. I am going to dispense with any long introduction. We all know Albert. He began his career as a nuclear chemist at the Metallurgical Laboratory of the University of Chicago in 1942. It was there, after carrying on some of the essential war-work, that he could go on to broader investigations that led to the discovery of the next two transuranium elements, elements 95 and 96, americium and curium. He returned to the University of California, the Radiation Laboratory here on the hill, in 1946 and in the intervening years has been the key person in the synthesis and identification, that is the discovery of, all of the heavier transuranium elements, up to and including element 106. Albert...

Reminiscences

Albert Ghiorso

In thinking about what I should say at this 25th anniversary of the discovery of mendelevium, I decided that it might be of interest to tell the story of how the idea originated for this unique experiment—the bombardment of a nearly weightless target to make a new element, one atom at a time.

I used to find that when I went on trips I would inevitably get new ideas; this particular one occurred on a plane trip to Idaho. Bernie and Stan