The Physics Department lived through interesting times before the Hennings building was built.

1920: T. C. Hebb makes Head of Department, A. E. Hennings hired.

1925: UBC moves to the Point Grey Campus; Physics moves into the Science Building (now Block D of the Chemistry Building, the oldest building on UBC campus).

1934: George Volkoff* receives a BA and the Governor General’s Gold Medal.

1937**: Shuichi Kusaka (left), President of the UBC Physics Society, receives a BA and the Governor General’s Gold Medal, also going on to a PhD with J. Robert Oppenheimer, and later becoming a Professor at Princeton. He worked with Paul, Wheeler and others on cosmic ray physics before his life was cut short in a tragic swimming accident in 1947.

1939: Ken Mann hired as Assistant Professor, later going on to distinguished WWII career developing centimetric “286” radar for the allied navies, and returning to UBC as, amongst other things, Department Head.

1942: Hennings Building* opens and continues to be the home of UBC Physics & Astronomy now.

1943: Thomas Collins receives a BA, later going to receive UBC’s first ever PhD (under Volkoff, in 1950), becoming an accelerator physicist (inventing “Collins’s Inserts”), and eventually Associate Director of Fermilab during its construction and early years of operation.

1947: UBC opens in the “Fairview Shacks” at 10th and Laurel. Four physics courses offered in the Faculty of Arts (later Arts and Science).

1933: Patrick McTaggart-Cowan receives a BA; he later went on to be a Rhodes Scholar, Royal Air Force Chief Meteorologist in WWII responsible for all ferry flights across the Atlantic, and first President of SFU.

1935: Kenneth McKenzie receives a BA, going on to a PhD with Lawrence at Berkeley, and co-discovering astatine, element 85.

1935*: Robert Christy (below) receives a BA and the Governor General’s Gold Medal, going on to a PhD with J. Robert Oppenheimer at Berkeley, and a significant role in the Manhattan Project. The “Christy Fit” is the design of the plutonium core at the heart of an implosion bomb.

1926: Gordon Shrum* hired as Assistant Professor; Walter Gage awarded an MA.

* Subject of another poster

** Subject of another poster