Julien “Clint” Sprott

It’s been fifty years since I lived in Memphis and several decades since my last visit, but I fondly recall my teenage years at Central High. You may remember me as a major in ROTC, a ham radio operator, one of Mr. Wharton’s pet students, and an antagonist of Mr. Meeks. I used to train the sponsors to march, which they were very good at, and that helped me to overcome my shyness with girls and led me to “go steady” with the late Suzanne Blair, whom you elected as the most athletic girl in our class and who went on to a successful career of her own as a professor of physical education at a small college in Texas.

After graduation I enrolled at MIT and received a Bachelor’s degree in physics, and then went to the University of Wisconsin at Madison where I received a Ph.D. I then took a job in the Thermonuclear Division at the Oak Ridge National Lab in Tennessee for two years before returning to the University of Wisconsin where I spent the remainder of my career as a professor of physics. I retired in 2008, but I continue with research, supervising students, and giving seminars and public lectures, hardly any different than life before retirement, except for fewer annoyances, more freedom, and more income.

On the personal side, I was married from 1965 until 1973 to a nurse I met in Boston, after which I enjoyed perhaps a bit too much my 37 years of active bachelorhood, and finally decided to settle down and remarry just this year. I’ve had no children but students too numerous to count and many hobbies including flying airplanes, dancing, and writing textbooks and other specialized technical papers. I just finished writing my eighth book.

If you are curious to know more, visit my extensive website at http://sprott.info. I’m writing my memoirs, an early, incomplete draft of which at http://sprott.info/memoirs.pdf includes memories of Central High toward the end of Chapter 4.