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I no longer remember whether it was the end of 1960 or the beginning of 1961, when the announcement of the Les Houches Summer School in the French alps was placed at the corridor of our institute. We were passing it by, without particular excitement, as it was clear to us that the chance of us going there was close to zero.

Nonetheless, this announcement triggered an idea. While we couldn't go there, perhaps we could organise something similar ourselves! After all, Cracow is close to mountains, not as massive as Alps but also very attractive.

Once again I am betrayed by my memory and I am not sure whose idea it was. What I am sure of is that it was my wife who wrote the application for the financial support to the University authorities. Perhaps I should add that, being the treasurer of the University Sport Club, she knew very well how to deal with authorities in such matters.

Rector agreed to pay for 10 days of lodging in a mountain hut at Turbacz, a hill (1310 meters above sea level), located about 50 miles south of Cracow. Food and drinks were left at our expense. Since all of the kitchen products had to be transported from the valley in a small carriage pulled by a donkey, the place was rather expensive. Our solution was simple: every day one of us was sent down to bring less pricey food in a large backpack. The only thing we've been ordering from the kitchen was hot water, because it was free.

With the exception of one associate professor who was actually our teacher at the faculty and thus somewhat older, we were all young assistant professors (I myself was 25) planning to be teachers and students at the same time. Lectures covered very scattered topics, from CBS mechanism of superconductivity through Mandelstam representation to cosmology. The place was of course completely unprepared for such an event. We came with our own equipment: Józek Namysłowski constructed a folding blackboard which he then carried up the mountain. And of course chalk and sponge were also brought by us.

Already on the first day we had to pass an exhausting exam: although we had started climbing the hill in beautiful weather, we were caught in a terrible storm on our way up. Next day we attended the lectures in pyjamas.

I don't think we've learned much physics but the pleasure and excitement were really great. Perhaps the most important result were the friendships created during this experience which stayed firm forever. I think that actually it allowed the survival of the group through all of the political storms we experienced under the communist rule.

On the last day we were even visited by the head of our department, Professor Jerzy Rayski. This gave us the occasion to prepare a small "banquet" with the sheep cheese (local speciality) and a bottle of wine.

We had certainly no idea that we were creating history. The history of the Cracow School of Theoretical Physics which later turned out to be -for many years- an almost unique window to the world for polish high-energy physicists and thus played important role, I think, in the difficult road the polish high-energy physics had to pass through all these years. When I think about it, I still cannot refrain from astonishment on this incredible continuity, believe me, not very typical to the citizens of the wonderful country located along the Vistula river.

Even the marshall law could not stop the organisers.

Thus let me finish by expressing my most sincere thanks to all people engaged in the organisation of the school, allowing this amazing durability and continuity of the event. There are of course too many to be listed. It is impossible, however, not to single out one man who, long ago, took the full responsibility for the School and to whom we own the possibility to celebrate this anniversary today. Dear Michał, I would like to thank you for your effort, your commitment and your enthusiasm. And of course I wish you all the best for the future.

Let me also thank two people who left their durable imprint on the history of the school which I will not mention by names. Let me just quote one of our guests who at the end of one of the schools summarised his impressions, saying: I would like to thank the organisers of the school and their HUSBANDS.

Thanks are also due to all professors and students, particularly foreign, who supported us, particularly in the most difficult and demanding times.

Finally, let me express the conviction that the school will continue without interruption till the end of the world and one day more.