

Charlie Mlsner re John Toll:

John Toll carried the full file of Department business in his head at all times. Whenever he passed someone in the hall or at tea he could take up any pending questions with them and get whatever-it-was settled on the spot. An extreme example was when he met my wife Susanne on the steps of the Copenhagen cathedral as we were departing from our wedding ceremony there in June 1959. John moved quickly from offering her his good wishes to his Department agenda: "I hope you will encourage Charlie to come to Maryland." (John was spending some sabbatical time at the Bohr Institute that spring. I was there on a Sloan Fellowship, but I was also courting the daughter of one of Bohr's old friends.)

Thanks to the support and warm hospitality that John's mother Merle brought to John's recruitment campaign, he did (in 1963) get me to come, joining many others in his growing Department. Since Merle's death, Debbie has had to take over such responsibilities. An old Toll family friend, Gertrude Gray (Ashburn Farm) wrote to Susanne about John's wedding: "I am enclosing ... a picture of Debbie who is very pretty and, I am told, is quite brilliant and so can help John in many ways. All the Tolls were there -- even Oliver came back from Europe -- so you felt that Merle must be also. I know that she would be happy that John was finally getting married."