

MY RETINAE

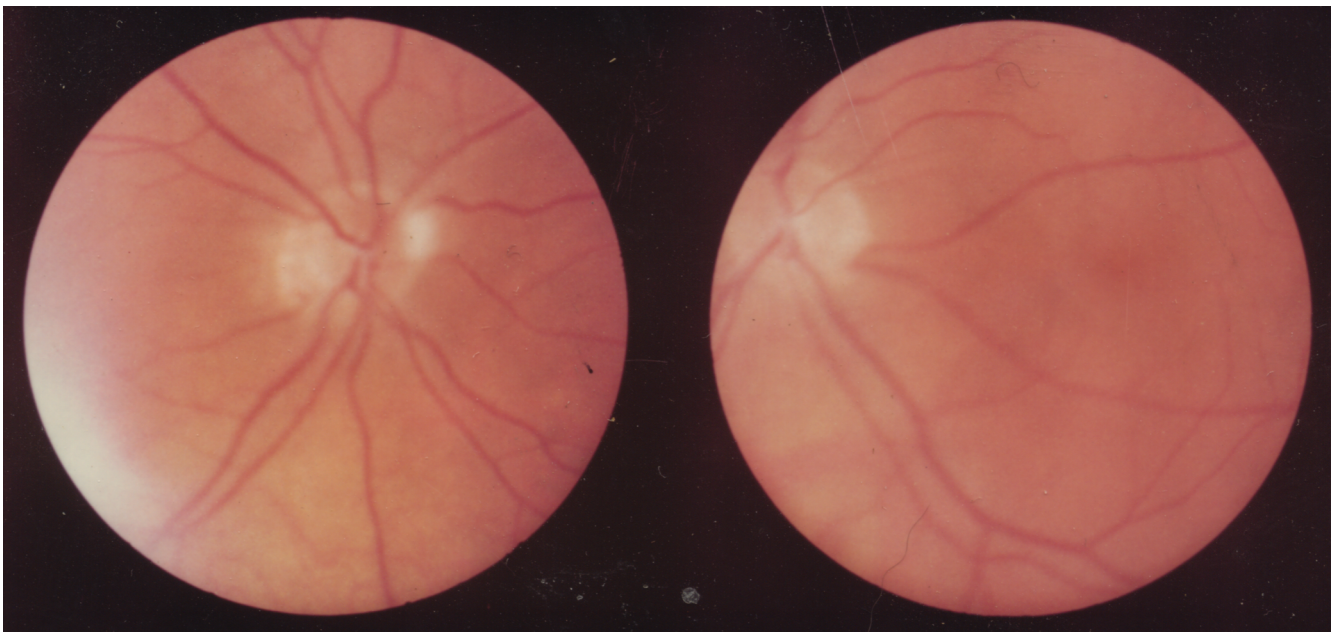
I have this Polaroid Type 108 Color Photograph of the inside of my eyeballs as proof that I had my retinas recorded to become Laser Qualified when I worked at Fermilab. The world's largest pulsed Ruby laser ever built for holographic purposes resided there as part of Experiment 633, the last run of the 15' Bubble Chamber, which was to find some kind of quark.

Fermilab Administration needed proof of any pre-existing eye damage for insurance purposes, so there was a ritual amongst the Holography Group of driving the examinee to the clinic and then to a bar afterwards. (The Physicists did like to party!) This was always in the latter part of the day, because the examination entailed having the pupils of both eyes dilated for the Fundus Camera.

The bright flash for the photograph may have been as bright or brighter than the laser, but since it's not focussed to a small spot the ophthalmologists deem it eye safe. They took shots with a special Nikon 35mm camera and since I was asking a lot of questions they treated me to my own copy by taking more pictures with a special Polaroid camera.

The fovea is that yellowish spot sort of in the center, although the left eye is not looking straight forward. The blood vessels are radiating out of the blind spot. There is another yellow artifact in the eye, which they said was a fatty deposit. (How did it get in my eye!)

We went to a bar on the Fox river, and it was not uncomfortable with the pupils dilated, but it was hard to focus on things and there were halos around everything. But after a couple of hours things were back to normal and I could ride my motorcycle home.



LEFT

RIGHT