TEK RETIREE NEWS

Tektronix Retiree Volunteer Program TRVP

Web Page: www.tekretirees.org A Newsletter for and by Tek Retirees February 2013

How vintageTEK came into being

by: Paul Thompson

The Grand Opening of the vintageTEK Museum of Tektronix oscilloscopes and related instruments was held the weekend of September 16 to 18, 2012. This grand opening was announced in an article in the Oregonian on September 17 and described in the November 2012 issue of the Tek Retirees Newsletter. There are now over 400 individual instruments on display at the museum, ranging from the 511 oscilloscope to the 11000 series instruments. The museum exists largely through the efforts of Stan Griffiths and Ed Sinclair.

Here is a bit of history as to how vintageTEK came into being:

Stan Griffiths was first hired into Tektronix in 1960 as a calibration engineer, where his job was to calibrate oscilloscopes right off the production line, occasionally requiring minor repairs on the instruments to permit them to meet standard specifications. After a couple of years as a calibration engineer, he was transferred to field maintenance service in Beaverton and then spent two years as a field maintenance engineer at two different Tektronix field offices in the Los Angeles area. In 1966, he resigned from Tek, and he and another scope maintenance colleague formed Mobile Scope, a company offering on-site maintenance of scopes. In 1970, Mobile Scope fell on bad times, and Stan reapplied for employment with Tektronix and was offered a job as field engineer in Boston. After three years in the Boston area he transferred back to Beaverton where he ultimately became a field engineer for spectrum analyzers and other frequency domain instrumentation covering customers in Oregon, Washington, and Alaska.

The first glimmering of what ultimately led to the founding of the vintageTEK occurred one day when Stan was calling on one of the labs at the University of Washington. He noted a non-working Tektronix oscilloscope being used as a door stop. He asked about it and was told that this was one of about 20 non-working scopes that needed repairs but were held up because of the cost of maintenance at the Tektronix repair station. This played right into the hand of Stan who had developed a high degree of competence in the repair of non-working Tek scopes during his early years at Tektronix. Stan made them a deal: he would repair and calibrate one scope for them, at no charge, if they would give him three of the other non-workers. They accepted, and Stan repeated the offer until he owned about 15 non-working but generally, for himself, easily repairable scopes.

That got him started collecting used Tektronix scopes and other Tektronix instruments. At one point at an estate sale he bought 300 oscilloscopes for $800. His reputation as a scope collector spread, and soon there were other individuals and organizations who had unused and/or non working scopes in their possession and who were glad to have Stan take them off their hands. In the February 2002 issue of the Tek Retiree News is an article in Stan's own words where he estimated that he then had about 1150 instruments. He states in the article, "More arrive here than leave. I am not anxiously looking for more instruments; I do not have the space. Even though my storage space is at a premium, I can always find enough room to save old Tek instruments from the landfill." He also talks at that time about the possibility of setting up and running a museum of old Tektronix instruments.

Enter Ed Sinclair: Ed joined Tektronix in 1968 as a Field Engineer trainee. After finishing FE training, he was assigned as a Field Engineer to the Alhambra field office. In 1972 he was promoted to Tektronix Account Manager for the US Army where he was stationed at the Cherry Hill, NJ, field office. In 1977 he took a position in Beaverton as Accessories Business Unit Marketing Manager until 1983 when he resigned from Tek. In 1987 he returned to Tek as a consultant and implemented the Mobile Calibration service which provided customer on-site site calibration on Tektronix products and on other companies products as well.

He had heard of Stan's collection of Tek used instruments for a number of years; he finally viewed it in 2008, and "was awash with memories of my days as a Field Engineer." Almost immediately he and Stan set about to establish vintageTEK as a 501(c)(3) non-profit charitable museum. vintageTEK was formed and registered with the state of Oregon and the IRS in 2008. Initially the primary purpose of the museum was to raise money to obtain property and build a suitable building for the museum.

After announcing the museum and beginning to raise funds, more than 900 instruments were donated or lent to vintageTEK by other folks, largely other Tektronix ex-employees. At present, less than two dozen of the instruments on display in the museum are on loan from Stan or others -- the rest are owned by vintageTEK.

VintageTEK is presently located in a strip mall at 4620A SW Beaverton-Hillsdale Road under an extremely attractive lease provided by the owner, Gary Hoselton, who is also a former Tektronix employee. A major current goal of vintageTek is to get enough financial support through donations and grants to build a more suitable location for the museum, and to develop and eventually operate a STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) education program through the museum. If you are not acquainted with STEM, look up "STEM training" on the internet.

Tektronix Hams

The Tektronix Hams list is posted by Neil Robin and kept current at:
http://tekretirees.org/ and it is easily accessed at the 'Other' button from the 'Tek Hams' line.

TekWeek 50 Years Ago

News in the Tek world! *Snow! In case of heavy snow, employees are told to listen to radio station KEX for announcements on whether Tek will work. A Washington County deputy called at 1:00am January 14th to warn of treacherous roads, and Grounds employees were sanding by 2:30am, spreading 40 yards of fine crushed rock with their brand-new sander. As they were finishing, the truck slid into a curb at Sunset plant and broke a wheel. Tek opened on time Monday morning, but temperature dropped to 20 degrees in the warehouse, providing coffee-cicles for employees. This was followed by a silver thaw, resulting in a lot of free wood being available to employees on first-come basis. *Tek accepts orders for new T519C CRT prototypes, which raises 519 oscilloscope capability from 1 gigacycle (1000 mc) to 3 gigacycle signals. It is available in a modification kit for $1500 or in a new scope for an additional $500. The February issue of "Microwave" magazine features it with a cover picture and an article written by Cal Hongel, Larry Simpson, and George Hashizume. *The Oregon State Industrial Accident Commission suggested reducing air line pressure to 40PSI in the plant, which is below what some processes need, so F&M's Manufacturing Engineering designed and built a nozzle adapter which reduces air pressure and increases flow, available for $1.50 each and 300 already in use. *Credit manager Ken Knox moved Tek's accounts receivable work to an IBM 1410 computer at Multnomah Data Processing Center in downtown Portland, a cost savings that will increase profit share by 35¢ annually per employee. *Howard Vollum was elected temporary treasurer of the 15-man Portland Graduate Center advisory committee, which hopes to establish, in the metropolitan area, a center for advanced research and graduate study. *In 1960, Tek decided to bring CRT stem production in-house, due to supply and quality problems. The stem is the glass structure containing the lead wires from the base to the internal elements of the CRT. Jack Smits, Bela Kirchberger, Charlie Porches, and Joe Van Lunen developed the machinery. When CRT moved into its new building in 1962, 200 stems were produced each day. That just increased to 1600 per day by automating the annealing process. *Five Teks will attend the International Solid-State Circuits conference in Philadelphia; they are Norm Winningstad, Chuck Edgar and Sam McCutcheon from Instrument Design Engineering and John Maticich and Bill Myers from Research. *Patent Infringement Suit progress: In February 1961, Tek filed suit against the government for giving contracts to other firms to produce Type 535 and 545 oscilloscopes. At the 1961 WESCON show, Lavoie Labs offered for sale to military and commercial customers an oscilloscope remarkably like the 535, lawsuits were traded, and Lavoie agreed to not contest findings of validity and infringement in our suit of the government. In February, attorneys for Hickok and the U.S. government were here to take depositions from Dick Ropiequet, Bill Polits, John Kobbe, and Bill Webber, and Tek will take Hickok and government depositions in April. A quick resolution is hoped for. (Tek finally received an award in this successful suit in 1975.) *The very first communications satellite, the Bell Telephone Labs "Telstar", was inadvertantly shut off by false pulses, and Field Engineer Bill Pyle of the Union NJ field office reports that the only delay generator which afforded reproducible signals was the Tek 160 series, and it was a signal from the 160 series which turned Telstar back on. He mentioned that the people involved are more impressed with the 160 series than any other instrumentation they are using.

by: Gary Hoselton

The Panama Canal

by: Judy Watkins

In November 2012 we took a cruise vacation that included passage through the Panama Canal and I realized that we were witnessing history in the making. First, I would like to say that unlike my earlier beliefs, the Panama Canal is not one canal linking the Pacific and Atlantic Oceans, but a series of waterways. The purpose of the locks system is to allow ships to cross over the continental divide. If the material removed on the original construction were put on railroad flatcars it would circle the globe four times. It is mind-boggling to imagine a project of that magnitude accomplished in a time before modern equipment was available. When traveling from the Pacific to the Atlantic the route includes:

The Bay of Panama
Minaflores Locks (2 lifts)
Minaflores Lake
Pedro Miguel Locks (1 lift)
Culebra Cut (see notes at end)
Galun Lake (54 feet above the Pacific Ocean)
Galun Locks (3 lifts)
Caribbean Sea and Atlantic Ocean

A third set of locks is under construction and will be completed in time for the canal's 100 year anniversary in 2014. To appreciate the significance of the event the history of the current system should be reviewed.

The Panama Canal was completed on August 15, 1914 and inaugurated when the SS Ancom passed through the canal. The canal was built by the United States and managed by them until December 31, 1999 when it was turned over to Panama per a treaty negotiated in 1977. On May 12, 1963 new florescent lights were installed allowing around-the-clock operations. History was made again on September 4, 2010 when the ship Fortune Plum became the millionth ship to pass through the canal.

The expansion program broke ground on September 2, 2007 and the largest contract was awarded in August 2009 for the design and construction of the locks. The expansion will add a third lane of traffic and will double the canal's capacity by serving the larger ships that are used in today's worldwide trade. The expansion project addresses environmental issues including: reforestation, wildlife rescue and archeological rescue. In addition, the larger ships using the shorter route will

reduce global emissions of $C0_2$ and help mitigate climate change. The new rolling gates are more efficient and easier to maintain and the water re-utilization system will save 60% of the water actually used.

The main parts of the new expansion include:

- Deepening the Pacific and Atlantic canal entrances.
- Making the channel to Gatun Lake deeper and wider.
- Building locks and water-utilization basins on both the Pacific and Atlantic sides.
- Raising the maximum operational level of Gatun Lake.
- Digging a new access channel that is almost four miles long on the Pacific side.

To help picture the project, the sizes are listed below of the old and the new: The original locks are 1000 feet long and 110 feet wide and accommodate ships 965 feet long and 106 feet wide. The new locks will be 1,400 feet long and 180 feet wide and will accommodate ships 1,200 feet long and 160 feet wide.

I was impressed by this visit and hope that my summary will help you to better understand when the world celebrates the 100 year anniversary in 2014.

Culebra Cut: In July 1906, A.B. Nichols was appointed Office Engineer at Culebra, a position he held until he left Panama in 1914. At Culebra he would have seen the mountain range, nine miles wide and 550 feet high, that proved the most difficult challenge of the canal construction. The design for the channel to be cut through the mountains specified a width of 670 feet at the top. But the sides kept breaking loose and sliding into the trench, and the width at top eventually was almost three times as large. Although the huge American steam shovels could remove five times the amount of material than the machines used by the French could move at the start of the project, only dynamite could break the layers of rock that had to be blasted away. On December 12, 1908, twenty-three workers died when 44,000 pounds of dynamite exploded prematurely. It was the worst accident of the canal project, and happened at Bas Obispo in the Culebra Cut. One of Nicols's notebooks contains reports on the blast by the Superintendent of Construction and by the Electrical Engineer.

Death Notices — Nov, Dec, 2012, Jan 2013

Adans, Bruce Gibson – 01-18-2013
At Tek: 30+ years
Aldridge, Ann – d. 11-10-2012
At Tek: 13 years
Baynton, Susan 'Ann' – d. 09-07-2012
Brooks, Barbara Rose – d. 12-29-2012
At Tek: ~22 years
Campbell, Ed – d. 10-20-2012
At Tek 23 years
Castillo, Cynthia – d. 09-15-2012
Csergei, Ruth E. – d. 11-07-2012
Cook , James Hugh (Jim) – d. 01-12-2013
Davies, Wilma – d. 11-01-2012
At Tek: 10 years
Edwards, Charles (Mack) – d. 12-01-2012
At Tek: Retired 1993
Freschi, Michael J. – d. 11-05-2012
At Tek: ~3 years
Ekerson, Bernard Allen – d. 12-22-2012
At Tek 25 years
Evans, Jeffrey – d. 11-25-2012
Gerdes, Mary – d. 08-04-2012
Gillespie, Lois M. – d. 11-23-2012
At Tek: 15 years
Wakjer Holmes, May – d: 08-31-2012
At Tek: 20 years
Johnston, Dorothy M. – d. 10-27-2012
At Tek: 24 years
Kephart, Donald – d. 12-24-2012
Korsmyer, Shirley J. – d. 01-08-2011
At Tek 15 years
Leipzig, Robert 'Bob' – d. 12-08-2012
At Tek: 26 years
Loucks, Alta – d. 10-08-2012
At Tek 25 years
Martin, Arline Ruth – d. 01-11-2013
At Tek: 22 years
McCormick, Alice – d. 07-02-2011
Miles, Harold – d. 11-15-2011
At Tek: 27.5 years
Nichols, Cynthia -- d. 09-15-2012
Penson, Robert L. (Lee) – d. 01-15-2013
At Tek: 32+ Years
Prentice, Leon A. – d: 01-08-2013
At Tek: ~33 years
Reynolds, Robert J. (Bob) – d. 8-21-2012
At Tek: 10 years
Rios – Opal Fay (Boutwell) – d. 11-05-2012
At Tek: 10+ Years
Scheufeli, Bernadette – d. 11-27-2012
At Tek: ~11 yuears
Slade, Colin Lawrence Pierce – d. 11-17-2012
Walker, David Albert – d. 09-26-2012
At Tek: 20 years
West, Coleen Sonia – d. 12-04-2012
At Tek: 10 years
Wilkins, E. Sue – d. 8-30-2012

Death Notices

We are no longer able to get death notices or length of service information from Tektronix data base.

We would appreciate any assistance retirees or members of their family can provide us. We have posted here the information we found in obituaries, newspapers or family members or friends who have notified us. We need the name spelled out, date of birth and date of death. Also, we like to include their length of service at Tektronix whenever possible.

The newsletter staff is only in the office on Wednesday from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. each week. We would appreciate it very much if you would notify us of deaths. You may call us at 503-627-4056, or leave a voice mail message if we are not available. Or, you may send us an email at:

tek-retirees@tektronix.com

RETIREE BENEFIT INFORMATION & ADDRESS CHANGE PROCEEDURE

Retiree Medical and/or Life

Anyone who is a past employee with Retiree Medical and/or Life Insurance will need to request information or make changes in writing to A & I. You must include your signature and Social Security number.

Tektronix Post Employment Services
A & I Benefit Plan Administrators, Inc.
1220 SW Morrison St., Suite 300
Portland, OR 97205-2222
Toll Free: 1-800-778-7956
Fax: 503-228-0149

401k Benefit

Anyone who has a 401k benefit must contact Fidelity for information or to change their address directly with them at:

1-800-835-5092

Cash Balance Plan

The Cash Balance Plan has been transferred to Danaher Pension Plan Processing Center with Hewitt. Questions or changes should be directed to:

1-800-580-7526

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Editorial *by: Louis Sowa*

Like most volunteer run organizations we could use more help. Specifically it would be desirable to have more people doing reporting. Judy Watkins continues to provide excellent articles. Paul Thomson has done a couple of great articles for us. He now wants to pursue other interests. We appreciate his contributions There are articles by both of these people in this issue which gives you some idea of the range of subjects we are interested in receiving. Most areas relating to Tek and to activities of retirees are most welcome.

ALL FORMER Tek EMPLOYEES

30th Anniversary of ROBOT's

1:00 pm until 4:00 pm or .....
Beaverton Elks #1989
3500 SW 104th Avenue
Beaverton, Oregon
Phone: 503-646-6116

As in the past, we will be having coffee, tea, water and friendly conversation! I understand there will be some foods available at the Elks galley for sale and other libations. They also have RV camping available at the back parking area for a fee. You *must* call the office and make reservations for the sites. They would like to have an approximate count by May 20.

Since this is a milestone, we would like to have as many ROBOTS as possible in attendance.

We would appreciate all donations possible to help us continue our annual function.

If anyone needs a ride or help, please let me know.

Marge Livermore 503-646-3295

CALENDAR

TERAC
6:00 p.m.
Round Table — Beaverton
Weekly on Friday

Previous Tek-Employees Luncheon
11:30 a.m. 2nd Monday monthly
Peppermill Restaurant
17455 SW Farmington Road #26B
Corner of Farmington & Kinnaman Rd
Aloha, OR 97007
Details: Annetta Spickelmier
503-649-2491

2013 55-ALIVE CLASS
Tektronix Bldg. 50, Beaverton, OR 97077
Bldg. 50 Conference Room – 2H12
20 Person Maximum for Class
March 25 & 26, 2013
8:00 a.m. to 12:00 a.m.
$14.00 per person or AARP Members $12.00
Instructor: Bruce Hollister
Phone: 503-639-4596

Marconi's Cronies
Meet the 2nd Wed of each month
(except July and August)
12:00 p.m.
Tom's Restaurant
3871 SE Division Street
Portland, OR
Jack Riley: 503-235-5267

CRT Luncheons
3rd Tuesday each month
@ 11:30 am
(except June thru August)
Beaverton Izzy's
11900 SW Broadway
Beaverton Town Center
Details: Jack Neff: 503-554-7440
1301 E Fulton St, Apt # 233
Newberg, OR 97132 - 1870

READ YOUR TEK-RETIREE NEWSLETTER ONLINE

Would you like to help save postage and read your Tek-Retiree Newsletter on our webpage? Send your name, address, phone number and email address to: **mlscott@easystreet.net**

Millie will send you a notice when the newsletter is posted each quarter. If your email is changed or rejected for any reason you will receive one phone call to request an update. If you don't respond we will return your newsletter to the US mail list. To preview the web page and previous issues of the newsletter go to:

www.tekretirees.org