

## News from the vintageTEK Museum

The vintageTEK museum is a charitable, educational and scientific museum founded to commemorate the early history of Tektronix and its role in spawning approximately 300 high technology companies in the 'Silicon Forest', the four county, two state metropolitan area around Portland, Oregon. The museum's main goal is to share our knowledge and history and to "pique the interest of young people in science and technology".

The vintageTEK museum opened their doors in 2011 at 4820A SW Beaverton-Hillsdale Hwy, about 15 minutes from the Tektronix campus, thanks to former Tektronix employee Gary Hoselton made the space available at a very affordable rate. In the past 6 years the museum has collected and restored a vast number of products representing the breadth and depth of Tektronix in a variety of scientific and technical markets. In addition to products, the museum has a number of early photographs of Tektronix and employees, training and demonstration films, marketing materials, catalogs, and product manuals that also tell the history of this great company and the impact in the community and technical world.

The museum is supported through donations and items sold on their web store. Their restoration engineers are available to repair, restore, or assist others around the world that collect

vintage Tektronix products. After 6 years in the Beaverton-Hillsdale Hwy location the museum needed to relocate and early in 2016 began looking for a new site.

The museum approached Tektronix with the idea of returning to the Tektronix campus and were able to negotiate a portion of the former Ceramics Plant Building 13, again at a very affordable rate. Volunteers moved the museum in December and have spent January and February preparing for a Grand Opening in the near future.

The museum has need of volunteers to help with the organization of the museum in preparation for opening and for on-going operations. Former Tektronix employee Bob Haas is in charge of volunteers and can let you know how you can help. The best way to reach Bob is to send an email to [contactus@vintagetek.org](mailto:contactus@vintagetek.org) or leave a message on the museum's phone answering machine at (503) 644-0161. Some of you may recognize this as the very early telephone number for Tektronix.

Keep an eye here or on the museum's website <http://www.vintagetek.org> for the Grand Opening in the new location at 13489 SW Karl Braun Drive, Beaverton, OR, 97077. The opening date has not been set yet due to some pending construction work and the remaining work to prepare the space.

The new location consists of a main showroom of products from 1946 to approximately 1990. There is a classroom to support the museum's STEM

outreach program that also has additional displays. There is a documentation room for the many different reference collections, and a main parts-inventory-restoration room. This room features original Tektronix engineering benches which were first used in the Technical Center Building 50 in late 1960s. Those benches are filled with working early and late-model Tektronix equipment used every week to repair and restore donated equipment. The range of years represented in the museum is astounding. There is a vast wealth of information in the museum including Tek Blue was not the original color, and the first product wasn't an oscilloscope.

The museum is a 501(C)(3) organization so contributions are tax-deductible. We greatly appreciate your support in volunteer hours, equipment or cash donations or just to stop by and visit. Watch for the Grand Opening.





## And Speaking of Ceramics...

The current home of RAMS and the vintageTEK museum once held one of Tektronix' critical component manufacturing operations. In order to create high performance circuitry for our products, the early mechanical team created what were called ceramic strips, and they replaced phenolic boards with riveted solder terminals. The demand for these strips led to initiation of our own ceramics facility. Ceramic was blended as a low-moisture powder, then filled into a rotary small punch press, and the "green" strip was ejected and put into "bisque-ware" carriers for batch-firing in the classical cubical ovens. There were several designs, and some of you may have attached them to the finished metal parts in Unit Wiring.

In the early 60's, suppliers of glass for CRT manufacturing were under pressure from TV producers. It quickly became obvious that our demands were small in comparison to those of color TV sets, so prices and leadtimes were going up and quality was coming down.

One of the earliest oscilloscopes to be considered for a ceramic funnel was the 453. It was a big success in the market, and CRT supply was a problem. The project to create these funnels showed the potential for other oscilloscopes as well. A large addition was made with the very visible high arched roof, and inside was a new tunnel kiln that ran a small "train" of cars continuously. By 1966, designs included the eleven-inch storage tubes used in Information Display products, and soon a second addition was put on the north end of the building enabling installation of a second tunnel-kiln.

But another development was responsible for the last addition that held Hybrid Circuit Operations (HCO). Many of our probes and attenuators used single layer and multi-layer ceramics to meet the critical performance needs. Early circuit boards were made of phenolic, and it was known to have a poor characteristic known as "hook." That characteristic would also change if the board could absorb moisture. Phenolic was replaced with epoxy with fiberglass reinforcement, but as circuit speeds increased, the "hook" was still present. The solution was in development of the ceramic hybrids, and by 1970 we introduced multi-layer hybrids made of ceramic.

Eventually, HCO became Max-Tek, and by the late 90's, the ceramics operation was sold to a joint venture with Coors (Golden Colorado) and called Coors-Tek. Another venture of Tektronix' innovation had become a commodity.



Museum Front Door



Building 13

## From the Editor's Desk

February 15, 2017

### Dear readers,

You might note that my letter starts with "from the editor's desk", and it is intentional. Louis Sowa has been the editor for many years, and in the last issue from TVRP, he said that if there was not a volunteer to take of the job, that the newsletter might cease to exist.

As a reader of this newsletter since its inception in about 2002, I felt good about replying to Louis to offer my services. I frequently reflect and comment on the blog site set up by John Gates and I'm a fan of the vintageTek museum. Because I had the good fortune to work in many parts of the company and at many levels, I felt like my work experience and interest in people might fit well.

That said, I'm trying out the remote "editor's desk" from my home here in Corvallis, Oregon. I've watched the content of the TVRP Newsletter change over the years, and also watched the issue size get a bit smaller over time. I'd like to learn about your interests when opening a new issue.

We are a very diverse collection of readers. Will you let me know the kind of stories you like best? Which have captured your attention? Are they perhaps the articles you feel compelled to read all the way through?

For some time, the banner has included Ex Tek, as well. I can only guess at the number of employees who were hired since the doors were opened in 1946. I know that some of you were hired more than once, and that a few returned in time to have your benefits "bridged."

I'd love to hear from you, and to make this newsletter one that appeals to old-timers and short-timers alike. After all, the company was only 19 years old when I joined it, and I was barely past being a teenager, myself.

Regards,  
Bill Gellatly  
At Tek 1965-2002  
[BILL GELLATLY <bgellatly@msn.com>](mailto:BILL.GELLATLY@msn.com) [

## Death Notices

**Beckman, Gary** -d11/29/2016

**Bonte, Vyella** - d2/7/2017 @Tek21 years

**Buck, Alida**, -d12/13/2016 @ Tek 15 years

**Collins, Sharon Lee** -d10/27/2016 @Tek 23 years

**Dougherty, Larry "Larry" Michael** - d5/21/2016 @Tek 21 years

**Ewers, Robert William (Bill)** - d11/17/2016 @Tek 29 years

**Gilbarg, Paul** -d11/20/2016 @ Tek

10 years

**Harman, Evelyn Lois** -d6/20/16 @Tek 11 years

**Hudetz, Lawrence** -d 11/14/2016

**Jameson, Cecelia M.** d-11/4/2016

**Karr, Dorothy M.** -d9/17/2016

**Kirby, John** -d2/13/2017

**Kretschmer, William O.** -d7/24/2016 @Tek 27 years

**Manuel, James C.** -d2/1/2017 @ Tek 30 years

**Nakao, Chizuko** -d1/20/2017 @Tek 18 years

**Sakrisson, Richard Eli** - d2/13/2017 @ Tek 20 years

**Smith, Ethel C (Smitty)** d- 11/12/2016 @ Tek 21 years

**Webb, Robert I.** -d11/23/2016 @Tek 25 years

**Wilbur, Norma** -d1/4/2017

**Zilk, Edward** - d2/1/2017

### RETIREE BENEFIT INFORMATION & ADDRESS CHANGE PROCEEDURE Retiree Medical and/or Life Insurance

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

### Tektronix Retiree Volunteer Program

M/S 22-037  
PO Box 500  
Beaverton, OR 97077 - 0001

Phone: 503-627-4056

Email Address:

Tek-Retirees@Tektronix.com

## **Tek Retiree News**

Editor Bill Gellatly  
Publisher: Open

### **TRVP Staff**

John Addis • Gary Hoselton  
Paul Kristof • Pete Nelson  
Neil Robin • Louis Sowa  
Emeritus: Peggy Jo Berg

Tek Retiree Newsletter is published quarterly by the Tektronix Retiree Volunteer Program. Send all correspondence to Tek Retiree News, M/S 22-037, PO Box 500, Beaverton, OR 97077

**Office Telephone: 503-627-4056**

**Email: [tek-retirees@tektronix.com](mailto:tek-retirees@tektronix.com)**

**Manager's Cell Phone:**

**503-320-0440**

**TRVP Web Page:**

**[www.tekretirees.org](http://www.tekretirees.org)**

## **Tektronix Retiree Volunteer Program**

**M/S 22-037, PO Box 500**

## **TRVP News**

Louis Sowa

In the past quarter we have lost two important TRVP members. Their passing will be greatly missed as they were both significant contributors to our program and both a joy to know.

On the plus side Bill Gellatly has agreed to the role of editor.

### **Jim Manuel**

Jim retired from Tektronix April 1987. Then he volunteered to help with Tektronix Retirees Volunteer program for another 18 years when declining health forced him to quit.

### **Millie Scott**

Millie took on the newly created role of on-line only notification distribution.

We apologize for the delay in publishing this newsletter, should be back to normal in May.

## **CALENDAR**

### **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

### **Redmond Breakfasts**

8:00 a.m. 1st Monday monthly  
Shari's Restaurant; Redmond, OR  
1565 SW Odem Medo Way  
Spouses welcome  
Details: Nick Hughes 541-548-1201

### **TERAC**

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

## **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:

**[tek-retirees@tektronix.com](mailto:tek-retirees@tektronix.com)**

We 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](http://www.tekretirees.org)**

Please send questions, information or correspondence not involving the newsletter online to TVRP at **[tek-retirees@tektronix.com](mailto:tek-retirees@tektronix.com)**