

Recollections From Judie Dunken

I have only fond memories of my time at Tektronix, Inc. from 1963 – 1970 and returning 1979 – 1983.

I began in the Marketing Product Reference Group for Will Marsh. We worked in the Qunset Hut on Barnes Road. I operated what was called a “Justowriter.” One Justowriter punched the tape and the second Justowriter read the tape which justified the content typed onto large sheets that we would then proof and make corrections before sending to printing. The machines were mechanical so you can imagine the noise with 3 of us typing all day long and running the justifier machine.

One of the wonderful aspects of Tektronix was the ability for a young woman such as myself to have “upward mobility.” Managers and co-workers were always helpful and kind. Morale was very high, as were hopes. Tektronix was the “Cadillac” of the industry and you could hold your head high when you said you were a Tek employee. We had coffee breaks, lunch breaks and celebrated co-workers birthdays. There was a viable social network and an attitude of “one for all and all for one”. We were paid profit share and people were conscientious about their work.

From Marketing, I moved to Engineering for Chuck Nolan in Custom Modifications and we got to move to the new Building #50 on the new campus in Beaverton. That felt quite glamorous coming from the old building on Barnes Road. In Engineering I moved to the Model Shop for Slim Sorenson, then the Tube Lab for Bill Brown. All men were good managers and I respected them.

I took a leave in 1970 to be with my children and returned in 1979 to the Engineering Group and ended up in 1981 in Corporate Investment and Analysis and my final position was in Corporate Economics. At that point, I wanted to return to higher education full time and left. Tektronix had changed after de-centralization. However, I had formed some deep and lasting relationships while at Tektronix. The values and culture were uplifting and the leadership gave us much inspiration. Tek gave me a strong basis from which to grow. Much of my business acumen and understanding of organizations has helped me in later business.

[Editor’s note: Judie is now a realtor specializing in properties in the Pearl District. The Justowriter machine from Friden was a special model for the typesetting industry. It had precursor technology for what is a simple button click in today’s software.] https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Friden_Flexowriter

Some Early days of Tek’s Digital Systems Group

Interview and story by Bill Gellatly

In this interview, I am hoping to capture some understanding of Digital Systems, in the rough interval from 1964 to 1969 partly because of the complexity of systems, but also because there were many different approaches to the systems business when taken as an overview of the traditional product orientation of Tektronix’ many burgeoning divisions.

I received a suggestion a few months ago from Gerrit DeVries (Tek-

Holland), that an article from Tom Maclean might be of interest. Tom had been a manager there for a few years, and I recognized his name. That led to my asking Tom if we could chat about those early days.

To back up a bit, I recall seeing a British Racing green Jaguar XKE being parked outside of Building 81, and being a car guy, I wanted to know who owned that nice example of British elegance. I learned that it was owned by Tom, and that he had worked in Digital Systems, but we never got acquainted at that time. He was visiting the Sunset plant with other plans in mind, and I’ll be back to that in a bit. (Morgan Howells followed Tom’s time as Digital Systems’ manager, and his was the earliest name I previously associated with the group.) Tom and I met recently for an interview at a great burger place in Wilsonville.

Heading into his later 80’s, Tom regaled me with stories of this young engineer who had earned a BSEE from Washington State in 1952, flew both propeller and jet fighters in the U.S. Air Force, and while working at Fairchild completed a MBA at UCLA in 1960.

In my conversation, it was clear that Tom was about how to apply systems thinking to component test problems, and perhaps, more importantly, how to do so at the strategic business level. That would all be necessary to keep complex test systems flowing to key customers in the face of rapidly changing semiconductor device technology. He said, “I never wanted to be a circuit designer.”

The classical Tek model of hiring EE’s was to spend time working in

unit wiring, final assembly, test and at calibration benches. This allowed new engineers to get a grasp robust circuit design, how quality design and manufacturing drive reliability, and finally, how published product specifications relate to calibration standards. To build these skills from the ground-up was a very healthy mentality. With Tom's credentials and experience, it is no surprise that in a short time at Tektronix, his "top-down" understanding of these customer's needs was identified, nor is it surprising that he was selected to lead the Digital Systems Group. In passing, he mentioned the very influential roles played by Earl Scott, Mike Park, and King Handley. Tom was hired into Custom & Military Products and spent only a short time there before he was asked to get international experience by heading up operations in Heerenveen (Tek-Holland). Tom had several tales of being there, and his recollections of key people like Don Alvey. Tom wanted to focus our conversation on key aspects of his next job, so that was the flow of our conversation.

Tom returned to Beaverton, but not without an overlap in order to transfer responsibilities to Larry Mayhew, and they build a lasting friendship in that time.

Settled back in Beaverton, he assumed responsibility for the emerging Digital Systems Group. One of the areas he thought Tek could do best was in making the device interfaces, but that required tremendous investment and internal funding was hard to find.

The early systems were groups of oscilloscopes, digital readouts and special cabling to "device under test" stations of varying complexity. Tek's reputation for quality measurements was a given. That quality enabled automated testing at the rapidly-growing semiconductor manufacturers. The early ICs were put in existing metal can transistor packages, but manufacturing quickly went to 8 and 16-pin "dual inline packages" (DIPs). for analog digital logic circuits. They were being put into sockets, tested, and removed manually. Tom wanted Tek to partner with the industry ex-

perts, or for them to provide the automated handling section of the systems, which could dramatically improve testing throughput.

Tom spent a great deal of time assuring that the right level of testing performance was available to companies like Digital Equipment Corporation in Maynard, MA. They did 100% testing of "flip-chip" modules prior to attachment to larger circuit boards.

Larger-scale integrated logic circuits just being introduced, and magazines touted the number of gates in the latest devices.

Commercial microprocessors were still a dream, too.

Tom says that the system I described seeing in the SE corner of Component Engineering was probably an S-3100. (then in the SE corner Plant IV - Bldg. 47). It consisted of several 6-foot high equipment racks with multiple oscilloscopes and 6R1 Digital Readouts with their arrays of flashing Nixie Tubes. The interconnections between all of these pieces of equipment was and remains unknown to me, but I understood that it all enabled Component Engineering (then a part of Pre-Production Engineering) to rapidly test many part parameters, validating the quality and consistency of parts from our many suppliers.

Epilogue

The soft-top Jaguar was delivered to Tom on the Isle of Guernsey a bit over a year prior to returning state-side. Driving it for over a year averted the requirement to pay a stiff import duty. He kept it for thirty years, eventually selling it to a UK buyer for a nice multiple of its original price. He returned to Beaverton and again, looking at the big picture, quickly concluded there was potential for a high-end service bureau for "services computing," an unusual business arena of interest to financial analysts and CPAs in companies with long-term investments like timber. He began conversations with John Griffin, then engineering manager of the group responsible for the design and introduction of the 611 Storage Display, and leading the design of the first reasonably priced GraphicsTerminal, the

say, "John was one of the best engineers I ever knew." Other key players in this new venture was Keith Williams, who had been Tektronix' VP of Sales and Marketing, along with and Beverly Parrot, office manager of the Systems division, and Don Hoffman, a former Tek assistant Regional Sales Manager at Tek. Tom says the newly-formed company was successful because of the quality of these people and several others. It was the only on-line computer services business to succeed and become profitable (out of nine such start-up companies in the Pacific Northwest). It merged into ADP in 1978."

Tom now lives in Charbonneau, enjoying his many passions, and our visit for my interview included a sideline story. Tom was one of several founders of a not-for-profit wine importing operation. Larry Mayhew found willing exporters, and Tom set up the stateside arrangements for pre-purchased wine to be delivered to members of a guild organized for that purpose. Those who had any opportunities to travel to Europe knew that their wines were still considered top-cabin wines. Guys like Dick Erath (another ex-Tek) were also thinking

TEK Trivia Quiz

By Bob Beville

Why was the paper weight replica of the 545 never produced?

Why were Tektronix oscilloscopes on the U.S. State Department's 'strategic Commodities List'?

What was the material used to form the light hood for 5 inch CRT screens?

What was the name of the Tek instructor who narrated the film "Thevinin's Theorem"?

What was the name of the Tek employee who performed as a clown? His clown name?

**Send answers, also potential questions to:
tek-retirees@tektronix.com**

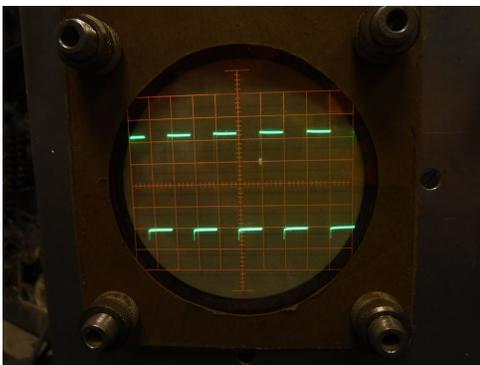
A Request from the VintageTEK Museum

Phil Crosby asks, "Was anybody a member of the "Scope Class" that was organized around the end of 1953?"

Phil says that the purpose of these classes was to find creative talented among employees interested in learning how a simple oscilloscope worked. The class was most likely to identify technicians, but in the Tek tradition would have been open to any employee. John Kobbe had a career that started in this way, and he became a very prolific and valued design engineer. Phil thinks it is also likely that Dick Ropequet was one of the organizers.

If you recall the classes, or any details about the time and leaders of the class, please let Phil know. He can be reached on Thursdays at the VintageTEK museum at (505) 644-0161, and yes, if that number looks familiar, it was the very early main phone number into Tektronix up into the 1970's.

He has found a 3-inch flat-faceplate oscilloscope that may have been used as part of a class set up for all employees. It is now running and can be seen at the VintageTEK museum. Here is the photo with a live display. Any idea what needs to be done to make the square-wave more ideal?



Want to Learn more about the 4051?

Shortly after our last issue came out with its feature articles about the 4051, I received a note from Ferrous Steinka about a Facebook page under the name **Tek 4051 BASIC**. It was started by Brad Srebnik with some early sample programs. Contributors are welcome to add their own pictures or programs. Perhaps this will spark some of you to find programs you wrote or that you collected over the years this product was popular.

Death Notices

Bellinger, Joan d - 11/12/2017

Brown, Mary Kay (Leavy) d - 12/26/2017

Demmerle Sr., William T - d11/9/2017

Diebele, Bud - d7/9/2017 @Tek 22 years

Dimeo, Joseph - d1/22/2014 @Tek 27 years

Fergus, Fern Fergus -d8/19/2017

Hill, Thomas E, 'Tom', -d1/28/2018 @Tek 10 years

Finseth, Gary Arnold - d1/25/2018

Floren, Myron David "Joe" - d12/31/2017 @Tek 21 years

Fox, Dwig8ht Sanford - d9/18/2017 @ Tek 28 years

Grayson, Douglas Perry d - 9/20/2017

Gredvig, Burton Evon - d12/22/2017 @Tek 22 years

Klein, Mark Richard - d1/29/2018

Kreps, Lionel David - d1/14/2018

Klein, Mark Richard - d1/29/2018

Liebreeht, Chris d - 10/31/2017

McCaleb, Carol d -11/18/2017 @ Tek 15 years

Miler, Norma J d -11/6/2017 @ Tek 20 years

Rilatt, James 'Bernie' -d7/21/2017 @Tek 31 years

VanLieu, Carl A. d- 10/18/2017 @Tek 39 years

Wetzel, Thomas A. - d12/28/2017

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

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Beaverton, OR 97077 - 0001

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Tek Retiree Newsletter is published quarterly by the Tektronix Retiree Volunteer Program. Send all correspondence to Tek Retiree News, M/S 13-400, PO Box 500, Beaverton, OR 97077

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TRVP Web Page:

www.tekretirees.org

Tektronix Retiree Volunteer Program

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Do Any of You Have These Objects?

John Addis has a small collection of phone directories, published in many formats over the years. He is asking for any copies you would be willing to give to him.

There are often items of common historical interest to VintageTEK Museum, and the Tektronix Retirees Volunteer Program (and its newsletter team, of course). Both frequently want to know timing and location of former and retired employees. It all helps when reconstructing our history. We're sharing this information between both organizations.

Many of these questions can be answered by knowing the dates on Organization Charts which were published within departments. In some years, these organization charts were organized and published as part of the phone directories. Both can be very helpful.

If you're willing to help John cover "who was where when," please get in touch with him directly at

john.addis@mail.com
or (503) 524-3742.

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

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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

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Please send questions, information or correspondence not involving the newsletter online to TVRP at **tek-retirees@tektronix.com**