



Web Page: www.Tek-Retirees.com

A Newsletter for and by Tek Retirees May 2021

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HOW I ARRIVED AT TEKTRONIX

Bob Beville

The summer after my junior year in high school I got employment at the Sumter Electric Coop (SECO) in Sumterville, Florida. This was a local site of the Rural Electrification Administration (REA). Enacted in 1936, the REA ACT provided loans for the installation of electrical distribution systems to serve isolated rural areas. This created line crews to put up utility poles and string electric power throughout the countryside. The SECO now covers Sumter, Citrus, Marion, Lake, Pasco and Hernando counties, the largest co-op in Florida.

SECO built the first power lines in the late '30s. This SECO Sumterville location held administrative offices, a shortwave radio transmitter, a warehouse for insulators, cross arm braces, anchors and hardware. The rear acreage was a compound containing transformers, huge spools of wire, an assortment of utility poles, arranged by length and class. In the rear of the property, a small shed, surrounded by a berm, contained dynamite and blasting caps.

By now, 1955, the vegetation beneath the power lines was overgrown. My summer job, along with other classmates, was to join the right-of-way crew to clear that undergrowth. Every morning we met in the truck yard. Our transportation was a surplus WWII Dodge Cargo Truck (M37 for Army people). It contained an IGLOO water cooler. Bring lunch. Before climbing in, you went potty and swallowed a couple of salt tablets, as it was summer in interior Central Florida.

We rode for hours to some of these sites, as far away as Altoona. Our tools were sling-blades, bush-hooks, those early chainsaws, which had huge heavy

bars, rope and rope saddles. We cleared right-of-way until noon, had lunch, returned to work. I was fitted into a tree saddle, to be raised up a tree near some limbs that required cutting. I tried tree spurs, also, and pulled a chainsaw on a rope up to me. Sometimes we quit early because of the long ride back to the plant. That was my junior year summer job.

The senior year summer, after graduation, I drove a company station wagon for the line engineer/surveyor to visit new sites, mapping and planning new services. I became a rodman; he, Mister Grogan, had the gunsight. Using a meter wheel, we measured how much high voltage line was needed from pole to pole. Was it single phase? If the power line ran straight, that pole was called an A-1. Was it running at a small angle? A-2. A sharper angle? A-3. A right angle? A-4. Poles with angles needed a guy wire and anchor to brace against the two line load forces on the pole. Two phase services had the "B" configurations and so on. I soon learned all the names of the hardwares and pole configurations. Back at the plant, Mr. Grogan's notes and measures were handled by Charlie Harris, the warehouseman. All the insulators, nuts, bolts, anchors, guywire, etc. were assembled on the loading dock for the construction truck. These trucks were also fitted with 'pole-hole' augers. A flatbed, A-frame-and-winch truck loaded the poles.

I spent some time with the line crew, promoted to 'grunt.' I witnessed the auger digging the holes for the poles. Occasionally, the auger hit hard pan. Then, a bundle of dynamite sticks was prepared; a blasting cap was installed in it. This was taped to the bottom of a pole and the pole was hoisted into the hole. From

Tek Retiree News ^H

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None

a distance we all watched it lift from the dynamite blast and then settle down in the hole a few feet further. Now, the grunt-work began, to help hoist insulators and transformers up the pole to a lineman. Small hardware and tools were tossed to him.

One day, at home that summer, my mother handed me some papers and said “Robert, I have enrolled you in the University of Florida this fall. You’ll take the SATs (Scholastic Aptitude Tests) in Orlando.”

After my freshman year at UF, again employed at SECO, I rode the circuits with a lineman. Some on night shifts. Some during storms, troubleshooting outages. To this day, I still glance at utility poles, recalling what configuration their wires, insulators and underbuild services are.

After the sophomore year I decided to accelerate classes and enrolled in summer school. And with the after junior year summer school, I could graduate a semester earlier. Since I had the exposure of the SECO employment, I majored in electrical engineering.

It was in the spring semester of my junior year, 1959, that I signed up for EL-452 Pulse Circuits class and EL-415 Pulse Circuits Lab. And what do you think was the brand of the oscilloscope in that lab? TEKTRONIX!

Continue reading about my arrival at Tektronix. Go to the website: tekretirees.com, tap on the heading: More..., tap on: Contributed Stories, tap on: A Chameleon Oscilloscope Career.

History with the TRVP as I remember

Louis Sowa

I think the TRVP was formed by Sharon Beatty in the fall of 1996. She was contracted to form the group based on a similar group she had been involved with at Honeywell. The first letter was sent out to those already receiving retirement benefits. Out of that group several were sent to see the Honeywell Retirement Organization. The second letter was sent out also to those of us, not yet retired, but had Tektronix benefits owed. I answered that letter indicating an interest in Assistive Devices for those in need, and also to help on the Newsletter. I didn’t expect to get very involved with the newsletter. I had some experience with a community newsletter and a term as editor on the Trails Club of Oregon Newsletter, an outdoor club, but I took the job.

Nute Espe became the editor and I think put out the first newsletter, called XTEK, pretty much by himself. Nute had a meeting for a newsletter separate from the general monthly retirement meeting. A couple of people objected to the XTEK name and the TRN (Tektronix Retiree News) was adopted. I started the “Twenty-Five Years ago” column. I also did some of the “Spotlight” articles that I think Nute did most. George whose last name I don’t remember was also involved and produced some articles. At the time I was still working at HP in Vancouver. Judy Watkins wrote a number of articles for the newsletter.

Nute had brought several of his past employees into the organization eventually bringing Peggy Jo Berg in to be

the Publisher. He tried to convince me to take over as editor. I resisted for about a year and a half. His health was beginning to fail so I consented to be the editor until we could get a more qualified person. I expected a year or two which turned into about fifteen. Fortunately for me Peggy continued for most of that time as publisher. She did an excellent job. The early printing of the TRN was done by two of Nute’s ex-employees that had started a printing company. They eventually quit the business and Peggy and I made an agreement with Mike Rosa of Workflow One to do the printing. He was very good to work with but increased the time to get the TRN mailed. Ray Arnett took over the data responsibility from me. He did a great job, however died. So Pete Nelson is currently the database manager.

Jim Manuel tried to convince me to create a website for the TRVP. I did not want to take on the task and ask for volunteers in a TRN editorial. One of those answering was Neil Robin who lived near Port Angeles but did take on the job, which he did very well for a number of years. His health began to fail and he felt he needed to resign, Neil has since died. Byron Lunz has stepped up and is now our webmaster.

Peggy resigned due to her husband’s and her health. Gordon Long agreed to be both editor and publisher, which he did for about a year. Unfortunately Gordon died suddenly, so I got those roles back. Pete Nelson came into the organization shortly before Peggy resigned. Pete is a very important asset to the TRVP. Bill Gellatly took on the

role of editor, but between his other obligations and finding it more difficult than he expected to procure content, he resigned. Since then we haven't had an editor. Bob Beville and John Stoops have joined and are assets.

We have been in several buildings, 55, 46, back to 55, 58, 22, and currently 13.

We hope to soon be back working in building 13 instead of from home as is currently the case.

Being an organization of retired employees turnover due to death has been a problem.

What's next?

WE COULD USE ADDITIONAL STAFF. IT IS A GREAT GROUP TO WORK WITH. MORE POSSIBLE CONTENT: HOW YOU ARRIVED AT TEK, WHAT YOU AND MAYBE CO-WORKERS DID AT TEK, WHAT YOU DID AFTER TEK, WHAT YOU ARE DOING NOW. SOME OTHER NON-WORK SUBJECTS MIGHT BE: THE TEK PICNICS, ROSE SHOWS, OR CAR SHOWS AT TEK. SOME PICTURES WOULD BE APPRECIATED.

Tektronix / Danaher Retiree Benefits

Internet: mybenefits.mydanaher.com

Phone: **800-964-7985** (8 AM to 8 PM EST Monday thru Friday)

(Connects with benefits administration)

Select one of following)

Health care

401K

Pension

Life or accidental death or dismemberment

Report death

(or say "Agent" to speak with a person)

Danaher letter: we need your beneficiary for your life insurance

Everyone should have received a letter from Danaher over the past 2 months requesting you to name a beneficiary for your life insurance.

We recommend all retirees contact Danaher Health and benefit center by computer or phone.

If you do not contact Danaher, I recommend you seek legal advice on status of life insurance without a beneficiary.

To setup an account you will need to provide

Your information:

Last 4 digits of your SSN,

Birthdate,

Zip code of your home,

Your Password: upper, lowercase, numbers plus special symbol,

Phone pin number you create

Plus answers to 5 special questions

Beneficiary Information:

Full name and middle initial,

Postal address,

Phone number,

Social security number and

Relationship to you.

Thanks to **Mike Bonham**, for bring this to our attention.

Death Notices

Anderson, Beverley Jean (Bev)
4/6/1929 – 5/6/2021

Carey, Jimmy 1/27/1936 -
5/5/2021

Hare, Raymond 'Ray' 10/20/1925 -
5/7/2021

Smith, Blaine Martin 1/18/1937 –
4/4/2021

Terrell, James Jackson 12/21/1957
- 5/6/2021

Woodhouse, Gregory C. 4/7/1947
- 4/25/2021

Tektronix Retiree Benefits

Danaher has now created a central point of access for Tektronix Retiree Benefits

Web Site: MyBenefits.MyDanaher.com

Or

Phone: 800-964-7985 (8 AM to 8 PM EST Monday thru Friday)

(Connects with Danaher benefits administration. Select one of the following categories or say "Agent" to speak with a person)

- Health care
- 401K
- Pension
- Life or AD and D
- Report death

CALENDAR

Engineering Breakfast

Virtual for now

Wednesday 8AM Beaverton/
Hillsboro area. Lively discussion
all subjects. For details contact
Steven E. Rice:
pacemakerpete@hotmail.com

Previous Tek-Employees Luncheon

Peppermill Restaurant
Details: Annetta Spickelmier
503-312-8825
Tek luncheons are suspended until
further notice

VintageTEK Hours

Friday - 10am to 6pm
Saturday - 10am to 4pm Other
times by request

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

Ex-Tek Radio Amateurs

Because of COVID we now meet:
Friday night get together
via ham radio.
Time: 7:00 PM
Place: TERAC repeater
443.650 MHz,
Positive offset, 100 Hz PL tone
"ZOOM meetings are also
held. Details: Ron Kinder,
k7vmn@arrl.net"