



DECconnection

A professional networking organization for former Digital Equipment Corporation employees

July-August 2020

Events

Medicare Webinar

Our Medicare webinar on June 23, 2020 was very well-received.

Our expert speaker, Jerry Shusterman, is a former Digital employee who, as a Massachusetts SHINE Certified Medicare Counselor, has counseled thousands of individuals on Medicare options and services for over 10 years.

[His materials are available here on our website.](#) This includes his pre-webinar 12 page document and enhanced answers and new questions to the webinar's Q&A session. Seminar attendees with follow-on Medicare questions are reminded to send their request for assistance to info@DECconnection.org, and we'll send them on to Jerry. We have also included two articles [NY Times & Kaiser Family Foundation] that give insight into State Medicare regulations. Finally, we are planning a follow-on seminar for early-mid October as Open Enrollment begins.

Maynard's 150th Birthday Celebration

We have been speaking with the planners of the Maynard Sesquicentennial for which many activities have been delayed thru Sept 2021 due to the coronavirus pandemic.

The Committee has invited us all to participate in some impressive permanent historical markers they are designing, including panels about Digital, that will remain in downtown Maynard, and all donors will be acknowledged by name. The DEC Connection will be making a contribution towards the signage display, but individual contributions are also being solicited.

From ex-Digital VP Jack Mackeen, who serves on the Committee: This marker is a permanent installation consisting of three two-post installations in a line, each having panels front and back for a total of six panels. Completed installation will be about 12 feet long. We are still working on the back, which will include current mill info, a dedication letter noting the Sesquicentennial and a listing of officials and contributors. Planned location is in the Ken Olsen Plaza at the corner of Main and Walnut, but further up Walnut so there is no interference with driver visibility. See photo of current plan, [on our website, here](#); you can see the entire 3rd panel is devoted to Digital. We thought there might be some alumni interest in making a contribution, in whatever amount the members feel appropriate. At the moment the best way is by mail to: Maynard Historical Commission, 195 Main Street, Maynard, MA 01754; Attn: Historic Mill Marker Fund. Contributions are not tax-deductible.

Upcoming/Tentative:

- Tentative: Mid-October - Medicare Seminar for 2021 Open Enrollment
- Tentative: Sat, 7 Nov 2020, Phoenix AZ Luncheon, GalenDavis@aol.com
- [See the Compaq Big Band in New England](#)

Digital and the Industry

Lost and Found or Help

If you can help, please contact Sebastian directly:

Hi! I'm collaborating with a group on trying to restore PDP-7 UNIX to run in an emulator. Part of that process is trying to get Ken Thompson's games written for Graphics 2 to work, but we need more detailed info. Currently we are especially curious about how the character table and non-printable characters were handled in Graphics 2. "The Graphic 2, later manufactured for Bell Labs and Western Electric by the Digital Equipment Corporation, saw wise use in computer-aided design of printed-wiring boards, logic schematic drawings, and office-equipment layouts."

- The project i'm collaborating with:

<https://github.com/DoctorWkt/pdp7-unix>[Looking Back]

- The book source that claims that DEC built Graphics 2 terminals is:

"A History of Engineering and Science in the Bell System

Communications Sciences 1925-1980", S. Millman, Editor, ISBN: 0-932765-06-1

I think Graphics 2 was initially developed by William Herbert Ninke at Bell Labs, but that the device was later manufactured

by DEC, is that correct? Do you know of anyone that has more

information about Graphics 2? Or who might have any kind of

documentation on it? Sebastian Rasmussen, sebras@gmail.com

DEC Connection Member News

Welcome to our new and renewing members during June and July:

Mary Snyder Arena (MA), Jerry Bernath (FL), Nathan Teichholtz Brookwood (CA), Dr. Margaret M. Britt (FL), Mike Carroll (MA), Vanessa Fox (MA), Royce Fuller (MA), Bob Glorioso (MA), Jim Higgins (MA), Jane Jordan (MA), Fred Kraus (AZ), James Ladowski (CO), Bob Leigh (MA), Christine Medeiros (CA), Jodi Newell (CA), Paulette Rio (MA), Roger Scott (VA), Jerry Shusterman (MA), and Jim Wengler (FL).



Please RENEW your membership if you're due - members check the Member Service Center (instructions below). Other readers, if you are enjoying our e-newsletters please consider joining and sending in a brief update on your activities for our newsletter. Here is how to join or renew:

Membership Renewal Procedure

* Click link to see if your membership is current in our [Member Service Center](#) and pay online with a credit card. If you have paid dues since 2010 you will be there - use the email address we have on file - no leading or trailing spaces - email ava@deconnection.org for help.

* You can also join us (or renew) at [Join the DEC Connection online!](#)

* You can send personal checks made out to DEC Connection to Nancy Kilty, 33 Forest St. Unit 416, Lexington MA 02421.

* If you prefer to use your PayPal account directly (not via our website), use our payment address: registrations@deconnection.org - do NOT use any Board member's personal email address.

Member Newsbytes: Please send your personal new updates to info@deconnection.org. We need your participation to provide an interesting and relevant newsletter for our readers.

■ Member **Geoffrey Darnton, UK** sends this personal news: On the 8th of August 2020 (the 75th anniversary of the signing of the Nuremberg Charter) a substantially updated version of one of my books, 'Nuclear Weapons and International Law', 3rd edition will be published. gdarnton@darnton.info

■ Member **Jim Higgins, MA** writes: As time goes on I understand more and more the hurt experienced in the collapse of DIGITAL and the unceremonious ousting so many thousands of us experienced. For so many years both DEC and IBM were touted in the literature as “employee-centric” and seemingly safe from massive layoffs. I communicated with a former IBM professional , who said she and her department's laid-off colleagues were deemed “surplus”. Despite the negative concluding experience at DEC, I cherish the memories of years of collaborative efforts with my colleagues. It was, in many ways, magical. Thanks to the DEC Connection for helping to keep the memories alive. higginjames@gmail.com

■ From new member **Christine Medeiros, CA**: Started out at DEC in 1980 as the DTW editor & photographer working out of Parker Street. Lucky to shadow Ken, Stan, Harlan, Gordon, Grace and many other history makers. I moved into HPS marketing until I was relocated to San Francisco as a solutions architect in the field. Left DEC after 15 years and spent the rest of my marketing career in software development and analytic industries. Newly retired, I volunteer with the American Red Cross as an International Services lead caseworker restoring families separated by war, disaster or any humanitarian crises. You can contact me at Christine.medeiros@redcross.org

■ Member **Jim Wengler, FL** sent in a big “thanks for your work”. We do appreciate that our work is meaningful!

NOTE TO OUR READERS: Please do not be concerned if, when clicking on a link in this email, your browser or antivirus program tells you that you are attempting to visit a dangerous or unsafe web address. It's a recent policy of browser companies to flag any site without an SSL certificate as unsafe. When you purchase tickets through our website, we transfer you to the PayPal website, which DOES use SSL security software.

Hellos from our readers:

■ John Nikolic, a former DEC employee in Colorado Springs, Colorado and a former employee at Hewlett-Packard corporate in Palo Alto, has authored a personal memoir book entitled *Looking Back*. The book details his days at DEC and at HP and his world travelers to 63 countries, his support of the Jewish people, and his conversion to Christianity. It starts with the early days of his life when his step-father was the most notorious bootlegger in Rankin County, MI. You can order the book at Amazon's URL link: [Looking Back](#) If you read the book, I would ask that, time permitting, you send me a short note as to what you thought of the book. I am willing to autograph anyone's book that they would like autographed. John Nikolic, 7 Spring Lake Point, Pearl, MS 39308 c-601-383-5983 e-johnnikolic2@gmail.com

■ David Wiens from Canada writes: My US badge # was 2229. My Canadian badge # was 19. I'm an old DECie from Canada circa 1966. I know what you're thinking: "who cares". But in my day, your little square rubber badge meant EVERYTHING! I started with Digital Equipment June 10th, 1966. In Canada. There was Denny Doyle running the show. Jack Richardson was the engineer. Claude Payette, and Mike Parry were there with John Mutzenek ready to teach me. While 'Old 99' PDP-8 was being created from leftovers. Great learning tool. Glenda Hicks Jones handed out our paychecks every second week. We saw the beginning of the 'table-top computer, which you would never guess was the PDP-8 followed by the smaller serial version, the PDP-8S. davidwiens69@gmail.com

■ Lou Ernst writes: I am just saying hello. Louis F. Ernst Sr. badge 14148 Aug 1971 to June 2012 (41 years total) 27 years with DEC. I will be 70 this year, hope all are well. vzewcrf9@verizon.net

Sad News Department

Sadly, we were informed of these recent deaths of former Digital employees since last newsletter. Our condolences go out to friends and families of:

- * Jim Shiota, 78, Sun City West AZ, 22 Jul 2020
- * Bill Hanson, Mashpee and Acton MA, 15 July 2020
- * Mike Mulqueen, Limerick, Ireland, 15 Jun 2020
- * Ray Schavone, 69, Shrewsbury MA, 13 Jun 2020
- * Sandra Faye Mosley, 79, Colorado Springs, 7 Jun 2020
- * Theodore Murray Jr., 72, Colorado Springs and VA, 29 May 2020
- * Maria T. Pipal, 92, Colorado Springs, 30 May 2020
- * Julia Ann Hipolite, 80, Colorado Springs, 21 May 2020
- * Al Sidel, 96, Chelmsford and Malden MA, 15 May 2020
- * Jim Bennett Jr., 83, Falmouth and Millis MA, 6 May 2020
- * Howard Painter, 83, Hudson MA, 27 Sep 2019

[Details are on our Memorial Page.](#)

Website Features and Updates

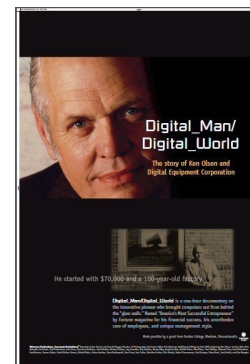
■ [Where to Donate your Digital Equipment gear](#)

■ The PBS video of the documentary about Ken and the history of DEC, **Digital_Man/Digital_World**, is available online at

[Digital Man/Digital World](#)

It's a wonderful hour-long nostalgia trip. Enjoy!

■ Another URL to watch same documentary on your computer is: <http://video.wfyi.org/video/2282149336/>



■ **Use your MEMBER SERVICE CENTER!** Use the gold Member Login button if you have paid dues since 2010. There are queries to find members in your area, and forms to submit to update your profile, send your news, DEC stories, and business listings for our public online yellow pages. You can check your dues status and renew your membership online. You can email a small photo for your profile, and send info for articles such as Featured Entrepreneur.

■ **[DEC Stories]** submitted by our members and readers - We are still collecting your unusual, humorous or just favorite DEC stories. Email them to info@deconnection.org. [Click on this link.](#)

■ **Featured Member Entrepreneur** - Email info@deconnection.org with details - 2-3 paragraphs about your business and your photo.

■ If you need info about your **Digital defined benefit plan/retirement**, start by calling the HP Retirement Services Center at Fidelity: 1- 800-457-4015

■ For **Stock plan** info, try Morgan Stanley: 1-210-677-3652 or [this website](#)

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