



Monday, February 7, 2011

Ken Olsen, co-founder of DEC, died at 84

By Rodney H. Brown

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Digital Equipment Corp. co-founder **Ken Olsen** has died, according to Gordon College, the home of the Ken Olsen Science Center.

DEC, as the Maynard-based company was known, was the dominant company at the birth of the minicomputer industry. The company was co-founded in 1957 by Ken Olsen and Harlan Anderson in 8,600 square feet of leased space in the Mill. The company continued to expand and, in 1974, DEC bought the Mill, becoming its sole occupant. At the height of the company's market power, DEC employed more than 300,000 people. In 1998, DEC was bought by Compaq Inc., not long before Compaq itself was purchased by **Hewlett-Packard** Co. in 2002.

Olsen was a trustee and donor at Wenham-based **Gordon College**.

In March 2009, Olsen's wife **Eeva-Liisa Aulikki Olsen died at the age of 84**. The two were married for 59 years and had three sons, one of whom predeceased her. She was born on Sept. 1, 1924, in Lahti, Finland, the daughter of Juho and Hilja Valve. She was a member of the Lotta Svaard, the women's auxiliary of the Finnish Army in the 1939 Winter War with the Soviet Union. She later attended Valparaiso University.

According to Olsen's site: "Olsen strongly believed that science is 'more than a study of molecules and calculations; it is the love of knowledge and the continued search for the truth. The study of the sciences promotes humility, leaving us with a clear sense that we will never understand all there is to know. At the same time, science provides a defense for truth, authenticates Christianity and stems from the nature of God.'"

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- ☐ Brad Rutter: He's money in the bank when it matters: \$3.25 million. The others may be smart, but this guy knows how to gamble.
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