PEOPLE TO GIVE LECTURES AT THE COMPUTER MUSEUM
A List from Gordon Bell Files
(from November 1984, updated March 2002… see indents)

COMPUTER SYSTEMS

He may have spoken on Harvard machines.

should get before it's too late

Kilburn is deceased.

Former board member

deceased

?

Comptometer we have a local authority/collector

Too bad we missed H.

?

Poduska

Bechtolsheim and Joy

Error! DG: Burkhardt, DeCastro
Henry is deceased.
Error! IBM
Error! HP
Error! Prime
Error! SAAB or Datasaab
Error! SDS/XDS Palevsky
and Beck
Error! Tandem

Error! Mainframes
Error! IBM
Error! Amdahl
Error! Honeywell/GE/Multics/
Error! Univac/Eckert
Error! Burroughs/Barton
Interesting to get. Lives near Santa Barbara
Error! NCR/???

Error! Supers
Error! Cray
deceased
Error! Thornton
Ill.
Error! Norris
Error! Thorndike/ETA/Lincoln
We could get Neal who has a manuscript on super at CDC, Cray, and ETA.
He has very strong feelings about Cray plus stories.

NEC: Kobayashi
deceased

Hitachi

Fujitsu
Sato spoke; we could also go for Ken Miura on High Performance

Illiac IV: Slotnick
deceased

TI ASC: Cragon
spoke

Other Computing

Cellular Automata: Fredkin

Cellular Automata: Steve Wolfram

Macro Modules: Clark and Molnar (we want to get a collection)
Why these didn't work. I followed them with PDP-16 Register Transfer Modules and they weren't successful.

FPS: Norm Winginstaad
The saga of FPS > Cray > SGI > SUN is a story about one of the greatest business strategy screw-ups of our time!

Robotics

SRI Charlie Rosen
We need a whole collection here

SEMICONDUCTORS/LOGIC

The transisor: schockley, bardeen, brattain

The ic: Noyce, hoerni, Jack Kilby

Mead and Conway

Silicon Compilers: Doerr, Mead, Dave Johannsen

Fairchild: Les Hogan, Gene Kleiner

IBM Erich Bloch
GIANT at IBM and government service. Set up Fishkill and made the 360. My boss at NSF. We

should get him to speak. Not real healthy.

Intel/Hoff and ? of Japan

Motorola/68K

We need to get this story and how it led to their demise.

Mostek/rams

MOS Technology: 6502 and Chuck Peddle

Parametron: Goto (also Lisp machine)

OTHER KEY COMPONENTS (EG. DISKS, CRT'S)

A/D

Analogic: Bernard Gordon

g Devices: Ray Stata

Sam Fuller is Chief Technologist now.

More are needed here

IBM core inventor

don’t know

We MUST get a Carterfone!!!!!!!!

Deceased. He spoke. Brilliant.

CISCO and all the communications and networking companies

A bit too much to take. Worth being taped, as long as I don’t have to attend the lecture.

Deceased

Ask Ike Nassi

Evolution of a language at Microsoft is interesting.

Do we have her?

We have.

Frankston, too
Error! Lotus 1-2-3: Mitch Kapor
Error! EMACS: Stahlman
More importantly, GNU

Error! Timesharing: Corbato, McCarthy, Fredkin, Beranek, Boillen (CTSS, Multics)
Would add Butler that designed the 940 and BCC computers.
Error! UNIX/C: Richie, Thompson
Richie spoke
Error! OS 360: Brooks
We could use a history talk.
Error! Tops 10/20, TENEX: Pete Hurley
Error! Gary Kildall, CP/M and PL/M
Error! Real Time Operating Systems: VMX, RSX, Dave Cutler
Dave Cutler needs to be on tape. He's unique and a GIANT.

Error! Dynabook: Alan Kay
Continuing on to Squeak and its successors

Smalltalk: Adele Goldberg

Network (CODASYL) Database: Bachman

Relational Datbase: Ted Codd
Gray should go after xx

ALGORITHMS

Bentley

FFT: Cooley and Tukey

R W Hamming
deceased

Knuth

Traub

Wilkinson
deceased

APPLICATIONS

AI

Feigenbaum

McDermott

Dendral: Lederberg

Macsyma: Moses, Wolfram

Newell
deceased, we have his lecture

Simon
deceased

McCarthy
great talk

Minsky
get him asap

Roger Shank

Business

Banking: B of A, and ERMA

Banking: Citicorp John Reed
John was an electronic banking pioneer

CAD/CAM

Doug Ross: APT

Applicon: Fontaine Richardson

ComputerVision:

Games

Pong: Noland Bushnell

Spacewar Russell, Graetz, Kotok, Sampson

Rocky's Boots

Graphics:

Bill

Atkinson: MacPaint

James Blinn: JPL

Now Microsoft

Jim Clark, Silicon Graphics

Now an entrepreneur. Needs to be archived.

Evans and Sutherland

Dean Winkler and John Sanborn

Alvey Ray Smith, Lucas

We had with Dick Shoup

Ed Catmul, CEO Pixar

Don Lynn ?

Mandelbrot

spoke

Martin Newell

Graphics keeper: Steve Levy's Film and Photo Collection (we need!)

ic Wonder: Negroponte

Nicholas did transform things, including bits & atoms book

torical)

At the Media Lab

We need some of these folks before it's too late.
Modern music and encoding from MP3, onward…
Rob Glaser Real Audio

ART
Harold Cohen

Ken is 78 and going strong as MIT Faculty

Local now

Nobel prize winner

Too late

Entrepreneur

Adobe Founders

Spoke

Error! BOOKS
Error! Hackers: Steve Levy
Error! Fire In the Valley
Error! Turing: Hodges
Error! First Fortran Books: McCracken
Error! Edmund Berkely
I have his key artifacts…
Error! Wilkes, Wheeler and Gill

Error! FUNDING
Error! AR&D: Doriot
deceased
Error! Kleiner, Perkins, etc.

Error! OTHER
Error! Ian Barron
Error! John Gray
Error! Craig Mudge
No
Error! Lewis Branscomb
Interesting

July 15, 1980

Professor Atanasoff
Route 2, Box M12
Monrovia, MD 21770

Dear Professor Atanasoff,

Enjoyed talking with you on the phone on the 9th and am delighted that you will be speaking on November 11.

As an aside, Gwen (my wife) who is also the assistant keeper of the Museum and I are from Prairie du Chien, Wisconsin, and Kirksville, Missouri, and it was just pleasant to hear your voice. Anyway we hope that you and your wife will come to our home for dinner on the 9th or 10th so that we can talk informally and you could meet a few other people in our computer community.

Is there any chance that you would loan your replicated machine for a few months? As an engineer, I really enjoy working on the museum because the physical computing devices can be seen and not just read about or shown in pictures. Having your replicated machine for display would truly be significant. I would be happy to have it shipped or have you bring it here and help us arrange the display, perhaps sometime in October. As a complement to the real machines I have found it informative to have photos of the original installation. If you have any other photographs or diagrams besides those in Randell's book could you please send them to us? Or, do you know if any might exist in the archives at the University of Iowa that we might obtain?

In preparation for the lecture, we need some photos of you from which we can choose to prepare a poster/invitation for the event. For your information we're sending you several museum posters, including one announcing the Forrester lecture. I look forward to receiving your short abstract from the trial decision.

Please feel free to call Gwen or me collect (617-493-2236) if you would like to talk further on any of these matters.

Sincerely yours,

C. Gordon Bell
Vice-President Engineering
Keeper, Digital Computer Museum

GB1.S5.24

October 21, 1980

Professor John Atanasoff
Route 2, Box M12
Monrovia, MD 21770

Dear Professor Atanasoff,

Some copies of the poster invitation for your lecture on the 11th are enclosed. We are very pleased with them and hope that you are as well.

We have received the drum from Dr. Maple and it is displayed near the entrance to the Museum. It is very nice to have it prior to the lecture and I am truly amazed by it.

Enclosed please find a simple agreement regarding our holding and displaying your breadboard replica of the Atanasoff Berry Computer. Stan Schultz should have called you by now to make arrangements to come and pick up the machine. He is the engineer who is keeping up our early machines and will also have the care and oversee cleaning and fixing up the ABC for display. Since he will pick it up personally and drive it back to Massachusetts, I am confident that it will be in good hands.

We're looking forward to seeing you on the 11th. If you would come directly to Marlboro with your son by 3:30 PM on Tuesday then there will be time prior to the 5 PM lecture, if it works out, to hold a press conference. (We will hold the hotel room at the Colonial Inn in Concord for late arrival.) The reception will then follow the lecture in the museum itself. On Wednesday we will arrange for you to see the old woolen mill where Digital has its headquarters, our semi-conductor facility in Hudson, and a tour of part of Marlboro with some chance to view the museum again. You can discuss the restoration with Stan again on Thursday. On Wednesday evening we will plan a small dinner party at our house and transportation to the airport will be arranged for Thursday.

We're looking forward to your visit.

Cordially,

Gordon Bell
Keeper, Digital Computer Museum

GB1.S7.36

Enclosures: Agreement
Poster/Invitations

Agreement between John Atanasoff and Gordon Bell, Keeper, Digital Computer Museum

The Digital Computer Museum will restore the replica of the Atanasoff-Berry Computer for display within the Museum. If, for any reason, the Museum decides not to display the A-B Computer then, we will inform John Atanasoff and either return it to him or put it in our warehouse, whatever he prefers. The Digital Computer Museum will, in no case, loan the computer to any other party or move it from the Museum without the consent of John Atanasoff. Any damage to the machine incurred on Digital premises will be replaced on the replica, using J.V. Atanasoff's drawings. At any time John Atanasoff can request the return of the machine to him at the full expense of the Digital Computer Museum.

Gordon Bell, Keeper
Digital Computer Museum

Date: _____

John Atanasoff

Date: _____

January 26, 1981

Murray A. Thompson
University of Wisconsin-Madison
Physical Sciences Laboratory
3725 Schneider Drive, Route 4
Stoughton, WI 53589

Dear Murray,

We're enclosing several pieces of information on John Atanasoff that I hope will be helpful to you. In particularly, the article by him in Brian Randell's book and the portion of the Sperry-Rand vs. Honeywell trial in which the judge evaluates the contribution of Atanasoff. We hope that these will be helpful in reaching a decision. Professor Arthur Burks, of the University of Michigan, has completed an article for the ANNALS OF COMPUTING HISTORY (that is not yet published) that further enforces the contributions that Atanasoff made. He was part of the ENIAC project and therefore was around at the time that Eckert and Mauchly were making design decisions.

Thanks for getting onto this problem.

Sincerely yours,

Gordon Bell
Vice President,
Engineering

GB:swh
GB2.S1.30

Enclosures: Atanasoff Information

January 5, 1981

Dr. John Atanasoff
Route 2, Box M12
Monrovia, MD 21770

Dear John:

It was nice to get your letter of 4 December. We continue to get really favorable compliments on your talk which we all enjoyed. It was a great honor to have you and Alice visit us and have you speak. Jim Rogers, one of our employees is writing a synopsis of your lecture for the Annals. However, he may be one of the many action-less oriented historians, so Gwen or I may end up with the pleasant task. We intend to transcribe your videotape and will send you the transcript together with the two videotapes you requested. I'd like to urge you to submit the talk (complete with slides) to the Annals as a paper.

The paper might help stimulate interest in finding a biographer. In any case, I think it is important to make certain that all the information you have about your development of the computer is in as clear and concise forma s possible. If you can get the documents into a manageable size file, it would be worthwhile getting these on microfiche for future reference to a wider audience. We visited Brian Randell at Newcastle, and he had obtained the microfiche of the Sperry-Rand vs. Honeywell trial.

Dr. Oliver Stimpel, Assistant Keeper of the computing section at The Science Museum (London SW7 2DD) reported that he does intend to make available the interview tape with Dr. Christopher Evans made. We argued that it should be soon. Can I suggest you write and enquire about this tape? It might prod it along.

I hope you've had a chance to look at the Stern manuscript as it is essential that it be absolutely correct in fact and in tone. Also, it should not really go far in conjectures unless it ennumerates all of them, regarding how the ENIAC was directed vis a vis your work. On this, you could make the comments either directly to Marcy Kenah at Digital Press, to Nancy, or to me. I don't want Digital Press via Nancy Stern to add any more noise.

I've been enquiring about a biographer for your computing work and will continue to do so at a minimum, various efforts can be deflected to include more of your work. Also, I think we should go after a first-rate paper first, as a prelude to a biography or historical book. The possibilities so far are:

1. Burks probably would be the best. At the least, an article by him would be very important.

2. Smith and Redmond, the historians who wrote about Whirlwind. They're

writing about the SAGE system and it's effect.

3. Charles Babbage Institute PhD thesis, or someone who might write a short paper. Given is a meeting with their board shortly, and we'll suggest this.

4. Nancy Stern, should have the historical context, and it would be logical that she might do this. Again, a paper would be a good starting point. I've tried to get her to separate her thinking into concept vs. implementation and evolutionary vs. revolutionary ideas.

5. Brian Randell is doing a second edition and it would be worthwhile sending him information that you feel should be included. (He does have the trial transcript.)

6. Brian suggests Martin Campbell-Kelly, who wrote an article in the Annals on the history of Software.

7. Prof. I.B. Cohen's students were all thrilled by your lecture. I would hope that one of his students might get involved in this.

8. Simon Lavington at the University of Manchester has described the British Computing efforts, but I doubt if he has much interest in this period. He might have suggestions though.

Well, I'll keep trying on this project, and will send the transcript and tapes as soon as possible.

Sincerely yours,

Gordon Bell
Vice President,
Engineering

GB:swh
GB2.S1.5

January 19, 1980

Dr. John Atanasoff
Route 2, Box M12
Monrovia, MD 21770

Dear John,

This week Gwen and I looked over the transcript of the lecture. After careful consideration we believe that it will take a great deal of time to correct -- in terms of what you said (and not what the transcriber heard.) The funniest one was Katie KA for KDKA. The transcript is enclosed for your use. I do think the questions and answers add to the talk, and therefore should be incorporated or included in the paper.

On balance, we believe that the most direct way to prepare an article for the Annals is to send Bernie Galler the script for your talk itself and copies of the slides. (Perhaps there is a point that you made in the lecture that was not in the original script, but you would know what this is better than we do.) Then, let Bernie advise you directly on what he considers is necessary to make the speech script into an article.

I feel that it is an important piece of historical documentation that needs to be published. I will be pleased to write a foreword to the article that puts the ABC in perspective. Please get going on it before you are faced with your spring gardening.

Good luck with the project.

Fondest regards,

Gordon Bell
Vice President,
Engineering

GB:swh
GB2.S1.21

CC: Bernie Galler

Foreword

On 11 November, 1980 John V. Atanasoff presented his work on digital computation at a Pioneer Computer Lecture at The Computer Museum. I urged him to write a fuller account and told him I would be honored to write a foreword. This is the first real account of his work outside of his August 1940 manuscript (reprinted in Randell's book) and 1338 pages of testimony in a Federal court trial.

The paper is important because it:

- .is a primary source and, as such, its value will only become apparent with its use by historians. It should be valuable in the understanding of how science and technology develop, in general, and how the computer was invented, specifically.

- .provides insight about people and organizations. For example, the controversary on the number base pervaded organizations for many years, and he turned out to be right in selecting base 2.

- .documents his inventions of many important concepts in digital computation, especially the notions of serial computation and regeneration for memory, which he called jogging. Regeneration is the basis for delay line, drum delay line, Williams tube, and charged coupled device memories.

- .gives an insight into how Atanasoff himself thinks, how he approaches ideas and problems. For me, it provided an inside view of a creative and brilliant person who provided significant ideas on computation.

Now, I urge you to read it.

Gordon Bell
20 February 1983

March 30, 1981

Professor John Brainerd
University of Pennsylvania
Moore School of Engineering
Philadelphia, PA 19104

Dear Professor Brainerd:

I am delighted that you will be able to give one of the Digital Computer Museum's Pioneer Computer lectures. We will be delighted to have you be our guest. If you could come the day before then we would like to have you come to dinner on the 24th at our home so that we could get to know each other better.

The lecture on the 25th is at 5 p.m. and will be followed by a reception at the Museum. To announce the lecture we prepare a poster invitation. Since these are Pioneer Computer lectures the poster should include both a portrait of the machine and the the person giving the lecture. A copy of the poster invitation for Wilkinson's lecture on Turing and the Pilot ACE and a few of the previous invitations are enclosed. We need materials for your poster immediately. Could you please send us the following so that the designers could have a variety of materials to select and work from in doing the poster:

Several black and white portraits of ENIAC
Any picture of you with Eckert and Mauchly, plus other members of the original team
A portrait of yourself
Any other material that you think might be suitable for a poster.

Arthur Burks has told me that parts of the ENIAC are still in existence in an Army depot. We would very much like to have a display of ENIAC at the Museum. At present we are working with lawyers to establish a non-profit status for the Museum, so that its intention of being an industry-wide resource would be absolutely clear. If you could be of any help in this matter, it would be very useful. Art has agreed to give a lecture on programming the ENIAC in the winter...and I am excited to hear this as well as your story of the early days of the machine.

Your lecture will be video-taped and then available for viewing at the Museum and for use by scholars.

Gwen Bell, my wife, is the Director of the Museum, and she will be in touch with you on these matters in the future.

Thank you for agreeing to come.

Cordially,

Gordon Bell
Keeper, Digital Computer Museum
Vice President Engineering, Digital Equipment Corporation

GB2.S4.43
Enclosure: Poster/Invitations

January 16, 1981

Arthur W. Burks
University of Michigan
2076 Frieze Building
Dept. of Computer and Comm. Sciences
Ann Arbor, MI 48104

Dear Dr. Burks,

We were absolutely delighted to receive your letter of January 5th.

We are working to make the Digital Computer Museum a resource for the entire computer community with the most complete collection of artifacts organized in a systematic way to lead to an understanding of computer history. I do hope that your busy schedule will allow you and your wife Alice to help us in achieving this and we have several proposals for you.

First, I would like to accept your offer to lecture on "The Origin of the Stored Program" as an inauguration to our Software (vs. Hardware) Pioneer Lecture Series. We will program this for a date in the winter or spring of 1982 that is convenient to you.

Second, I would like to commission you and your wife to do two things:

1. Dub the ENIAC film with sound so that it will stand alone and tell the story. Perhaps you might add an introduction and using some of the photos that you have.

2. Build an ENIAC display for us. If we went slow and built up support for an ENIAC display here, to complement our other displays, and if you agreed to build it, perhaps the Museum of History and Technology would loan us the requisite sections. We would like your help in making a strong case to them and we will also try to garner the support of the Charles Babbage Institute. We would, of course, supply all the support services for actually building the display to your specifications.

If it were possible it might be worth your while to come here and see the things on exhibit prior to undertaking this work. We would be happy to pay your expenses for a short visit and discussion of these projects and perhaps you would like to do this at the time of one of our forthcoming lectures. Zuse is speaking on March 4; Wilkinson April l4; and David Edwards on September 9.

Cordially,

Gordon Bell
Vice President,
Engineering

GB:swh
GB2.S1.17

00 BURT DECGRAM ACCEPTED S 9680 O 83 14-NOV-81 19:51:17
****
* d i g i t a l *
****

TO: ENGRG. USERS: DATE: SAT 14 NOV 1981 7:47 PM EST
JOE MEANY FROM: GORDON BELL
OPERATIONS COMMITTEE: DEPT: ENG STAFF
JOEL SCHWARTZ EXT: 223-2236
PETER SMITH LOC/MAIL STOP: ML12-1/A51

SUBJECT: WES CLARK DESCRIBES THE LINC AT THE MUSEUM ON WEDNESDAY

Wes has influenced computing, in particular, Digital's computers in regard to notation, IO Systems, mini and large computers.

Although we regard Whirlwind and TX-0 (Wes was the architect) as being the first interactive computers, the LINC was the first truly personal computer since it provided a total environment for writing, running and retaining programs on the LINCtape filing system. LINCtape was the predecessor to DECtape.

In addition to designing useful computers, Wes's computers are exceedingly simple and elegant. They have influenced me.

Let me urge all of you who have anything to do with the design, construction and use of computing systems to come to this important event. Dick Clayton will introduce Wes.

WES CLARK DESCRIBES THE LINC
AT THE

DIGITAL COMPUTER MUSEUM

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 18, 1981 AT 5PM

refreshments will be served afterwards in the museum

This lecture is sponsored jointly with the Laboratory Data Products Group and the Museum.

Please join us at this important, relevant talk.

GB3.S2.40

5 May 1983

Mr. Donald W. Davies
National Physical Laboratory
Teddington Middlesex TW11 OLW
England

Dear Donald:

I was delighted that you and Mrs. Davies could visit us here and speak at the museum, and give the two talks at Digital. Enclosed is an honorarium for the talks at Digital. The researchers and engineers at Digital were delighted with the talks with you on security and networking.

We would like to have a museum lecture after the fall of 1984 on the packet switching network development. This would occur after the museum is moved to its new home.

As you think about what you might do on retirement, I hope you might consider working here or being a consultant in some capacity.

Again, thanks for the stimulating interaction.

Sincerely,

Gordon Bell
Vice President, Engineering

GB5.29

Enclosure

August 15, 1980

Dr. Prespert Eckert
Univac
Blue Bell, PA 19422

Dear Dr. Eckert,

It was pleasant to talk with your wife last month and I hope that you have had a chance to think about talking about ENIAC at the Digital Computer Museum. We are very proud that Digital Press is publishing Nancy Stern's book focussing on ENIAC and a lecture by you in coordination with its publication could really give it a fine send off.

I'm sending you a copy of DEC WORLD that features the museum lecture on Whirlwind by Jay Forrester. As you can see we draw quite a crowd for these lectures -- I personally think it is important for today's engineers to appreciate that many of the problems they tackle are far from new. Computing history has moved so fast that few have had time to assimilate the past. In addition, we have a mailing list of about 500 people interested in computing history and about half the audience is made up of people outside DEC.

Your personal perspective of the development and evolution of ENIAC would be extraordinarily valuable and I do hope that you will be able to come and take the platform. We would be happy to pay all the expenses of you and your wife to come here and provide you a modest $500 honorarium.

Our format is to do a poster invitation for the lecture -- like the one of Jay Forrester enclosed. We would request a photograph from you for this purpose. The lecture is planned for about 5 PM with a reception in the museum following. Then my wife and I are pleased to have a small group for dinner at our home.

We would do everything that we could do to make your trip interesting and pleasant. I certainly hope that it will be convenient for you to give a pioneer computer lecture in the spring after the publication of Nancy's book.

Sincerely yours,

C. Gordon Bell
Vice President, Engineering
Keep, Digital Computer Museum GB1.S5.70

Enc: Poster, DEC WORLD

Dr. Prespert Eckert
Univac
Blue Bell, PA 19422

January 16, 1981

Prof. David B. Edwards
University of Manchester
Dept. of Computer Science
Manchester M13 9PL
ENGLAND

Dear Professor Edwards,

Thank you so much for your letter of November 9th and the materials that you sent. It arrived just before we left for Europe and then we were occupied for the holidays. I apologize for not replying more promptly.

We have scheduled your lecture for September 9th and would like you to concentrate on the Manchester MKI. For recording purposes we use slides and project them from the rear.

The photographs that you sent will work very well for the poster/invitation -- thank you very much. We will give your ideas to our designers, but cannot promise how they will implement them.

We look forward to your lecture.

Cordially,

Gwen and Gordon Bell
Director and Keeper, Digital Computer Museum

GB2.S1.19

June 18, 1984

Mr. Bob O. Evans
Vice President
International Business Machines
Old Orchard Road
Armonk, New York 10504

Dear Bob:

I'd like to thank you for all the help you've given the Museum, and especially in getting IBM to become a Corporate Founder. It is great to be able to get IBM photos and artifacts for the November opening. With good exhibits, we believe it will be possible to get attendance of over 200,000 per year. Enclosed is a new brochure on the Capital Campaign. If you have any ideas that might help get IBM support for the campaign or exhibits, I'd certainly welcome them. Also, I would like your thoughts on the key IBM inventions and systems that should be represented in the Museum. After your talk last year, I prepared my list, but I'd sure like yours.

Given the difficulty of obtaining corporate support for public institutions, it is vital to get support from individuals. I hope you'll consider becoming a "Core" supporter to the campaign.

Your talk and paper in the recent Museum Report were greatly appreciated, and gives the best "long overview" of IBM that I've seen.

Sincerely,

Gordon Bell

Enclosure

****
* d i g i t a l *
****

TO: ENGRG. USERS:
OFFICERS:

DATE: TUE 6 OCT 1981 21:40 EST
FROM: GORDON BELL
DEPT: ENG STAFF
EXT: 223-2236
LOC/MAIL STOP: ML12-1/A51

SUBJECT: FLOWERS LECTURE ON OCTOBER 15 AT THE MUSEUM

Dr. Tommy Flowers who was the engineer in charge of building the Colossus will speak at 5 in the MR Cafeteria. This is a special lecture for many reasons:

Colossus was the first electronic digital computing device and a forerunner of the computer.

Colossus was used to break the code of the German Enigma coding machine. (We also have acquired an Enigma to display.)

Dr. Flowers will present new material which was just declassified.

The AFIPS History Board and the Charles Babbage Institute Board will be present, and I would hope you might meet some of these pioneers including Auerbach, Sammet, Tomash, Galler, W. O. Baker, Lord Humphreys, I. J. Good, to name a few.

A reception at the museum will follow the lecture.

Please come to this important event.

GB3.S1.30

March 27, 1981

Jay Forrester
Massachusetts Institute of Technology
Sloan School of Management -- E40-253
77 Massachusetts Avenue
Cambridge, MA 02139

Dear Jay:

It's with pleasure that I want to inform you that a conference room has been named after you at our Spit Brook Road Engineering Software building in New Hampshire. The engineers at the site selected the names and graphic exhibits are developed for each one.

When possible we are asking the individual to give a seminar and officially "open" their room. I wonder if you would be willing to give such a seminar -- perhaps relating to your views on computer programming from Whirlwind days. This would be an internal seminar for the software engineers at the facility, and we pay the modest honorarium of $250.

The designers are now putting together the room, which will include a photo of you, a quote, some pieces of Whirlwind, and your signature. Could you please write your name -- with a felt tip pen on a piece of cardboard and send it to me. The designers then have the name silk-screened onto plexi.

The quote that I like and am recommending that they use, is the following, (if you have another suggestion), please make it -- it's your room:

"...experimental equipment, merely for demonstration of principle and without the inherent possibility of transformation to designs of value to others, does not meet the principle of systems engineering."

Do hope that you will be able to accept this invitation.

Cordially,

Gordon Bell
Vice President,
Engineering

GB:swh
GB2.S4.40

August 25, 1980

Professor Tom Kilburn
The University of Manchester
Computer Science Department
Manchester M13 9PL
ENGLAND

Dear Professor Kilburn,

Enclosed is a copy of the Digital Computer Museum newsletter. As you might well imagine, it is a great personal joy to me and I hope it provides a useful service to computing history.

We inaugurated the Museum with a lecture on EDSAC by Maurice Wilkes. This in turn triggered our series of lectures to include the first ten computers. Making use of opportunities we have scheduled lectures through next spring. I'd like to ask you now, if you would talk about the Manchester machines in 1981?

For each lecture, we prepare a poster/invitation (like the one of Jay Forrester enclosed) and also create a small exhibit in the museum. The lectures are video-taped and then available for viewing in the museum. We will pay expenses and a modest honorarium of $500.

Looking forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely yours,

C. Gordon Bell
Vice President, Engineering
Keeper, Digital Computer Museum

GB1.S6.2

Enclosures: Digital Computer Museum Newsletter
Jay Forrester Poster
Harold Cohen Poster

August 25, 1980

Professor Harry Huskey
Department of Information Sciences
University of California Santa Cruz
Santa Cruz, CA 95064

Dear Harry,

Enclosed is a copy of the Digital Computer Museum brochure, our latest newsletter, and a poster/invitation to the Harold Cohen lecture. The Museum was started about a year ago to preserve the history of computing.

The computer exhibits include special displays of logic circuitry, memory devices, large portions of Whirlwind, and the TX-0 -- that we hope to have running. An original LINC starts our exhibit of laboratory and personal computers. We are looking for a Bendix G-15 to exhibit. Do you know where we might get our hands on one?

We found your Annals article on SWAC and the tables with it quite interesting and useful. While we would like to collect lots of old machines we have decided to suffice with building a good photo archive. Do you think that you could arrange to send us copies of the black and white photographs that appeared with the article? We would of course reimburse any expenses incurred.

In developing our Computer Genealogy exhibit and wall-chart, we used your 1976 Transactions article as a reference. A copy of the wall chart is being sent under separate cover and we would appreciate any ideas or suggestions that you might have for it.

If you ever come to the Boston area we would be delighted to take you through the Museum.

Cordially,

Gordon Bell
Vice President, Engineering
Keeper, Digitial Computer Museum

Gwen Bell
Director, Digital Computer Museum

GB1.S6.3

Enclosure: Museum Brochure and Newsletter
Poster/Invitation to Harold Cohen Lecture

Wall Chart (under separate cover)

January 20, 1981

T.H. Flowers
12 Sunnyfield
Mill Hill
London NW7 4RG
ENGLAND

Dear T. H. Flowers,

Thank you for your letter of January 6th. We will be delighted if the Government gives permission for you to present new material on Colossus at a lecture in our series.

If your reply is positive please let us know which of the three following dates is best for you:

October 7
November 4
November 24

In addition we would like some photographs for the purposes of the lecture invitation and for display. In particular, pictures of both yourself, other members of the Colossus team, and the machine.

Sincerely yours,

Gordon Bell
Vice President, Engineering
Keeper, Digital Computer Museum

GB:swh
GB2.S1.25

January 21, 1980

Professor George R. Stibitz
Department of Physiology
Dartmouth Medical School
Hanover, New Hampshire 03755

Dear Professor Stibitz,

Digital Equipment Corporation is in the process of developing a Digital Computer Museum. Last fall, we had an opening of the exhibits of pre-computer calculating devices, parts of Whirlwind, MIT's TX-O, and DEC machines representing each of the subsequent generations of computer technology. Professor Maurice Wilkes presented our inaugural lecture. I would like to ask you to give the second Digital Computer Museum lecture on Thursday, May 8th.

We would like you to talk about your pioneering contributions on binary and floating-point arithmetic, memory indexing, operation from a remote console, and program-controlled computations and the environment in which these were made. The lecture will be attended by engineers at Digital Equipment Corporation, and invited computer scientists from the Boston community. We will have about 100-200 people in attendance at a 4:30 lecture followed by a pre-view of the museum exhibits and reception. The lecture will be video-taped for the museum archives.

I am able to offer you an honorarium of $500 plus any expenses incurred. I certainly hope that you will be able to do this as I am sure that the computing community, especially our engineers will greatly benefit from understanding more of the history and tradition to which they belong. If you have any questions please feel free to call me at 617-493-2236. I am looking forward to hearing from you.

Cordially,

Gordon Bell
Vice President,
Engineering

GB:swh

GB1.S1.32

July 21, 1980

Professor James H. Wilkinson
40 Atbara Road
Teddington, Middlesex
ENGLAND

Dear Professor Wilkinson,

I enjoyed talking with you on the telephone today and am delighted that you will consider giving a museum lecture on the ACE. As I noted on the telephone, we will pay your expenses and provide an honorarium of $500. If possible we would like to schedule your lecture on your return trip to Stanford early January. Please let me know what date would be convenient.

The lectures on the pioneer computers are video-taped for our archives. We are also using these events to build up our collections of artifacts and photographs of the early machines. We would hope that your lecture would be illustrated and that you might also bring a collection of slides or photos of the ACE, for which we would reimburse any expenses. The lectures have been very well attended by both engineers at DEC, faculty and students from Harvard, MIT, and Brown, and computer scientists at places like Lincoln Lab and Bolt, Beranek and Newman. We prepare a poster/invitation for each event and would like several photos of you or other members of the ACE group from which we might select for this purpose. (I'm sending a poster/invitation for the Forrester lecture under separate cover.)

Over the years, doing some consulting for the British Science Museum, I became disturbed that the U.S. really didn't have a good computing exhibit. Thus, I started this project and have really enjoyed building the collection and giving order to the history. A first attempt at a wall chart of pre-computer generations is being sent with the Forrester poster.

Looking forward to seeing you again,

Cordially,

C. Gordon Bell
Keeper, Digital Computer Museum
Vice-President of Engineering
Digital Equipment Corporation

GB:mjf
GB1.S5.26

Forrester poster/invitation, pre-computer poster--under separate cover.

00 BURT DECGRAM ACCEPTED S 11945 O 12 13-APR-81 08:25:38

****
* d i g i t a l *
****

TO: EBOD MEMBERS:
ENGRG. USERS:
MFG STAFF:
OPERATIONS COMMITTEE:

DATE: MON 13 APR 1981 8:18 EST
FROM: GORDON BELL
DEPT: ENG STAFF
EXT: 223-2236
LOC/MAIL STOP: ML12-1/A51

SUBJECT: WILKINSON TALKS: MONDAY/4PM/SPIT BROOK-TUESDAY/5PM/MARLBORO

Dr. James Wilkinson will give the Fifth Pioneer Computer Lecture on Tuesday, April 14, 5PM at Marlboro .

Today, Jim Wilkinson is THE world's leading numerical analyst. As a mathematician he was a key implementer of Alan Turining's design of the PILOT ACE, one of the first TEN COMPUTERS. His insights have been, and continue to b REVOLUTIONARY.

It is a great honor to have him and I hope to see you there. Gordon.

P..S. If you can't make it Tuesday, he will talk about programming the PILOT ACE, Monday at 4 PM at the Babbage Auditorium at Spit Brook.

GB2.S5.66

August 25, 1980

Konrad Zuse
21 Haselgrund Street
Huenfeld GERMANY

Dear Dr. Zuse,

Enclosed is a copy of the Digital Computer Museum newsletter and a poster/invitation to our next event. Thank you so much for the colored portrait, we will use it in a display on Z machines. Could you also send us glossy prints of the pictures in Konrad Zuse der Weg zu seinem Computer Z3 - for use in the exhibit. If possible we need a piece from one of the machines which would be extraordinarily useful in preparing an interesting exhibit.

For the poster invitation for your own lecture we would like a photo of you at work. We used an old photo of Jay Forrester and a core. If you would agree we could use the photo of you and the Z4 on page 16 of the book Konrad Zuse..., or any other photo that shows you with a machine, either today or sometime in the past. Could you possibly send us several black and white photos of yourself alone or with one of your machines?

Looking forward to seeing you again.

Sincerely yours,

Gordon Bell
Vice President, Engineering
Keeper, Digital Computer Museum

GB1.S6.4

Enclosure: Museum Newsletter
Poster/Invitation

July 21, 1980

Prof. Konrad Zuse
Im Haselgrund 21
6418 Hunfeld 1
GERMANY

Dear Prof. Zuse:

Thank you for your letter of July 1. Unfortunately there was no photo portrait of yourself in the letter. I do hope you will send one so that we can prepare a poster/invitation for your lecture. I'm sending you the poster/invitation to Jay Forrester's lecture and a wall chart of our attempt to define pre-computer generations.

Since we video-tape the lectures, slides work better than overhead lantern pictures and we would be happy to make yours into slides for the occasion.

As an adjunct to your lecture, we hope to have some displays of your computers, thus we have asked for a full set of negatives. If you have any other ideas for materials that you might loan us for display, I would be most grateful.

Looking forward to talking informally with you again.

Sincerely yours,

Gordon Bell
Vice President, Engineering
Keeper, Digital Computer Museum

GB:swh
GB1.S5.25

August 20, 1979

British Science Museum
Jane Raimes, Assistant Keeper
South Kensington London SW72DD
ENGLAND

Dear Jane:

We can give you a Classic PDP-8 (circa 1965) that we believe was the first minicomputer. It would sit on some pedestal (we'll supply if you want) and is approximately 2 1/2' high and 20W wide x 30" deep. Do you still want it?

We're in the throes of opening our own Digital Computer Museum in Marlboro, Massachusetts this fall. It includes a reasonably good collection of calculators; a logic exhibit; MIT's Whirlwind and TX-0; MIT's LINC, a LINC-8, PDP-12, and our MINC Laboratory series evolution, a PDP-1 (first Spacewar), a PDP-8, and a collection of artifacts from our machines.

What's the chance of borrowing some parts from the Science Museum for a year?

Sincerely yours,

Gordon Bell
Vice President
Engineering

GB:mjf
GB0004/36

October 11, 1979

Jane Raimes
Assistant Keeper
British Science Museum
South Kensington
London SW7
ENGLAND

Dear Jane:

We are sending the PDP-8 to the Science Museum to your attention. Also, I'm enclosing the specification we use in describing it at our exhibit.

Sincerely yours,

Gordon Bell
Vice President
Engineering

GB:mjf
GB0005/3

Enclosure

CC: Bob Lane - DEC

January 16, 1981

Dr. Konrad Zuse
Im Haselgrund 21
6418 Hunfeld 1
GERMANY

Dear Dr. Zuse,

We were delighted to receive your letter of December 4th and are now looking foward to your visit in March.

Please send us your travel arrangements as soon as you complete them so that we can arrange transportation here. We have booked you at the Colonial Inn in Concord for the nights of March 3-5. Please advise us if this is appropriate.

The arrangements at Digital are as follows:

March 3 - Dinner with Gordon and Gwen Bell at their home.
March 4 - Tour of Digital's Semi-conductor Plant, Hudson, and the Digital Computer Museum;
5 p.m. Lecture, Reception and viewing of paintings.
March 5 - 2 p.m. Lecture on Plankalkul at Digital's Spit Brook Road Plant. Inauguration of the Zuse Conference Room. Dinner with programmers.

We have been in contact with Mr. Goeze and he is shipping the paintings to us this month. We will exhibit them in the lecture hall near the Museum.

The poster/invitations for the lecture are being printed and we will send you about 20 via airmail so that you can distribute them as you please. Are there any special people in the United States (and especially in the Boston area) that you would like to have invited to your lecture?

Could you please let me know whether you will be using slides for either of these lectures so that we can have the proper equipment for you.

Looking forward to hearing from you.

Cordially,

Gordon Bell
Vice President,
Engineering

GB:swh
GB2.S1.15