## Milestones of a Revolution

## **PEOPLE AND COMPUTERS Opens**

When PEOPLE AND COMPUTERS opened June 29, Steve Many, a computer consultant from Goffstown, New Hampshire, and his daughter Vanessa, 12, were the first to explore the exhibition. "This is awesome," said Vanessa, of "Sam," the first computer to light a Broadway show, re-created in the 1970s milestone.

"It's amazing how many changes there have been in just a few decades," said her father. "You don't realize until you see an exhibit like this." At the end of the exhibit, when the robot mannequin asked



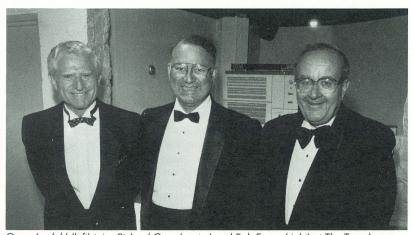
Joe Thompson, a senior analyst at Unisys in California (left), is reunited with Jack Gilmore, Senior Software Engineering Manager, Digital Equipment Corporation (right), at the Whirlwind computer. In 1951, Gilmore trained an 18-year-old Thompson to run the Whirlwind. He became one of the first two computer operators.



Dr. J. Presper Eckert, co-designer of the UNIVAC and ENIAC, points to the UNIVAC's console, reconstructed as it was in General Electric's Louisville, Kentucky, plant in the 1950s.



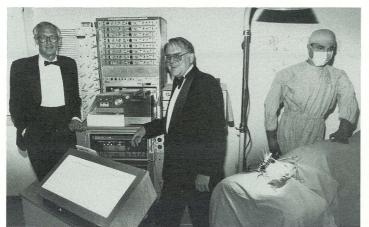
Jean E. Sammet, a key member of the Codicil Committee, visits the milestone that explores the forces in the 1950s and 1960s demanding a common high-level programming language: COBOL.



Gene Amdahl (left) joins Richard Case (center) and Bob Evans (right) at The Travelers Insurance Companies' IBM System/360. Amdahl was the 360's principal architect; Case helped develop its operating system, and Evans was responsible for the adoption of its marketing strategy.

what the computer revolution meant to them, Vanessa said, "Technology is great, but I wonder if we're overdoing it." Her father replied, "Computers are here to stay. We need to learn to use them to the best of our ability."

Some of the computer pioneers whose work the exhibition recreates are pictured below. They gathered with the exhibit sponsors and Museum's Board of Directors two days before the opening.



Dr. Truett Allison (left) joins Gordon Bell at the re-creation of a 1970s operating room where a Digital PDP-8 was the first computer small enough to wheel into surgery. Allison was the neurophysiologist who used the computer and Bell, its architect.



Gordon Pearlman, who designed Broadway's first computerized lighting control board, visits his LS-8 "Sam," reconstructed as it was in the Shubert Theater in the 1970s. Hooked up to a Digital PDP-8, Sam lit A Chorus Line for nearly 13 years.



H.G. Rojas (left), a member of the 1981 IBM PC launch team, and Bob Frankston, co-author of the electronic spreadsheet VisiCalc, explore the 1980s Royal Hong Kong Jockey Club office that used an IBM PC with Lotus 1-2-3 software. That's a mannequin on the phone!



Director of Exhibits Greg Welch shows the "animatron" in the 1990s milestone to Dr. Akira Fukumoto, Director of Panasonic Technologies, Inc., Boston, and William D. Gardner, Assistant General Manager, Software Division, Business Engineering Center, Matsushita Electric Corporation of America. From the left: animatron, Welch, Fukumoto, Gardner.