



DECconnection

A professional association for retiring organization members of Digital Equipment Corporation employees

January-February 2020



Happy New DECade!

Events

Upcoming:

- [See the Compaq Big Band in New England](#)
- Sat., 4 Apr. 2020, Phoenix AZ luncheon (GalenDavis@aol.com)
- Thu, 23 Apr. 2020, Colorado Springs Annual (Tentative date; new organizers needed. LMarzulla@comcast.net)
- Maynard area events to be planned during February, stay tuned.

Digital and the Industry

■ Last issue we posted a question concerning the significant cost increase (e.g. 22%) for certain retiree medical insurance plans available from HP. We do not have an official answer but best information, from Curt Gowan on his HPAA site, is at [this link](#). You can sign up to follow topics of interest on Curt's excellent website.

■ And now, a super treat for all DECcies!

Harvard Business School DEC Collection

As many of our readers may know, Ken Olsen gifted, through one of his foundations, the monies to build the Ken Olsen Science Center at Gordon College, which was dedicated in 2008. He also donated to Gordon College the many documents developed during his life and career as a computer engineer, entrepreneur, and co-founder of Digital Equipment Corporation and President of the company from 1957-1992.

In recent years, Gordon College, with the permission of Ken's family, have permanently loaned this material [approximately 85 boxes] to the Baker Library at the Harvard Business School. The contact who has knowledge of the Digital collection is Laura Linard who manages Special Collections at the Library. At this time there is no plan to make these documents digitally available. However, arrangements can be made for researchers to see these documents as well as former Digital employees who are researching this information for their own use. [Laura's email is llinard@hbs.edu; phone 617-495-6360] Below is a pointer to the Digital Collection which has an index of all the material. The original business plan that Ken Olsen developed to start DEC is part of this material, along with addendums and business letters.

<https://hollisarchives.lib.harvard.edu/repositories/11/resources/9199>

DECconnection has acquired a copy of this original business plan from Robert Parsons, who worked closely with Ken during his last few years at Digital and also at Ken's start up, Advanced Modular Solutions. We were able to obtain permission from Gordon College to share the contents with our readers. You shall see this scanned document in its original printed format which is white text on a black background. For the sake of readability, we have also inserted retyped pages behind those pages difficult to read. This 1957 document has 2 proposals about 5 months apart, with the latest listed first. See pointer below.

[Ken Olsen's 1957 Business Plan to Start DEC](#)

Yet another treat!

We've been contacted by David A. Mark, who has authored a series of 10 articles about Digital and Maynard which are being published as a series in the *Maynard Beacon-Villager*. <http://www.maynardlifeoutdoors.com/>

David says the website contains photos that are not included in the newspaper. The first article was Nov. 28, 2019. Comments on the blog, and comments, questions, corrections and information sent to damark51@gmail.com are welcome. I am particularly interested in stories about how the presence of DEC in Maynard affected Maynard. Thanks for sharing these with us, David!

DEC Connection Member News

Welcome to our new and renewing members during December and January: Fred Balfour (NY), Phil Barbonis (Holland), Greg Bassett (Switzerland), Henry Black (BC Canada), Glenn Boston (NH), Luiz Camargo (PR), Dan Casaletto (MA), Art Clockedile (MA), Gene Cronin (NC), Karen Dorhamer-Fadden (MA), Mary Fox (WA), Nancy Brine Fredrickson (FL), Joanne Haddad-Jacobs (FL), Dick Helliwell (NV), Ray Humphrey (FL), Stephen Jablonsky (MA), Greg Liverman (CO), Daryl Long (MA), Ed LoTurco (MA), Gerry McKenna (MA), Larry Mello (SC), Aline Migrants (MA), James Montague (MA), Cynthia Nadreau Whitty (MA), Joe O'Leary (MA), Rick Peebles (NC), Karen Pelletier (FL), Derrell Piper (CA), Andy Puchrik (MA), Mike Renzulli (NH), Jack Richardson (MA), Steve Taylor (MA), Mike Titelbaum (FL), Steve Webber (MA), and Andrew Walker (MA).



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.

■ New member **Karen Pelletier** writes: I worked for DEC for about 17 years. After DEC, I ventured into a successful career as an HR Consultant in the Healthcare Industry. I'm semi-retired but still enjoy part time consulting, including helping others write their resumes and find employment. I credit this success to a wonderful DEC mentor named Geoff Sackman. kmpell06@yahoo.com

■ **Fred Balfour** writes: Fred & Sharon have moved full time to Ithaca NY, near three grandchildren leaving two grandchildren behind in the Boston area (wailing and gnashing of teeth). Fred is toying with a radio journalism career with local community radio station: WRFI: Watkins Glen & Ithaca. He's focusing on healthcare and the pending NY Health Act which would institute a single-payer insurance system for NY state (much like the fire department which is also a single payer system). Save billions of dollars and hundreds of lives and thousands of medical bankruptcies. fred.balfour@gmail.com

■ **Stephen Jablonsky** sent us a photo of his impressive DEC mug collection, which you can admire [here in our Promo Museum](#). stephen.jablonsky@comcast.net

■ **Jack Richardson** would like to contact **John Gwinn**. If you know John's contact info please write to jrichardson@visionnewengland.org

■ **Barry Rosen** writes that he is serving on the Town of Acton's Water Resources Advisory Committee as Commissioner of Water Supply District of Acton. barryrosen@gmail.com

■ **Mary Fox** writes: Moved to the Seattle area in August 2019 to be near our son Keith and our two beautiful granddaughters. Enjoying retirement, golfing, gardening and babysitting. Still have very fond memories of my 30 years at DEC, Compaq and HP. Taking the HP early retirement package in 2005 was the best decision I ever made. Special thanks to the DEC Connection board volunteers for keeping this site going. Golfingmary@gmail.com

NOTES TO OUR READERS:

1. We have upgraded to a faster website server at our hosting company. You may have to reset your bookmark or favorites URL to this new setting. Same URL, www.deconnection.org
2. 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 some companies to flag any site without an SSL certificate as unsafe. These companies would like to sell more SSL certificates and products. Since we do not collect personal or financial data through our website, we do not need an SSL certificate. When you purchase tickets through our website, we transfer you to the PayPal website, which DOES use SSL security software.

Sad News Department

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

Bill Hovey, 68, Merrimack NH, 7 Jan 2020
Edmund Joseph (Ed) Reilly, Jr., Redmond WA, 19 Dec 2019
Dave Denniston, 83, Santa Barbara CA, 19 Dec 2019
Don Miner, 87, Framingham MA, 6 Dec 2019
Barbara Jean Cusack, 66, 21 Nov 2019
Bob Schmitt, 76, Albany NY, 31 Oct 2019

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

Website Features and Updates

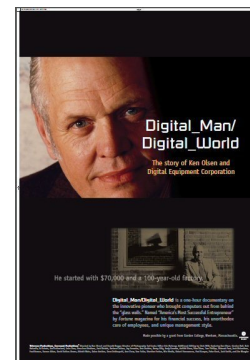
■ [Where to Donate your Digital Equipment gear](#)

■ 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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