

DEC Connection
About Digital
Reminiscing and Ruminating...
Remember when (Humorous Memories, "war stories")

« previous next »

Pages: [1] [GO DOWN](#)

[REPLY](#) 
[NOTIFY](#) 
[MARK UNREAD](#) 
[SEND TOPIC](#) 
[PRINT](#) 

Author Topic: Remember when (Humorous Memories, "war stories") (Read 1480 times)

will emerson
 Underwriting Technical Assistant
 Jr. Member
 ★★
 Posts: 90

Remember when (Humorous Memories, "war stories")
 « on: January 07, 2007, 02:23:24 PM »

[QUOTE](#) 
[MODIFY](#) 
[DELETE](#) 
[SPLIT](#) 

Remember when (pick your site or subject) happened. Example: "remember the day xxxx happened"? Humorous events preferred..



Cet espace à louer - This space for rent

[Report to moderator](#)  71.248.163.23 (?)




In fond memory
Harold Henry Olsen
20 Feb. 1925 - 05 Feb. 2014



Bob Moore
 President DEC Connection Board
 Newbie
 ★
 Posts: 30

Re: Remember when (Humorous Memories, "war stories")
 « Reply #1 on: January 23, 2007, 08:55:21 AM »

[QUOTE](#) 
[MODIFY](#) 
[DELETE](#) 
[SPLIT](#) 

 I remember when they had the first Board Of Director's meeting in Concord VRO5. Don't recall the year. The buildings at VRO were built to DEC spec and the first one had this really neat Board room on the second floor. The building was designed with an entrance on each level at ground level. Obviously the ground had to have been seriously rearranged to make this happen.

Anyway as I recall, (others please help), the meeting was to take place at a time of year when tulips were not in bloom. However when we all came to work that day the upper and lower walkways were surrounded with at least half-jillion RED AND YELLOW TULIPS IN FULL BLOOM Wow Mother nature had to be really amazed at what had happened in her back yard over night.

The rest of the story is that after the last Limo had depated and the board has all gone back wherever they came from, an announcement was made, "anyone who wished to take home a tulip, may do so after work." And we all did because it was so easy. None of the tulips had been actually planted in the soil but they came in a pot and the pot simply was placed in its entirety in the ground. I'm sure this whole operation had been out-sourced as it happened so quick.

Please reply if you remember this "Marvelous Moment"



« Last Edit: January 23, 2007, 09:04:47 AM by Ava Schutzman »

[Report to moderator](#)  71.162.112.206 (?)

C Robert Moore

will emerson

Underwriting Technical Assistant
Jr. Member
☆☆☆
Posts: 90



Cet espace à louer - This space for rent



Mill Hazards or "Look out below!"

« Reply #2 on: March 17, 2007, 07:48:31 PM »



I had previously posted about this in the old "war stories" notesfile.. Anyway, I was working in the Mill on 4-4 at the time as a "data control clerk" aka. tape library type. Anyway, to "set the scene", it was later winter, the room I worked in had a "service window" out to the hallway, across from and dagonally about 20 feet from the elevator that served Bldg 4 and Bldg 3 along with the ground floor of Bldg 6. Well, one day I'm sitting in front of my trusty VT100 logging in tapes, and I hear this "Kerrack" followed in most rapid succession with "BOOM!!!!!!!", and dust coming in the window. "What th' [] was that?" I thought, then I had an immediate thought that it would be prudent to investigate as from the volume of the noise, I considered the possibility that something really bad happened to the elevator, and Billy, the operator, especially with all the dust coming from that direction.

Well, I got to the elevator just as Billy was coming up, and he stopped and raised the gates for me to get on. "What happened?" I asked. "I dunno" he said, "but there's a lot of people wandering around down there yakking". "Billy, can you drop me off down there?". Well, I arrived on 3-1/6-1 to see a first class commotion. It turned out that the "Kerrack" was a large chunk of ice that no longer desired keeping company with the roof of bldg 4, and in obedience of the law of gravity took the express route to the ground. The roof of Bldg 6 attempted to intervene in this (source of the BOOM!!!!) but only succeeded in reducing the ice's velocity slightly, and the chunk of ice landed a couple of feet away from a very surprised facilities Carpentry Supervisor who had been working at his desk right below. Suffice it to say he was rather unnerved by the incident.



Report to moderator 71.248.163.112 (?)



In hard memory
Howard Henry Olson
20 Feb 1929 - 08 Feb 2011



Bob Moore

President DEC Connection Board
Newbie
☆☆☆
Posts: 30



Re: Remember when (Humorous Memories, "war stories")

« Reply #3 on: March 19, 2007, 09:43:19 AM »



Thanks will that was marvelous thanks for sharing oh wasn't the notes capability neat? crm with appreciation



Report to moderator 72.70.33.215 (?)

C Robert Moore

will emerson

Underwriting Technical Assistant
Jr. Member
☆☆☆
Posts: 90

Free Day Off

« Reply #4 on: July 14, 2007, 06:59:53 PM »





Any former MLO types remember the day they (was it the Town of Maynard or the State?) decided to remove the old railroad crossing on Main Street, and busted the water main, thus temporarily (for a day) eliminating water service to the Mill, resulting in an unexpected "send home"?



Cet espace à louer -
This space for rent



Report to moderator 207.67.151.130 (?)



In fond memory
Herbert Harry Dean
23 Feb 1928 - 08 Feb 2014



will_emerson

Underwriting Technical
Assistant
Jr. Member

☆☆☆
Posts: 90



**The Big Red Button, or Where There's
Smoke...**

« Reply #5 on: July 24, 2007, 07:38:55 PM »



Cet espace à louer -
This space for rent



At the time, I was serving as an "Associate Operations Analyst", commonly known in the datacenter world at the time as "Production Control"..

One evening probably about 8 PM, I decided to check on how production was going, so I decided to dial up and log into our main production machine EDCD (KL1091).. Well, I got an "unavailable" message... "Hmmm...." I thought, "this doesn't look good".. Well, I decided to try to connect to a few of the other systems in our MLO1-1 datacenter, each with the same response..

Now, I'm starting to get a little nervous, so I picked up the phone and dialed the operations number. When the second shift operator picked up the phone, I could hear a lot of noise, and what sounded like an alarm. "Hi Tom, It's Will.. What's going on? What's all that noise?". Now, I'm starting to put my socks back on. "Aw, you missed it!". "Missed what?!" I rather unnervedly inquired. "The FIRE!" came the response. Now I'm putting on my shoes. "What Fire?","Are you okay?","What happened?!?!". "Well I saw smoke coming out of MTA2 on DREAMS, and I figured where there's smoke, there's fire, so I got outta' here an' called security". "Ok", I said "Did you do anything else on your way out?". "Yeah! I hit the Red Button".

"<GULP!>, OH, <(major scale expletive)>!".

Now for those of you unfamiliar with the old "computer rooms", the Red Button is a forbidden object. You DO NOT WANT TO PUSH THE RED BUTTON any more than the President of The United States wants to push that button inside that briefcase known as the "football". Once pushed, all power to the computer room is cut, The Fire Suppression System (Halon) is triggered, and everyone, Security, Fire Dept, Police including their aunts, uncles and cousins, receives the alarm. Trust me, you don't want to push it unless all HELL is breaking loose.. Plus, normally when the Halon System is triggered, it responds with gusto, relocating floor tiles and anything else it can throughout the room.

Who's there now?". "The Maynard Cops, The Fire Department, Security, the electricians from Plant Engineers, and Field Service.." he responded. "How bad is the damage? Did the Halon dump?". "<censored>, the electrician says it did!". "Well, are any floor or ceiling tiles moved?" I asked. "No..", "Okay, It apparently didn't dump, plus you guys wouldn't be in there if it did.. What's the latest on the systems?". "Everything's on the way back up now" was the response. After instructing the operator to make sure the operations supervisor knew what was going on, I told him to call me if any production job needed attention, and took my shoes back off.. "Whew!".

The next day, the Operations Supervisor and I found out that the Halon tank had been EMPTY for a few years.. The smoke was from a power supply in a TA78 tape drive..



[Report to moderator](#)  [71.248.163.44 \(?\)](#)



In kind memory
Harold Henry Olson
23 Feb. 1925 - 08 Feb. 2011



Anker

Newbie



Posts: 20



Re: Remember when (Humorous Memories, "war stories")

« Reply #6 on: July 29, 2007, 05:36:58 PM »



Great stories Will!

Anker



Report to moderator L 24.34.57.215 (?)

SEHarker

Newbie



Posts: 17



Re: Remember when (Humorous Memories, "war stories")

« Reply #7 on: November 14, 2007, 12:51:50 PM »



This is a response and follow-up on your memories re: VRO5, Bob (Moore). The Tulip "Fest" (which I do vaguely recall) may have been in the Fall 1984 or '85 timeframe, shortly after the building was opened for occupancy. But, your Memory brought back a flood of my own re: VRO5, and one in particular about Ken and the BOD.

You are right, of course, VRO5 was the focal point for BOD meetings. I believe it was meant to be temporary while the Mill was being refurbished. While somewhat "out of the way" in comparison to other corporate facilities, it had, actually, been strategically placed close to Hanscom Air Base to allow BOD Membership the ability to fly into Hanscom in their private, or corporate, aircraft and then take limousines for a five minute trip over to VRO5 for the meetings and then fly out right after. The BOD room was, itself, a large (but simple) construct with few embellishments. In 1984, I was moved in to VRO5 as the Corporate Supply Base Manager for Telecommunications, to support the Corporate Telecommunications Business function (then under Haskell Cehers (*Sp?)) which, itself, had only just taken over most of the building.

The memories I have of the six or seven years we were in that facility are many but topped by only one. The day Ken Olsen became a thief (Not really, of course. But, well, kind of, (sort of....?)).

First, to set the scene, if you worked in that facility, you'll remember it had power problems. Now and then – usually at an inopportune moment, and to a chorus of groans - the entire complex would lose electric power and not just power, but the entire telephone system as well (this was particularly embarrassing for the Telecom Group).

Now, on one particular day a BOD Meeting had been scheduled for the afternoon, and following explicit but unspoken rules, we went about our normal business while staying as far away from that room as possible. Limousines sped in and out and - as luck would have it, about mid-afternoon the power cut out. Whatever was going on in the BOD Meeting was brought to a sudden halt, and its members – including Ken – began to pace restlessly awaiting its return. When it became apparent the VRO5 telephone system was also out, pacing turned to disgruntled grumbling and, apparently, word came out of the room (presumably from Ken) to "Do something about it!". This left Corporate Telecom's senior management in a quandary (and, I suspect, not a little bit nervous about their professional futures).

Then, as luck would also have it, just as things could not have looked bleaker, a "White Knight" arrived in the form of Robert Marshall. Bob was NYNEX's (at that time our Regional Bell Operating Company's) Sales Account Executive for its business relationship with DEC. Bob had just arrived at VRO5 for a management "Dog & Pony" meeting on new technologies.

No Sales type could have ever (in earnest prayer) asked for a better "set-up". Quickly sizing up the BOD situation Bob, with Kevin Saunders, the Corporate Telecom Group's Voice Manager in tow, rushed over to my office and, after a short discussion, the three of us quickly worked up a (down and dirty) "Trial Use Agreement" allowing Marshall to bring NYNEX's (then) latest in Cellular technology on to the premise.

Moments later, with all documents duly executed, and a portable cellular phone's case in hand (a large, heavy, boxy device at the time), he and Kevin rushed upstairs and into the BOD Room where Bob, with a few minutes of sales-level descriptions and training gave the Cellular phone to Ken to call his Secretary, and then, in turn, to each of the other BOD members allowing them to make similar calls (I remember being told they actually lined up to make their calls).

However, with all calls made, and no resolution to the power situation in sight, the BOD



Report to moderator 66.189.36.56 (?)

Isegal

Newbie
★
Posts: 23

Re: Remember when (Humorous Memories, "war stories")

« Reply #8 on: January 22, 2008, 08:35:44 PM »

QUOTE MODIFY DELETE SPLIT



The Day the River Ran Thru It!!

I was hired as a 3rd shift production supervisor in the Board Shop. I'm sitting in my office when a breathless employee runs in (I'm in the basement of Bldg ☺ telling me that "we have water in the silk screen room" (Bldg 3 basement). I run down there to see a small geyser pop up a wooden plug in the floor and a ~4" diameter stream of water gushing up. The Assabet River literally backed up into the room. I had the employees shut down the equipment and unplug it for fear of electrocution. And then we broke into every closet to grab mops and pails . . . everyone heaving to to clean up the mess. There was a computer room down the hall but I don't recall if any water got in there. We had 2-3" in the silk screen room as I recall.



Report to moderator 66.31.158.61 (?)

Pages: [1] GO UP

REPLY NOTIFY ADD POLL SEND TOPIC PRINT

« previous next »

MOVE TOPIC REMOVE TOPIC LOCK/UNLOCK STICKY MERGE LINK TO CALENDAR 31

Jump to: => Reminiscing and Ruminating... go

