

JOHN A. ASELTINE
CURRICULUM ANNOTATUM VITAE

- 1952 - 1954 Member of the Technical Staff, Theory and Analysis Section, R & D Labs, **Hughes Aircraft**. My first professional job. Worked on the analog computer analysis of the *FALCON* air-to-air radar-guided missile. (The IR version of *Falcon* worked better and won out in the end.) Many of my bosses and co-workers went to Ramo Wooldridge to work on ICBMs when it was formed in 1953.
- 1954 - 1955 Head, Systems Analysis, **Research Labs, Lear Inc.** I worked on autopilots and on a proposal for radio communication for the country of Columbia, where the natives cut down telephone wires for jewelry. Mr. Lear folded Research Labs after one year.
- 1955 John Barnes, my PhD major professor at UCLA called. **Lockheed** had formed a new **Missile Systems Division** in the San Fernando Valley (near my home.) Among other projects, I worked on the *POLARIS* missile proposal for the Navy. After six months Lockheed moved the whole thing to Sunnyvale and all my bosses quit and formed another new company. I went along.
- 1955 - 1958 **Systems Research Corp.** I wrote proposals and commuted to Grumman on Long Island where John Barnes had contacts. Then Ford bought out the company and changed its name to **Aeronutronic**. I was head of the Control Systems Department. We wrote proposals and won contracts with Wright Field to study autopilots on our new analog computer. In 1958 the company moved to Newport Beach. I didn't want to move, so got a job at Ramo Wooldridge.
- 1958 - 1960 **Ramo Wooldridge** (renamed **Space Technology Labs**.) I led the engineering of the first-ever US satellite tracking center, and helped generate the first flight trajectories for a trip to Venus. I did Guidance work on *ATLAS*, *TITAN*, *MINUTEMAN*, *AGENA* and other missiles. Then I began working with the Air Force on design of new weapon systems.

1960 - 1965 **Aerospace Corporation** General Manager,
Systems Planning Division. When Aerospace was
created it absorbed my part of STL, and I went
along. I led the design of a satellite
interceptor system (*SAINT*) and the Mobile Mid
Range Ballistic Missile (*MMRBM*.) We gave
briefings in many places, including the
Pentagon (Gen. LeMay) and the White House
(PSA), and Los Alamos (Edward Teller.) I
became Director of the *MMRBM* when it was
funded. John Kennedy was elected President,
and the new Pentagon leadership (Robert
McNamara et al) killed the program. At the
same time my part of Aerospace was moved to
San Bernardino. Time to leave.

1965 - 1967 Assistant Division Manager for *APOLLO*,
TRW, Huston. In order to return to **STL**
(now **TRW**), I had to relocate. In my new
job I supervised the software for NASA's
Huston Manned Spaceflight Center (as in
"Houston, we have a problem.") It was
written in FORTRAN subroutines. I taught
myself FORTRAN at that time. I was also
held a second job as Associate Director of
TRW Huston Operations (my friend Arnie
Rosenbloom was Director.)

1967 I moved back to **TRW** in LA in 1967, as
Asst. Division Manager for Civil Systems.

1968 In 1968 after a short time in Civil
Systems, I was removed and became
Assistant to the General Manager of **TRW**
(Dick DeLauer.) I worked on acquisitions
and was responsible for putting TRW in the
credit-reporting business.

1968 - 1969 Next, I moved to academia as Professor,
Electrical and Industrial Engineering at the
University of Southern California. I taught
courses in transistors and statistics. I
introduced integrated circuits in the EE
labs. I had failed to ask for tenure, and was
dismissed by the Dean. The same day a
delegation of my students initiated me into
their EE honor society.

1970 - 1971 Now out on my own, I started my own consulting
firm, **Pico/Data Inc**. One of our clients was
Energy Conversion Devices in Detroit. Our

contract was to write a plan for a new company which would develop a computer memory using ECD's special "ovonic" material. Then they asked us to execute the plan.

1971 - We were acquired (swallowed-up would be a better word) by Energy Conversion Devices. Now I was President of **Ovonic Memories, Inc.** With ECD financing, we added people and developed a laser disc drive with ECD's "ovonic" material. But Ovonics didn't work.

Meanwhile we started to develop a magnetic version of our memory and got it ready for market. It used new technology and had twice the capacity of IBM's best. Our parent ECD had financial troubles and divested us. I bought the company for \$1. We brought our magnetic memory to market, and looked for a buyer for ourselves.

1971 - 1974 We were acquired by Vermont Research, a memory-drum company. They renamed us **VRC California, Inc** and I became President. We continued to engineer our disk drive, but VRC moved the manufacturing to Vermont and then to their subsidiary in England. VRC closed our LA plant and I was surplus.

I had a call from my old boss, the former president of ECD (Keith Cunningham) who had moved on to United Nuclear Corp. UNC operated a Uranium mine in New Mexico with the largest reserves in the US. UNC also manufactured reactors for nuclear submarines and destroyers.

1974 - 1977 My next job was Assistant General Manager of the **United Nuclear Corp** Manufacturing plant near New London, CT.

1977 - 1983 After three years of building reactors for the nuclear navy, I was promoted to VP and moved to the Corporate Offices in northern Virginia outside Washington DC. The company renamed itself **UNC Resources**. At one time I was Group VP of the non-mining operations which included my old manufacturing plant and the WW2 Plutonium reactor at Hanford, Washington. The company again renamed itself, and was now **UNC, Inc.**

I was made Senior Vice President of Planning and Development. I commuted to Wall St., looking for acquisitions. At one point I worked to arrange the sale of half of our Uranium mine to the French government. (I commuted to Europe via the Concorde.) Our CEO never acted on any of this.

During most of this time all company computer operations reported to me. Our New England branch had written programs to support some of UNC's own corporate litigation. I built the litigation support into a separate company called ATLIS (for Automated LItigation Support.) After *Three Mile Island*, UNC began to fade. I arranged financing for ATLIS on the London stock exchange and left to run the new company.

1983 - 1986

Now I was President and CEO, **Atlis Systems Inc.** We marketed our computer support services to law firms. My company reached \$8M sales with 20% gross profit in 1986. We had offices in Washington DC, Los Angeles, Chicago and Connecticut. Then the president of UNC was removed from his job and given a golden parachute which included a controlling interest in our stock. Next, he replaced me with his son and I moved on. The son later put the company into bankruptcy, so my own stock was worthless.

1986 - 1989

The Dean of Information Systems and Systems Engineering at **George Mason University** (a branch of the University of Virginia) was an old acquaintance from STL days. I became Professor of Computer Science at the Fairfax, Virginia campus. I taught C-Language (including a public course on TV.) I consulted in UNIX system programming. As age 65 approached I decided to return to California. We found a fine place in Arroyo Grande, near the ocean on the central coast.

1989 - 1992

I wasn't able to adapt yet to retirement, so I got a job as Lecturer, Computer Science at **Cal Poly State University**. I taught courses

in C-Language, UNIX and FORTRAN. When the California State budget was cut I was not called back for another term.

1992 - 1995 Still unable to face retirement, I became a programmer at the **Symantec** subsidiary responsible for the (now defunct) *Norton Backup* program. I converted the C-language program into various foreign language versions (French, German, Italian)

1995 - present Now I love retirement. I have written my autobiography (too personal to put on my web site, but I plan to post excerpts some day.) Also, I wrote a literary criticism of the books in my own library (*The Library of a Dilettante*.) I have learned HTML, PERL, and JAVA so I could write a music search program -- an example of "cloud computing" (*Classic Music Index*.) My hobbies include trying to understand "The Way the World Works" with evolutionary biology. I also continue to study Physics -- quantum theory and relativity (which are also part of the answer to how the world works.) I am also converting my books to paperbacks via Lulu.com. See my web page for my books and music program.

Education

1947 BA, Physics, UC, Berkeley.

1952 MS, Ph.D., Engineering, UCLA.

Honors

Fellow, Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers.

Outstanding Service Award, International Federation of Automatic Control.

Pi Mu Epsilon (Mathematics); Eta Kappa Nu (Electrical Engineering)

Professional

1952 - 1970 UCLA, Adjunct Professor of Engineering (part time) Courses in Laplace Transform and Automatic Control.

1966 - 1972 Chairman, Space Committee, International Federation of Automatic Control.

Author of books, articles in encyclopedias, etc., including:

"Transform Method", McGraw-Hill, 1958. (over 20,000 copies sold)

"Automatic Control in Space", Editor, Proceedings of IFAC Symposia, 3 vols., published by Instrument Society of America, 1965, 1968, 1970.

"Introduction to Computer and Information Analysis", Wiley, 1989 (joint author)

and 25 peer-reviewed technical papers in applied mathematics, automatic control, computer memory, etc. For example:

"A Transform Method for Linear Time-Varying Systems", Journal of Applied Physics, 35, p.761-764, June 1954.

"Nonlinear Sampled-Data System Analysis by the Incremental Phase-Plane Method", IFAC Congress, Part 1, pp. 202-209, Butterworth's Scientific Pub., London, 1960.

Personal

1925 Born at Palo Alto, California; childhood in San Diego and Del Mar, CA.

1938 Eagle Scout.

1941 Ham radio W6YWR.

Military (World War II)

Summer 1942 Radio operator, MV Bonita, Tuna fishing off Cabo San Lucas. Sent encrypted weather reports to Naval Intelligence, 12th Naval District. (After summer, returned to finish high school.)

1943 - 1944 Navy V1. Called to active duty from Stanford. Apprentice Seaman, Navy V12, University of California, Berkeley.

12/44 - 3/45 Midshipman, Ft. Schuyler, NY.

3/45 Ensign, USNR.
4/45 - 5/45 Ship Handling School, Miami. Sonar School,
 San Diego.
6/45 Eniwetok, looking for my ship.
8/45 (VJ day) Guam, USS Roberts (DE 749).
1945 - 1946 Deck Officer, destroyer escort, top watch
 underway. Pacific, Japan, Philippians,
 Atlantic, Florida. Retired as LTJG.

Additional Personal

1945 - 1960 Married Jane and divorced after 16 years. One
 son and three daughters (son and all but
 one daughter now estranged.) Ex-wife
 deceased.
1963 - 1973 Married Sue and divorced after 10 years. Ex-
 wife deceased.
1974 - now Married Geraldine née Heckman. Third time was
 the charm. Lived in Santa Monica, CA; Essex &
 Lyme, CT; Vienna, VA; Arroyo Grande, CA.
1989 - now 1366 Old Oak Park Rd.
 Arroyo Grande, CA 93420

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now = 12/24/2010