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UFO UpDates Mailing List

Re: American Computer - Update

From: James Easton <pulsar@compuserve.com>
Date: Wed, 3 Sep 1997 21:22:59 -0400
Fwd Date: Thu, 04 Sep 1997 08:11:54 -0400
Subject: Re: American Computer - Update

Regarding...

>From: Stig_Agermose@online.pol.dk (Stig Agermose)
>Date: Wed, 3 Sep 1997 18:16:23 +0200
>Subject: American Computer: Sensational Update (If True)

Stig wrote:

>On September 2 1997 Bob Wolf posted these epoch-making (if true)
>pieces of information to the Current Encounters mailing list, and
>today, September 3, Francis Ridge forwarded them to the members of
>the Project 1947 list including me.

>Case in point, straight from the source at ACC who researched it
>(again, in response to the letter below, I called ACC's head who put
>me in touch with the guy and holy mackerel!) and lived it!

>Here it is, World, for everyone to hear, from the horse's mouth
>(updated today, September 2, 1997 with additional facts), 'His
>statement' (slightly expurgated - he talks very quickly):

>"Bell Laboratories published all the historical material James Easton
>found, AFTER the fact in 1948 and 1949. It's all a smokescreen
>fabrication designed to hide the real history. Do not expect Bell
>Labs to sit tight on this, they may even sue me for revealing this:
>but the fact is, there is NO INFORMATION ABOUT TRANSISTOR RESEARCH
>actually available nor that is bonafide nor provided by Bell Labs
>PRIOR TO Sepetember of 1947.

Stig,

For an excellent and easily accessible overview of "The History of the Transistor", I can recommend the Lucent Technologies site at:

<http://www.lucent.com/ideas2/heritage/transistor/>

Hopefully permitted some brief extracts:

"In 1945, Bell Labs' executive director, Mervin Kelly, boosted Bell Labs semiconductor research by putting together a world class team of solid-state physicists. Realizing that the vacuum tube had surpassed its potential as a practical amplifying device, this team of Bell Labs scientists went to work on developing a new means of amplification.

As Lee De Forest saw the potential of attaching a third electrode to John Ambrose Felming's vacuum tube rectifier, the Bell Labs scientists

speculated that by adding a third electrode to the semiconductor detector, they would be able to control the amount of current flowing through the silicon. If their theories proved correct, the resulting device would amplify in the same way as the vacuum tube with much less power consumption and in a fraction of the space".

The PN Junction

"What the Bell Labs scientists discovered was that silicon was comprised of two distinct regions differentiated by the way in which they favored current flow. The area that favored positive current flow they named "p" and the area that favored negative current flow they named "n." More importantly, they determined the impurities that caused these tendencies in the "p" and "n" regions and could reproduce them at will. With the discovery of the P-N junction and the ability to control its properties, the fundamental ground work was laid for the invention of the transistor. This Bell Labs discovery was instrumental in the development of all semiconductor devices to come".

"Three of the physicists working on the investigation team were John Bardeen and Walter Brattain, both of whom had been researching the properties of semiconductors, and William Shockley, whose specialty was solid state physics. Combining their expertise, they conducted experiments with another type of semiconductor-- germanium-- a grayish white element with brilliant metallic luster and a crystalline structure with a diamond pattern.

During one experiment, Brattain observed that a germanium crystal that was set in contact with two wires two-thousandths of an inch apart was amplifying. After exclaiming, "Eureka! This thing's got current gain!", he informed his colleagues that many years of research by many Bell Labs scientists finally paid off. They had invented the first semiconductor device that could do the work of a vacuum tube: the transistor".

"Dr. John Bardeen, Dr. Walter Brattain, and Dr. William Shockley discovered the transistor effect and developed the first device in December, 1947, while the three were members of the technical staff at Bell Laboratories in Murray Hill, NJ. They were awarded the Nobel Prize in physics in 1956".

"The research work to understand what was really going on in the simplest semiconductors, silicon and germanium, finally resulted in the breakthrough. After fourteen years of work, I was beginning to lose faith".

Walter Brattain.

>It didn't exist, because the materials researched to fabricate the
>Transistor came from the Roswell, New Mexico crash site of the
>"extraterrestrial craft" discovered jointly by the Air Force and Army
>there in mid 1947, accidentally revealed to the public and then
>retracted, by a public relations spokesperson at that Testing Base.

What, germanium and silicon came from a "flying saucer"!?

It's important to realise that all of the research by Bell Labs and others was to find a replacement for the larger, power hungry and expensive vacuum tubes. The transistor wasn't a new concept, it was the same concept, only in a more useful and cost-effective product.

Obviously, this wasn't, as suggested, an area of research which no-one had ever thought about, until someone brought in pieces of a infinitely more advanced technology.

>The Department of the Army directed Bell under contract at the time
>to pursue radar research into objects of extraterrestrial origin,
>known today as Roswell Extraterrestrial Landers Number 1 and 2 (there
>were two devices, by the way, REL#1 and REL#2).

Someone better tell Col. Corso. ;)

>Note, however, that at least one of the craft still exists, is in

>cold storage, and is fully functional, albeit, not fully understood
>even to this day. Attempts to fly it have suffered from lack of
>understanding of its control surfaces and drive."

I think we saw this in ID4. <g>

Interesting story, Bob, Francis and Stig, worth of course highlighting.

As I mentioned, there's considerable material available on the history of the research into semiconductors and the ongoing development of "switching" technology. Michael Davis has referenced an article in the 24 July 1997 issue of Nature magazine, for example.

The book reviewed by Nature was, "Crystal Fire: The Birth of The Information Age".

One of the authors is Lillian Hoddeson, who had written, "In the late seventies, my history focus was solid-state research at Bell Laboratories leading to the transistor. That research resulted in a series of articles published in major journals in the history of science. Michael Riordan and I are presently drawing on that research (as well as a great deal of other research) in writing our popular history of the transistor, to be published in the spring of 1997 by Norton, Crystal Fire: the Birth of the Information Age".

Lillian is an eminent scientist and historian and perhaps her considerable scientific research would be the definitive word on this somewhat endearing, if not eclectic, aspect of the "Roswell" story.

I'll see if I can obtain a copy and it might help place all of this in perspective.

James.
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