

Something for Everyone at the Annual Meeting of the Oughtred Society

Thomas Wyman

The 2013 Annual Meeting of the Oughtred Society was held at the Computer History Museum in Mountain View, California on Saturday June 29th. The 25 attendees enjoyed examining the slide rules displayed by members and spent time assessing various auction and display items. A tour of the Museum was available and many participated.

The highlight of the meeting was a talk by Bob Otnes on the early history of K&E slide rules. Those attending received a copy of a 75-page booklet that had been prepared for the occasion and titled "Keuffel & Esser Slide Rules – 1880 to 1913" with the subtitle "The Golden Years." The booklet is a comprehensive overview of those formative years of America's best known slide rule maker and a valuable keepsake and eventually may be published by the Oughtred Society.

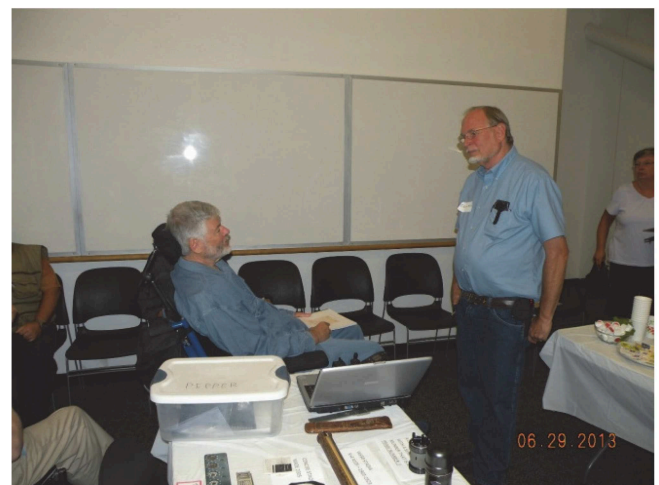
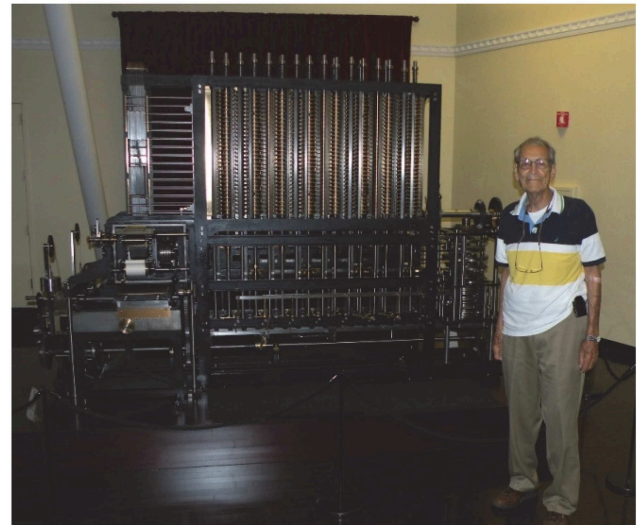


Following lunch President Bob De Cesaris called the business meeting to order, and the vote for officers for the forthcoming year was confirmed with Bob De Cesaris as President, Kate Matthews as First Vice President and Recording Secretary, and Clark McCoy as Treasurer and Membership Secretary. Kate and Clark are both fulfilling dual roles, noting there are five Officer functions that can have separate individuals performing each officer function. Following this, the floor was opened for questions and discussion. There was an active and useful discussion of Oughtred Society meetings, particularly the Annual Meeting, including venue -- place, duration, and programming. Although no decisions were made, the Board of Directors will consider some of the options. With the forthcoming retirement of OSPC Chairman Richard Davis, the need for a replacement was recognized. The need for additional members to participate in the operation of the Society was noted.

Before adjourning for a reception and dinner, there was a spirited auction during which some prices on individual items ran up to well over one hundred dollars. Items contributed by members for sale to benefit the Society fetched nearly \$200.00.

The loss of Dieter von Jezierski was sadly noted. He was a long-time, highly respected member of the Oughtred Society and one of the few of us who was actually involved in the production of slide rules as well as being a slide rule collector and historian.





Images are courtesy of Clay Castleberry. Clay is pictured in front of the working replica Babbage machine at the Computer History Museum.

The images do not have captions, although most people attending have been long-time members. As you can tell, there were numerous discussions about the items on display or for auction.