Oct. 3rd

Donald C. Hoefler

Born: Oct. 3, 1922; USA

Died: April 15, 1986

Hoefler was both a respected journalist, and publisher of the *Microelectronics News* (MN), who first used the phrase "Silicon Valley" in a published article [Jan 11]. MN was the definitive "gossip sheet" of the 1970's semiconductor industry, so much so that several companies banned it from their premises. Hoefler's main office appeared to be a bar stool at Walker's Wagon Wheel tavern ("The Wheel") at 282 E Middlefield Rd, Mountain View. Consequently, at least one firm banned their marketing people from entering that establishment.

The bar was easily recognizable because of the Conestoga wagon sitting on its roof. Sadly it burnt down in 2003, but several artifacts, including a wagon wheel and a five-and-a-half foot section of bar, were on display in the Computer History Museum [Sept 24] for a while.

An obituary for Hoefler noted that "He was liked by some, disliked by many and read by all."

Bernard A. Galler

Born: Oct. 3, 1928;

Chicago, Illinois
Died: September 4, 2006

Galler developed several important OSes and languages, including MTS (Michigan Terminal System) and MAD (Michigan Algorithm Decoder) language [Aug 26].

MTS was based on MIT's Lincoln Terminal System (LTS), modified to utilize features of the IBM System/360 Model 67 [April 7]. In late 1968, MTS was the only large-scale timesharing system in regular operation in the US.

MAD combined some of the features of Fortran and ALGOL [May 27], and was widely used for teaching programming in the 1960s

Galler served as an officer for the ACM from its earliest days, including being its president from 1968-70. He co-founded the *Annals of the History of Computing* journal and founded the Software Patent Institute.

He played violin in several orchestras and chamber groups, and co-founded the Ypsilanti Youth Orchestra (2001) for children.

John Perry Barlow

Born: Oct. 3, 1947;

Sublette County, Wyoming
Died: Feb. 7, 2018

Barlow was a founding member of the Electronic Frontier Foundation (EFF, [July 6]), and a self-described cyberlibertarian.

John Perry Barlow (2012). Photo by Mohamed Nanabhay. CC BY 2.0.

His writings include "A Declaration of the Independence of Cyberspace," written in response to the enactment of the Communications Decency Act ([Feb 8] 1996). It begins:

"Governments of the Industrial World, you weary giants of flesh and steel, I come from Cyberspace, the new home of Mind. On behalf of the future, I ask you of the past to leave us alone. You are not welcome among us. You have no sovereignty where we gather."

His March 1994 *Wired* [Jan 2] article, "The Economy of Ideas," was also influential – it suggested a new framework for patents and copyrights in the digital Age.

Barlow was a former "Grateful Dead" lyricist, which included the words for "Mexicali Blues" and "I Need a Miracle." Barlow was an active member of the WELL [April 1], which had a strong Deadhead presence, and served on its board of directors for several years.

Time magazine listed him as one of the "School of Rock: 10 Supersmart Musicians."

Transistor Patent

Oct. 3, 1950

Prev: [June 30] Next: [Dec 10]

AT&T Bell Labs researchers John Bardeen [May 23], Walter Brattain [Feb 10], and William Shockley [Feb 13] were granted a US patent for the transistor, entitled "Three-Electrode Circuit Element Utilizing Semiconductive Materials" (US 2524035), some three years after they had successfully tested the first device [Dec 16],

Arguably, this wasn't the first patent related to transistors – Julius E. Lilienfeld had filed a patent for a prototypical field-effect transistor back on [Oct 8] 1926.

Prince of Persia

Oct. 3, 1989

The fantasy platformer game "Prince of Persia" was designed by Jordan Mechner at Brøderbund [Feb 25], originally for the Apple II [June 5]. A player must venture through a series of dungeons to save a beautiful princess and defeat the evil Grand Vizier Jaffar.

The game utilized computer-aided rotoscoping to animate the prince over motion picture

footage, although it wasn't the first game to employ the technique – that was probably Rebecca Allen's "The Catherine Wheel" [March 1]. Mechner used videos of his acrobatic brother and also copied select moves from films such as "The Adventures of Robin Hood" (1938). He later recalled "I wasn't thinking about being cutting edge – we did it essentially because I'm not that good at drawing or animation, and it was the only way I could think of to get lifelike movement."

"Prince of Persia" went on to sell 2 million units worldwide (after a slow start). On April 17, 2012, Mechner uploaded the long-lost Apple II source code (written in 6502 assembly) to Github.

Bow-Lingual

Oct. 3, 2002

The Ig Nobel Prize for Peace was presented to Keita Sato, Matsumi Suzuki, and Norio Kogure for promoting peace between the species with their "Bow-Lingual", an automatic dog-to-human language translation device. It categorizes dog barks into one of six emotional categories, and outputs a phrase representing that emotion.

"Bow-Lingual" was first sold in Japan in 2002 by Japanese toy company Takara, but localized versions for South Korea and the US were launched in 2003. *Time* magazine named it a "Best Invention of 2002."

In 2003, Japanese Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi presented two to Russian President Vladimir Putin, for his dogs Tosca (a Poodle), and Connie (a Labrador Retriever), at a ceremony celebrating the 300th anniversary of St. Petersburg.

In 2003, the Takara company launched a follow-up product called Meowlingual, aimed at cats.

For more Ig Nobels, see [Oct 5].

Airbus A380 Problems

Oct. 3, 2006

Airbus CEO Christian Streiff announced a third delay of the A380 programme, putting it almost two years behind schedule. The aircraft was a collaboration between 16 sites spread across four countries.

The first completed A380, 18 Jan. 2005. Photo by Benutzer:Xeper. CC BY-SA 3.0.

An internal review had discovered that various design groups had been using different versions of the same CAD software. In particular, German and Spanish designers favored CATIA version 4, while the British and French teams had upgraded to version 5. Unfortunately, when their parts of the aircraft were brought together, the different versions had placed the same wiring and cables in different locations.