The Origins of Silicon Valley: Why and How It Happened

Paul Wesling, H-P (retired), IEEE Life Fellow

"The Valley remains the world's innovation center as new technologies emerge, and is the model for innovation worldwide."

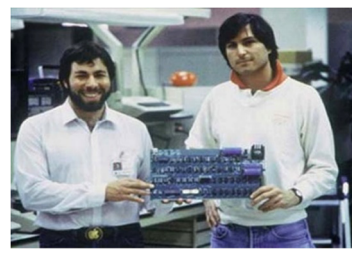Paul Wesling with Steve Wozniak, founder of Apple

Late 1880's Prediction

"Some day you will see Palo Alto blooming with nearly all the flowers of the earth and the fruit and shade trees of every zone.... In the future we shall can this fruit and send it all over the globe in exchange for wealth ..."

... but soon *technology* was to overtake agriculture.

Senator Leland Stanford

In Person Talk: The Origins of Silicon Valley: Why and How It Happened Here

The story goes back to the early 1910's, to local ham radio operators trying to break RCA tube patents, angel investors, the sinking of the Titanic, Fred Terman and Stanford University, local invention of high-power tubes, WWII and radar, and the San Francisco Bay Area infrastructure that developed. These factors determined that the semiconductor and IC industries would be located in the Santa Clara Valley, and that the Valley would remain the world's innovation center as new technologies emerged -- computers, storage, software, search, biotech, virtual reality, autonomous vehicles and now artificial intelligence -- and it would become the model for innovation worldwide.

Paul Wesling, an IEEE Life Fellow, has observed the Valley for decades as an engineer, executive, resident and educator. In this non-technical presentation, he provides the colorful history of technology development that began in Palo Alto, then spread across the Santa Clara Valley during and following WWII.

Please pre-register. Advance tickets are $10 per person ($25 per family), and can be reserved through a link here: **https://tinyurl.com/3f44f3w4**. Tickets will also be sold for $15 (cash or check) at the door at Immanuel Lutheran Church at 14103 Saratoga Avenue in Saratoga. Doors open at 6:30 PM; plenty of parking. The lecture is sponsored by the Saratoga Historical Foundation and the Association for Computing Machinery (ACM), and supported by the Stanford Alumni Club and the history societies of Mountain View, Sunnyvale, and Milpitas.

Saratoga Historical Foundation

Tuesday, March 25, 2025, 7:00 to 8:15 PM
14103 Saratoga Avenue, Saratoga