*Welcome to the first issue of our newsletter!*

*We will bring you stories of the people and the events connected to the computers in our collection, including computers from the too long 'forgotten era' of the 1950s, along with all the museum news.*

*Why Angel? The word literally means 'messenger'.*

# ANGEL

**Volume 1 No. 0**
**December 2025**

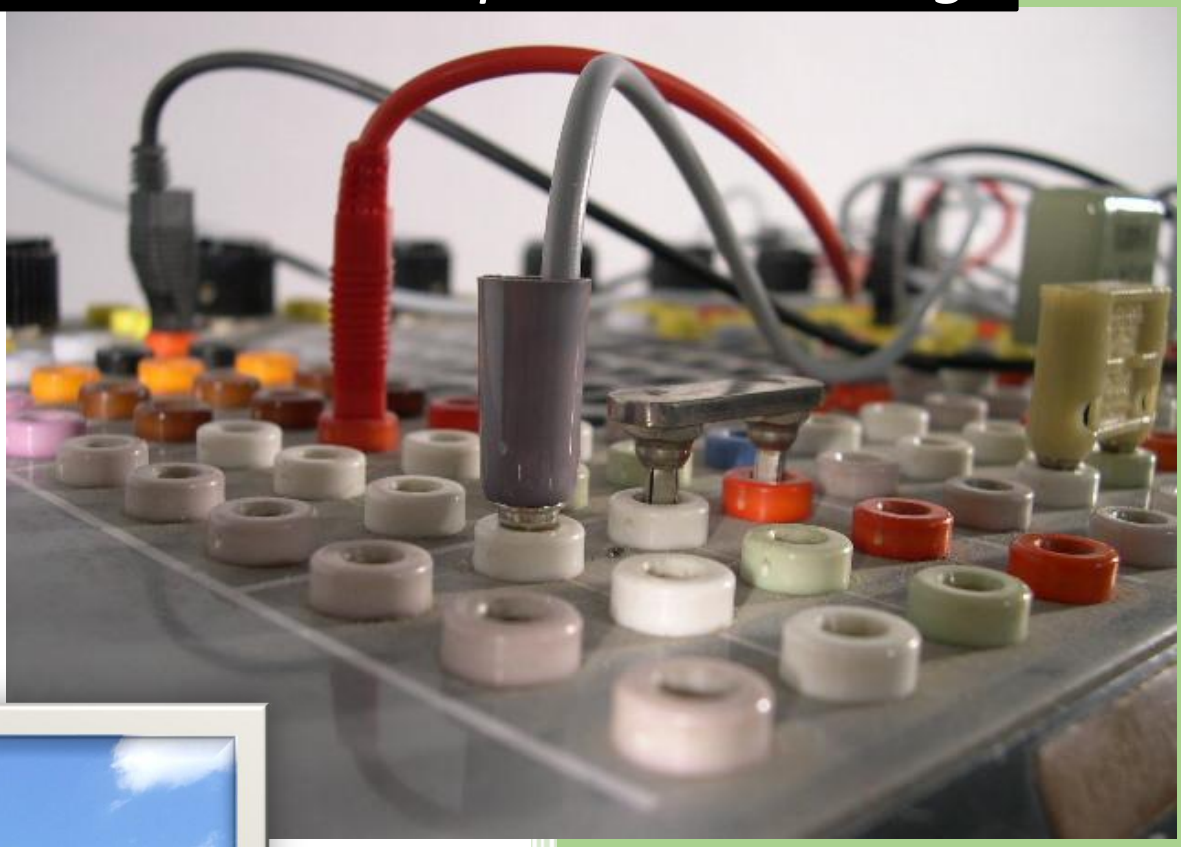
## *Pennsylvania Computer & Tech Museum*

*TheComputerChurch.org*

***#Preservation***

***#Research***

***#Education***



305 Strasburg Ave.
Parkesburg, PA 19365

Dr. Michael Pearson
Director@TheComputerChurch.org
www.TheComputerChurch.org

*A computer museum located in a historic 250+ year old church.*

# From our Collection…

**Each newsletter will bring the story of a special item in our collection. Here is one of the unique computers from our recent addition of rare analog computers.**

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This GEDA analog computer is, as far as we can tell, the only known example of a Goodyear computer to survive. The bottom section opens to show a large plugboard for programming.

## Analog Computer

Among the computers we recently obtained in the McQuiston-Silva group was a **Goodyear Electronic Differential Analyzer (GEDA)**. It was made by the Goodyear Aircraft Company (now do the Goodyear blimps make sense?).

The model we have is a GEDA L3 which was first built by Goodyear in 1953. The "L" stands for linear. The linear computers were more stable than non-linear but the non-linear could handle more complex problems. Both were really fast.

The GEDAs were used extensively for designing and testing the new jet airplanes and rocket ships! Pilots of the early experimental planes like the X-1 and X-2, on up to the famous X-15 trained on simulators run by GEDA computers.

The Goodyear ad is from a 1953 magazine and is also part of our collection.

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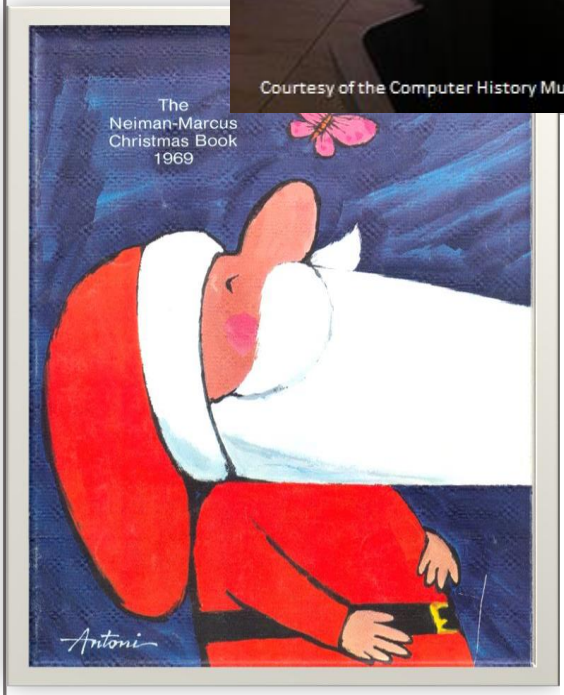
# From our Collection…

**In the spirit of the season, here is an extra gift from an original catalog in our Research Library.**


Neiman-Marcus does not miss a trick. The computer actually looks a bit like the Santa on the cover of their catalog with that beard sticking way out!! Some programmers doubt that the advertised "recipe program" even existed. And why offer a **book** of recipes along with the **compute**r whose sole purpose seemed to be to store your recipes.

As bad as the "her" gift was that year, the "him" gift was 10,000 gallons of Aramis cologne delivered to your door by your very own a tanker truck.

The fully loaded, top-of-the-line Eldorado was about $1,000 less than the computer.


## KITCHEN COMPUTER

Each Christmas, Neiman-Marcus offered two very unusual and very special "him and her" gifts in their Christmas catalog. (What was the view of women in computing in 1969?…not much.)

In 1969, Neiman-Marcus offered a computer that would allow the woman of the house to "learn to program her favorite recipes…" For the sum of only $10,600 (about $93,124 in 2025 Christmas money*), our housewife would get a redesigned Honeywell 316 computer with a built in cutting-board.

*Imagine Christmas morn--*
"Honey, I hope you like your Honeywell 316 computer with a metal cutting-board, custom apron, and recipe book. Aren't you glad I didn't buy you the fully loaded Cadillac Eldorado convertible for less money?
Oh, by the way, your 2 week programming course starts Tuesday. "

*Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis . 2025.

# Visitors and Volunteers…

**Lately, the letter "V" has been on my mind.**

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*Vitality* The museum has led a quiet existence over the past 7 years as we slowly prepared the building and moved the computers in from home, garage, offices and storage units…thanks the help of my students at West Chester University. During those 7 years, we only opened one day… for the 150th anniversary of Parkesburg. I retired from WCU a year ago and was fortunate to obtain 8 tons of unique computers from 1950 to 1959. The McQuiston-Silva computers join what is now the largest known collection of analog computers in the world. I am looking forward to all the new life and vitality that will pass through here. Welcome!!

*Visitors* We've had more visitors in the last three months than we've had in the last seven years. Our new website went up in September and people started calling for tours. On November 9th, someone noticed our website and mentioned it on Hackers News. The next day, our website crashed from over fifteen thousand visits. The site was up the next day and interest has grown since then. We've had visits from professors at the University of Penn and from M.I.T. we also had a visit from the world's leading expert on analog computers, Dr. Bernd Ulmann, who viewed the collection through Zoom from his home in Germany. And one of the oldest computer groups in the USA, the Dayton Microcomputer Association, toured the museum last month by Zoom.

*Volunteers* The number of volunteers has also grown recently. Jay Rusk, who was one of our earliest volunteers, installed all the double-stacked library shelves. Pat loaned the museum his pickup truck and his strong back and Vesma is on a mission to cleanup our database and collection listing, we are grateful. Billy spent hours in a warehouse packing up 14 boxes of documents to ship to us from Los Angeles. Thanks to Zoom, Alex Bochannek, from his home in San Francisco, has been patiently explaining the intricacies of analog computing. And Walter in San Jose, California who, over a two month period, built strong crates for eighteen giant computers so they could be safely shipped all the way across the country to our museum. All of these "angels" and so many more have helped us reach this point.

**We welcome any of you who might be able to help us!**

## Valuable Work!

Jay Rusk took the IKEA book-cases that some special volunteers put together and created floor to ceiling storage for our Research Library.

# News and Events…

**General news and updates and other stuff**

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*Coming Events* We are really pleased to announce that, starting in February, members of the Kennett Classic Computer group, led by Bill Degnan, will be meeting at the museum to view restorations of four of our 1970s personal computers. Bill will be sharing some of his extensive experience and know-how. We look forward to these!

*Volunteers* We are always looking for volunteers. We can use help in all aspects of running a museum…from changing light bulbs to filling out legal documents and from helping set up displays to researching these rare computers. See the JOIN US section of our website for a list of the skills we can use….everything!

**We welcome any of you who might be able to help us!**

*Projects* We One of our projects is to establish a virtual 3D museum. Just as we did with the in-person museum, several years ago we purchased land in Decentraland with the hope of building a version of The Computer Church that is unbounded by many of the laws of physics…our displays will be limited only by our imagination and programming skills.

*Donations* We do not charge people to visit the museum and it is our intent to continue that. Like all non-profits (and for-profits and families) we have utility bills, insurance, etc. We are working on finding sponsors and partners to help fund the basics of maintaining a building and, even better, the programs we hope to offer to our visitors…in person or online.
If you can afford to donate, make checks out to the "Computer History and Learning Center" which is our formal title. (We are a 501 (c) 3 non-profit but we still need to fill out an AKA statement so the Federal Government will recognize what most people write on their checks to us, "The Computer Church".

## PROJECT: Virtual Reality

Acquiring property in Decentraland positions the museum inside one of the earliest and most visible blockchain-based virtual worlds, where digital land ownership, events, and culture converge in real time.

This opens the possibility of expanding the museum's reach beyond physical geography, enabling immersive exhibits, live talks, and global participation without travel barriers.

The estate we have purchased is strategically located across from the Decentraland Conference Center and right near the Decentraland University, the estate amplifies visibility and relevance as museums increasingly experiment with virtual reality, digital preservation, and new forms of public engagement.