



Noticing History — a personal view

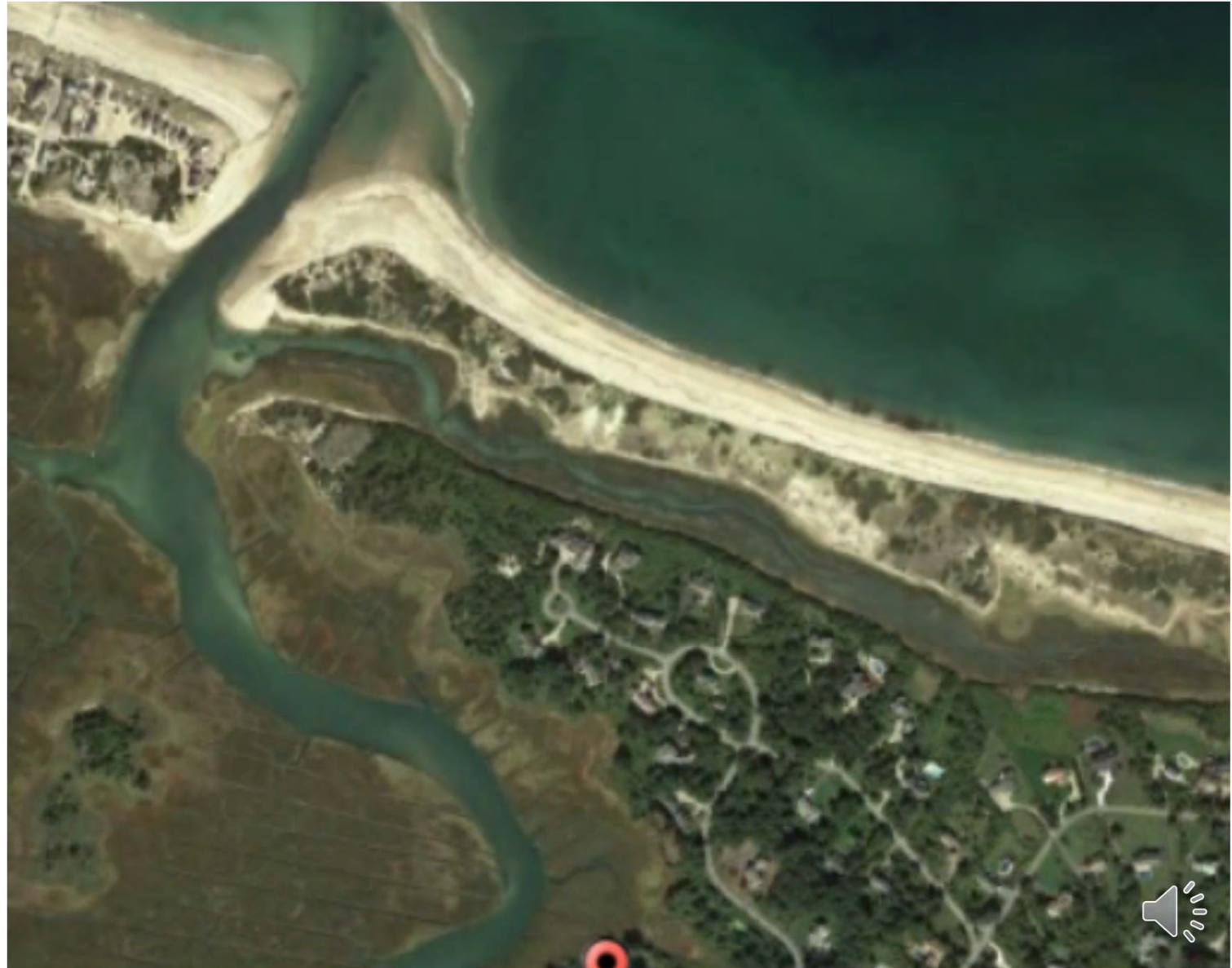
David Walden

East Sandwich, MA

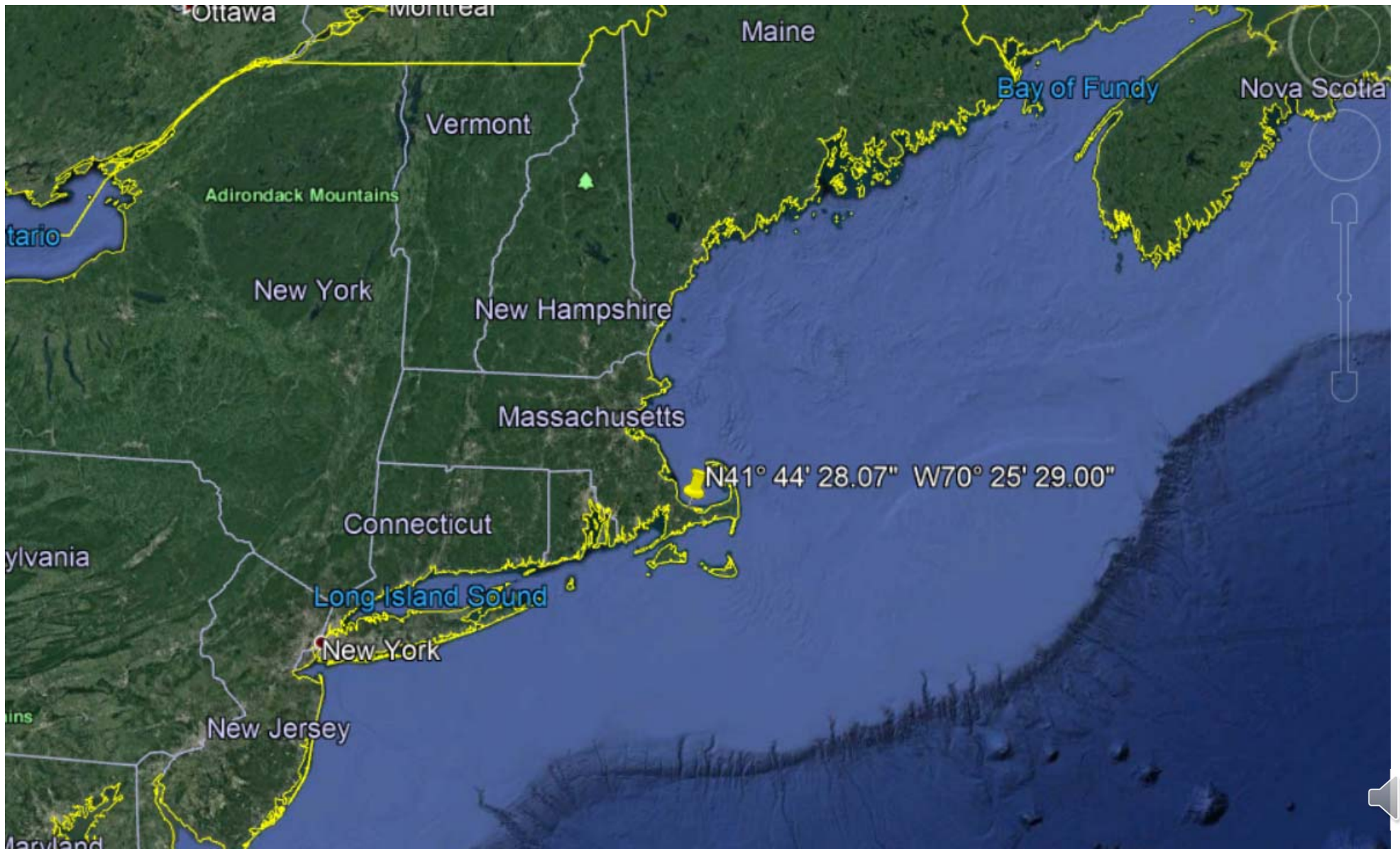
dave@walden-family.com

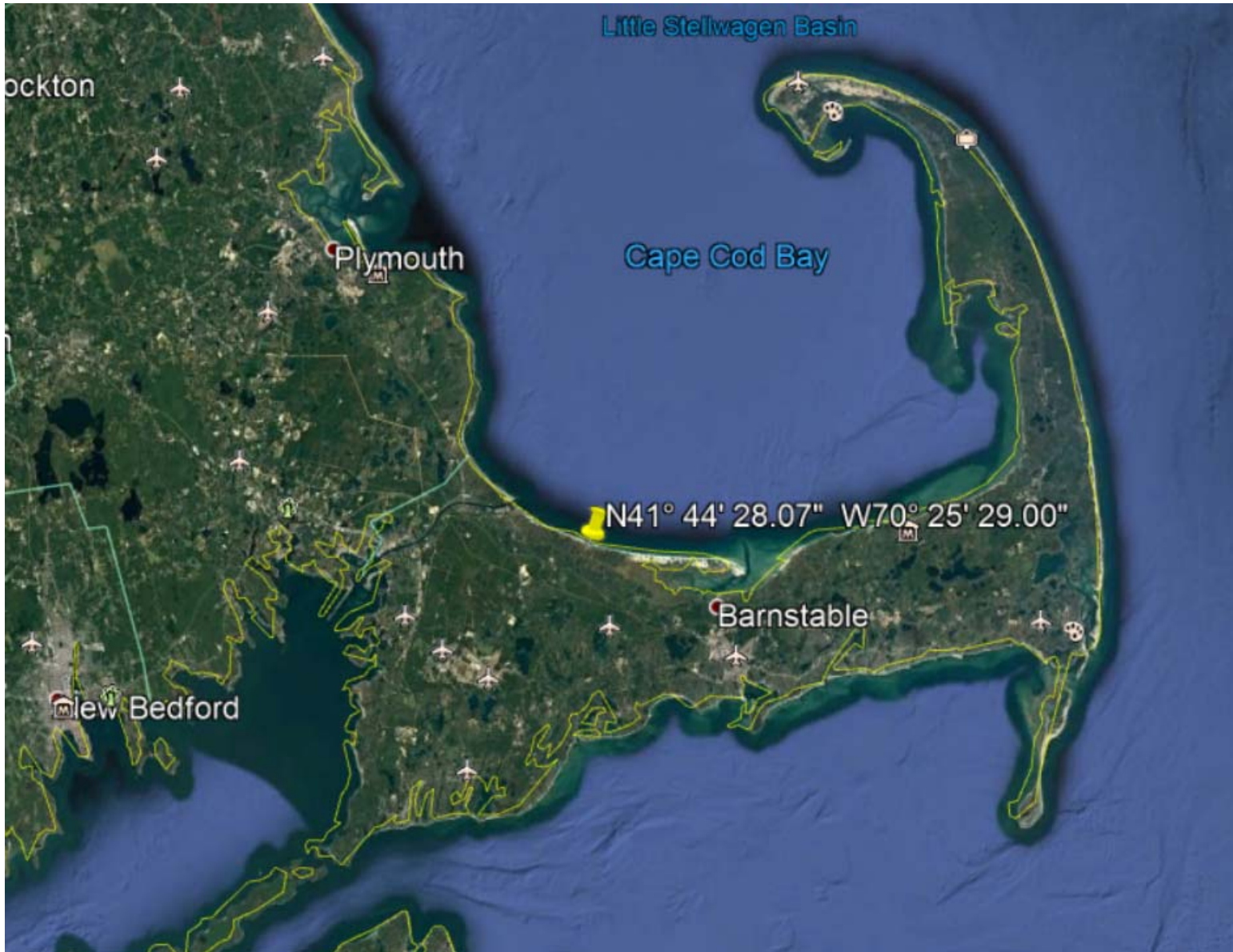


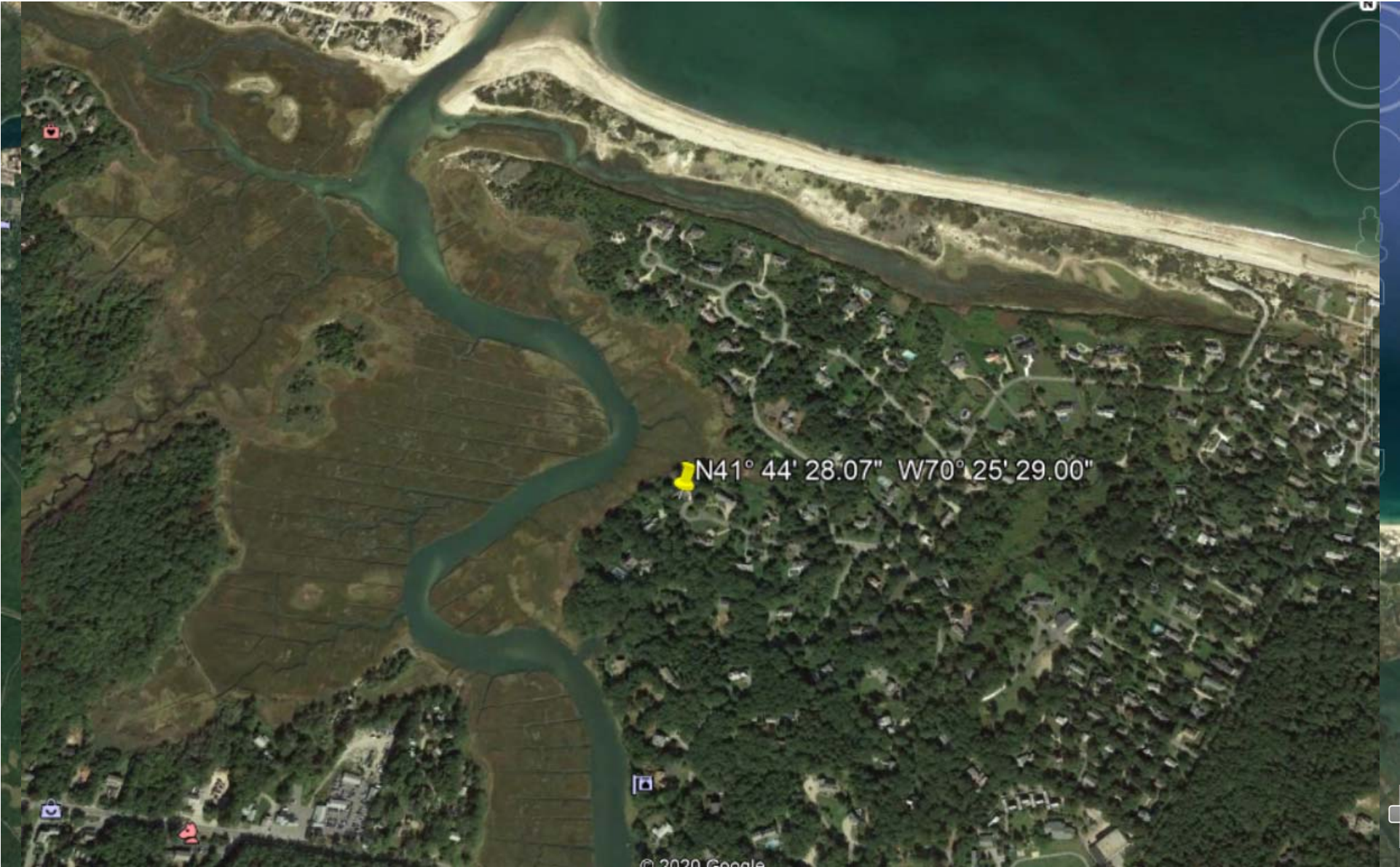
N41° 44' 28.07"
W70° 25' 29.00"











N41° 44' 28.07" W70° 25' 29.00"





N41° 44' 28.07" W70° 25' 29.00"





Noticing History — a personal view

David Walden

East Sandwich, MA

dave@walden-family.com





Outline

1. My background
2. The need I see
3. Our special qualifications
4. Examples
5. Ideas for the future



Any URLs I mention today will be temporarily listed at walden-family.com/urls

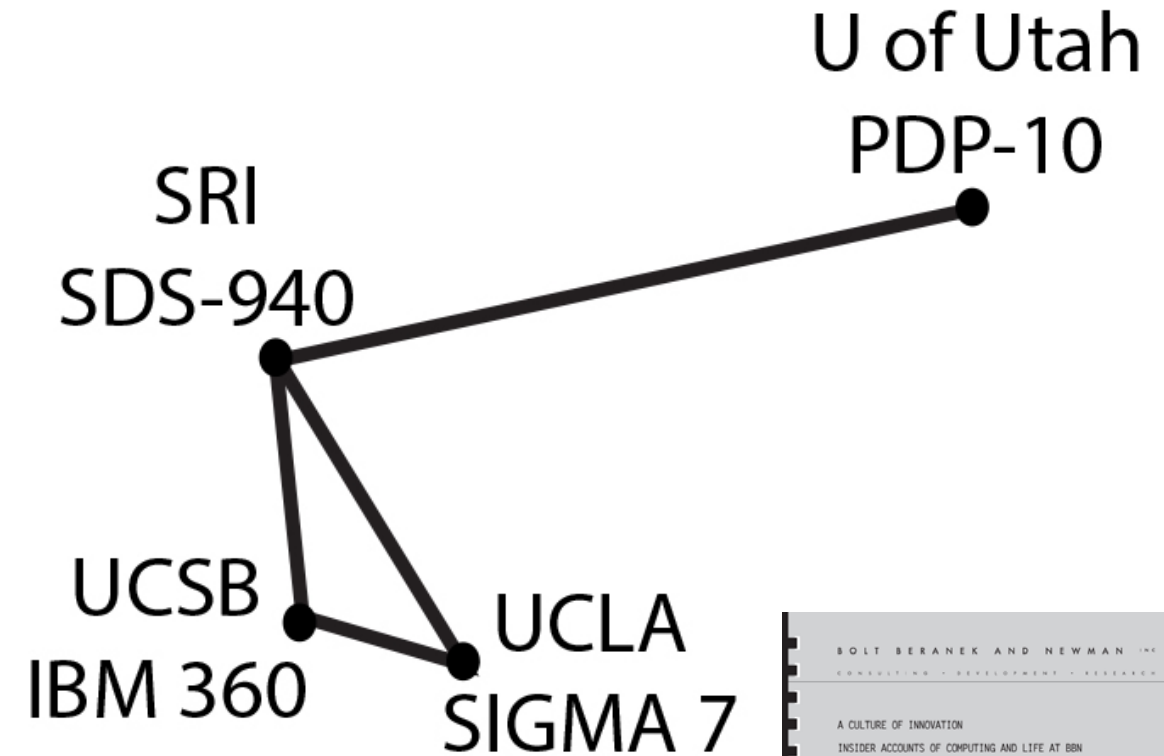
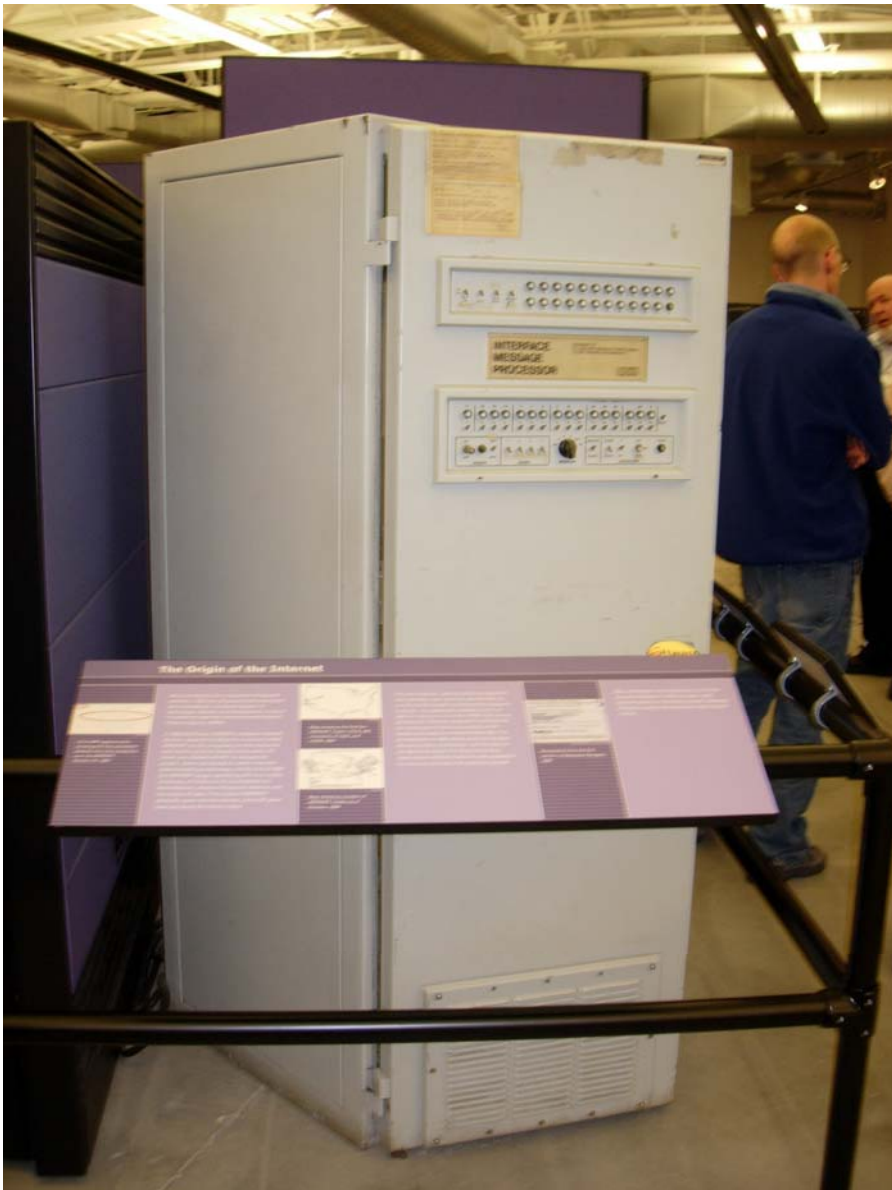




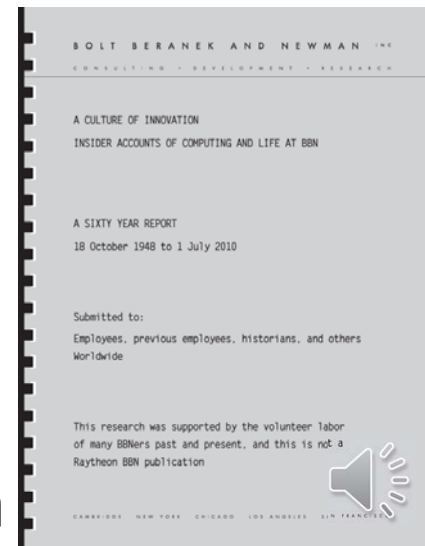
1. My background

- **Was a young technologist once**
- **Always a bit interested in history**
- **Retired and turned to TeX and computing history**



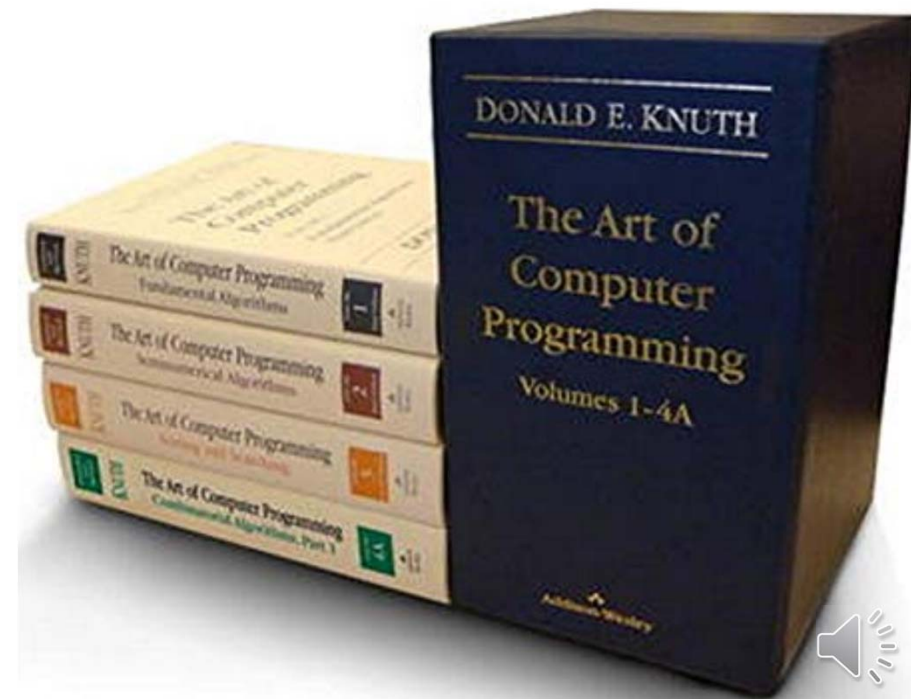


walden-family.com/bbn



For instance, Knuth's TOACP history and bibliography sections

- Vol. 1
 - Subroutines, co-routines, interpretative routines, tracing, and buffering
 - Trees and other combinatoric ideas
 - lists, arrays, strings, stacks, etc.
- Vol. 2
 - Babylonian arithmetic
 - Floating point notation and arithmetic
 - Double precision arithmetic and ways of doing division
 - Radix conversion methods
- Vol. 3
 - Sorting
 - Searching
 - Hashing



IEEE Annals

of the History of Computing

Volume 28 Number 1 January-March 2006 <http://www.computer.org>



**Bolt Beranek
and Newman:
The First
40 Years,
Part 2**

IEEE
computer
society
60th anniversary



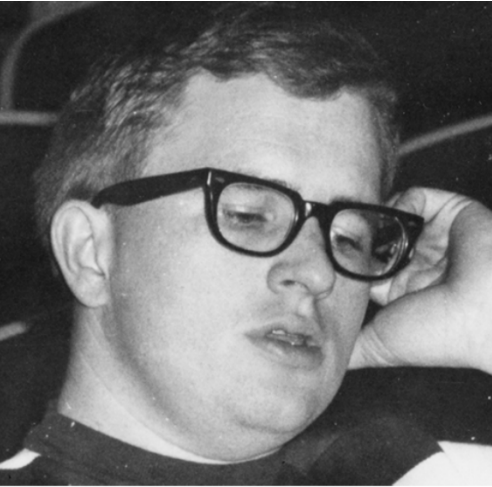
TeX People
Interviews from the world of TeX

Karl Berry and David Walden, Editors

TeX
USERS
GROUP
tug.org

In 2018: a TeX history with Beeton and Berry
(see walden-family.com/urls)





2. The need I see

- **Computing history is passing very fast**
- **Professional computing historians can collect only some of computing that passing computing history**
- **Computing history is important**
- **Various forces lead to computing vast swaths of history not being collected or even collectable**



ALDUS CORPORATION



DELIVERING
ON THE
PROMISE

1990 ANNUAL REPORT

https://annals-extras.org/dtp/int/ x +

annals-extras.org/dtp/interleaf/

Archive of Interleaf materials

Contents:

- [Seybold reports about Interleaf](#)
- [Annual reports](#)
- [SEC submissions, etc.](#)
- [Copied from bitsavers](#)
- [Other documents](#)

If you have other documents that might be scanned and posted here, please email dave@walden-family.com

Seybold Report on Publishing Systems

Thank you to the Joss Group (www.thejossgroup.com) for permission to post the following three documents (from among *many* stories relating to Interleaf).

- [About Interleaf releases 2-5 and 3](#)
- [About Interleaf release 4](#)
- [About Interleaf release 5](#)

Thank you also to Frank Romano of the Museum of Printing in Haverhill, MA (museumofprinting.org), from whose collection of Seybold reports the above documents were scanned.

Annual reports

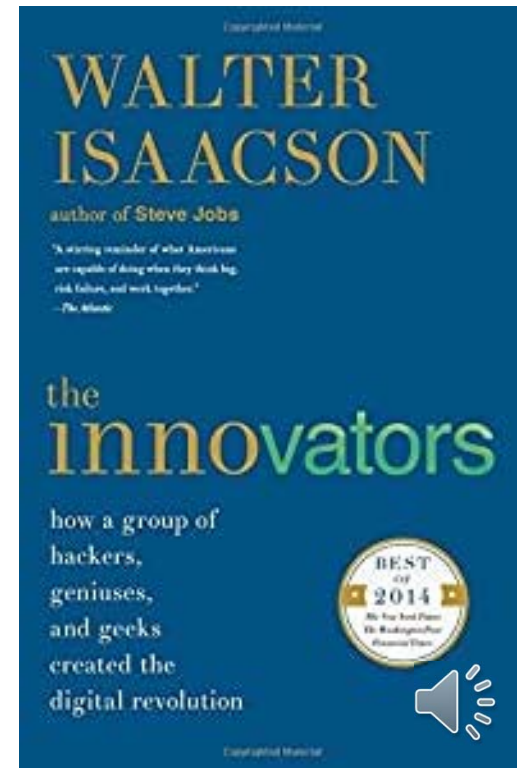
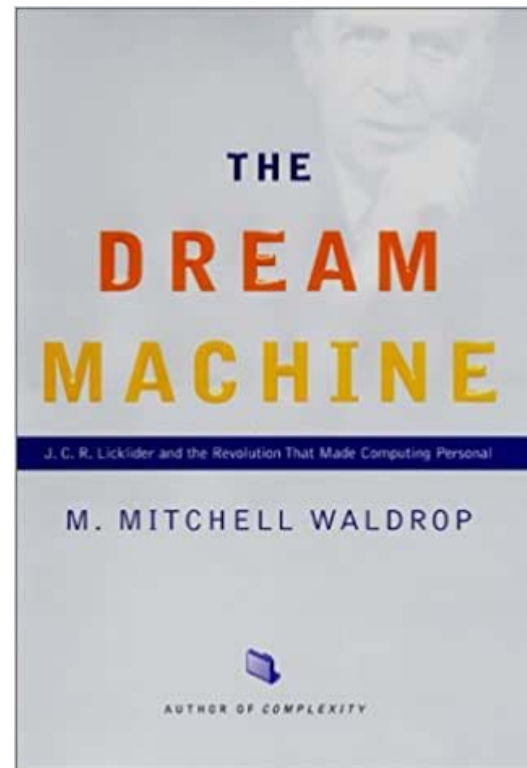
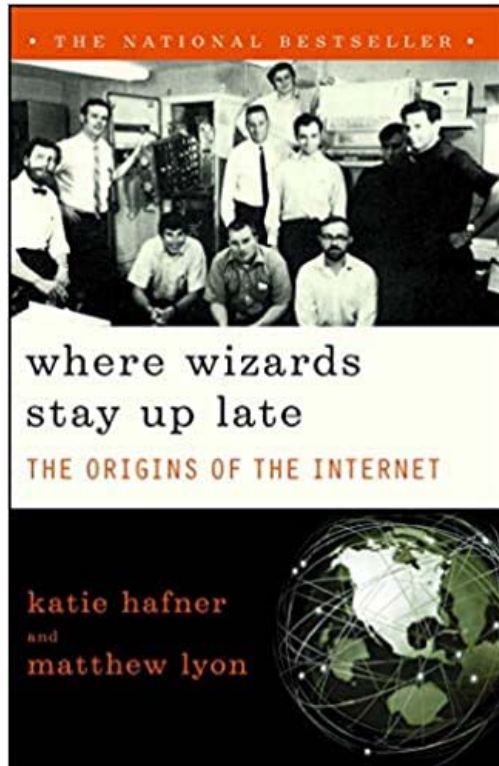
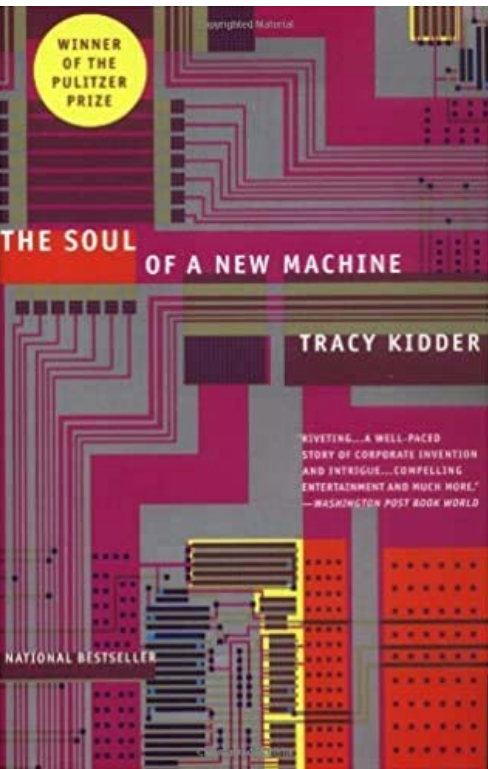
- [1986 Report to shareholders after IPO](#)
- [1987 Annual Report](#)
- [1988 Annual Report](#)
- [1989 Annual Report](#)
- [1990 Annual Report](#)
- [1991 Annual Report](#)
- [1992 Annual Report](#)
- [1993 Annual Report](#)
- [1994 Annual Report](#)
- [1995 Annual Report](#)
- [1996 Annual Report](#)
- [1997 Annual Report](#)
- [1998 Annual Report](#) [1998 10K](#)
- [1999 10-K report to SEC](#) [If anyone has a copy of the 1999 annual report, will you please email me: dave@walden-family.com]

- [This financial summary \(current draft\)](#) is derived from the above annual reports and is approximate in some cases and incomplete in other cases.

Other public documents

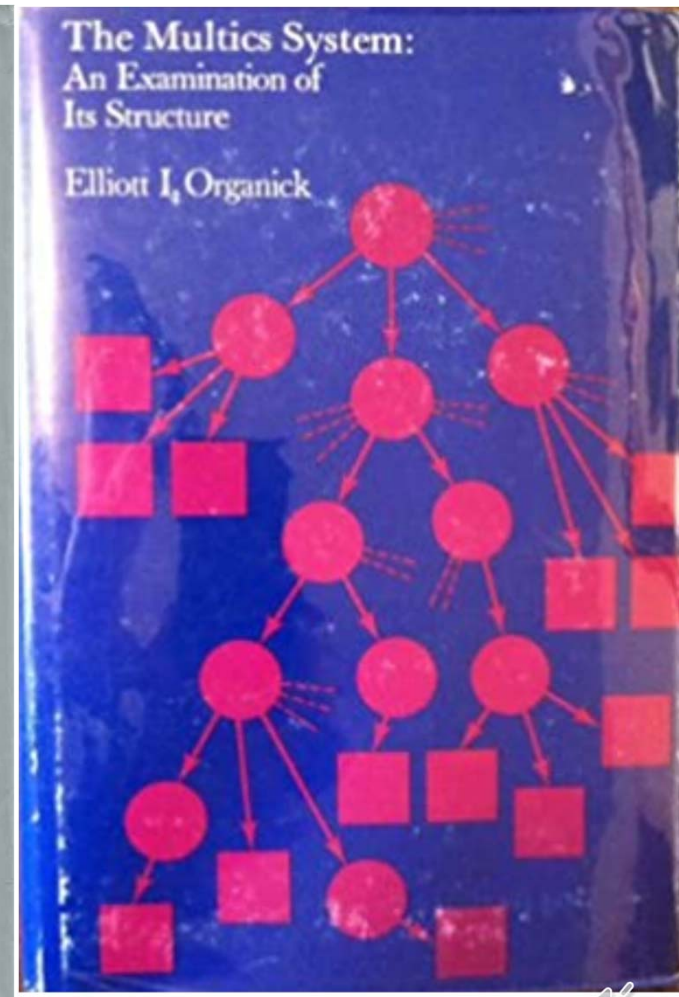
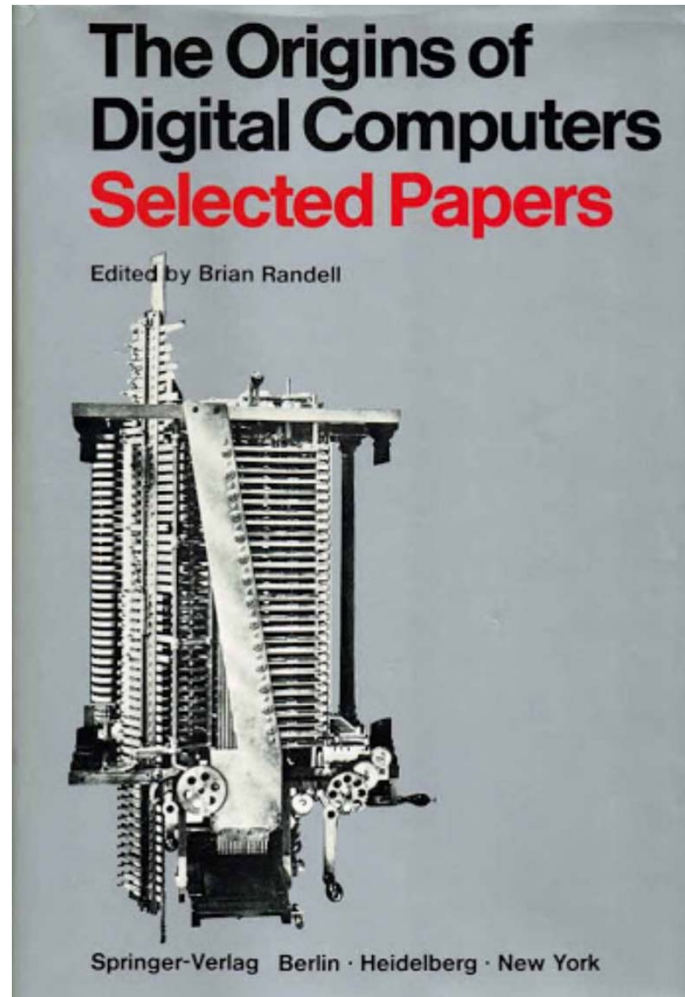
- [~1984 OPS-2000 sales brochure](#)
- [Interleaf 1985 Stock Offering](#) (not public then)
- [Subscription agreement](#) (be sure to scroll to the letter at the end ; not public then)
- [1985-DEC-sales-brochure](#)
- [1986 notice of special meeting held in lieu of annual meeting](#)
- [1986 May-June pages changed from original red herring](#); on May 16 1986 Interleaf did its original IPO registration (red herring) with the SEC; on June 20 it rescinded its original offering (at \$11 per share)
- [1986 June 26 final prospectus](#); on June 26 the stock offering actually happened (at \$10 per share)
- [1986-IPO-prospectus-cover-pages](#)
- [1986-IPO-prospectus-exhibit-list](#)
- [1987 notice of special meeting held in lieu of annual meeting](#)
- [1989 Interleaf sales-brochure](#)
- [1991 notice of special meeting held in lieu of annual meeting](#)
- [1992 notice of special meeting held in lieu of annual meeting](#)
- [1993 notice of special meeting held in lieu of annual meeting](#)
- [1994 notice of annual meeting](#)





Where computing historians often are

- School of Informatics
- School of Information Studies
- Information Science







3. Our special qualifications



Copyrighted Material

Using
interviews
to uncover
the past and
preserve it
for the
future

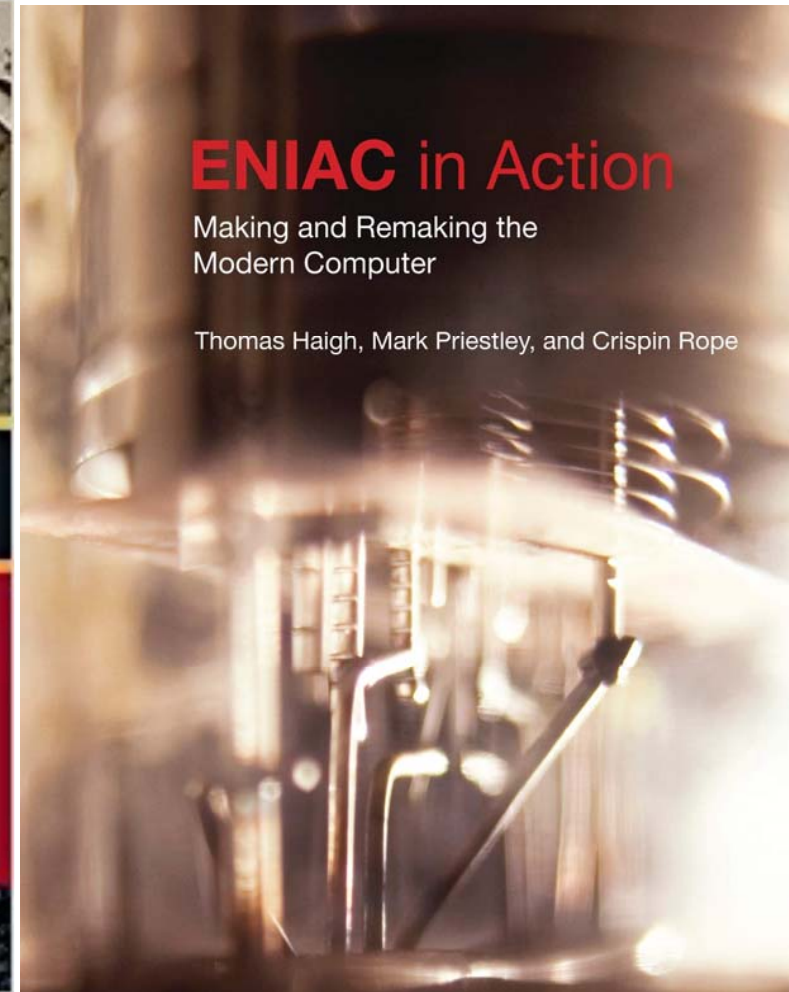
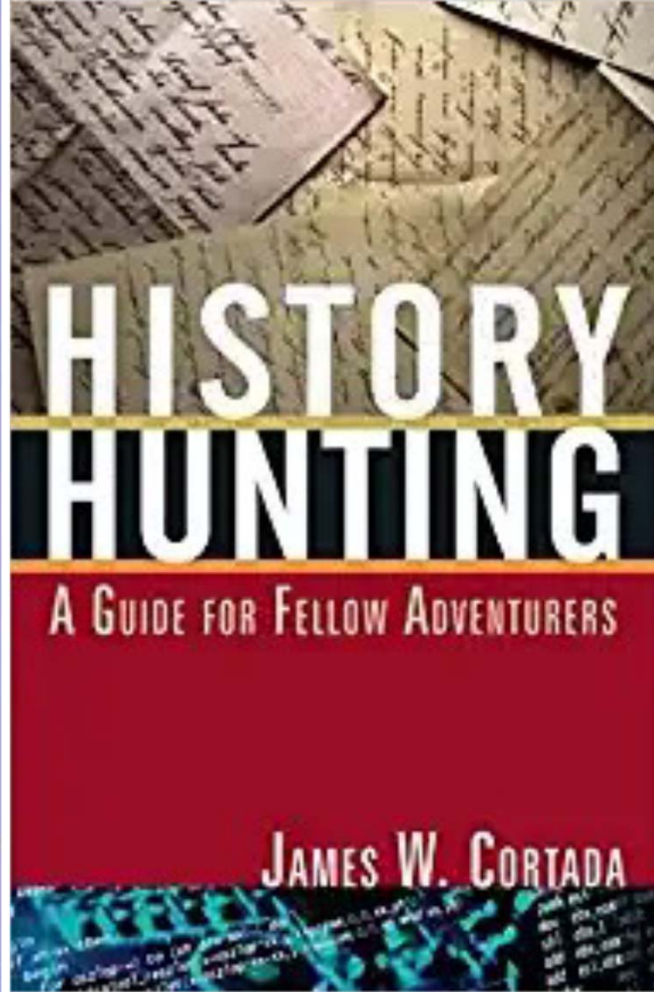
Doing Oral History

A Practical Guide



Donald A. Ritchie

Copyrighted Material



ENIAC in Action

Making and Remaking the
Modern Computer

Thomas Haigh, Mark Priestley, and Crispin Rope





Other examples: MIT Archive, Charles Babbage Institute

vcfed.org/wp/festivals/vintagecomputer-festival-east/



4. Examples



4A. Create historical content

The screenshot shows the homepage of the Multicians website. The browser address bar displays "multicians.org/index.html". The website has a red navigation bar with the "Multics" logo and "Home" on the left, and "Home" on the right. Below the navigation bar, there are several menu items: "Home", "History", "People", "Library", "Sites", and "About". The main content area is divided into three columns. The left column contains a grey box with text about the Multics system. The middle column has a yellow box with a list of goals and a paragraph about the website's content. The right column features a photo of an elderly man, Corby (1926-2019), and a "Recent Changes" section with a list of updates and links for "all changes" and "RSS". At the bottom center, there is a "mail to editor" button.

← → ↻ 🏠 🔒 multicians.org/index.html ☆ 📧 📄 ⚙️ 🌐 ⋮

Multics Home 16 Jul 2020

Home History » People » Library » Sites » About » 🔍

Multics (Multiplexed Information and Computing Service) was a mainframe timesharing operating system begun in 1965 and used until 2000. Multics began as a research project and was an important influence on operating system development. The system became a commercial product sold by Honeywell to education, government, and industry.

Multics was a prototype of a [Computer Utility](#), providing secure computing to remote users at their terminals. Multicians still miss the elegant, consistent, and powerful programming environment; some Multics features are only now being added to contemporary systems.

The Multicians web site presents the story of the Multics operating system for people interested in the system's history, especially [Multicians](#). The site's goals are to

- preserve the technical ideas and advances of Multics so others don't need to reinvent them.
- record the history of Multics, its builders, and its users before we all forget.
- give credit where it's due for important innovations.
- remember some good times and good people.

The Multicians web site contains 467 HTML files (see the [Site Map](#)) comprising over 540K lines, 601 PDF files, and 639 graphic images. The site has benefited from the contributions of many authors. Contributions are invited: if you have a correction, fact, date, name, anecdote, or picture, please share it with Multicians everywhere by sending mail to the editor.

Harry Reed and Charles Anthony reached a major milestone on the [Multics simulator](#) on Saturday 08 November, 2014. Their [SIMH-based simulator](#) booted Multics MR 12.5, came to operator command level, entered admin mode, created a small PL/I program, compiled and executed it, and shut down. **Release 2.0 of the simulator is now available.** There have been multiple updates to Multics for the simulator: the latest version is [MR 12.6f, April 2017](#). Anyone can try out a simulated Multics or install the simulator on their own computer.

[Open Source for Multics](#) is hosted at MIT, courtesy of Bull HN. It is available "for any purpose and without fee" provided that the copyright notice and historical background are preserved in all copies.

[mail to editor](#)

Corby (1926-2019)

Recent Changes

06/25 [LCS 35th Anniversary](#): Added 28 photos.
06/21 [Multicians](#): Updated entry for Richard Bratt.
06/19 [Bibliography](#): Added a 1986 Stratus luncheon talk about Multics by Steve Webber.
06/18 [Bibliography](#): Added an RADAC document on the GCOS Simulator.
06/17 [People Pictures](#): New page with 113 photos of Multicians.
06/02 [History](#): Added two Computerworld articles to section 4.3.2.

[all changes](#)
[RSS](#)

🔊

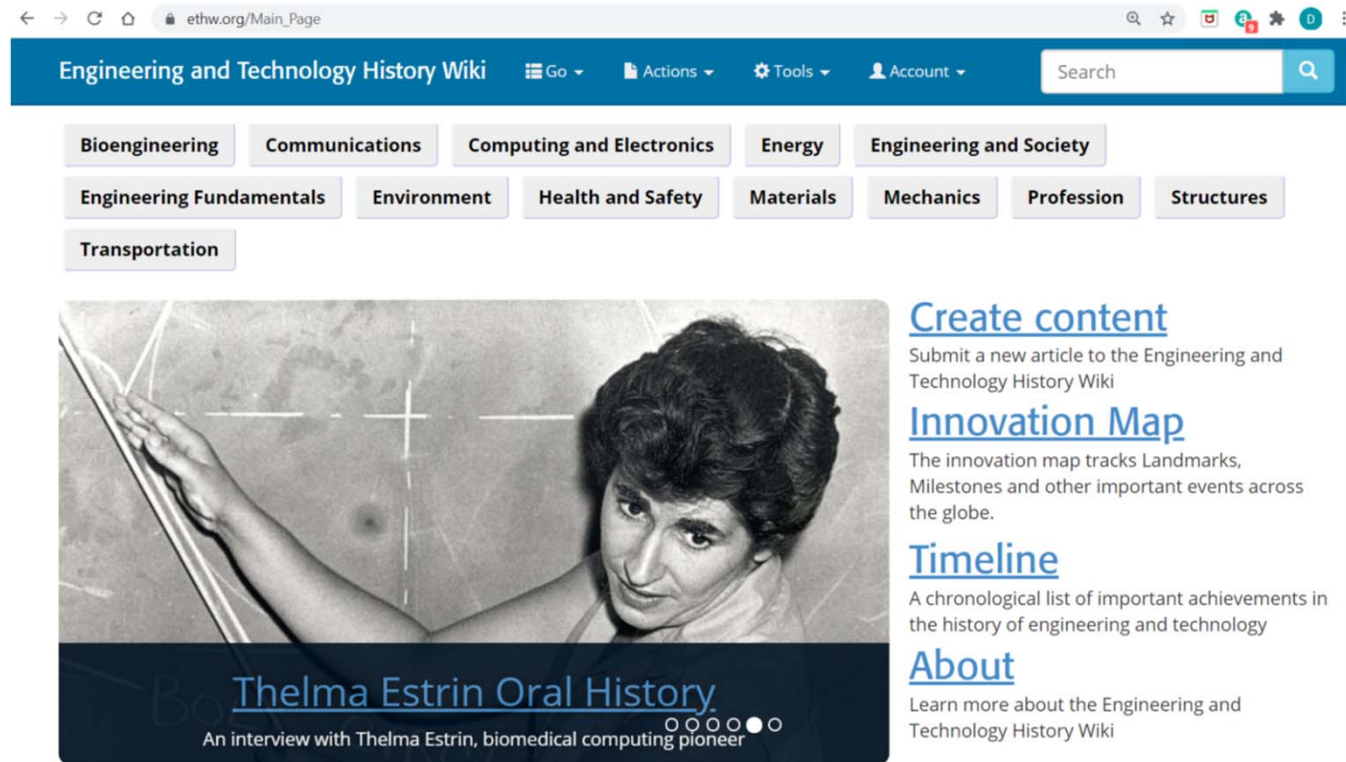
4B. Save and/or organize historical content



4C. Publish historical content more or less formally

Compatible Time-Sharing System (1961-1973)

Fiftieth Anniversary
Commemorative Overview



The screenshot shows the homepage of the Engineering and Technology History Wiki. The browser address bar displays "ethw.org/Main_Page". The page has a blue header with the site name and navigation menus for "Go", "Actions", "Tools", and "Account". A search bar is located in the top right. Below the header is a grid of category buttons: Bioengineering, Communications, Computing and Electronics, Energy, Engineering and Society, Engineering Fundamentals, Environment, Health and Safety, Materials, Mechanics, Profession, Structures, and Transportation. The main content area features a large image of a woman, Thelma Estrin, pointing at a chalkboard. Below the image is the text "Thelma Estrin Oral History" and "An interview with Thelma Estrin, biomedical computing pioneer". To the right of the image are links for "Create content", "Innovation Map", "Timeline", and "About", each with a brief description of the resource.

*Severo Ornstein: Computing in the Middle Ages:
A View from the Trenches 1955-1983*



4D. Join formal organizations



The screenshot shows the website for the Computer Conservation Society (CCS). The header includes the CCS logo and the text "Computer Conservation Society" along with the date "Tuesday, July 21, 2020". A navigation menu lists "Home", "About the CCS", "Old News", "Contact Details", and "Brochure". The main content area is titled "Resurrection - The CCS Journal" and describes the journal's focus on computer history and related topics. It includes a "Subscriptions" section with details on how to subscribe, including a link to the subscription form. A sidebar on the left lists various categories like "Home", "Events", "CCS Projects", "Other Projects", "Journal", "Tony Sale Award", "Our Computer Heritage", "Software", "CCS Membership", "CCS Honours", and "Web Links".



The screenshot shows the website for the Special Interest Group for Computing, Information, and Society (SIGCIS). The header features the SIGCIS logo and the text "The Special Interest Group for Computing, Information, and Society". A navigation menu lists "Home", "E-mail List", "Prizes & Grants", "Events", "Resources", "Join", "Donate", and "Member Login". The main content area is titled "2019 Mahoney Prize" and lists the winner, Nikhil Menon, and his prize-winning article, "Fancy Calculating Machines: Computers and planning in independent India," published in *Modern Asian Studies* 52, no. 2 (2018): 421-457. The page also includes a "Prize Citation" section with a detailed description of the award and a "Next issue" link.

computerconservationsociety.org



An example of much of the above



Software Industry Special Interest Group
Preserving the History of the Software Industry

This document is a copy in pdf format of the website maintained by the Software Industry Special Interest Group (SISIG) at the Computer History Museum to record the materials collected by the SISIG and its predecessor The Software History Center from 1985 through June 2020.

The materials include:

- Oral histories of significant participants in the software industry
- Transcripts of meetings of groups of industry pioneers
- Special issues and other articles published by *The Annals of the History of Computing*
- Anecdotes, timelines, and documents from 53 companies collected online via the Corporate Histories Project
- A list of materials donated to the archives at the Computer History Museum in Mountain View CA and The Charles Babbage Institute in Minneapolis MN
- First person essays from industry participants



©Douglas Fairbairn Photography

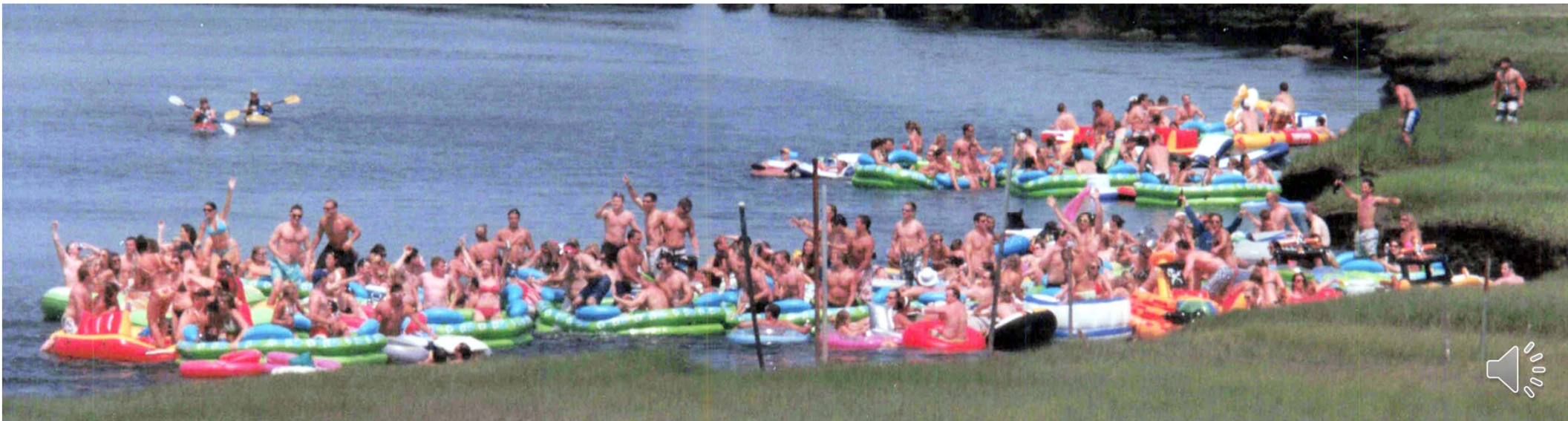
All links in the website have been preserved in this document and provide access to those materials which are available online.

annals-extras.org/pubs/2020-06-22-lij-sisig-website.pdf





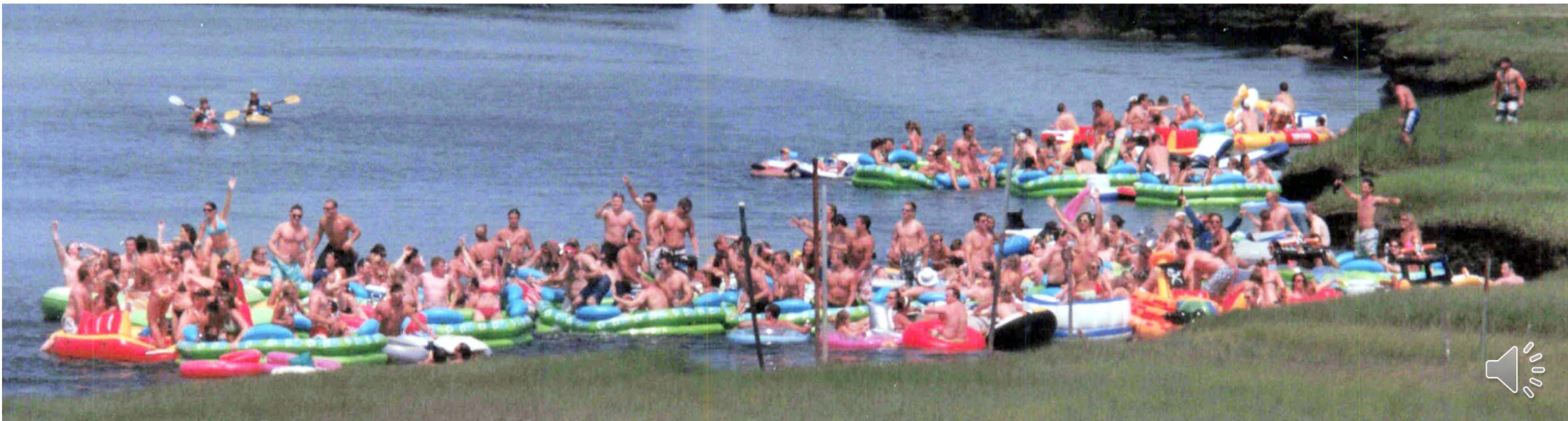
5. Ideas for the future





5. Ideas for the future

And for this group, ask for and contribute more history in *TUGboat* and more presentations/panels at TUG conferences





Thank you

walden-family.com/texland

