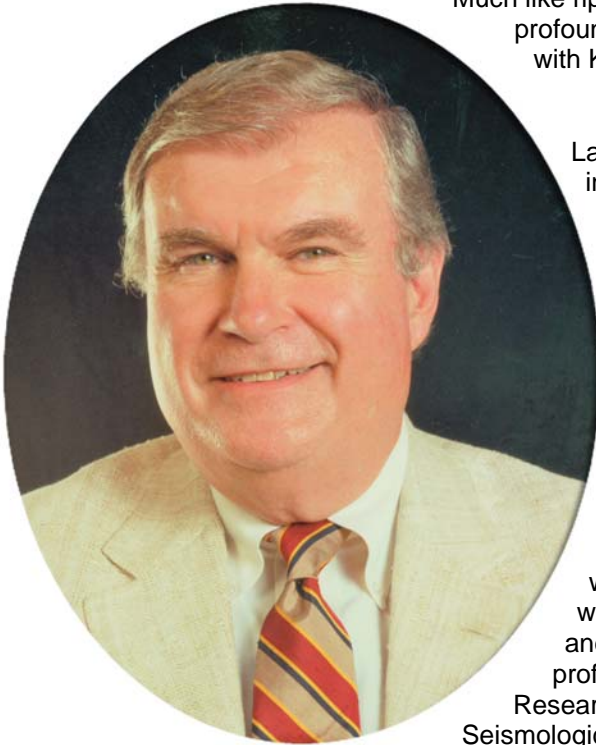


Robert J. Swain

ENGINEER, ENTREPRENEUR, PHILANTHROPIST, FAMILY MAN

Much like ripples on a pond, the impact of one man's life can have a profound effect on the world in which we live. Such is the case with Kinemetrics' founding president, Robert J. Swain, born in Waukesha, Wisconsin in 1928.



Last year, Kinemetrics provided earthquake and seismic instruments to 60 countries, in great part due to the legacy given to us by Bob Swain. Therefore, we were saddened at his passing on October 16, 2004.

Bob's work as manager for many notable projects included putting the seismometers on the moon as part of the Apollo project. For years to come, many will feel his unparalleled contributions to the fields of seismology and earthquake engineering as well his personal interest and friendship.

Bob Swain graduated from Purdue University with honors in 1951 and was recognized in 1993 by Purdue with the "Outstanding Electrical Engineer Award." He was listed in the "American Men and Women of Science" and was a member and active participant in a number of professional associations including Earthquake Engineering Research Institute, American Geophysical Union, Seismological Society of American, American Association for the Advancement of Science, American Society of Civil Engineers, Scientific Research Society of America, Geological Society of America, American Nuclear Society, Society of Exploration Geophysicists and the National Earthquake Hazards Reduction Program, as Chairperson for the coalition.

In addition to his professional affiliations, Bob Swain was vitally interested in his family and active in his church, the YMCA, and the United Way, contributing much of his time and talents for the good of others. To Mr. Swain, the Kinemetrics employees were his "family" too. He showed his interest in everyone during his "rounds" by a friendly smile and greeting—every morning without fail.

Those of us at Kinemetrics agree with Leonard Berkowitz, Program Manager for the Lunar Seismometer, "I never heard a mean word from 'the boss,' even though we had many problems during the Apollo program and a lot of frustration. Bob always went out of his way to offer praise and was very optimistic. The workplace was always friendly and because of Bob's grace and sensitivity to all his employees, there was a family atmosphere." Bob Swain was truly a man of both heart and vision. Kinemetrics is indebted to him for the legacy he has given us.

*Photo taken for an AGU ad in 1989:
"Standing Behind Every Kinemetrics Instrument
are 20 Years of Quality, Reliability and Service."*



Recollections of Some Times Together
by Bill Rihn, Kinemetrics' founding Vice President of Engineering

The Man. I think Bob always thought of himself as both an engineer and an entrepreneur. Indeed he was both. Even though it had been a long time since he had actually practiced engineering when we were at Kinemetrics, he always thought like one.

Before Kinemetrics, Bob was the general manager of UGM (United GeoMeasurements), a division of United ElectroDynamics. During that time, everyone in America was excited when the Apollo program was announced. A few even realized that, in addition to putting men on the moon, there would also be some scientific experiments. One of the people in marketing, Leonard Berkowitz, and I plotted as to how UGM could get the job of building the seismometers for Apollo. After planning the way, we let our supervisors and Bob Swain in on the idea. Of course, Bob immediately got excited and made sure that we had all the resources needed. We bid, beat out our rivals and got the contract. The Lunar Seismometers were made and sent to the moon.

Along the way, Leonard, Bob and I had many exciting meetings with the prime contractor, Bendix Aerospace in Ann Arbor, NASA in Houston, and the principal Investigators who were seismologists at Lamont Geological Observatory in Palisades, NY. Not long after we started on the Lunar Seismometers, we were acquired by Teledyne. That enabled Bob to get us needed help from several other divisions of Teledyne. Needless to say, after all the difficult work of designing, building, and testing those Lunar Seismometers, it was a super thrill to watch on television as Buzz Aldrin deployed the first one on the moon!

Our longer-term thought was that we would continue to work in the space business. But after Apollo, there wasn't any more space business. And the core business of what had been UGM had pretty much shriveled up while we were preoccupied with the Apollo seismometers.

What to do? Without jobs, Bob Swain said he was going to start a new company, and asked Bob Griffith, Harry Halverson and me, Bill Rihn, to join up. That was the summer of 1969. We met many times around Bob and Marge's dining room table, trying to decide financing and profit plan, incorporation, first product, marketing plans, and certainly a name for the company. And, believe it or not, Kinemetrics was not the first choice. After divining at least a hundred names, we came up with Envirometrics. But when we tried to register it, we found that that name was already taken. Back to the drawing board. More combining of phrases. Finally, somebody said Kinemetrics -- and we all knew that we had the right name -- even better than Envirometrics. Bob Swain searched out and found our first building. Then in October 1969, we rented that building -- at 336 Agostino Road in San Gabriel -- and Kinemetrics was off and running.



Kinemetrics' SS-1 Ranger is much like the lunar seismometer designed for the Ranger mission.



Kinemetrics Founders in 2001, left to right: Bob Griffith, Bill Rihn, Bob Swain

Bob Swain is survived by his wife, Marjorie, daughter, Katherine and son, Todd.