

Take Me Out To The Ball Game

Take me out with the crowd. Buy me some peanuts and cracker jack, I don't care if I never get back, let me root, root, root for the home team, if they don't win it's a shame. For it's one, two, three strikes, you're out, at the old ball game.

By Gene Murphy

There are many retirees who have tried their hand at writing. Several have even had their books published. However, it's probably safe to say that almost all did not have books published prior to beginning their Intel careers. There is one retiree, who was already a successful writer before he picked up his Intel badge in 1983. His name is Walt Triebel.

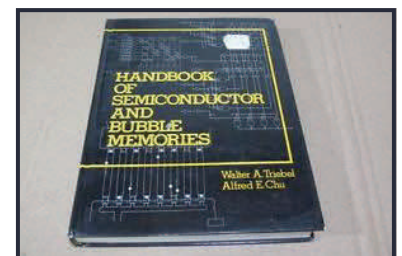


Baseball road-tripping - Lake Olmstead Stadium, Augusta, Georgia

Teaching, Textbooks and Intel

Walt spent most of his Intel career as a Field Sales Engineer assigned to the ATT/Lucent Technologies sales team in New Jersey. Yet prior to then he had already had two books published and had completed several more, which were published shortly after he joined Intel. The first two were textbooks, which were based upon courses, which he had taught at a private technical institute. At the same time, he was completing his undergraduate and then graduate degrees at Fairleigh Dickinson University and NYU, respectively. The first, published in 1979, he believes, was the first logic design book exclusively based on logic ICs rather than discrete logic circuitry and that introduced a microprocessor, the PPS4. That might be the reason it got published—it changed the paradigm of the traditional logic design course.

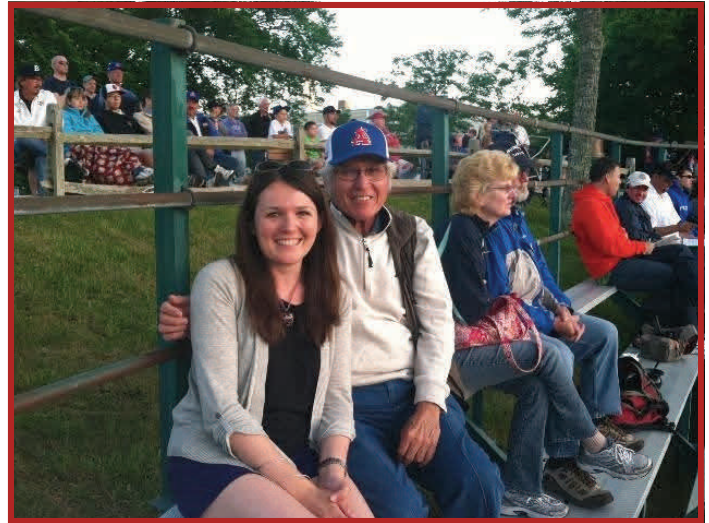
The second one, titled *The Handbook of Semiconductors and Bubble Memories* was published in 1982. It was also different in that it blended the new emerging bubble memory technology with the traditional semiconductor memory technology. His third and most successful book, which is based on the 8086 microprocessor, was published in 1985. A variant of that book is still in print and in use today, thirty years later. That book also changed the educational paradigm. It was the first textbook on the 8086 architecture and initiated a transition from courses based on 8-bit microprocessor technology, such as the 8080, to the 16-bit and PC world. Between 1979 and 2002 Walt authored or co-authored an amazing total of 25 books. One, he later learned, was even printed in Chinese. All of those books were published by Prentice-Hall/Pearson Education. Incidentally, Intel finally did take advantage of his literary talents. During his last two years at Intel, Walt joined the Intel Press team and worked as a Content Manager and Resident Author. In that role he authored/co-authored two books on Itanium Architecture and Programming.



The Ball Game Begins

Walt's literary accomplishments are definitely impressive. However, what makes his story particularly interesting is what happened after he retired in 2002. Instead of writing more technical textbooks, Walt took his writing career in a totally different direction—baseball. Since then he has completed two books about minor league baseball; one of which has been published.

The natural question for Walt would be why did you choose baseball and more specifically, minor league baseball? As Walt tells the story, it all began during the early 1950s, when he became a passionate Brooklyn Dodger fan, listening to games on his radio. He maintained his love for the sport during his adult years; however, a key milestone for him occurred during the year of his first sabbatical when he and his daughter, Lindsey, decided to attend a New York Yankees game played against each of the other American League teams at Yankee Stadium.

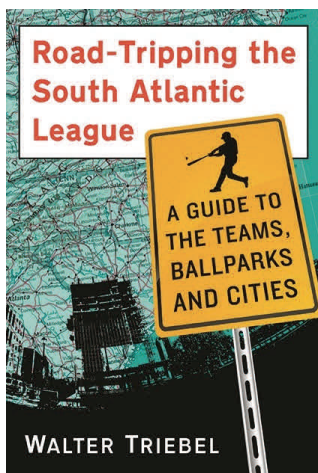


Daughter, Lindsey and Walt - Chatham A's game, Cape Cod

After he retired, Walt and his brother then embarked upon a major mid-west baseball road trip. Not only did they see games in Cleveland, Cincinnati, Chicago and Detroit, but they also saw some minor league games in Columbus and Toledo. Walt was bitten by the minor league baseball “bug” during that trip. He then started going on many trips with family members where he visited nearly all the minor league parks in the Northeast and Mid-Atlantic states. Needless to say he was the planner for all those trips. Because of that experience, he decided to create a blog called Baseball Road Trip Planning. His interest about and travel related to minor league baseball parks grew even more during 2009 when he began writing articles about top minor league prospects of some major league teams for FanFeedr.com.



Minor League Baseball Logo



Road-Tripping the South Atlantic League

Soon Walt felt he had saturated the minor league teams and parks in the northeast corridor. So he expanded his horizon to the southeast. In 2013 he decided to attend a home game of each team in the South Atlantic League, which has most of its teams located in the Carolinas. Naturally, this led to a new book titled [*Road-Tripping the South Atlantic League: A Guide to the Teams, Ballparks, and Cities*](#), which was published in 2015

Walt found out that the minor league baseball experience in this region was somewhat different from the northeast primarily due to the fact that there are no major league teams in that immediate area. This gives the minor league teams in the Carolinas a more prominent presence in their communities.

Typewriter to Personal Computer

Walt has recently completed another book. This one is similar to his earlier one, but covers the Carolina League. Both books not only cover baseball but also describe other attractions in the area. Walt says the Carolinas have a rich minor league baseball history, which he describes in his books. He has a third one in the works too, which focuses on just the minor league teams of the Baltimore Orioles. He selected this subject not just because of the baseball, but also because of the interesting destinations where the teams play. Because this new writing enterprise has become pretty much a full time job, Walt decided to move from New Jersey and now resides in Durham, NC where he has easy access to all the ballparks in the southeast.



When Walt reflected upon his long and prolific writing career, he remarked how much the PC has changed how a book is written today versus 40 years ago. He remembers how it was such an arduous task for him to write his first books. First, doing research meant numerous trips to different libraries where he searched for and through various books to become versed in a particular topic. Then, he had to use a manual typewriter to develop his text using many bottles of whiteout, razor knife and scotch tape to cut and splice pages—the original “cut and paste” and a T-square, circle and French curve to create illustrations. Today, Walt remarks that things have gotten a whole lot easier. He can accomplish all of those tasks while sitting on his couch.



Walt skiing at Stratton Mountain, Vermont

Walt’s advice to retirees and those contemplating retirement is for them to look back at the things that were interesting and important to them during their lives, which they may have had to put aside while they were working. He suggests that they reengage with those activities they enjoy the most and consider building their retirement life around them.

For him it was writing, watching baseball, and teaching courses based upon his textbooks, which he did after a twenty-five year hiatus. Additionally he had a desire to be a “Senior Ski Bum” to sate one of his other lifelong passions, skiing. So he went to work at a New Jersey ski resort. This allowed him to ski all winter in Vermont and NJ for free because the resort was part of the large Intrawest Corp.

If any of you, aspiring writers would like to better understand how to get a book published, become a college teacher or discuss how to plan a baseball road trip, you can contact Walt at watriebel@aol.com.