Hewlett-Packard grew to be Palo Alto's largest employer. Its two founders served in various leading management roles within the company for most of their working lives. The duo practiced a down-to-earth leadership style that has become known as "management by walking around"; this became an inspiration for many subsequent electronics companies. The company has been considered by many to be a model of corporate management and has had a reputation for treating its employees well.

Hewlett and Packard's legacy is a company that is a major international manufacturer of measurement and computation products and systems used in the industrial, business, engineering, science, medicine, and education sectors. The company's headquarters are still in Palo Alto, California. The Hewlett-Packard Corporation was the first major and lastingly successful example of a company founded in the Silicon Valley mold, where engineers took the founding and management of a company into their own hands. Much later in the 1970s, Apple Computer was to start in a very similar manner in Silicon Valley, with the duo Steve Jobs (1955—) and Steve Wozniak (1950—).

BIOGRAPHY

William R. Hewlett. Born 20 May 1913, in Ann Arbor, Michigan. Attended Lowell High School, San Francisco. B.A. from Stanford University, 1934; M.S. in electrical engineering from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, 1936; B.S. in electrical engineering from Stanford University, 1939. Served as officer in the Army Signal Corps during World War II. Cofounder of Hewlett-Packard Corporation, 1939. Became vice-president of Hewlett-Packard, 1947; executive vice-president, 1957; president, 1964; chief executive officer, 1969; and upon retirement, director emeritus, 1987. Chairman and founder of William and Flora Hewlett Foundation, 1966-94. Member of the board of directors of the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE), 1950-57; served as president in 1954. Recipient of numerous honors and awards, including 13 honorary degrees from U.S. universities and colleges; National Medal of Science, 1985. Died 21 January 2001 in Palo Alto, California.

David Packard. Born 7 September 1912, in Pueblo, Colorado. B.A. from Stanford University, 1934; M.S. in electrical engineering from Stanford University, 1939. Worked for General Electric Company in Schenectady, New York, 1936–38. Cofounder of Hewlett-Packard Corporation, 1939; president, 1947–64; chief executive officer, 1964–69. U.S. Deputy

Secretary of Defense, 1969–71. Served as Hewlett-Packard's chairman of the board, 1972–93; served as chairman emeritus, 1993–96. President and chairman of the David and Lucile Packard Foundation, 1964–96. Recipient of numerous honors and awards, including six honorary degrees from U.S. universities and colleges; Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE) fellow; member of the National Academy of Engineering. Died 26 March 1996 in San Francisco, California.

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--Jonathan Bowen

Hillis, W. Daniel

1956 -

U.S. Computer Scientist and Inventor

W. Daniel Hillis is one of the most prominent visionaries of the computer industry. Currently a Disney Fellow at Walt Disney Imagineering, he pioneered a type of massive parallel architecture known as SIMD (single instruction multiple data). Hillis is a scientist and an achiever, someone capable of converting a dream into reality. His latest vision is building a clock that could work autonomously and unattended for 1000 years.

Hillis was a student at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) when he decided to build a computer with an architecture very different from standard designs. He called his computer the Connection Machine (CM). The main idea was to use not just a few processors, but thousand of them interconnected in a network. Each processor would be very simple, capable in fact of processing just one bit at a time (bit-serial processing), but the huge number of processors would compensate for their simplicity. Hillis was in fact trying to