

## **GEORGE MELCHIORSEN**

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I was hired in 1973 to work in the Cupertino R&D lab developing LPE (Liquid Phase Epitaxy) LEDs. I worked with a bunch of guys that came from Texas Instruments. My hiring boss was Jim Evans and we were wafer process development. Tim Robertson was the LPE engineer developing an LPE IR emitting LED. Mitch Jones was Tim's counterpart for the visible (red) LPE LEDs. The department was managed by Harold Allen. Jim Evans left Monsanto and Jack Walker was hired in his place. I then reported to Jack. They were all a great bunch of guys.

My work eventually focused on process development for the IR LED. The LPE IR process was more successful than the visible product. Robert Adamo worked as a tech for me then. He was a great employee and a quality guy. I believe he went to work for Litronix after Monsanto.

I was involved in transfer of the LPE IR process to manufacturing just as the fab moved to the Monsanto St. Peters, MO site. I transferred to St. Peters and assisted in bringing up the entire fab, both the LPE IR process as well as the existing visible product line.

I left Monsanto after about a year in St. Peters and moved back to the Bay Area. I think that was in 1977. I went to work for Sperry Univac developing thin film magnetic recording heads for disc drives. Ironically, I left Sperry when some ex-colleagues from Monsanto asked if I wanted to work in LEDs again. That is when General Instrument purchased the Monsanto opto business. I assisted (again) in bringing up the fab, this time in Palo Alto.

What a contrast GI was to Monsanto. Without going into detail, it wasn't my cup of tea for a work environment.

I left GI in 1981 when I got a job with Hewlett-Packard in Cupertino. I was hired as a fab engineer and worked on CMOS & NMOS ICs. I also worked at other HP divisions in the Bay Area and in 1994 moved to Oregon to work at the Corvallis HP campus. Most of that work involved working in Ink Jet printing and other micro fluidic technologies. I retired in 2007 and am still living in Oregon.

Lastly, I just want to say what fond memories I have of working at Monsanto with you and the others. I feel very fortunate to have had such a great experience for a kid's first job out of school. I'm saddened by seeing some of our colleagues have passed on. I feel this especially for my ex-boss Jack Walker who I consider a great friend and mentor.



George Melchiorson



George Melchiorson – Fishing in Oregon