

Life After Monsanto

Autobiography of John Torok

In retrospect, I must have liked the Opto Group at Monsanto as I have worked there twice.

In October 1970, Mike Bottini hired me (for the second time – previously at Fairchild Semi) and worked there until 1974. Started as a manufacturing engineer, then manufacturing and product engineering supervisor and finally as the Product Manager for the Solid State Relay group. Probably many forgot that we had such a product.

After a couple of years at National Semiconductor (Opto coupler product manager) and couple years at Intersil (CMOS product marketing engineer), in 1978, Mike hired me (for the third time!) as the Product Manager for the Opto-isolator line. 1978 was another key milestone in my life when in April I married my wife Barbara.

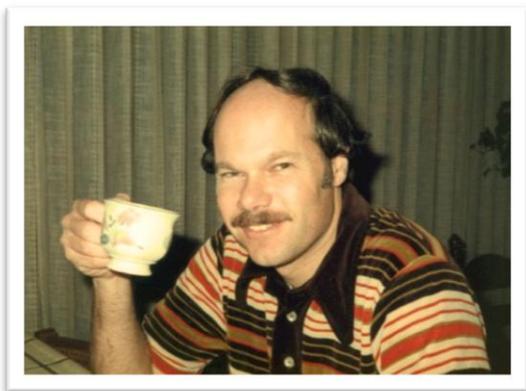
In 1982, I left Monsanto/GI and co-founded Optomicronix (as VP of Marketing), a company focused on optical switch components. Bill Otsuka and couple of executives from Litronix were the other co-founders.

In 1984 I joined AOT Corporation as Director of Marketing and Sales where we made test equipment for semiconductor components. In 1991, Hewlett Packard purchased our business and I became an HP Automated Test Division employee. Subsequently we were spun-off as part of Agilent Technologies, where I stayed until 2002 with various assignments as European sales and marketing manager and world-wide customer services manager.

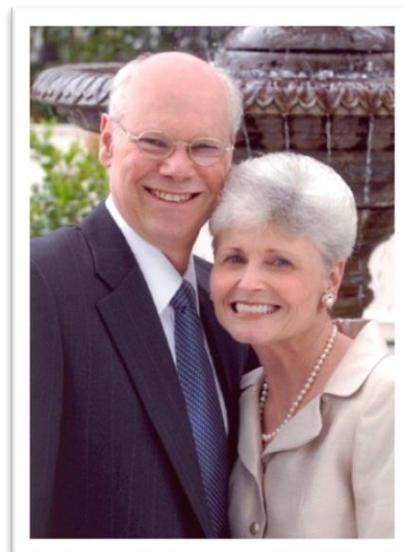
After leaving HP/Agilent, I took a year off to do some traveling and worked as a consultant in the service and support areas. In 2004 I joined Kanrad Technologies as the VP of Business Development for a new SaaS solution for the home health-care industry until my retirement in 2009.

I also had the opportunity to do my civic duties and serve my community as a member and Vice President of the San Jose Jaycees, member of the Republican State Central Committee of California, campaign manager and chairman for the election of Congressman and Assemblyman Ernie Konnyu and President of the Hungarian-American Chamber of Commerce in the Bay Area.

For the past three years I have been working part time as an assistant to the chef at the Sur La Table culinary/cooking school. It is fun as I enjoy cooking and I am pretty good at it. It is not a “real” job and it also gives me time to pursue the improvement of my golf game. Now that is a REAL challenge!



John in 1981



John with wife Barbara 2011