

Jack Murdock devoted his life to human concerns

The following tribute to Jack Murdock, Board Chairman and founder of Tektronix, Inc., was delivered by the Rev. Michael J. Heppen, C.S.C., assistant senior vice-president at the University of Portland, during memorial services for Jack on August 21 at Finley's Morninglight Chapel in Portland. Rev. Heppen served with Jack for several years as a director for the Delaunay Institute for Mental Health.

On May 16, 1971, Jack Murdock met a very tragic death. He traveled far but his journeys are now over. The remembrance begins.

In gathering here this morning to honor Jack, we engage in a self-serving act. It is we who are trying, by this ceremony of tribute, to deny the fact that we have lost him, and, at least, to prolong the farewell and possibly, to say some of the things we dared not say in his presence; because he would have turned aside such testimonial with impatience and gently asked us to get on with some of the more serious business of the day. For Jack was indeed, a modest man.

Grew up in Portland

He grew up in Portland. He stayed here. Jack gave himself completely to this area. While few people had the opportunity to know him well he surely, at the same time, could be called the outstanding citizen of this area. Countless men and women here, and beyond, are the better because of his many personal concerns and countless benefactions.

Jack lived fifty-three years. He would have been 54 last Sunday. Growing up at home he learned well the traditional values which were to guide his life: a devotion to his parents and to duty. He was a most solicitous son, ever eager to provide comfort for his mother and father.

Jack had a keen sense of duty and accomplishment. When he was sixteen years old Jack wrote an autobiography as a class assignment at Franklin High School. He

dedicated it to his mother, Mae M. Murdock. The final part is prophetic.

"After leaving high school and establishing a business of my own, I intend to go further into the study of radio phenomena. I would like to learn all there is to know about radio if it is possible. I shall probably carry on my experiments in this field, and also, possibly some other branches of science. If I do all that I hope to do, I shall probably make some inventions. I have at present several ideas for inventions, which if put into use would be of great benefit to the people of the world. Although these may not be possible, several other such ideas of mine already have been patented by other men and put into service. I believe that the possibilities of radio are unlimited, and that the majority of the people have no idea of what radio's future holds in store."

When Jack graduated from high school his father gave him the choice of sufficient money to attend college or to open an appliance shop. He chose to open the shop. In that shop he began an association with Howard Vollum which culminated in the organization of Tektronix. Jack was a key organizer and competent technician in the development of Tektronix. His skills as an organizer have been imitated but have never been surpassed.

Interested in people

It was, perhaps because Jack was such a competent technician that he had such a basic interest in people. He, of course, understood the most intricate electronic devices, and, when he came into contact with another individual, he sought to understand the same intricate elements which characterized that person. But Jack was never clinical with people. Although he was somewhat shy, Jack was an exceedingly warm man.

There was no soul too wounded not to engage his mercy. There was no signal of human distress which he did not view as a personal summons. There was no affront to human dignity from which he fled when someone cried "danger." We will never know the number of occasions on which his intervention turned despair into victory.

We would be remiss if we regarded Jack as just a benign humanitarian as he was not only a humanitarian but he was also a great man and a true individualist. He surely believed, as Abraham Lincoln did, that "the way for a young man to rise is to improve himself every way he can, never suspecting that anybody wishes to hinder him." And indeed, Jack did rise. He presided over the phenomenal growth of a large industrial complex. Yet despite the accumulation of wealth and power Jack remained the same: reserved, sin-



JACK MURDOCK
1917-1971

cere and unpretending. I suspect it never occurred to Jack that he was a powerful man.

Jack played down his own intellectual achievements. He had a perfect comprehension of business principles; a quiet, straight-forward way of reasoning; and quick intuitions that gave him the element of astuteness. He was always eager to learn. On the other hand, he was loved and respected for his qualities of heart and character and not for the power that so often distinguishes other eminent men.

Over and above Jack's duties with his company he had a deep and abiding interest in human behavior. He served on the boards of several mental health institutions where he was, again, concerned with the basic human condition and the individuals response to that condition.

Aviation chief hobby

Jack had many hobbies but his chief hobby, indeed more than a hobby, was his interest in aviation and avionics. He believed that aviation is in its infancy today and so he had worked with others to insure its unbounded progress. In a way it is fitting that one of his main interests eventually claimed his life.

Jack had great admiration for the free enterprise system which enabled him to rise above his humble beginning. He never engaged, however, in any display of his wealth, but he devoted every possible effort to insure the fact that the freedoms which he had enjoyed would remain intact. As Lincoln said of Henry Clay, Jack "desired the prosperity of his countrymen partly because they were his countrymen but chiefly to show to the world that free men could be prosperous."

We do not claim the right today to enshrine another man, because Jack, first of all, would not have wanted that. I believe that he would have wanted it said, instead,

that he knew the pressure of work, the sting of bitterness and defeat and the personal anguish of every gray day of national peril, and that, through all, he clung to the confident expectation that men could fashion their own tomorrows if they learned well that yesterday can be neither relived nor revised.

At the time we first received news of Jack's death, eulogists said wonderful things about him. Perhaps the most eloquent said "we shall all miss this quiet man who in his own humble way has done so much. He was indeed an outstanding example of genuine humane kindness. His willingness to be of help will never be forgotten."

With us in spirit

We who are assembled here are of various religions and political faiths and perhaps hold different concepts of man's destiny in the universe. It is not an irreverence, I trust, to say that the immortality Jack Murdock would have valued most can and will be found in the deeds and the visions of those he touched and continues to touch even in his absence.

One can almost hear Jack saying that the speaker has already talked too long. But we are here to honor his memory. In time, the date of May 16, 1971, will seem a long time ago and Jack will recede to the farther reaches of our memory, but he will still be with us in spirit if we can take with us a motto the principles which were demonstrated in Jack's life and were so eloquently and simply stated in the prayer of St. Francis:

*Lord make me an instrument
of peace
Where there is hatred, let me
sow love
Where there is injury, pardon
Where there is doubt, faith
Where there is darkness, light
and where there is sadness, joy
Grant that I may not seek
to be consoled as to console
to be understood as to
understand
to be loved as to love
for it is in giving that we receive
it is in pardoning that we are
pardoned.*

TERAC to participate in annual VHF contest

Tek Employees Radio Amateur Club (TERAC) will participate in the VHF contest September 10-11, operating from the hamshack in the Tech Center penthouse. For further information, call Gene Single, 644-0807 or ext. 7917.

The next club meeting will be held on Friday, October 1. Mike Boer, TERAC president, said no meeting will be held on Friday, September 3.

Coin meeting scheduled

Details on the state and Pacific Coast Coin Convention will be presented at the next Tek Employees' Coin Club meeting on Wednesday, September 8, 7:30 p.m. in the Metals/Ceramic cafeteria. Door prize will be a US proof set.

Slabtown Stop to give reduced season's rate

Roger Sterchi (Storage CRT Engineering) has been elected to the board of the Slabtown Stop Theatre in Portland and one of the first results of his appointment is a special subscription rate.

For \$10, Tek employees may select, at their convenience, four out of five of this season's plays. The new season opens September 24 with Tennessee Williams' "Sweet Bird of Youth".

To obtain 1971-72 season schedule and information, call the Slabtown box office, 228-1969, after 5 p.m. and mention that you are a Tektronix employee.