

Tek engineer ramrods bike path for pupils

Today's article is second in a new **Tekweek** series, featuring outstanding Tek individuals. If you know someone whose personal or professional achievements rate a place in the spotlight, give us a call at ext. 5405, or drop a note to del. sta. 50-213.

Murlan Kaufman (HF Lab Scopes) likes to fix things. One of his favorite hobbies is home maintenance, whether it's repairing the car or the washing machine.

And he likes to build things. So, when he became Traffic Safety chairman of the parent-teacher group at his son's school, and the big safety issue was the lack of a pedestrian path on a dangerous road, the natural thing for him to do was to help build one.

Murlan recently received a special commendation from the Beaverton school board for spearheading the path project, presented by board chairman Homer Speer, who's also with Tek.

The letter of commendation describing his efforts in putting together the path mentioned the usefulness of his engineering background. His experience as a project leader and project manager was equally useful, since he coordinated the work of many people to get the job done.

Murlan came to Tek in 1961, working summers while in college, first in Capacitors and later in Engineering. "The girls in Capacitors always said they taught me everything I know," he says, "and maybe they're right."

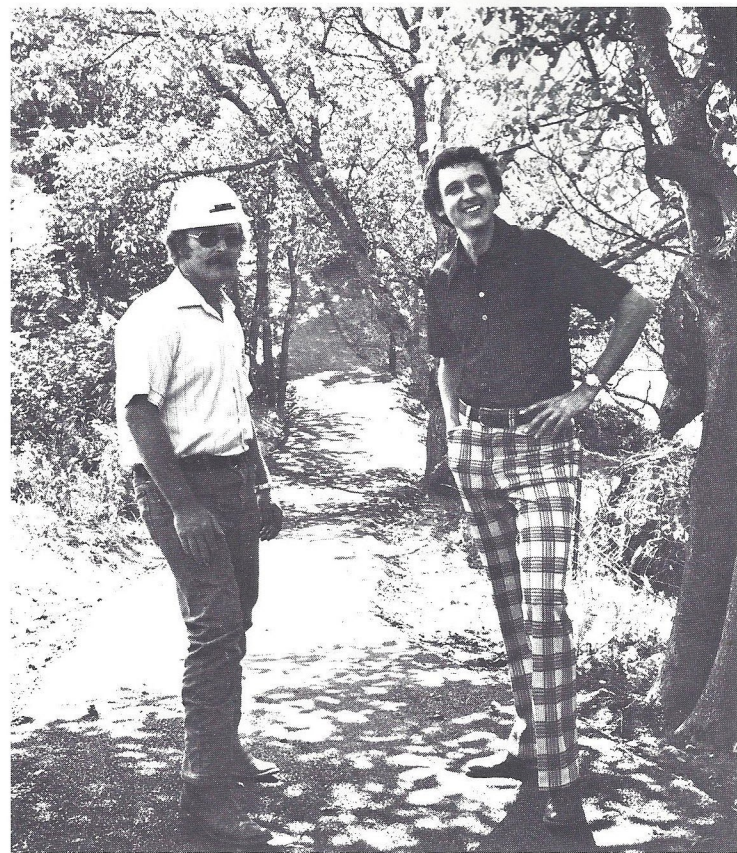
After finishing college he came to Tek full-time, starting in Accessories Design. Moving on to other areas, he designed the 114 pulse generator and "a few other things," went on to Sampling and, in 1969, to 7000 Series where he is now. He's been project leader on several instruments, including the 7844 dual-beam scope, and presently is project manager. During that time, he completed his Master's degree with some help from Tek's education programs.

When Murlan decided to apply his engineering and organizational abilities to the pedestrian path project, it was estimated that over 100 of the 200 students at West Tualatin View Elementary School were walking the three-quarter-mile stretch of road someone described as "a blood alley for kids." Murlan's own children weren't among those using the road, but he shared the concern of other parents for making it safer.

Initial engineering estimates showed that the cost to build a pedestrian/bicycle path would easily exceed \$20,000. Neither the county nor the state had the funds. Another way to finance it could have been through a local improvement district (LID), but the neighborhood was overloaded already with sewer LIDs.

Then Murlan's group found that matching funds were available from the county for pathways. If the neighborhood could raise part of the money, they could get help with the rest. So they started fund-raising.

Donations from the neighborhood and PTG funds amounted to about \$1700. This, added to the value of the group's labor and donated materials, was



DAVE HERB, county traffic engineer, and Murlan Kaufman (HF Lab Scopes) inspect a section of the pedestrian-bike path along NW Leahy Road. The path was built separate from the road here because of the contour.

matched by \$4800 in asphalt laying by the county. In addition, the county, when repairing some of the roads this summer, actually moved a portion of Leahy Road over, making it possible to put the pathway through an area where they hadn't been able to get an easement.

Next step was organizing work parties—some 30 people in all participated. Working in groups of 10 to 15 at a time, on four different Saturdays, they cleared brush, moved whole fences, cut hedges and even completely relocated one hedge.

That was the most visible part of the effort. But behind the scenes, Murlan also spent hours working with lawyers on easement agreements, with government officials getting necessary approvals, and with contractors and community merchants arranging for services and supplies.

Community business people showed their enthusiasm for getting the job done—Town Concrete Pipe Inc. and Portland Concrete Pipe both gave rate reductions for necessary materials, and Hinds Supply in Beaverton gave the group 140 feet of pipe. County officials, such as Dave Herb, county traffic engi-

neer, proved that government people can work with private individuals to benefit the community.

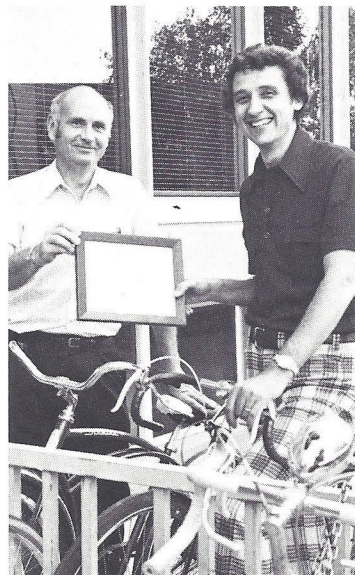
This wasn't the first such project for Murlan. He'd previously worked as volunteer site director for a Campfire camp in Portland, getting together a team to repair vandalism damage, and working with the Marines to resurface a road to the camp.

"I couldn't do it if my wife, Dana, hadn't been so supportive and encouraging," Murlan says. "You just don't do these things alone."

Aside from building-and-maintenance projects, Murlan's community efforts include working with the soccer coach at his son's school—one of the three dads doing this—and serving as secretary of the Tualatin Nation YMCA Indian Guides of which his son, Dan, is a member.

The Kaufmans also have two daughters, Marcy, who's in junior high, and Jenny, who attends Sunset High.

Murlan's hobbies, besides building and repairing things, include some that are fun for the whole family—boating, water skiing and bicycling. Even here, a practical note creeps in—he sometimes rides his bike to work.



HOMER SPEER (Information Systems) presents Murlan a commendation from the Beaverton school board. Homer is board chairman.