

# News from Nan

## COMPUTER HISTORY

# CHUCK FILLERUP AND THE IBM 650

FEBRUARY 6, 2015 | DICK

*From 2014 to 2020 we researched and cataloged over 5000 items (hardware, software, and text) at the Computer History Museum in Mountain View, California. We sometimes blogged about our experiences and the fascinating items we encountered; this post is part of that set.*

Earlier this year the Computer History Museum got a major donation. One of the items in the collection was an IBM 650 computer. IBM announced this machine in 1953 and it used a magnetic drum for memory instead of core.

My first job when I graduated from UCLA in 1965 was at IBM Service Bureau Corp. My mentor there was Dr Chuck Fillerup. Chuck taught me a lot about programming while we worked together on several projects.

Chuck told me many stories about how challenging it had been for him a few years earlier to program the IBM 650, since memory was actually a rotating drum. The way a program transferred control from one piece of code to another could have a big impact on performance, especially if it caused the program to have to wait too much for drum rotations. I thought of Chuck when I set my eyes on the 650 sitting in the Computer History Museum warehouse.



IBM 650

◀ 2015    ◀ CALIFORNIA    ◀ CHUCK FILLERUP    ◀ COMPUTER HISTORY MUSEUM    ◀ IBM 650    ◀ JOHNSON    ◀ LOS ANGELES  
◀ SERVICE BUREAU CORPORATION