

A Friend

There are many people who have contributed to the success of the *Journal of The Electrochemical Society* (JES) over the past 103 years. The 40-year editorial tenure of Norman Hackerman, taking ECS's first publication (transactions from the biannual meetings) to a peer-reviewed journal, stands as one of the most significant contributions. Many notable scientific pieces are documented in the archival pages of JES. However, not all of the important contributions are recorded in the JES bound pages.

On May 26, 2005, Dr. Paul Milner passed away. You may have met Paul in any number of roles connected with the Society or electrochemistry. Paul gave to the Society in many ways including contributions to JES. In 1989, a major reorganization of the JES editorial structure was undertaken where the 90+ Divisional Editors were replaced by six Associate Editors. In 1990, Paul was asked to serve as Interim Editor to put the new structure together while the search for the permanent editor took place. Along with six Interim Associate Editors, Paul organized and ran JES for a year. Later, Paul wrote and maintained our first electronic manuscript tracking system, called "JESX." The system tracked the status of all submitted manuscripts, authors, reviewers, and publication records. Database updates were sent electronically to all the editors and staff members automatically on a daily basis. This took enormous effort, because commercial programs and facilities such as the Internet did not yet exist. JESX and the last of the original computers it ran on (donated through Fred Strieter) were retired just a few weeks ago. Paul did not attend the May, 2005 ECS meeting in Québec City and I missed sharing this poignant moment with him. The retirement of JESX marked the end of a connection we shared.

For those who knew Paul, they knew he was a most understated and gentle person. I first met Paul Milner in 1978 when he was a department head at Bell Telephone Laboratories. Once, as a passing comment, I recall mentioning to him a problem I had with a document. Paul responded, "That doesn't sound right." An hour later, he left a message telling me that someone would be calling to say the problem had been fixed. It was just like Paul to help wherever he could, without being asked, and requesting nothing in return. In fact, upon his death, his only request was that there be no flowers, no donations, and no recognition in his name. Well, that doesn't sound right to me. There are many people who have served the Society with their names embossed on medals, fellowships, and plaques. I know of no one who has done as much as Paul Milner has for this organization. If you have participated in JES or this Society, you can be sure that he has somehow assisted you along the way, most likely without being seen or thanked. Paul was a good person, and I'm thankful he was here.



Paul A. Kohl
Editor

