

# Daily Breeze

**TUESDAY**

July 24, 2007

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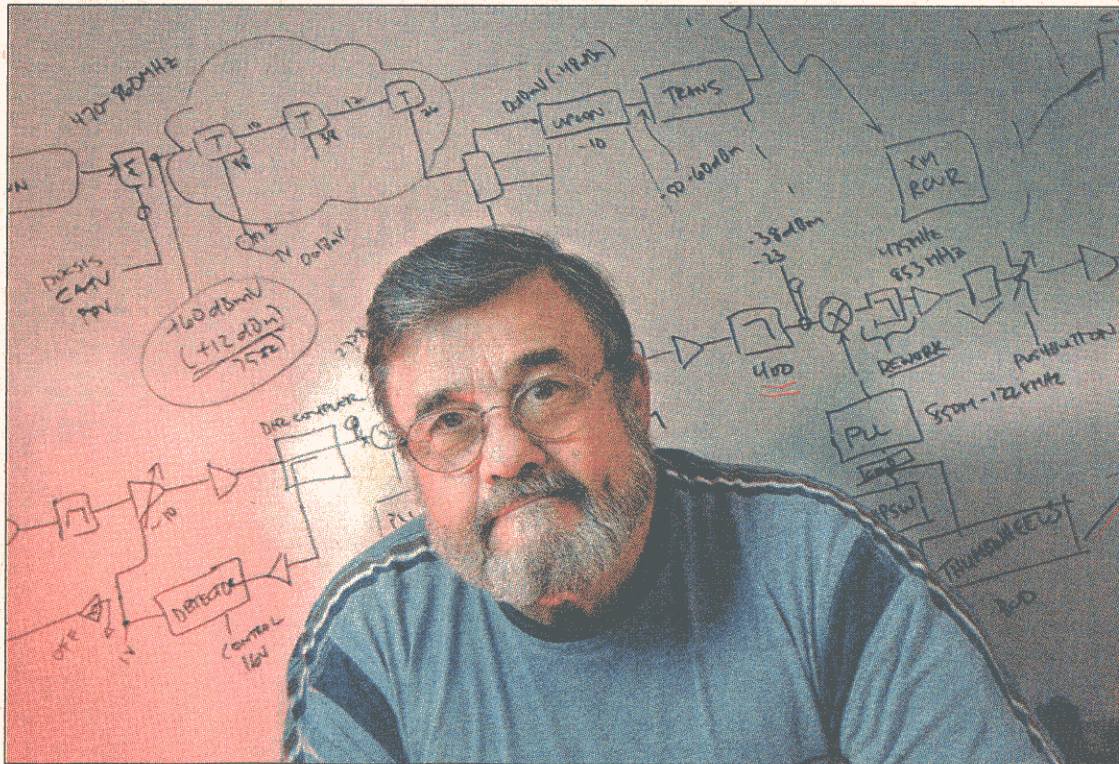
# BUSINESS

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## AT WORK

Jerry Shepard has been working as a document coordinator at Antex Electronics Corp. and its predecessor companies for 50 years this month. He says he has "always been skeptical of the grass on the other side."

BRAD GRAVERSON/  
STAFF  
PHOTOGRAPHER



# DOCUMENTED SERVICE

Torrance coordinator has been on the job for 50 years

Jerry Shepard is fond of comparing himself to tables and chairs.

Although this may seem strange, they are the only other part of the business where he works that have been around as long as himself.

"I've been bought and sold with the furniture," Shepard said.

The document coordinator for Torrance-based Antex Electronics Corp. has been on the job for 50 years this month, albeit with four different companies.

Shepard, 78, joined Modern Industries in 1957. Since then, the names on the wall have included Escom and Guardian Electronics before Guardian's president, Jim Antrim, re-organized the company into Antex in 1983.

In that time, Shepard has racked up his share of unique accomplishments. He points out that he has "never had to make a resume," and that he continues to ride his Harley-Davidson motorcycle between work and his Tustin home. He sees his longevity as increasingly unique in a world of declining loyalty to jobs.

"I'm the last of a dying breed," Shepard said. "I've always been skeptical of the grass on the other side."

#### What does your job entail?

I am a document coordinator for electronics certification. In the electronics business you have to have certifications from all over the world.

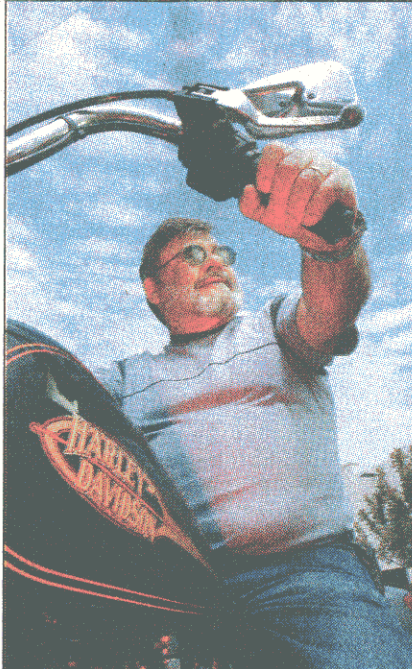
#### What are the certifications for?

They assure the safety of electronics goods. Look on the back of a CD drive, and you'll see a sticker confirming the safety.

#### How has your job changed over time?

I started off as an electronic technician, then went to drafting and design. At one point, through evolution and attrition, I was chief engineer.

#### What's your background in engineering?



Jerry Shepard rides a Harley-Davidson from Tustin to his Torrance job site.

I'm much more mechanical. When I joined the Navy, they forced me into electronics. I was more into motorcycles and cars.

#### What do you like about motorcycles?

There are some things that just cut all of the lines loose in your life so you can stop worrying. That's what motorcycles do for me.

#### Were your parents interested in motorcycles or mechanics?

No, probably the opposite. I would call my dad a genius, but he couldn't fix anything.

#### What was your father's background?

He graduated from West Point after already having graduated from Indiana

## CLOSE UP ON JERRY SHEPARD

■ **Name:** Jerry Shepard

■ **Position:** document coordinator for electronics certifications

■ **Company:** Antex Electronics Corp., 19821 Hamilton Ave., Torrance.

■ **Information:** 310-532-3092

University. I spent two years at El Camino. That's how much the family rubbed off on me.

#### Are you a California native?

I came here when I was six and I've been here all my life except for four years in the Navy from 1948 to 1952.

#### So you saw service in the Korean War?

Being in the Navy, you didn't see the action that the Marines did. But I was on a destroyer that hit a mine.

#### What was that like?

Chaos. We weren't sure if it was shore fire or a fire from within.

#### What did you do?

I was an electronics technician. In an emergency situation, I was trying to get the communications and radar back online.

#### What was the influence of your experiences in the Navy?

When I told them I'd studied math in high school, they sent me to school for a year up on Treasure Island to study electronics. After the Navy, I tried to be a mechanic, but I would have starved, so I went back to the electronics field.

#### How have the companies changed since you've been here?

The first company, Modern Industries, did solid state power supply; it was one of the first companies to use transistors.

# AT WORK

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Antex drifted into voice boards along with smart relays, then we became strictly voice boards. Now we do more satellite systems.

## **Did you ever think about leaving?**

I liked what I was doing. Not having a degree, I couldn't just jump to Hughes or Hewlett Packard.

## **Did you ever consider going back to college?**

I went to El Camino for two years. But you have to do it when you're young.

## **What is the best part of your job?**

Drawing, I suppose, and designing.

## **Why?**

It's the feeling of accomplishment. You make a drawing, turn it over to machine shop, they make it and you think, "My, my, isn't that grand?"

## **What's the worst part?**

It used to be going through certifications and having a problem, like when an agency says, "No, no,

that's not the way to do it."

## **Have you seen an increase in paperwork since you've started working?**

I'm constantly amazed by the idea of the computer eliminating paperwork. It's certainly made paperwork easier to do, but it hasn't reduced the amount.

## **What will come first, quitting your job or stopping riding the Harley?**

I don't see any end in sight to either, though (Antex Electronics) might be trying to push me out the door.

## **What do you do in your free time other than work with motorcycles?**

I am a wood-worker. I carve things and make furniture.

## **Do those skills overlap with the ones needed in engineering?**

Yes. It's the ability to take an object and show a different side of it.

## **What's the most interesting project you've worked on?**

Each one is the big thing at the moment, then the next thing you know, you're on to the next one. I've never built an Eiffel Tower.