

SCIENCE HISTORY INSTITUTE

LAWRENCE B. EVANS

Transcript of an Interview
Conducted by

Richard Ulyrch and Robert O. Kenworthy

at
Rive Technology Corporate Headquarters
Cambridge, Massachusetts

on
18 January 2012

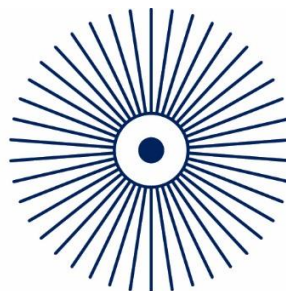
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LAWRENCE B. EVANS

LAWRENCE B. EVANS

1934 Born in Fort Sumner, New Mexico on 27 October

Education

1956 BS, Chemical Engineering, University of Oklahoma
1957 MSE, Chemical Engineering, University of Michigan
1962 PhD, Chemical Engineering, University of Michigan

Professional Experience

Massachusetts Institute of Technology

1962-1968 Assistant Professor of Chemical Engineering
1968-1974 Associate Professor of Chemical Engineering
1972-1974 Executive Officer Chemical Engineering Department
1974-1990 Professor of Chemical Engineering
1976-1981 Principal Investigator of the ASPEN (Advanced System for Process Engineering) Project at M.I.T.

Private Consultant

1962-1981 Consultant to numerous companies including: Arthur D. Little, The Badger Company, Cabot Corporation, Cities Service, EG&G, The Foxboro Company, General Electric, Kennecott Copper, Metcalf and Eddy Engineers, Mobil Research Laboratories, Norton Research Corporation, Occidental Research Corporation, Pittsburgh Chemical Company and Union Carbide Corporation.

Computer Aids for Chemical Engineering (CACHE)

1971-1974 Member, CACHE Committee, National Academy of Engineering
1974 Cofounder, CACHE Corporation
1974-1980 Executive Officer and Treasurer, CACHE Corporation

Aspen Technology, Inc

1981 Founder
1981-2002 Chairman and CEO
2002-2004 Chairman
2005 Retirement

Rive Technology

2006 Cofounder
2006-2012 CEO
2012 Retirement

Honors

- 1966-1967 United Engineers and Constructors Preceptorship
- 1978 Elected Corresponding Member of the National Academy of Engineering of Mexico
- 1979 Merck, Sharp and Dohme Lecturer, University of Puerto Rico
- 1980 Donald L. Katz Lectureship, University of Michigan
- 1982 Computing and Systems Technology Division Award, American Institute of Chemical Engineers (AIChE)
- 1997 Entrepreneur of the Year, New England High Technology
- 1999 Named one of seven US. Heroes of Manufacturing, *FORTUNE*
- 1999 Alumni Society Merit Award, Department of Chemical Engineering, University of Michigan College of Engineering
- 2001 Elected to the National Academy of Engineering
- 2002 Award for Personal Achievement in Chemical Engineering, *Chemical Engineering* magazine
- 2003 Elected, University Of Oklahoma College Of Engineering Distinguished Graduates Society member
- 2003 Engineering Achievement Award, Engineering Construction Contracting Association
- 2011 Richard J. Bolte Sr. Award for Supporting Industries, Science History Institute

ABSTRACT

In his oral history Lawrence Evans begins by describing his parents and early life in New Mexico and Oklahoma. He describes the important influence that his father, a pharmacist by training, had in shaping an interest in the sciences. He talks about his early education and the decision to major in chemical engineering at the undergraduate level and to eventually pursue graduate studies in chemical engineering at the University of Michigan. He describes the graduate program at UM and his early encounters with computers and computer programming.

Evans tells how after receiving his PhD he came to MIT as an Assistant Professor of Chemical Engineering with funding through a two-year fellowship from the Ford Foundation. He talks about his early teaching at MIT, his early graduate students, and some consulting work he did. He tells how he became increasingly more interested in discovering how computers can be used to solve chemical engineering problems, and talks about his efforts to increase his knowledge in this area through research and writing. He talks of the formation of the CACHE committee, the work of the committee, and how he eventually became president of the group. He discusses in detail the Aspen Project and his decision at the end of the project to form a company based on Aspen's work. He notes that he was inspired in this by the example of others at MIT who had successfully gone on to careers as entrepreneurs. He describes the formation of AspenTech and names many of the key early players and investors. He describes how AspenTech was able to expand; its early Europe focused strategy; its success against ChemShare and Simulation Sciences; its IPO, and other key events in the history of the firm. Evans provides a frank description of SEC actions with regard to him and several executives at AspenTech. He talks of his departure from AspenTech in 2005; his presidency of AIChE, his introduction to Javier Garcia-Martinez, and his decision to help establish a company based on Garcia-Martinez's technology, Rive Technology. The oral history concludes with Evans reflecting on what the future holds for him as well as reflecting back on the values/principles that have guided his life's work.

INTERVIEWERS

Richard Ulyrch is Director of Institutional Grants and Strategic Projects at the Chemical Heritage Foundation. He has studied history at the graduate level at Indiana University and Jagiellonian University. He also has an advanced degree in linguistics from Indiana University.

Bob Kenworthy is a chemist who, after over four decades of employment in the chemical industry at DuPont, Rollins Environmental Services and elsewhere, was retained by the Chemical Heritage Foundation as its Manager of Affiliate Relations.

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