

CHEMICAL HERITAGE FOUNDATION

**JULIUS BLANK**

Transcript of an Interview  
Conducted by

David C. Brock

at

Los Altos, California

on

20 March 2006

| (With Subsequent Corrections and Additions)

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This oral history is part of a series supported by grants from the Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation. This series is an important resource for the history of semiconductor electronics, documenting the life and career of Gordon E. Moore, including his experiences and those of others in Shockley Semiconductor, Fairchild Semiconductor, Intel, as well as contexts beyond the semiconductor industry.

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## **JULIUS BLANK**

1925 Born in Manhattan, New York on 2 June

### Education

1950 B.S., mechanical engineering, City College of New York

### Professional Experience

1950-1951	Babcock-Wilcox Company Engineer, steam drums
1951-1952	Goodyear Aircraft Research and Development Engineer
1952-1956	Western Electric Company Engineering, manufacturing toll crossbar equipment
1956-1957	Shockley Semiconductor Laboratory Senior Staff Engineer
1957-1969	Fairchild Semiconductor Co-founder, Facilities, Engineering Services, Division Manager
1978-2004	Xicor Director and co-founder
1969-present	Consultant; Director of several companies; Investor

## ABSTRACT

**Julius Blank** begins the interview with a look at his childhood and early education. He graduated high school at the age of fifteen and began taking classes at the City College of New York while working various jobs. When Blank turned eighteen, he enlisted and was sent to Europe to serve during the end of World War II. When he came home he finished college with the aid of the GI Bill and received a degree in mechanical engineering. Blank worked as an engineer at Babcock and Wilcox Company in Ohio, and then moved to Goodyear Aircraft. After two years, he and his wife moved back to New York where Blank got a job at Western Electric. In 1956, Blank was asked to join Shockley Semiconductor in California. He and his family moved to Palo Alto, where Blank worked on crystal growing for Shockley. Blank met Gordon Moore at Shockley, and eventually joined Moore and six other Shockley colleagues to form Fairchild Semiconductor. Blank first worked on crystal growing and research and development at Fairchild, but later helped set up assembly plants overseas. In 1969 Blank left Fairchild to become an independent consultant. Blank concludes the interview with some final thoughts on Gordon Moore.

## INTERVIEWER

**David C. Brock** is a senior research fellow with the Center for Contemporary History and Policy of the Chemical Heritage Foundation. As an historian of science and technology, he specializes in oral history, the history of instrumentation, and the history of semiconductor science, technology, and industry. Brock has studied the philosophy, sociology, and history of science at Brown University, the University of Edinburgh, and Princeton University (respectively and chronologically). His most recent publication is *Understanding Moore's Law: Four Decades of Innovation* (Philadelphia: Chemical Heritage Press, 2006), which he edited and to which he contributed.

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