

## About Carl Helmers

Carl Helmers had a long entrepreneurial career founding and publishing advertising-supported print technical magazines 1975 to 2006. He was a founder, editor and minority co-owner of the world's first successful personal computer print magazine publication, **BYTE**, from 1975 until 1980. This was a period when early microcomputer hackers of the world in their pursuit of knowledge about a coming technology created the roots of today's (post 2015) ubiquitous personal computing and mobile technology. It all came down to “I want my own *personal* computer – even if I have to figure out how to make one, then build and program it myself...”

As in any trend, many others were moving in the same direction as Carl. One thing led to another. Carl through founding then editing his **BYTE** magazine helped foment the change. **BYTE** sprang forth upon the pre-WWW paper magazine world of 1975 with Carl as Editor and source/collector of ideas. This was long before the clone friendly IBM Personal Computer in 1981.

Carl grew up in Florham Park, New Jersey. As a high school senior in December 1965, Carl (with math/science student colleagues) got a chance to take a Fortran course every Wednesday evening at **Sandoz Pharmaceuticals** in East Hanover. From that point onward Carl knew he wanted his own *personal* computer. Carl worked for Sandoz summers (and vacations) while at the University of Rochester where he earned his **1970 BS physics “with distinction.”**

In 1973, he began to self-publish his “quarterly” *Experimenter 's Computer Systems* pamphlets. He published several ECS issues in 1974 through May 1975. He did this before modern word-processing programs – just his ancient film ribbon electric typewriter, hand drawn ink on paper graphics and occasional trips to a quick printer in Boston. ECS became his **BYTE** magazine in September 1975 in Peterborough, New Hampshire. Carl chose helmers.com as his personal internet domain name in pre-WWW days so his e-mail address could be “carl@ helmers.com.”

After leaving **BYTE** at the end of 1980, Carl formed **Helmerts Publishing Inc.** in Peterborough NH. Through Helmers Publishing Inc, Carl founded successful advertising supported controlled-circulation trade publications: *Bar Code News (ID Systems magazine)*, *Sensors* magazine and *Desktop Engineering* magazine. This all started in the pre-WWW 1980s when monthly print magazines thrived.

Carl moved to the Rochester NY area in 2003. Carl keeps his Fedora and Mint Linux workstations/distributions up to date. Carl reads the Linux User Group of Rochester (LUGOR) WWW page and monitors its e-mail list traffic. Carl occasionally adds an e-mail of his own and usually attends monthly LUGOR meetings.

Current activities include WWW readings, work on his www.helmerts.com WordPress web site, woodworking projects, practicing his piano and travels with his scientist wife Jean Bidlack PhD who is the University of Rochester's *Paul Stark Professor of Pharmacology*.