

ALAN THOMAS KELLOGG



ALAN THOMAS KELLOGG

Marching Band 2, 3; Concert Band 2; Congress 3, 4; Forum 2; German Club 4; Honor Roll 2, 3, 4; Junior Class 3; Math Club 3, 4; Honor Society 3, 4; Orchestra 2, 3, 4; Physics Club 3, 4; Senior Class 4; Swimming 2, 3, Letter 2, 3; TATTLER Staff 2, 3; National Merit Semi-Finalist 4; NSF Summer Science Program.

The following information was provided by Alan's good friend and our classmate Norwig Debye-Saxinger.

The Alan Kellogg we knew lived on Dryden Road, in a house halfway between Route 13 and Fall Creek, well before the turn-off to Freeville. His father was a math teacher and a backyard inventor. Among many other things Alan and his dad built a mobile, two wheeled camper-cooker-kitchen to be towed behind a car. We never used it - but admired its Bauhaus functionality after every trip.

While at IHS, Alan became a member of the Debye/Saxinger boys' gang. Founding card-holders, along with Nordulf and Norwig, were Ludlow Brown, Oers Kelemen, Bob Blean, and Monty Shaw - with associate membership extended to Paul Wolfowitz, Marty Sampson, Michael Steinitz, Fred Mayer, Chuck Wilson, Pat McGovern and an occasional significant other. Girls were sometimes invited on outings for decoration and fun, but had no role or vote.

Alan was a trusted advisor to our rocket, jetex bomber and depth-charge programs.

When we built our first helicopter - the blades stood still and the copter whirled - it was Alan who brought the aeronautics into balance. For our rockets, we split the task of buying saltpeter and sulphur from different pharmacies, and Alan did his part.

Alan was part of our camping and canoeing crew. Besides always being preoccupied with secret practical inventions which he did not discuss, he was our Socratic agnostic during the many discussions we had around fate, Machiavelli, the deities, and even love. "Cause and effect" for him (let alone "final" and "initial" causes) was an almost insignificant phenomenon applicable only in a tiny, circumscribed area of the physical sciences. The big picture for him was "chance" and "chaos". "What are the Chances," Alan told us repeatedly, was the most telling thought put to song in the twentieth century.

After graduating from Ithaca High in 1961 Alan attended Princeton University as an undergraduate and Stanford for graduate studies - always with inventions on his mind. The last time he visited me in Kinderhook he brought with him a little suitcase-size machine that was a color copier a la Polaroid technology. He was trying to get it to market, but had not succeeded. He was working on a number of other "secret" projects as well.

He rented space outside of Ithaca, not far from his parents' home and spent his time inventing until he disappeared from sight, not to be seen or heard from to this day. He left with us a collage of still and moving pictures, memories of many fun times, a glimmer of a world he saw but we were not in. Go Alan!