Richard E. Merwin, a pioneer in the field of digital computers and current president of the Computer Society of the IEEE, died on August 28, of complications following open-heart surgery. He was 58.

Born on October 2, 1922, in East Palestine, Ohio, Merwin was a research professor in computer science at The George Washington University in Washington, D.C. He had been a resident of Georgetown since 1968.

Merwin began his career at the Moore School of Engineering working on Eniac, shortly after receiving his BSEE degree from the University of Pennsylvania in 1943. Later, he became a research associate at the Los Alamos Scientific Laboratory, where he organized the engineering team for Maniac.

At IBM, which he joined in 1951, he was active in the development of the 702 and 703 systems and was engineering manager of the Stretch program. The design of the Stretch computer pushed the technology of the late 1950's to its limits and exerted a major influence on the IBM 7090. He went on to receive an MSEE from Syracuse University in 1960 and a PhD from the University of Pennsylvania in 1965. Subsequently joining the US Army Ballistic Missile Defense Program Office, he served as Deputy Director for Data Processing until 1977, when he became a full-time faculty member at The George Washington University.

Merwin was an active leader in several key areas within the IEEE Computer Society, ACM, and AFIPS. A past member of the society's Board of Governors (1976-77), he also served as editor of the IEEE Transactions on Computers (1975-78), general chairman of Compcon Fall '75, chairman of the Compcon Fall Standing Committee (1975-78), program chairman of NCC '79, and general chairman of Compcon '80. In addition, he held the post of Computer Society vice-president for publications (1979-80) and IEEE Division V director (1978-79). Within the ACM he held the post of chairman, Sigmicro (1971-73).

An IBM Academic Fellow from 1961-65, Merwin received the ACM Recognition Service Award, 1971-73, and was made an IEEE Fellow in 1975. "For development of ferrite core memories and computer hardware and software programs." In 1978 he received the Annual Sigmicro Award for Outstanding Contributions to Microprogramming—the second such award ever to be granted. (The first one went to Maurice Wilkes.)

His most recent research interests included microprogramming, software management, and distributed data processing.

He is survived by his wife, Sally-Ann (nee Rife); one daughter, Louisa Gay Merwin Hild, 26; and two sons, Ian Alexander, 33, and Richard E. Merwin, Jr., 35. A third son, David Sage Merwin, died in 1979 at the age of 28.

A memorial fund is being established in Dr. Merwin's name by the IEEE Computer Society to support research and education in the field of computer science and engineering. The family asks that, in lieu of flowers, contributions be made to this fund or to the charity of choice. Those who wish to make donations to the Richard E. Merwin Memorial Fund should make checks payable to the IEEE Computer Society, P.O. Box 639, Silver Spring, MD 20901.

A special tribute to Dr. Merwin will appear in the October Computer.

Garcia assumes IEEE-CS presidency

With the death of Richard Merwin, First Vice-President Oscar N. Garcia of the University of South Florida will assume the post of Computer Society president for the remainder of 1981, in accordance with Computer Society Bylaws. Merwin's name has been withdrawn from the 1982 election ballot; in his place Garcia has been selected by the Governing Board as the nominee for Computer Society president to serve during 1982. Garcia's biography and position statement appear on p. 130.
Regional distinguished visitors announced

Selected as regional distinguished visitors by the IEEE Computer Society, six prominent Asian computer specialists will conduct lecture tours throughout the Far East during 1981-1982, announced Ramon C. Barquin, chairman of the society's Regional Distinguished Visitors Program. The six distinguished visitors, who will lecture by request on one of two proposed topics, are T. C. Chen of the Chinese University of Hong Kong in Shatin, Hiroshi Genshi of the Toshiba Research and Development Center in Tokyo, Yu-Huei Jea of the Telecommunication Training Institute in Taipei, R. C. T. Lee of the National Tsing Hua University in Hsinchu, Mamoru Maekawa of the University of Tokyo, and P. V. S. Rao of the Tata Institute of Fundamental Research in Bombay.

T. C. Chen is head of United College, Chinese University of Hong Kong, and a professor of computer science and electronics. His two lecture topics are "Magnetic Bubble Memory and Logic" and "Computer Technology and the User." Currently on leave from his position as research scientist with IBM Corporation, he has previously served as a faculty member at Vassar, Stanford University, UC Berkeley, and the University of Uppsala in Sweden. He is also the president of the Chinese Language Computer Society. A graduate of Brown University and National Sun Yat-sen University, Chen obtained his PhD at Duke University.

Hiroshi Genshi, a senior manager in the Research Planning Group of the Toshiba R&D Center in Tokyo, will speak on the "Pattern Information Processing System" and "Japanese Language Processing for Office Automation." He holds 55 patents registered in Japan and other countries. His current research interests include pattern recognition and pattern information processing systems. Genshi received the BS and PhD from the University of Tokyo and the MS from MIT.

Yu-Huei Jea, chairman of the Computer Science Department at the Telecommunication Training Institute in Taipei and an associate professor of electrical engineering at National Taiwan University, will speak on "Advanced Techniques for Design Automation" and "Computer Networking: Theory and Practice." Jea has served as a consultant to government branches and industrial organizations in the areas of computer communications, design automation, software engineering, and compiler construction. He received an MA in computer science and the PhD from The University of Texas at Austin.

R. T. C. Lee, who will lecture on "Anatomies of Some Software Systems" and "Clustering Analysis and Its Applications," is director of the Institute of Computer and Decision Sciences at the National Tsing Hua University in Hsinchu, Taiwan. Before joining the National Tsing Hua University in 1975, he worked in the US with NCR, the National Institutes of Health, and the Naval Research Laboratory. Besides authoring over 40 papers, Lee has organized a number of international conferences. Lee received the PhD from UC Berkeley in 1967.

Mamoru Maekawa, a faculty member in the Department of Information Science at the University of Tokyo, will speak on "Distributed Computing Systems" and "Data-Base Machines." Previously, he taught at the University of Iowa and the University of Nebraska. From 1976 to 1979, he served as editor of Information Processing.

Maekawa was also a member of the IFIP 80 organizing committee. His areas of present interest include data-base machines and distributed computer systems. Maekawa received the BS from Kyoto University and the MS and PhD from the University of Minnesota.

P. V. S. Rao has been with the Tata Institute of Fundamental Research since 1955, where he is currently a professor and head of the Speech and Digital Systems Group. Rao will speak on "Is the Computer Intelligent?" and "Speech, Communication, and Computers." He was a member of the teams which designed and developed Tifrac, India's first electronic computer and Illiac II, the University of Illinois' high-speed computer. He also served as the group leader of design efforts for Oldap, the first on-line computer built in India mainly with local components. Rao was elected president of the Computer Society of India in 1980. His current interests are large digital systems, speech research, and medical electronics. Rao holds a PhD from Bombay University.

The Regional Distinguished Visitors Program is the first such program launched by the IEEE Computer Society outside of the US and Canada. The national IEEE sections and IEEE Computer Society chapters will serve as local hosts for the regional distinguished visitors. Over 9000 IEEE members reside in Region 10, which covers most of Asia, Australia, New Zealand, and parts of Africa.

For additional information regarding the lecture tours, contact the area chairman: Ramon C. Barquin, IBM World Trade Asia Corp., 41st Floor, Connaught Centre, 1 Connaught Place, Box 9750, General Post Office, Hong Kong; telephone 5-265496; Telex HKG 73286.
Pao and Ernst to present Compon Spring tutorial

A tutorial entitled "Context-Directed Pattern Recognition and Machine Intelligence Techniques" will be presented at Compon Spring 82 by Yoh-han Pao and George W. Ernst.

The tutorial will review basic pattern recognition techniques and the information processing strategies of expert systems of artificial intelligence. It will show how the combined use of these techniques and strategies is resulting in a new information processing methodology suitable for handling the complex decision-making tasks inherent to high-technology industrial and defense systems. In this new methodology, "problem domain knowledge" is used to guide pattern recognition and decision making.

Author of more than 80 technical articles, Pao is the George S. Dively Distinguished Professor of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science at Case Western University, Cleveland, Ohio. He is former chairman of the department and a fellow of the IEEE.

Ernst, an associate professor of computer science at Case Western, has published numerous articles in the area of artificial intelligence and is well known for his work in general problem solving.

There will be a total of three new tutorials at Compon Spring, which will be held February 22-25 at the Jack Tar Hotel in San Francisco. Rex Rice will present "Technology You Need for VLSI Design and Use." The third tutorial will be announced later.

Technical committees formed on Ada and Fortran

Two new technical committees, AdaTEC and ForTEC, have been established under the ACM Special Interest Group on Programming Languages.

The scope of the SIGPLAN Technical Committee on Ada encompasses the scientific and technical aspects of the Ada language, including its usage, environment, standardization, and implementation.

The scope of the SIGPLAN Technical Committee on Fortran will include the Fortran language—its usage, portability, standardization, further evolution—as well as the implementation of Fortran processors.

Non-ACM members who wish to join AdaTEC or ForTEC should write to ACM Inc., PO Box 12115, Church Street Station, New York, NY 10249.