Richard K. Richards

B.S., Electrical Engineering, 1943

After serving in World War II, Richard K. Richards spent seven years at IBM. Though trained as a theoretical physicist, he played a key role in developing fundamental concepts that enabled IBM to emerge as a leader in the commercialization of digital computers. This helped form the underpinnings of basic concepts used in the computer industry for decades. Richards was awarded 28 U.S. patents, and he was one of the first authors to write textbooks focusing on the operation of computers. He published five books on the subject, including *Arithmetic Operations in Digital Computers*. Richards' statement that "the ancestry of all electronic digital systems appear to be traceable to…the ABC" was key evidence in the court case that recognized the Atanasoff-Berry Computer as the first digital computing device.

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