



# Hanging out with APL friends in times of yore

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# 1967 —

right arm in a cast, winding watch.  
Truth 40 years later.

Yorktown Heights  
Circuit diagrams on the floor

Larry “sonofabitch” Breed  
(later photograph)



# Larry's right hand was in a cast

- He asked me to wind his watch for him, an unusual way to become acquainted. Anyway, winding a watch isn't difficult so I did, and moreover, noticing that the watch's time was off by about 6 hours I added the extra favor of correcting it, for which Larry was not grateful. He pointed out what I'd noticed but not thought about. His minute hand wasn't synchronized with the hour hand in the usual way but rather Larry had repositioned by just enough that the two hands would coincide not at the usual 12 o'clock but rather at 6:30. That allowed him, left-handed, to wear the watch upside down on his right wrist, so of course he ignored the numbers on the face and preferred to have both hands pointing up at 12 sharp.

I was duly chagrined. Forty years later ...



A.M. Turing Award

<https://amturing.acm.org> › [iverson\\_9147499](#) ⋮

## Kenneth E. Iverson - A.M. Turing Award Laureate ✓

In 1962 **Ken** published the now-classic book *A Programming Language* [1], the title of which gave the name **APL** to the notation which had up until then been ...

**Born:** 17 December 1920, [Camrose, Canada](#) -2004

**Education:** [Harvard University](#) (1954), [Harvard University](#) (1951), [MORE](#)

**Awards:** [Turing Award](#), [IBM Fellow](#)

**Known for:** Programming languages: [APL](#), [J](#)

**Thesis:** Machine Solutions of Linear Differential Equations  
– Applications to a Dynamic Economic Model (1954)



Eero Saarinen  
TJ Watson Research Ctr

1968 Yorktown Hgts  
1988 Toronto  
1990 San Antonio. OJ  
1992 tacit  
1999 Palo Alto



Charles  
Brenner

Larry  
Breed

Eugene  
McDonnell

Garth  
Foster

Paul  
Berry

Joey  
Tuttle

?

Curtis  
Jones



10/9/2024

# Much later

- I was duly chagrined.

However, forty years later, no longer as gullible as at 16, I asked Larry if he'd trapped me intentionally. He confessed. So not for the only time (see Billings) a Breed incident had its denouement decades after.

# 40 years after Montana incident

- Flying off a ramp
- A van with a name
- What really happened

# Train crossing in Montana

Palo Alto (later Silicon Valley)  
to Regina, Saskatchewan, quickly



Need a car



Zion National  
Park (Utah)



Recessed  
train track

near Billings (pop 100K)

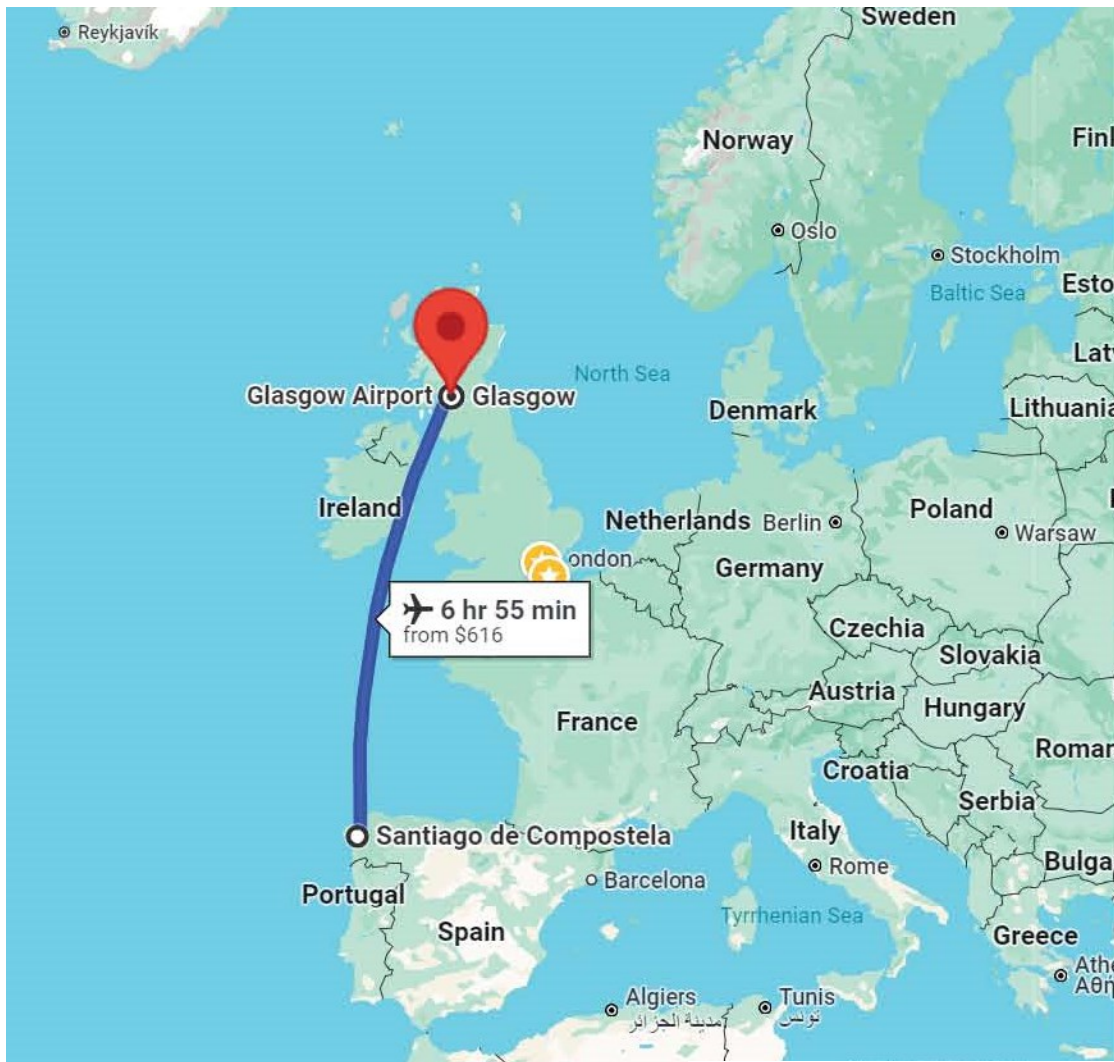


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Glasgow, United Kingdom**

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