



Photo by Theresa Danna-Douglas

## Goetz's remarkable career stems from a Nevada education

Jack Goetz '43 (electrical engineering) will argue that there is nothing glamorous about engineering, but if his life has lacked anything it is ennui.

Goetz has seen many things change. When he graduated at the end of 1942 with a bachelor's degree in electrical engineering, there were only 856 students at the University. Today there are close to 17,000.

Now he participates in volunteer work with the University engineering program and, even though he is turning 90 this December, he is still an active member of the Nevada Alumni Association.

Following his graduation, he was recruited by the NACA Ames Aeronautical Laboratory at Moffett Field, Calif., where he worked for several years as an assistant electrical engineer with free flight and wind tunnel programs meant to qualify military aircraft for handling

properties prior to acceptance for service use. "After a few years of that, I moved back East to get into the electronics industry," Goetz says.

In 1949, Goetz accepted an offer to work with the IBM Electronics Laboratory at Poughkeepsie, N.Y., where his experience with electron tube development and manufacture fitted in with that firm's interest at the time in developing large scale electronic computers. Goetz became a senior electrical engineer and manager with IBM and had continued involvement in the procurement of computer-reliable components and devices able to operate in various environments, including space. In this latter capacity he participated in several NASA programs, including Gemini and Apollo computer applications.

During this period, Goetz was able to meet with several prominent figures in the NASA space programs such as Wernher von Braun and other rocket physicists and astronautics engineers.

"That's the interesting thing about engineering," Goetz says. "You never know who you will meet around the next corner."

During his work at IBM, Goetz and his wife, Dorothy, had four children. They also

have five grandchildren. He finally retired from "Big Blue" after 30 years, and spent five more working for the IEEE (Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers) Standards organization in Manhattan, before again retiring to return to the West. While with the IEEE, Goetz represented the United States on several technical committees of the IEC (International Electrotechnical Commission) at overseas meetings. "The IEEE really took me into world travel," Goetz says.

"We chose Reno to go back to because we thought it was a good place to live," he says. Goetz had remained in contact with the University over the years, and he was interested in helping students, especially those in engineering studies, from his experience. He has also remained active in University Club and Alumni Association scholarship endeavors. When not participating in these events, he still finds time for a hobby he has had for almost a lifetime: ham radio.

—*Josh Culpepper, Class of '09 (English and French) is an intern with Nevada Silver & Blue.*