

San José State University Emeritus Faculty Association Biography

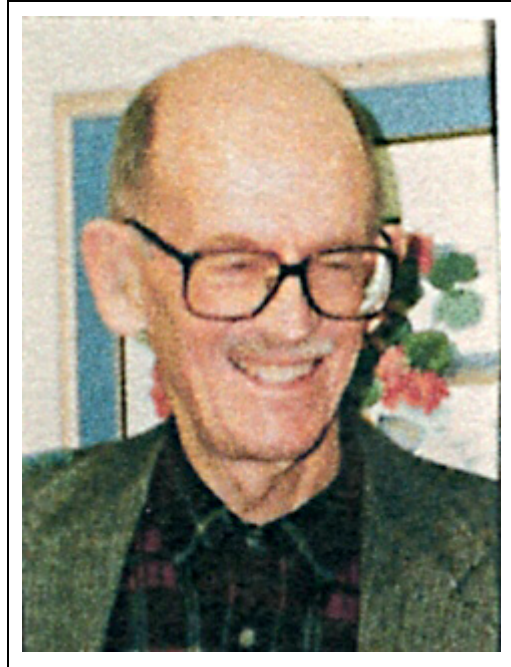
Name: Ralph Parkman

Department: Materials Engineering

Academic Rank: Professor

Year Retired: 1985

City of Residence: Los Gatos CA



Facebook Page or Website URL:

Birthplace: Penzance, Cornwall, England

Birth Year: 1920

Marital Status: Married **Spouse or Partner's Name:** Yetty (Henriette G. Parkman, M.D.)

Children's Names: Phil, Judy, and Don

No. of Grandchildren: 6 **No. of Great Grandchildren:** -

Colleges or Universities Attended:	Year	Degree
University of Pittsburgh	1941	B.S. Metallurgical Engineering
Stanford University	1949	M.S. Metallurgical Engineering
Stanford University	1952	Ph.D. Metallurgical Engineering

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Teaching Experience:	From	To
Stanford University	1951	1954
San José State University	1954	1985
U. S. Naval Postgraduate School, Visiting Professor	1962	summer
University of Hawaii, Visiting Professor	1964 & 1971	spring
Chancellor's Distinguished Teacher Award	1970	
Tau Beta Pi Engineering Professor of the Year	1984	

Administrative, Business, or Professional Experience (other than teaching):

Metallurgist - Crucible Steel Company of America, 1941-1944

U. S. Navy, 1944-1946 (saw service in Philippine Islands)

Sturdivant Metal Products (electro-metallurgy), 1946-1947

Selected Publications:

Book: *The Cybernetic Society*, Pergamon Press, 396 pp. 1972

Report: *Cybernation and Man*. U. S. Office of Education. 1961

Various papers on high temperature properties of materials. 1948-1954.

Personal Commentary (please limit comments to one page):

In 1954, I came to San José State and soon began collaborating with the late Professor Jim Anderson in developing what would eventually become the first nationally accredited Metallurgical (later Materials) Engineering department in the, then, California State College system. I was Chairman during the 1960s. In the middle 1960s I joined with the late Dean of Engineering, Norman Gunderson, and the late Professor Edward Dionne in developing an interdisciplinary course, "Cybernation and Man," which examined the effects of the emerging information technologies on society. I wrote a textbook for the course, entitled *The Cybernetic Society*. The course was popular and out of it grew the interdisciplinary Cybernetic System Master's program. This program was taught by professors from a number of departments across campus, and for many years introduced students to problems of and potential strategies for a complex technological society.

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