B. The Computer Center

When universities got their own computers, the computer centers were likely to be extradepartmental, organized by whatever persons happened to have relevant knowledge, experience, and interest. The computer was usually paid for by government funds.

Organized training in computer usage grew up around the computer center, simply as a necessary outgrowth of the computer's own functioning. As the computer got more complicated over time, so did the training.

john herriot, oh 21

p.4

In 1955 (?), very shortly after the MIDAC machine at the University of Michigan started up, Prof. John Carr of the Mathematics department organized a course in elementary programming and numerical analysis. Because the MIDAC machine was classified, Carr had to take student programs to the the machine and run them himself. A newly arrived, newly minted, Ph. D. named Bernard Galler sat in on Carr's course. Carr apparently did not want to teach beginning programming over the long term, because he immediately set about grooming Galler as a programming teacher and researcher. Galler took over the programming course the following term. The MIDAC console had to be declassified so that Galler could go and work on it. The next year, the university got an IBM 650, nonclassified, and located on campus instead of out at Willow Run. When Galler began pushing the limits of that machine's performance, Carr introduced Galler to General Motors, where they had an IBM 701. (BAB OH 236, Bernard A. Galler, pp.4-6,7, 13)

Marvin Stein arrived at Minnesota in 1955, the same year that Bernard Galler arrived at Michigan. Stein was already an experienced computer programmer, and Engineering Research Associates had effectively recruited him because ERA was making a substantial gift of computer time to the university, and someone was needed to see that it was used properly. The university's part of the bargain was to give Stein a tenure-track appointment in the Mathematics department of its Institute of Technology.

marvin stein, oh 90

p. 17-20 course, offered to consult

p. 21-23, running out of computer time, going off to convair to use their machine, raising funds, starting out to build a machine, and then discovering that univac would sell them an 1103 for the same price

p. 26, 29 additional machines, bought rather than made, in the early

1960's

p. 27 outside use of the 1103, worrying about being too commercial

p. 30-32 more about the initial course

p. 36-38, that and a course in numerical analysis