



Craig Watjen, of Bellevue, a former Microsoft assistant treasurer and a generous contributor to baseball, music and cancer research, died Friday August 13, 2010 of cancer. He was 74.

Everybody who knew him called him "The Ancient Mariner" or "Mighty Whitey" for his full head of silver hair, Joan Watjen said. Though he wasn't gregarious, he was "a people person" and "had a wonderful sense of humor," she added.

Mr. Watjen had a passion for finance all his life, but his first love was music. He was a clarinetist from a young age in his hometown of Pawtucket, R.I., and after he got a bachelor's degree in liberal arts at Harvard University, he went on to study at the Juilliard School and the New England Conservatory. He played on occasion with the Boston Symphony Orchestra.

But he soon grew tired of being a full-time musician and turned to the business world for a new career. He went to the Stanford Graduate School of Business, graduated in 1973 and joined General Recorded Tape (GRT), a Silicon Valley corporation that owned several music-recording labels. There he met Bill Gates and Paul Allen, who were GRT clients.

When Microsoft moved its operations from Albuquerque, N.M., to Bellevue, Gates called Mr. Watjen and asked him to join the company, Joan Watjen said. "He was key to moving Microsoft forward in the early days," Gates said in a statement Monday. "I valued his judgment, his insights and his unassuming manner in his work." Mr. Watjen opened up the accounting department for the company in 1981 and retired in 1990 as the assistant head of the treasury team.

Mr. Watjen stayed busy throughout his retirement, spending most of his spare time collecting old Ford Model A cars and Lincoln models from before and after World War II, and fixing them up with friends. He was very active in the Model A Ford Club of America and served as its Chapter Coordinator in 1972 and President in 1973. He was also a co-Chairman for the 1994 2<sup>nd</sup> World Meet in Tacoma Washington.

Watjen was diagnosed with prostate cancer in 1992, and when he had his prostate removed, he thought he'd done away with the disease. But it returned about three years ago after small cells metastasized into his liver, his wife said.

His prostate-cancer treatment inspired him to invest \$50 million to help found Light Sciences Oncology, a research institute developing more tolerable, effective and repeatable radiation treatments for cancer.

In addition to his wife, Mr. Watjen is survived by family members up and down the East Coast. A public celebration of his life is planned but has not yet been arranged.