

Quite a surprise when someone sent me this little website. I returned to the law firm Gibson Dunn & Crutcher, which I had left when I joined Nolan Bushnell at Catalyst. I recently retired, but still live in Atherton. Tom Frisina is still in the area. He is an executive with Electronic Arts. Bob Piziali never worked for Androbot, although his wife Kathy may have, or at least done some marketing consulting for Androbot. In any event, they are at their own consulting firm called Piziali & Associates in San Carlos. John Anderson is living in Scotts Valley. Nolan moved to Los Angeles, and I still see him in the news from time to time, trying to start new game companies. Jay Cassell is living in Idaho.

While I did not get a BOB I did get a TOPO and I still have him. Not sure I could get him to perform, although I think I also have the old Apple II which ran him.

I was one of the founding members of Androbot as part of the Catalyst management team (Nolan, myself, John Anderson and later, Perry Odak). So I was on the Board of Directors, as opposed to an actual employee of Androbot. I not only had stock in Androbot, but when Dan Fylstra came on the Board, he wanted to get some Androbot stock and I sold him some of mine. I thought I was just throwing away money selling it to him at the time, but of course, I was one of the few who actually made money on Androbot stock. Salam Querishi kind of took over trying to finance Androbot in the later stages, with Jay Cassell helping to raise money and keep the creditors away. In the end, it was the lack of ability to get product out the door and the fact that Bob was never going to become a reality that sank Androbot. I was there from start to finish.

Salam Querishi is Sysorex. Sysorex took over Androbot, but it could not do anything with it either and it finally closed up shop. My view is that Androbot failed because the technology did not work. Nolan really wanted Bob to do something. However, aside from retrieving a beer from a specially designed fridge going along a set route, Bob never worked. The other products that Androbot tried to do, were basically toys, and many of these were being designed outside (Smith Engineering). I think the bottom line is that Androbot just ran out of money. The toy type products were not enough to keep it going. Nolan put most of the money in, Catalyst put in some as well. Androbot was set to go public in the summer of 1983, when the market for high tech stocks fell out of bed and Merrill Lynch backed out of taking Androbot public. I was part of the team that tried to raise money for Androbot in Europe and Asia after Merrill Lynch pulled out. We just did not have product to back up the hype Nolan had created. While some blame Merrill Lynch, my view is that the public offering would simply have lengthened the time before Androbot would die, because there really was no way to get BOB to work on an economic basis. Axlon did a couple of things similar to some of the proposed Androbot products, but of course, Axlon (which did go public) also went bankrupt. You should contact Tom Frisina to get printed materials. I think I may have an old product brochure. I will let you know if I find it. There was little bronze Bobs that were done that were to have been gifts to the public offering team. I have one of those.

That is about all I know.

Larry Calof