William Harry Gates

 William Harry Gates 3 was born in Seattle, Washington, on October 28th, 1955. Bill`s father Bill Gates Jr. worked for a Seattle law firm and Bill`s mother Mary taught at school until they started their family. Bill`s parents were married in 1951 and two years later gave birth to their first child, Bill`s older sister, Kristanne. Two years after Bill was born and in 1964 the third and final Gates was born, her name is Libby. As a child Bill enjoyed rocking back and forth, today he still has a habit of rocking when he is thinking about something. Bill was very bored at school and his parents knew it, so they were always trying to supply him with more information to keep him busy. Bill`s parents finally decided to put him in a Private School where he would be challenged more. The Lakeside private school had just bought a new computer when Bill arrived and he was immediately hooked. In a week he knew more about the computer than his teacher at Lakeside. Learning the BASIC programming language was easy for Bill, and he was soon writing his own programmes. Bill`s love for computers and math led him to a new place around his neighbourhood that was renting computer time. He made an arrangement with the owners that he would get free computer time if he found things that made the computer crash.

During this time Bi met Paul Allen, his business partner for the rest of his life. Together they started a small company called Traf-O-Data, they sold a small computer with their own programme that could count traffic for the city. The company was not a big success, but it earned the two boys some money as well as good business skills. Bill also wrote a schedule programme for his school, which he changed a bit to put little Bill Gates in a class full of the prettiest girls. Bill was considered by his classmates and his teachers as the smartest kid in school.

 After graduating from Lakeside Bill entered Harvard University in 1973, one of the best universities in the country. Bill was also bored here so he spent most of his time programming, playing poker and seeing how little work he could do and still get excellent marks. He told his teachers that he would be a millionaire by the time he was thirty. This was one of the few times he underestimated himself, Bill was a billionaire when he was 31.

One of Bill`s teachers said, «He is a greatest programmer, but he is a very unpleasant human being». The intense life-style Bill had during his first year in Harvard made him ill for most of the summer of 1974. Bill soon left Harvard for business opportunities in programming which turned him into a multi-billionaire.

Later he met Melinda French, who he married, and they now have 3 children.

 It`s very interesting that even with all his money Bill drives himself to work in an average family car.

Steve Wozniak

Steve Wozniak along with Steve Jobs founded Apple Computers Inc. and started a computer revolution. They introduced the Apple II which was one of the first personal computers for medium and large size business. It started the era of small powerful computers that can be found in almost every part of our daily life.

Steve Wozniak was born in 1950. All his life he has loved projects that made him think. As a child, Steve was greatly interested in mathematics and computers. He often was so occupied with mathematics that his mother had to physically shake him back to reality. In the sixth form, he built his own radio station. At age 13, he built his first computer, and in high school he was the president of the electronics club.

After graduating from Homestead High School (California) in 1962, Wozniak attended the University of California, Berkeley, where he was studying engineering. In the mid-1970s Wozniak decided to drop out of the University and start working for «Hewlett-Packard». There he designed calculator chips and cooperated with John Draper, who was working on the «blue box», an illegal pocket-size telephone attachment that would allow the user to make free long-distance calls. Draper recalls that «Wozniak`s first call was to the Pope. He wanted to make a confession».

 In 1976 Wozniak and Steve Jobs founded Apple Computer Inc. with the Apple I computer. Wozniak and Jobs designed the Apple I in Job`s bedroom, and built the first computer in Job`s garage. In six years Apple Computer Inc. grew to a $500-million-a-year company.

 The origin of Apple`s name is not clear. Some say that it refers to the Beatles` record company and others to a summer that Jobs spent picking apples in Oregon.

 Later Wozniak improved Apple I and brought out Apple II or what is now known as the Volkswagen of computers.

Wozniak left Apple in 1981, got married, went back to Berkeley and finished his degree in electrical engineering and computer science. Since then, he has been involved in different business and charitable projects, focusing on introducing computers in schools and producing educational computer materials to make computers easier for students to use. It was his initiative in 1990 to place computers in schools in the former Soviet Union.

Steve Wozniak has donated computers and even computer laboratories to school, servers and Internet access to students; laptops for students and computer training for teachers and students.

Wozniak`s time is now devoted mostly to his own interests. His strong belief in learning and in encouraging free-thinking and creativity in young people continues to be his driving force.