

By Jane Walerud

In the fall of 1979, I was a Stanford undergraduate who could neither type nor afford typing services, and had four term papers due.

The fastest way between my dorm and some of my courses took me through LOTS, and I noticed that people there could correct what they typed before printing it. Salvation! With a week left of the quarter, I got a free account and sat down for several days and nights to type my term papers.

The men at LOTS noticed a new woman who was there all the time, and made friends. Over the following months, I became a regular at LOTS.

To begin with, I needed help constantly, and didn't like to bother anyone by asking. JQ had a kind of cubicle in the cramped LOTS office, up a step or two from the main floor. He always seemed to have time to answer my questions, and tell me a bit about why the answer was as it was. JQ was so clear and so gentle, and made his answers so interesting, that I not only started to spend a fair amount of time at LOTS, I even started to study computer science. I never did make "wheel", though.

The people I met at LOTS became my gang, the lovely kind of people I've spent my life with. I emigrated to Sweden just after graduation and didn't keep contact with the people from LOTS or Stanford, but I did know where to look for people like them, and found them.

Thank you, JQ. You changed the course of my life.