Grace Hopper Book

Sunday, October 18, 2020   4:29 PM

Important from Index:
- Howard Akien
- Richard Bloch
- COBOL
- Eckert-Mauchly Computer Corporation (EMCC)
- Harvard Computation Laboratory
- IBM
- Mark I
- John Mauchly
- Remington Rand (bought EMCC)

Notes:
- Book is about stripping back the myth of computing hero
- Primary Source References on 12-14

Hopper was:
- Very stubborn
- Got a math degree, which wasn't uncommon for wealthy northeastern girls in the 20s
- At Pearl Harbor, divorced husband and quit professorship at Vassar
- Knew how to play in a man's world
- Gave up family for work
- An alcoholic and sometimes suicidal
- Very good at working with others in a hostile organization
- Early computers weren't built with programming in mind until a 1953 paper by John Mauchly and Hopper.
- The first programmers were Hopper, Robert Bloch, & Robert Campbell
- In charge of the Mark I
- "Aiken's most trusted deputy"
- Worked at EMCC 1949-1971, most important contributions in 1949-1960
  - Hopper's most important inventions on computers & programming: *automatic programming*
  - Hopper's work enabled people other than mathematicians to use computers
- Her compilers were the A-0, then A-1 and A-2
- Originally built compilers for reducing monotony of programming, then later for reducing programming costs.
- Unique approach to innovation: *distributed invention*: needs more info (11)
- Spokesperson for the computing industry
- Worked on (in order): Mark I, II, III, then UNIVAC
- Hopper was big on allowing others (non-mathematicians) understand code: both with programming languages and documentation