



## In Memory of a Market Seer

Chuck Martin Also Used Business Savvy to Boost Schools, Museums

Martin: remembered as bettering everything he touched

By PETER J. BRENNAN

Chuck Martin knew what to do when others panicked.

At the height of the 2008 financial crisis, many on Wall Street were dumping their investments as they rushed for cash.

Martin recommended that the UC Regents Investment Committee, which he served on, hold onto its equity positions and avoid cash. The committee oversees a \$100 billion investment program for the UC system's endowment and pensions.

The equity markets started a bull run in

March 2009, and Martin estimated he probably saved about \$5 billion for the university system. He called it one of his proudest moments.

The system "turned out to be handsomely rewarded" by Martin's sage advice, recalled First Foundation Inc. Chairman Rick Keller, who worked with Martin on University of California-Irvine's investment committee.

"Chuck was never afraid to go against the crowd. That kind of thinking can add a tremendous amount of value to a portfolio's return."

Martin's ability to use his business acumen to help others won him many admirers after he arrived in Orange County in 1960. One of

Southern California's most respected businessmen, he died from cancer on March 28 at age 80.

"We lost a guy who contributed a lot to Orange County," said Don Beall, who served as a chairman and chief executive of the former Rockwell International.

"He's given quite a bit of himself to build the community we enjoy."

Martin during his career served on the boards of 46 public and private companies and numerous nonprofit entities.

He began Enterprise Partners, which at

► Martin 33

## Robots to the Rescue

Manufacturers Say Systems Integrator Helps Them Stay Competitive

By MEDIHA DIMARTINO

TransAutomation Technologies Inc.'s mission is to "help businesses succeed through automation," and get them to "re-shore, remain in California and remain profitable."

The Santa Ana-based company's president, Phillip Meilbeck, puts it this way: "I know I sound like a politician, but the most joyful part of my job is when I can help a company do that."

The systems integrator recently partnered with FANUC America Corp.'s team in Lake Forest to develop a robot that will improve a packaging process at Robinson Pharma Inc., a Santa Ana-based maker of soft gel vitamins and dietary supplements.

FANUC's Japan-based parent manufactures the robot body, and TransAutomation builds the assembly, plus "end-of-arm" tools—the robot's hand—to give the machine a function.

Companies usually bring in Meilbeck's team to assess an entire production line and look for opportunities for automation. From there, it develops a robotic assembly that includes incoming and outgoing conveyors, electronic controls, and programming that guides the robot to perform a task, be it handling material, moving products from process to process, assembly, packaging of food or medical products



Meilbeck: integrator 'brings the robot to life'

or welding.

"What an integrator like us does is actually brings the robot to life," he said. "We give it a job, we give it a purpose."

Automation's role in manufacturing is increasing, changing many of the tasks people now perform and even filling their jobs altogether.

About 38% of U.S. jobs could be at high risk of automation by the early 2030s, and 30% of jobs in the United Kingdom, according to a recent report by Big Four accounting firm PwC. Both countries have "a similarly service-dominated economy," and their most vulnerable sectors include wholesale and retail trade, manufacturing, administrative and support

► Robot 50

## Fixed Base Operator Lands at JWA

AVIATION: ACI Jet Takes Controls at 2nd Airport Slot

By PAUL HUGHES

Saturday was set for move-in day. "We get the keys at 12:01 a.m.," said William "Bill" Borgsmiller, founder and chief executive of fixed-base operator ACI Jet in San Luis Obispo, speaking last week.

ACI Jet was scheduled to take over operations starting April 1 of one of John Wayne Airport's two full-service facilities for charter carriers and private-aircraft owners.



Borgsmiller: plans \$100,000 in renovations

► ACI Jet 52

## Karma Auto Owners Pay \$56M for Irvine HQ

REAL ESTATE: Revero maker leased last year, but yet to move

By MARK MUELLER

Karma Automotive LLC is embracing a lease-to-own strategy, for its local real estate holdings, at least.

The Costa Mesa-based luxury carmaker last week completed the purchase of a big building in the Irvine Spectrum at 9950 Jeronimo Road for its new headquarters.

► Karma 52



Halford: Bixby paid \$44M for site 2 years ago

## Hines Looks to Add Rentals, Hotel to Brea Site

REAL ESTATE: Latest project planned for site next to mall

By MARK MUELLER

Hines Interests LP is the latest big office owner in Orange County looking to add apartment development to its local repertoire.

The local office of the Houston-based real estate owner and developer, one of OC's largest office owners, is working to get approvals for a plan to add apartments, retail and a hotel on land it owns near the

► Apartments 44



Parikh: 'city's vision was for this to be a mixed-use campus'

**10** Executive Dining: When One Restaurant's Door Closes, Another Opens



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**53** Style File: Ivan Silber of Canali boutique at SCP

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