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A Chronology of American Tape Recording

Produced by Dale Manquen

A comprehensive historical review of the development of tape recording in the United States told directly from the original contributors who advanced recorders from mono to 40 tracks—8 hours on VHS cassettes.

Join the Los Angeles section of the Audio Engineering Society in 1994 for an all-day trip through the history of audio tape recording in the U.S. Hear the stories behind the development of audio recorders from the original participants. Our guides on our walk through memory lane are two pioneering recording engineer/producers: Tom Dowd and Al Schmitt. Their advances in recording techniques generated a continuing need for ever-improving tape recording equipment. Our list of presenters from across the country reads like a "Who's Who" in audio magnetic tape history:

Marvin Camras* - Armour Research Institute

- One of America's most prolific researchers in recording technology
- How he built his first wire recorder and a broad review of the history and varied applications of magnetic recording

Jack Mullin* - Bing Crosby Enterprises

- How Jack used modified German Magnetophon recorders and German tape to record the first U.S. radio network shows on magnetic tape; attempts at instrumentation and video recording

Walter Selsted - Ampex Corp.

- One of the members of the design team for the first Ampex recorder, the Model 200
- Who were the original Ampex designers and how did they meet?
- Refining the early designs

Mort Fujii - Ampex engineer during the 50s and 60s

- Early stereo; duplicators; multitracks including a 12-track 2" machine at Bell Sound

Ham Brosious - Sales Manager for Scully during the Golden Years of Scully

- It was 'David challenges Goliath' when Scully introduced recorders that competed with Ampex

Jeep Harned - Founder and developer of the MCI family of recorders (via prerecorded telephone interview)

- Growing a HiFi shop into a major manufacturer of recorders and consoles

Ray Dolby and David Robinson - Dolby Laboratories

- The history of Dolby Laboratories and noise reduction

Dale Manquen - 3M design engineer and Ampex product manager

- 3M Company's Dynatrack and M-56 Isoloop machines; the Ampex MM1100

Tom Stockham - Soundstream

- The Soundstream digital audio recorders—the first practical digital recorders.

Keith Johnson - Gauss Electrophysics

- Evolution of the Gauss 'Focused Gap' high speed duplicators

Alastair Heaslett* - Ampex design engineer on many Ampex products

- The products and technologies that contributed to the ATR-100 design

John Stephens - Owner of Stephens Electronics

- Pushing tape recording frontiers with a capstanless transport and 40 tracks on 2 inch tape

Marcus Ryle - President of Fast Forward and co-inventor of the Alesis ADAT modular digital multitrack recorder

- History of the Alesis ADAT; opportunities in the digital future

*deceased

The program covers tape recording history as a series of presentations by those who turned dreams into reality. In addition to exploring the technology, you will learn the human side of the story. Don't miss this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to relive the birth and development of magnetic tape recording in the U.S. with the original pioneers.

Presented by the Los Angeles Section of the Audio Engineering Society

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