

SPERRY HISTORY FILMS

Most text from Keith Myhre, web formatting by Lowell Benson

INTRODUCTION

In late 2012 a semi-truck load of pallets of ERA/UNIVAC/Sperry/Lockheed Martin documents, photo negatives, and 100+ 16mm films were donated to the Charles Babbage Institute (CBI) at the University of Minnesota from the Lockheed Martin facility in Eagan, MN.

Some of the 16mm film canisters had labels, others did not. Prior to shipment, we¹ previewed the first few minutes of many of the films to identify the film's topic/era so that data could be entered into our Legacy items Microsoft Access database.

Duplicate documents, photo prints, 35mm slides, video tapes, CDs, DVDs, computers, displays, drum memories, an antenna coupler, knick-knacks, and other three-dimensional items were also donated to the Dakota County Historical Society's (DCHS) Lawshe Memorial Museum in South St. Paul. Volunteers continue today to scan and catalog donations of documents/photos/slides.

DIGITIZED BY CHAP

Computer History Archives Project (CHAP) digitized and posted the Electronic Servants film; a 1968 UNIVAC video regarding 1108 production in Roseville, MN. [UNIVAC Computer History: Twin Cities Factory Tour restored 1968 film mainframe "Electronic Servants"](#) This YouTube went live on May 26, 2026, then had about 3,300 views during the first 24 hours.

"Electronic Servants" (1968) a behind-the-scenes look at the high-precision manufacturing and assembly processes at the UNIVAC "Twin Cities" facilities in Minnesota during the peak of the mainframe era. This full color film was shot largely at the Roseville facility, Sperry Univac's Commercial Computer facility at that time. It highlights skilled workers involved in the creation of the massive UNIVAC 1108 and UNIVAC 494 and 418 systems. The original film served as both a public relations piece and a detailed technical overview of how the massive computer systems were built." "Includes a high-resolution digital image gallery after the film. Total run time about 23 mins."

This is CHAP's 35th ERA/UNIVAC/Sperry/Unisys playlist entry! See <https://vipclubmn.org/Legacy.html#CHAP> for links to their topical YouTube playlist. Thanks to CHAP Director Mark Greenia, CBI's Amanda Wick, DCHS's Matt Carter, and Keith Myhre.

¹ Keith Myhre and other Legacy Committee volunteers.

FILM LIST

ID#	Type	Summary-Description	Decade/Year
1909	Movie	""A Matter of Time,"" 16mm, BOAC"	1960
1910 ²	Movie	""Magnetic Core Memories"" 16mm, UNIVAC"	1960
1911	Movie	""Mr. Jude"" 16mm, UNIVAC"	1970
1912	Movie	""No time to Spare"" , 16mm, UNIVAC"	1950
1913	Movie	""Design and Accuracy - the Essentials of Reliability"" 16mm, UNIVAC"	1970
1914	Movie	""What'll It Do For Me"" , 16mm, UNIVAC"	1960
1915	Movie	""Time, Tempo, and Money"" 16mm, 9200, 9300 announcement, UNIVAC"	1960
1916	Movie	""What do You Want"" 16mm RRUNIVAC"	1960
1917	Movie	"Computer aided design,"	1970
1918	Movie	""On Time, On Target, 16mm, Sperry UNIVAC"	1970
1919	Movie	""No Second Chance"" 16mm, UNIVAC Nike Zeus"	1950
1920 ³	Movie	""Electronic Servants"" UNIVAC"	1960
1921	Movie	""The Now World of the 9400"" UNIVAC"	1970
1922	Movie	""Vigilante Demonstration and Test Film"" 16mm"	
1923	Movie	""Beyond Discovery"" 16mm"	
1924	Movie	""Aris One - Mobile Atlantic Range Stations"" 16mm"	
1925	Movie	""The Priceless Component"" 16mm UNIVAC for Hughes , Interceptor fire control system"	
1926	Movie	""Semiconductors, Part 1"" UNIVAC, technology training"	
1927	Movie	""Semiconductors, Part 2"" UNIVAC, technology training"	
1928	Movie	""Truck Route to Better Records"" , 16mm, RRU,"	
1929	Movie	""This Business of Numbers"" , 16mm"	

² See CBI information link on page 6³ See CHAP Digitization on page 1.

ID#	Type	Summary-Description	Decade/Year
1930	Movie	""Sperry - The Sum of Its Parts"" 16mm"	
1931	Movie	""UYK-20"" , 16mm"	
1932 ⁴	Movie	""Underground Explosion Tests"" 16mm ERA"	1951
1933	Movie	""Vigilante Film Dugway 1961"" 16mm Sperry UNIVAC Salt Lake"	1961
1934 ²	Movie	""Introduction to the AN/USQ-17 Computer Set NTDS"" 16mm RRU"	
1935	Movie	""Tactical Air Control System AN/TSQ-13"" 16mm"	
1936	Movie	""0770 High Speed Printers"" UNIVAC Sperry Rand"	
1937	Movie	""Joint Civilian Operations Conference, 16mm DOD film"	
2095	Movie	Failure Analysis	
2096	Movie	"Aerials of all Plants, 9/75"	1975
2097	Movie	"Hollis Solder Machine Studies Hi-Speed Motion Pictures, 2-26-68"	1968
2098	Movie	"This Week on Wall St. Remington Rand UNIVAC, Aug 1968, KTCA-TV"	1968
2099	Movie	"Remington Rand UNIVAC R.E. McDonald - Minuteman Proposal, Mid 60s"	1960
2100	Movie	FAA ARTS III June 1970	1970
2101	Movie	"Installation of UNIVAC Computer in S-3 Aircraft in Burbank, Ca June 1973"	1973
2102	Movie	"Sperry Listens, Early 1970s"	1970
2103	Movie	"VIP 1710 Card Reader, Punch, Printer - June 1970"	1970
2104	Movie	"The Critical Ingredient, Sound only, no picture Aug 1974"	1974
2105	Movie	"Basic Computer File, Man and Computers: A Perspective"	
2106	Movie	Time of the Titan Missile Late 50s	1950
2107 ⁴	Movie	UNIVAC Magnetic Core Memories Feb 1967	1967
2108	Movie	"S-3A Computer Wire Wrap, Early 1970's"	1970
2109	Movie	Strategies of an Achiever	

⁴ See CBI info link on page 6

ID#	Type	Summary-Description	Decade/Year
2111	Movie	"Introduction to Digital Computers, Remington Rand UNIVAC"	
2112	Movie	Apollo 12 Communications Network; UNIVAC Division - Sperry Rand Corp.	1970
2113	Movie	"UNIVAC 1218 Computer Environmental Testing, mid 1960s"	1960
2114	Movie	"The Search for Reliability, mid 1960s"	1960
2115	Movie	"Sights and Sounds of Progress, mid 60s"	1960
2116	Movie	"6 each, Segments Spliced Together (Listing inside film container)"	1990
2117	Movie	"Time Study, Silent Film, B&W, 1960 timeframe"	1960
2118	Movie	Wave Soldering Machine June 1967	1967
2119	Movie	"Missile Launch, Early 90's"	1990
2120	Movie	""Facing the Scientific Future"" , Oct 1981"	1981
2121	Movie	16mm It's All About Real Time 1968	1968
2122	Movie	"16mm Sperry Listens, Early 1990's"	1990
2124	Movie	"16mm Minneapolis Federal Savings and Loan using Remington Rand Equipment, late 1960s"	1960
2125	Movie	Report to Employees for 1980	1980
2715	Movie	"An Overview of Mini-UYK" a presentation on the AN/UYK-20 Computer to UNIVAC CSD Management Personnel; #1"	
2716	Movie	Introduction to Microprogramming; 2	
2717	Movie	The UNIVAC Microprogrammed Controller; #3	
2718	Movie	Implementation of MPC Into Mini-UYK; #4	
2719	Movie	"DEMO, #5"	
2761	Movie	"16mm UNIVAC Roseville test floor, 1100-40, 1970s"	1970
2762	Movie	"16mm Joint Civilian Operations Conference, late 50's"	1950
2763	Movie	"16mm Alcoa Company Highlights, 1958"	1958
2764	Movie	"16mm At the Forefront, 1984"	1984
2765	Movie	"16mm At the Forefront, 1984 copy 2"	1984

ID#	Type	Summary-Description	Decade/Year
2768	Movie	"16mm, Unmanned Vehicles, c1965"	1965
2769	Movie	"16mm, ""Mines Mills and Minutes, c1958"	1958
2770	Movie	"16mm, Census Sixty"" c 1959"	1958
2771	Movie	"16mm, F8U Weapons System"" 1958"	1959
2772	Movie	"16mm, TPS-34 for the US Marines"" c1965"	1965
2773	Movie	"16mm Old Tube Type computer, C 1958"	1958
2774	Movie	"16mm Rockets, Radar, and Ships"", 1979"	1979
2775	Movie	"16mm, Lamps Magnetic Anomaly Detector"" 1973"	1973
2776	Movie	"16mm ""Automation in Air Traffic Control"" c1958"	1958
2777	Movie	"16mm, Titan 1 Shot"	1960
2778	Movie	"16mm, non-reel, ARTS III"	1960
2779	Movie	"16mm, AN/UYK-7 Shock Test, 1978"	1978
2780	Movie	"16mm, 4 Sperry Rand TV shots"	
2781	Movie	"16mm, " "Mechanical (memory) Core Stringer"" 1963"	1963
2782	Movie	"16mm, ARTS III (Air Traffic Control) for KTCA, 1974"	1974
2783	Movie	"16mm ""you Can Surpass Yourself"" 1979"	1979
2784	Movie	"16mm ""1975 Sperry Report to the Employees"""	1975
2785	Movie	16mm Lyet/Seaberg report 1978	1978
2786	Movie	"16mm ""1977 Sperry Report to the Employees"""	1977
2787	Movie	"16mm ""1978 Sperry Report to the Employees"""	1978
2788	Movie	"16mm ""1980 Sperry Report to the Employees"""	1980
2789	Movie	"16mm ""1981 Sperry Report to the Employees"""	1981
2790	Movie	"16mm ""1982 Sperry Report to the Employees"""	1982
2791	Movie	"16mm ""1983 Sperry Report to the Employees"""	1983
2794	Movie	"16mm ""The Catalyst"" 1985"	1985

ID	Type	Summary-Description	Decade/Year
2795	Movie	"16mm ""The Endless Revolution"" 1980"	1980
2796	Movie	"16mm ""The Business of Numbers"""	
2797	Movie	"16mm ""Sperry MAPPER - Making Information Flow"""	
2798	Movie	"16mm "" What'll It Do For Me"""	
2799	Movie	"16mm "" So What if it Rains?"""	
2800	Movie	16mm Arts III	1960
2801	Movie	"16mm ""Now"" 1968"	1968
2802	Movie	"16mm ""Program for Excellence"""	
2803	Movie	"16mm ""the World of Real Time"""	
2804	Movie	"16mm ""Electronic Shelve"""	
2805	Movie	"16mm ""Pack Your Own Chute"". 1982"	1982
2806	Movie	"16mm ""Grab hold of Today"" 1979"	1979
2807	Movie	"16mm Pack your own Chute"" 1982"	1982

CBI HAS LINKS TO SEVERAL OF THE ITEMS IN THE LIST ABOVE:

- Introduction to the AN/USQ 17 Computer Set NTDS 19 min. sd., color unclassified print #1, undated https://archives.lib.umn.edu/repositories/3/archival_objects/76670
- 16mm Film "Underground Explosion Tests" 1300 feet sound on color, 1950 https://archives.lib.umn.edu/repositories/3/archival_objects/76787
- Old Univac Tube Type Computer probably late 50s customer,-Boeing, undated https://archives.lib.umn.edu/repositories/3/archival_objects/76650
- UNIVAC Magnetic Core Memories Time 17:00 Print No. A1, 1960 https://archives.lib.umn.edu/repositories/3/archival_objects/76685

The Charles Babbage Institute is located at 222 21st Ave S #221, Minneapolis, MN 55455. For more information, see <http://www.cbi.umn.edu/>. Our website also has some Charles Babbage Institute information; <https://vipclubmn.org/Exhibits.html#CBI>.

As usual, send comments to webmaster@vipclubmn.org. LABenson