

Saving Our History

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The January 2017 issue will mark the 50-year anniversary of *Sound & Vibration*. We are hoping its content will be truly memorable; we know it will have an historical bent.

We are encouraging our authors and advertisers to use our Volume 51/Number 1 issue to contribute a little of their company's history to our understanding of the last half century in our business.

Tony Keller and I are already working on a profusely illustrated article about the last 55 years of Spectral Dynamics innovations for measuring and analyzing sound and vibration. Today would be a good time to start documenting your company's contribution to the art and science of understanding shock, vibration and acoustics.

We live and work in the present, tomorrow's past. The only way to explain today in the future is from the notes and artifacts cataloged and preserved today. It is surprising how few companies spend any time documenting their activities.

Putting together a history of your company is a tough job. It is astounding how quickly historically important photographs, advertisements, product introductions, magazine articles, application notes and

equipment manuals can "evaporate" into the mists of time.


If you own or run a business, why not consider designating a part-time company "historian" to store and index all of the evidence of your company's progress and milestones? Better yet, you may be exactly the right person for that task.

Those of us who successfully labor in technical capacities take pride in the problems we solve and the products we gestate. Why not store the evidence of this genius and dedication? Some day you may want to tell the story of what you led or contributed to, or to extol the skills and knowledge of the good people who now share the industrial harness with you. Start sanctifying the evidence of today's activities – today.

Some companies are lucky enough to have a self-appointed historian. Such a person is valuable and deserves a little special recognition and an occasional "thank you." Should your historian also demonstrate some skill as a photographer, you've hit the documentation trifecta – treat this person well. Encourage their organization of company material; provide the supplies and facilities needed to assure this, and give your historian a little paid time to perform

this work every month. These things are a small price to pay for the treasure created and amassed.

So please plan to strut your historical stuff in our 50th anniversary issue. Choose an interesting project, product or method from your past, and start composing its tale now. Find those old photographs hidden in the basement filing cabinets and scan them. Collect those old advertisements from long ago and fold them into your story.

You will be doing something important for us and for your company today and tomorrow! For some real encouragement you might visit <http://www8.hp.com/us/en/hp-information/about-hp/history/hp-timeline/timeline.html> to peruse the condensed history of the Hewlett Packard Company. Or go to http://www.ietlabs.com/pdf/GenRad_History/history.pdf and harvest a PDF copy of Arthur Thiessen's wonderful *A History of the General Radio Company 1915-1965*. And, of course, you can visit our web site at <http://www.sandy.com/books/form03.doc> to purchase a copy of *Journey to Greatness – The Story Of Bruel & Kjaer*. 

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