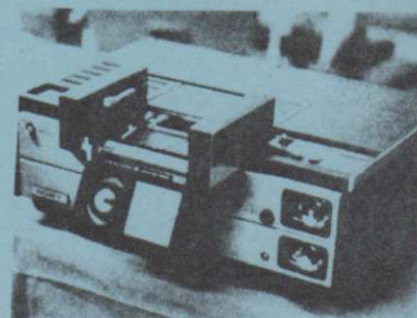
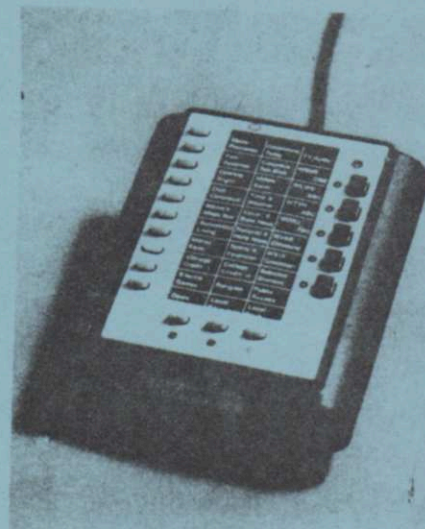
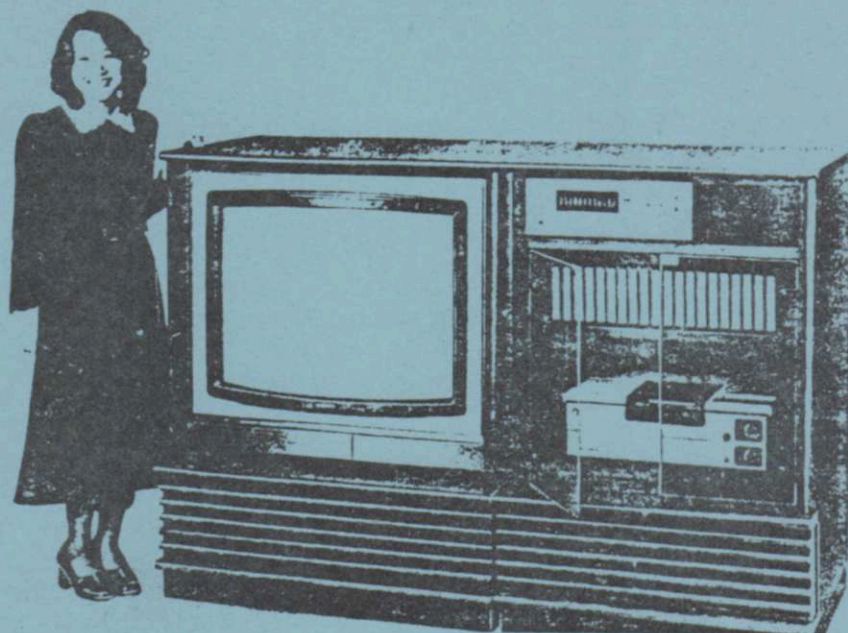


The Videophile's Newsletter

Issue #8



JULY/AUGUST



COVER

The items on the cover (assuming the reproduction is good enough that you can make them out) are described below, starting with the honey in the upper left hand corner and going clockwise from there:

- S2
J.
Pete
cable
radio
- (1) The Miami Herald, under the headline "WKID Puts the Lid on 'Bottomless' TV", explained that Channel 51 in Ft. Lauderdale had dropped the syndicated Iris Chacon show due to viewer objection. Seems that the Puerto Rican film star's habit of appearing in abbreviated costumes and hoofing in a somewhat erotic manner was not to everyone's liking. Fans of the show didn't seem to mind that the series was in Spanish and that Miss Chacon was (as the Herald put it) trying "to see how much of her ample backside she could get away with" showing. [Ed.'s Note: Needless to say, if any of you have access to this outrage, I would be most interested in reviewing taped copies for the purpose of presenting my own editorial viewpoint.]
 - (2) Here we see a young oriental lady displaying the new 32" (!) Sony Trinitron color set. It is being marketed in Japan for the equivalent of \$3327. The accompanying rack and loudspeaker would go for \$407.
 - (3) A couple of issues back, I reported on the Warner Cable pilot project in Columbus, Ohio to set up a two-way cable system. The system is expected to serve some 100,000 homes. The picture is of the hand-held computer control device for users. Anyone out there being hooked into this system?
 - (5) This is the competition for Betamax, the JVC "Vidstar" (wish I could print in color, as I have a much better picture). The unit has a built-in digital timer (lower left), is only about half (!) the size of the Betamax and has a two-hour capacity. Also an optional telecine attachment to transfer 8mm movies to videocassettes. One source says expected retail is \$1100. This particular model does not have the forthcoming 4-hour capacity.
 - Xmas
?
(4) This is the Sony "changer" which will enable those of us with the soon to be partially obsolete pioneer model Betamax to get two hours while the machine is unattended. (The same changer could also be used with the new model to achieve a 4-hour capability). The price tag is said to be \$100, but I have also been told that owners of the original machines will be given a substantial discount, maybe even 50% less. We'll see.
 - (6) This is the Zenith brand, Beta Format, 2-hour machine, which will be compatible in everyway with the 2-hour machines from Sony and Sanyo.
 - (7) The gentleman in the center is our Mystery-Man-of-the-Month. I will reveal his identity next issue as part of a report on how my campaign to promote this little venture throughout the land is coming along. (Actually, I thought it would be refreshing to see someone on the cover of a magazine other than Farrah Fawcett-Majors once in a while.)

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS: Thanks for some of the cover photos go out to Hal Schie, Dale Johnson, Jim Gibbon and Guy MacMillan.

Those of you who sent in your Betamax warranty cards probably got a brochure from Time-Life describing the first batch of prerecorded tapes that they are offering. I hope to have a review of these next issue by a lucky stiff to whom they loaned a whole set.

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2 HOURS ... 4 HOURS 6 HOURS !! ... WHERE WILL IT ALL END?

Postcard endox
with zinc

I can now confirm that a 4-hour videocassette recorder is on the way to market. RCA expects to have the two speed Matsushita VHS cassette deck available by "late summer". Panasonic reportedly has similar intentions, and Magnavox and Sylvania are now confirmed as in the VHS format camp. These machines are not compatible with the "Beta" format adopted by Sony, Zenith, and Sanyo among others. The new 2 hour-4 hour machine will be compatible with the JVC Vidstar pictured on the cover. Blank cassettes for these machines are estimated to retail at \$11 for 30 minutes, \$16 for 60/120 minute, and \$20-\$22 for the 120/240 minute variety. RCA hopes to sell it's deck in the \$1000 to \$1100 range.

Phillips
MCA

Two/timer

JVC expects to market a "home video color camera" for use with the Vidstar, but industry sources doubt that they can bring one in at a price less than that of the deck itself. There is, however, a likelihood that we will soon see black and white cameras for all formats in the \$395 range.

Sony has notified dealers that it is now accepting orders for the 2-hour Betamax for delivery, reportedly, the 3rd week of August. If this is what you have been waiting for, now is the time to talk to your dealer. ... Meanwhile, Sony has introduced (available any day now) a play-only industrial model Betamax, with remote touch-tone-type random-access control which will permit calling up any portion of the tape by dialing four digits. Scheduled for October delivery is a new industrial Betamax recorder with stop action and other editing features (also automatic rewind) at \$1475. Regretably, this machine (I am told) will only be a 1-hour model. Too bad ... since otherwise they could probably sell one to me.

Now
in
LA

The third format (and the only 2-hour machine that you can go downtown and buy right this minute), Quasar, is reportedly doing very well, but trade papers report that "there has been no guarantee of future production."

1st
great

As if this all weren't enough, at least two technological breakthroughs foreshadow greater confusion in the years to come, to wit: BASF is developing a 1/4" longitudinal video recording system (LVR) which could be brought to market by it's U.S. licensee Bell & Howell (Yes! I said 1/4".) And ... the 3M Company reportedly has a tape in the works that could handle up to 6 hours (!) on a cassette, assuming that some enterprising manufacturer were to bring out a 6-hour machine. ... Ah bankruptcy ...

* the disc *

Reports persist that Magnavox will have limited quantities of the MCA/Phillips video disc on sale by "the end of the year." MCA's Norman Glenn announced that

MCA plans to initially release about 300 titles, half of them feature films, including: "The Sting," "Slap Shot," and "MacArthur." As an example of price "Jaws" will supposedly run you \$10-\$15 for a 5-disc package. Shame of it is that the disc is getting so much publicity in places like Popular Science, Time-Life Science Yearbook 1977, Forbes, TV Guide and local entertainment pages, but then people get all excited and find out that there is no such animal. RCA hesitates, MCA (Universal) fritters away consumer goodwill by harassing Betamax owners, ... and so it goes.

Lawsuit...

January 10, 1978 has been set as the trial date for the Universal/Sony copyright infringement suit in the Los Angeles Federal District Court.

In the meantime, MCA attorneys are winding up their taking of depositions in New York, and will move on to Tokyo in August. (As you know, the critically important Tallahassee deposition was taken some time ago.) Judge Warren Ferguson threw out the request of a Cleveland based group, "Video P", to intervene on behalf of Betamax owners, saying that he wished to avoid delays.

My prediction? As I've said all along, there is little doubt that Sony will prevail. Ultimately, I feel the worst that can happen is that home recorder owners will have to pay some sort of "royalty" fee for the privilege of recording copyrighted material off-the-air. Such a thing is not unprecedented. In Germany, for instance, audio recorders are taxed and the proceeds go to copyright owners. A tax on blank tape would be another possibility. Keep in mind that such a scheme would have to be enacted by Congress. The courts do not have the authority to impose such a solution.

It appears that a major battle for cassette format dominance is unavoidable. In spite of the fact that the Betamax fails to match the forthcoming VHS models with respect to certain features, it appears that Sony has a very strong marketing advantage, at this time, ... one which may prove to be decisive. Consider this: Sony has the capacity, and plans to produce 25,000 Betamaxes a month by Fall, and 50,000 a month by early next year. JVC is at 8000 a month now, will be at 15,000 per by year's end, and 30,000 by Spring. These are to be split between the U.S., Japanese, and other markets. Sony has assured Zenith of a regular supply, and also will be able to supply plenty of new tape from its plant in Dothan, Alabama. Production figures on the RCA 2-hour/4-hour system have not been announced to my knowledge, but you can bet that it is impossible to turn out a couple of hundred thousand of them overnight. ... I have been told by those who have seen it that the picture quality of the 2-hour Betamax is noticeably less than that of the 1-hour model (especially on a large screen projection-TV), but that it is still "good". The quality of the 4-hour tape picture, quite literally, remains to be seen.

TAPE

The long promised "Scotch" brand tape from 3M is now said to be on its way, and available in stores by September. I am told that 3M will also have its own brand of tape for the JVC Vidstar and other VHS format models. Hmmm.

It was reported in April that there are more than 1 million Betamax cassettes in use. Sales continue to run above Sony's expectations. In May the ratio of cassette to recorder sales was 37-to-1, and the cumulative ratio since the start of sales is 25-to-1.

An issue or two back, I mentioned the Sony film-to-tape service. Well ... Kerry Decker writes from Orlando to say that his photo store will be handling it and that it should be ready to go by July. "Prices will be \$25 for the first 50' roll but rates go down with more film: 200' - \$29.95, 400' - \$45.95. They will also transfer 35mm slides, add titles & music too."

The last two issues of Videography have included "round ups" of video software and hardware suppliers. (Lots of good stuff.) Next issue I hope to present my First Annual round up of prerecorded video cassette suppliers. This will include both well known commercial as well as underground sources.



love to have a
video dub

For those of you who missed the CBS News item on the Universal/Sony lawsuit, I present herewith the transcript. (Where else can you get this sort of thing?) Walter Cronkite introduced the story by saying that a new electronic gadget "has spawned a legal hassel. Richard Wagner in Los Angeles has the story."

Richard Wagner: Ron Flagg owns a home video tape recorder. It's called the Sony Betamax, and, as Ron demonstrates, the device allows him to watch programs he's recorded earlier whenever he wants to. The movie "Airport '75", for instance. The machine can also record one television broadcast while it plays back a different one. A marvelous gadget, say some television viewers. Not so marvelous, says the management at Universal Studios, which made "Airport '75". Universal and Walt Disney Productions are suing the Sony Corporation, trying to keep recorders like this off the market. The studios worry that as more and more video recorders are sold (and Sony expects to sell 85,000 Betamaxes this year) more and more taped copies of televised movies and other programs will be floating around. A viewer with his own copy of "Airport '75", isn't likely to watch a rerun, and in the board rooms of companies like MCA, which runs Universal Studios, that means trouble.

Sidney Shienberg: If everyone in America, or substantial numbers of people, let's President, MCA put it that way, were taping "Airport '75", it's pretty obvious that our ability to expect subsequent revenues from the licensing of this product to independent stations would be substantially diminished or eliminated.

Richard Wagner: So Universal and Disney are charging copyright violation on films and series made in these studios, charging, in effect, that the consumer who tapes with a Sony Betamax is breaking the law, even though it's done for his private use. Sony denies it.

Harvey Schein: If someone in his home wishes to use his television receiver and President, Sony wishes to use that which comes into his home in a manner which he Corp. of America deems best, then he should be free to do that. It really boils down to a question of who owns what comes over the airwaves.

Richard Wagner: Courts have long held that radio listeners with audio tape recorders can tape programs for private use. But does the same apply to a Universal or Disney film?

Shienberg: Sony might like to analogize to taping radio programs. I would suggest that stealing automobiles is more apt. A motion picture is a protected item under the copyright law of the United States.

Schein: The American public should be able to do in their homes as they wish, especially with the programs coming over the public airwaves. The airwaves apparently belong to everyone.

Richard Wagner: It will be a while, if ever, before home video recorders are widely used. The Sony unit on discount costs a thousand dollars. But Zenith is about to enter the market too, and the price could drop. MCA and RCA are waiting in the wings with video disc systems; records that play pictures. Television's changing technology may have implications not only for the studios and the electronics companies, but for broadcasters and viewers as well. Richard Wagner, CBS News, Los Angeles.

Walter Cronkite: Incidentally, or perhaps not so incidentally, the tape on which to record a 2-hour movie costs about \$30. And that's the way it is. Wednesday, May 18, 1977. This is Walter Cronkite, CBS News. Goodnight.

BETAMAX TIMING CHART (Picture appears at 002)

Time Used	Counter Index	Time Left	Time Used	Counter Index	Time Left	Time Used	Counter Index	Time Left	Time Used	Counter Index	Time Left
00:00	Start	62:45	16:00	305	46:45	32:30	543	30:15	49:00	741	13:45
00:05	Pix	62:40	16:30	313	46:15	33:00	549	29:45	49:30	746	13:15
00:30	012	62:15	17:00	321	45:45	33:30	556	29:15	50:00	752	12:45
01:00	023	61:45	17:30	329	45:15	34:00	562	28:45	50:30	757	12:15
01:30	034	61:15	18:00	337	44:45	34:30	568	28:15	51:00	763	11:45
02:00	045	60:45	18:30	345	44:15	35:00	575	27:45	51:30	768	11:15
02:30	056	60:15	19:00	353	43:45	35:30	581	27:15	52:00	774	10:45
03:00	067	59:45	19:30	360	43:15	36:00	587	26:45	52:30	779	10:15
03:30	077	59:15	20:00	368	42:45	36:30	593	26:15	53:00	785	09:45
04:00	088	58:45	20:30	375	42:15	37:00	600	25:45	53:30	790	09:15
04:30	098	58:15	21:00	383	41:45	37:30	606	25:15	54:00	795	08:45
05:00	108	57:45	21:30	390	41:15	38:00	612	24:45	54:30	801	08:15
05:30	118	57:15	22:00	398	40:45	38:30	618	24:15	55:00	806	07:45
06:00	128	56:45	22:30	405	40:15	39:00	624	23:45	55:30	811	07:15
06:30	138	56:15	23:00	412	39:45	39:30	630	23:15	56:00	817	06:45
07:00	148	55:45	23:30	420	39:15	40:00	636	22:45	56:30	822	06:15
07:30	157	55:15	24:00	427	38:45	40:30	642	22:15	57:00	827	05:45
08:00	167	54:45	24:30	434	38:15	41:00	648	21:45	57:30	833	05:15
08:30	176	54:15	25:00	441	37:45	41:30	654	21:15	58:00	838	04:45
09:00	185	53:45	25:30	448	37:15	42:00	660	20:45	58:30	843	04:15
09:30	194	53:15	26:00	455	36:45	42:30	666	20:15	59:00	848	03:45
10:00	203	52:45	26:30	462	36:15	43:00	672	19:45	59:30	853	03:15
10:30	212	52:15	27:00	469	35:45	43:30	678	19:15	60:00	858	02:45
11:00	221	51:45	27:30	476	35:15	44:00	684	18:45	60:15	861	02:30
11:30	230	51:15	28:00	483	34:45	44:30	690	18:15	60:30	863	02:15
12:00	239	50:45	28:30	490	34:15	45:00	695	17:45	60:45	866	02:00
12:30	247	50:15	29:00	496	33:45	45:30	701	17:15	61:00	869	01:45
13:00	256	49:45	29:30	503	33:15	46:00	707	16:45	61:15	871	01:30
13:30	264	49:15	30:00	510	32:45	46:30	712	16:15	61:30	874	01:15
14:00	273	48:45	30:30	516	32:15	47:00	718	15:45	61:45	876	01:00
14:30	281	48:15	31:00	523	31:45	47:30	724	15:15	62:00	879	00:45
15:00	289	47:45	31:30	530	31:15	48:00	729	14:45	62:15	881	00:30
15:30	297	47:15	32:00	536	30:45	48:30	735	14:15	62:30	884	00:15
									62:45	886	END

Some time ago I promised the ultimate Betamax K-60 timing chart. Perhaps I subconsciously understood that if I procrastinated long enough Jim Gibbon would come through for me. Well, he did ... and here it is. There is no doubt some variation from tape to tape and possibly between machines, but this chart works out very close. (I believe it is based on a start that follows "rewind" after initial loading.) ** Jim, there is simply no way I can express my thanks to you for your generosity in producing and sharing this info with us all. Please accept a lifetime subscription to TVN for an effort above and beyond the call of duty.

It has been brought to my attention that the Electronics Book Club, P.O. Box 10, Blue Ridge Summit, Pa. 17214, is offering a 288 page book entitled The Complete Handbook of Videocassette Recorders. It goes for \$6.95 to members, has a Betamax on the cover, and appears to be jam packed with technical details. You may want to check it out.

wheee!

With this issue we launch a new section of TVN, that I like to call "Tuber's Tidbits". Actually, I'd like to call it something else ... suggestions? Items found here will hopefully be of interest to the home video enthusiast, although not always directly related to television per se. Your contributions to this section will be most welcome.

TV Fan Gives 'Ham' the Ax

ESSEX, Conn. (UPI) — John Gross, fed up with bad television reception, decided to take matters into his own hands. Gross now faces prosecution, but his tube is working fine.

The 50-year-old Essex resident grabbed an axe Sunday and went after his neighbor's ham radio wires.

Police arrested Gross and charged him with "criminal mischief" after he had hacked up eight wires leading to Richard McCurdy's ham radio set.

Europeans pay an owner's license fee annually for TV sets on which they can see commercial-free telecasts. Danes pay the most, \$116.28 for a color set, while a Briton can get by with \$13.68 for a black and white.

CBS has agreed to pay \$5,000,000 for the right to televise the film "Network." All three networks were said to be in the bidding. CBS has the right to run it thrice. Gee, and I felt bad about spending \$2.50.

Columbia Pictures announced first batch of special-for-pay-TV programming—some 26 or more shows to be available to all cable & broadcast pay-TV systems this fall, 19 of them original productions specifically for pay, remainder European product never seen by U.S. audiences. Here are first releases produced specially for pay: Two dramas a year by Ted Mann & Paul Libin of N.Y.'s Circle in the Square; "In Session," 4 one-hour popular music shows; 3 shows from Philadelphia's Bijou nightclub; country music festival from Wheeling; Johnny Mathis Christmas Hour; Orson Welles at Magic Castle, L.A. magicians' club; several pop music specials. In addition, European concert, ballet & opera performances will be offered, as well as original London performance of Broadway hit "Scapino." Columbia has all U.S. rights to productions, may release them later for network or syndicated TV, videodisc or home videotape.

Seventy-one million homes in the United States (97 per cent) have television sets which are tuned into one or another of the country's 1,000 stations for an average 6 hours and 18 minutes each day. The average child under 12 watches for a span of four hours a day. One of every seven homes is attached to cable-TV.

The trend is swinging back to more breaks with fewer spots in each. (The networks subscribe to the code of the National Association of Broadcasters which permits 9½-minutes for commercials in each 60-minutes between 8 p.m. and 11 p.m.; 15 minutes per hour during other hours).

NANCY RITZ DIES AT 42



Miss Nancy Ritz, 42, died in her home today after taking an overdose of sleeping pills. Police term the death an apparent suicide. According to a friend, Morris "Sluggo" Kelly, Miss Ritz had been despondent for the past 18 years, due to her inability to reach adolescence. She is survived by an aunt, Fritzie Ritz.

General Foods Post Cereals Div. was sued for \$1 million in L.A. Superior Court by coalition of public interest groups charging that Div. "exploits trusting children in order to sell sugar concoctions as nutritious breakfast cereals."

Fall prime-time ad commitments on ABC-TV exceed \$250 million—more than double same time last year—according to network. Cost of minute on ABC is up about 1/3 from 1976.

How soon they forget how sweet is was. The Miami Beach Tourist Development Authority has rejected Jackie Gleason's request that it defray \$15,000 of the cost of producing two "Honeymooners" specials on location there. Beach big wigs figure ABC can afford to pick up the tab, but if show is produced elsewhere, lose benefit of the Great One saying: "...from the sun and fun capital of the world, Miami Beach."

NEW BETA FORMAT BOX

AMARAY INTERNATIONAL CORP. recently introduced a new album for the Beta Format videocassette. Ron Garrett, AMARAY Sales & Marketing Manager, told ITA "This product is actually a third generation member in our growing family of injection molded videocassette boxes. We have utilized the same refinements and technology in this product that we developed and employ in the manufacture of our standard and mini size U-Matic videocassette boxes."

This package is intended for those users who might be looking for a package to use for the more frequently handled, or shipped industrial/educational applications. Or home consumers who would be interested in an alternate style bookshelf album.

AMARAY is located at 3600 Haven Ave., Suite 9, Redwood City, Calif. 94063, (415) 364-5034.



Linda Ronstadt was reportedly offered \$1 million to pose for a nude centerfold in Hustler Magazine and felt the price was right. However, manager Peter Asher is said to be holding off so that Playboy and Penthouse can enter bids.

Women were first assured "You've come a long way, baby" in 1969, yet homemakers to this day allow themselves to be degraded by tactless, total strangers who began noticing "ring around the collar, ring around the collar" in 1968. Question: What product is connected with each of these slogans?

The British Postal Service is submitting to the Guinness Book of Records a statistic for the largest single day's mail delivery set when it delivered mail-order ticket requests for the Eagles' Wembley Pool concerts. Three trucks delivered 137,886 ticket applications. 30,000 were sold.

Alan Reed, the radio voice of Baby Snooks' daddy; Pasquale on "Life With Luigi" and others on "Allen's Alley" and elsewhere is dead at 69. Reed had running parts in "Duffy's Tavern," "My Friend Irma" too.

Works great!

TIP

My thanks to John Stith, 4886 Escapardo Way, Colorado Springs, CO. 80917, for sending in the following tip, which may very well save some of you a wad of cash:

"It's possible to get still-frame with the Sony Betamax SL-7200 with a slight modification. Before the details, a few warnings are in order:

a. The picture is not excellent (it varies from poor to fair or average). The machine was not designed with this in mind.

b. The picture is visible in the pause mode, so the standard Sony warning against being in pause mode for a long time is still important. (The local serviceman tells me the heads heat up so much in pause that you could burn them out in 20 minutes.)

c. This modification is not checked out thoroughly technically. All I know is that it works.

"Warnings aside, the idea is very simple. Video output is muted in several instances, one of which is pause mode, only because the reels are not turning. By defeating the video muting, the picture is visible in the pause mode during play. Cutting one wire would permanently disable muting, but putting in a switch enables you to leave the machine in it's normal mode most of the time.

"The switch goes in the line from the SY board connector 4003 pin 5 to the RS board connector 2002 pin 6. (The service manual for \$10 from Sony is well worth the money.) Once the switch is installed, as long as it is closed, the machine operates as if no change was made. If you're in play mode, press pause, and open the switch, you're looking at the current frame.

"Again, I can't swear the switch will cause no damage, but it works in mine. And be careful not to spend too much time in pause mode, so you don't damage the video heads."

John, I really appreciate your sharing this with us. I think someone else (Hal?) described this to me on the phone once. Please help yourself to a free quarter page ad any time you care to. For those who would like to purchase the Betamax Service Manual, see the address in Joe Mazzini's pages.

queries

Our own Joe Mazzini came through with the answers to last issue's questions. That to #9 follows, for #10 (How to clean your heads) (?), see Joe's pages in this issue.

In answer to Question 9 on P. 6 of the last TVN all I can say is that you should get a technician to put in a switch to switch out the color circuitry. The U-Matic stuff (by all people) do this automatically so I know it isn't that much of a deal. Just be sure to flip the switch back to "color" before recording off the TV. Actually, I think I would have a switch installed in place of the line/TV switch (do you have one) so that when you switched from line to TV automatically the circuitry would become color, but then again you could record TV black and white stuff fine with it in the black and white mode should the TV station forget to switch to black and white. Why don't you write Sony to that dude Howard Katz, I think.

Question #11: I read of 3/4" cassette tapes having a certain number of "dropouts." What's a dropout? Does Betamax tape have them?

Question #12: Here's a trivia type question. Why are designated television frequencies called "channels"?

Question #13: Why do taped replays sometimes have a little line across the screen that starts at the top and moves down across the picture?

[Herewith, an article by fellow tapester, and fledgling author, R. Glasser]

Reflections on Owning a Betamax

(After One Year -- and 130 Tapes Later!)

Well, it finally happened. On June 14th, 1977, my precious little Betamax deck had its first birthday. Whew! It doesn't seem like I've actually had it that long -- but as I look across the room to a library of 130 tapes (and an endless array of Disclosure Statements, Payment Schedules, and Loan Applications) -- I guess it's really true.

I first heard of "some kind of home video tape recorder that Sony makes" in February of 1976. At that time, a friend and fellow TV freak took me to a department store to see the Betamax/Trinitron combination, which cost \$2300. No way! About two months later, I discovered the Betamax deck, sitting neatly in its own cabinet, for a measly \$1260 -- plus an optional timer for \$40. Total, \$1300. That was more within reach. I took a second job for three months (total work week: 71 hours), and, with the help of a loan, purchased my deck on a very memorable Monday afternoon, June 14th, 1976. I must have broken all speed records getting home! (Oddly enough, I have only one short recording left from that first fateful day.)

Along with the Betamax, I took home five blank 60-minute tapes, plus the freebie 30-minute. That small nest has since grown to 130 tapes, mostly 60-minute, in just short of one year. (I'm not rich, by any stretch of the imagination -- somewhere around 60% of the tapes were bought with the help of installment loans. It's just impossible for me to raise \$180 for a case of tapes every other month -- or more often.)

For a person who works a lot of nights like myself, the Betamax was definitely tailor-made. I never thought, at the outset, that I would save as many tapes as I have -- but I'd rather watch The Forbin Project, Tribes, or Star Trek on a Sunday afternoon than worry about the next home run. A sports fanatic I ain't! Coming home at 1 o'clock in the morning, and watching Hawaii 5-0 or The Six Million Dollar Man till all hours -- well, it's quite a trip!

Probably the most interesting (yet disheartening) phenomena about this whole thing is that my own TV reception would make your stomach turn. I live on the second floor of an apartment building, and my apartment is perched in the opposite direction of all the city's TV antennae. Were it not for the undying and generous efforts of a close friend, who has been willing to stay up till some ungodly hours to tape things for me (using his rotor antenna, with excellent reception), my collection would be quite miniscule.

Anyway, along came November, 1976, and my friend purchased his own Betamax. Now, I would no longer have to haul my machine over his house. Also, with a little clever wiring, we discovered that we could copy from one machine to another (after three salesman said it was impossible), Ah! Dubbing was a reality.

Along came December, 1976, and this friend blew my mind with a publication that he saw advertised in Film Collector's World. It was published by some guy in Tallahassee, Florida, and was called The Videophile's Newsletter. I was thrilled that there were some other people who shared my interest; I subscribed immediately, and ordered all back issues.

Along came March, 1977, and I decided to run a full-page ad with my friend...decided to go the whole route. After racking my brain for a few months, I thought of all the TV shows and movies I hadn't seen in years (but remembered), and put them down in our double Ad. And waited.

Along came April 1, 1977. Received the Newsletter with our Ad, knowing that we would reach at least one hundred other Betamax owners. Elated just to see it, I anxiously hoped to get a few letters. Beginning a week later, my mailbox began to fill up with something other than bills. It was beautiful! Then came the mind-blower: that Saturday night, my pal and I were sitting over my apartment watching Forbidden Planet (which I finally got a hold of via another TVN subscriber -- egads! My all-time, favorite, number One movie on videotape!!!). The phone rings. A faint voice from the other end claims he's calling from San Francisco, California (!!!), saw my ad in the Videophile's Newsletter, and wants to trade. Half an hour later (as if this weren't enough to send me skyrocketing), the phone rings again. My friend and I look at each other -- no, it can't happen again! -- and I nervously picked up the phone. This one's from Miami, Florida. And so on. Total

(cont. on p.11)

Advertisements

A T T E N T I O N T A P E S T E R S ! !

THIS IS A COMBINED "UPDATED" AD FOR:

RAY GLASSER
27621 CHAGRIN BLVD., APT. 215
CLEVELAND, OHIO 44122
(216) 464-4837

GARY HERMAN
4412 NORMA DRIVE
SOUTH EUCLID, OHIO 44121
(216) 381-8815

WE WOULD LIKE TO OPENLY THANK ALL OF YOU WHO CONTACTED US IN REPLY TO OUR AD THAT APPEARED TWO ISSUES BACK!! WE HAVE MADE A GOOD NUMBER OF CONTACTS, AND HAVE FOUND A LOT OF THE T.V. SHOWS THAT WE WERE SEEKING. HOWEVER, THE FOLLOWING SHOWS ARE STILL ON THE LOOSE AND WE ARE STILL LOOKING FOR THEM:

SCIENCE FICTION THEATER...THE STARLOST...WAY OUT...CAPTAIN VIDEO...U.F.O...
THE PRISONER...SEARCH...THE NIGHT STALKER...A TOUCH OF EVIL...GHOST STORY

IF ANY OF THE ABOVE PROGRAMS ARE SHOWN IN YOUR AREA, PLEASE CONTACT US!

THANKS TO YOUR HELP, RAY'S LIBRARY HAS INCREASED FROM 76 TAPES (AS OF MARCH 1st) TO 130; GARY'S HAS GROWN FROM 48 TAPES TO 73. WE HAVE ALSO FOUND A LOT OF THE MOVIES WE WERE LOOKING FOR, ALTHOUGH THERE ARE A LOT THAT WE STILL HAVEN'T FOUND. OUR DETAILED LISTS -- BOTH OUR LIBRARY LISTINGS AND WANT LISTS -- ARE AVAILABLE UPON REQUEST.

KEEP IN MIND THAT (AS MENTIONED IN THE LAST ISSUE), WE ARE DOING DUBBING FROM 3/4" TO AND FROM OUR BETAMAXES, IN CONJUNCTION WITH JIM NOVOTNY AND HIS 3/4" JVC U-MATIC, WITH EXCELLENT RESULTS.

WE ARE WILLING TO MAIL CLEVELAND T.V. GUIDES ANYWHERE (WE ARE IN THE PROCESS OF COLLECTING T.V. GUIDE FROM AROUND THE COUNTRY). OUR LOCAL T.V. STATIONS OFFER THE USUAL RERUNS (STAR TREK, SPACE 1999, THE AVENGERS (original series), NIGHT GALLERY, COMBAT, THE SAINT, DANIEL BOONE, THE UNTOUCHABLES, GOMER PYLE, HOGAN'S HEROES, ETC.); WE GET THEM WITH EXCELLENT RECEPTION!

WE ARE RELIABLE AND QUICK. LET US HEAR FROM YOU!!!

WANTED on BETAMAX cassettes, the following feature films:

Young Cassidy (second half)
Johnny Eager
O'Henry's Full House
Waterloo Bridge
Paths of Glory
That Hamilton Woman

Vertigo
Picnic
Under the Yum Yum Tree
The Prince and the Showgirl
Bus Stop
The Seven Year Itch

Also need the "Preakness" and various operas and ballets (Giselle, etc.)

CONTACT: JOHN R. MCCARVILLE, M.D., 318 Queenstown, Houston, Texas 77015

(Ed. I happen to know that John has two Betamaxes. Please help if you can!)

WANTED: Canadian to tape episodes of "NEW AVENGERS" or "DR. WHO."

CONTACT: LARRY CHARET, 1219A Devon Avenue, Chicago, Illinois 60660

(Larry: Please accept my public thanks for sending the clipping on Miss Court!)

WANTED on BETAMAX cassettes: "JESUS OF NAZERETH," the show aired in two parts on Sunday, April 3, and Sunday, April 10. Will accept original or duplicate copies (if they are of good quality). Am willing to trade blank cassettes or otherwise work out a trade on a basis that we can mutually agree to. Include your phone number in your letter and I will call you to expedite the transaction. CONTACT: R. D. Sweedler, Box 3, Manhattan, Illinois 60442.

FOR SALE Panasonic WV 200 Television camera with lens, in excellent condition - \$75. Sony AV 3600 Video Tape Recorder - 1/2" Open Reel Black and White, New Video Heads and set up, looks like new - \$550. Take both camera and recorder for \$600. CONTACT: Kenneth Searcy, 8709 Grande Pas, Kansas City, Missouri 64114.

(continued from page 9)

that night, four calls. And once in a while, the phone still rings. Unbelievable!!

Since that time, my buddy and I converse six days a week -- comparing mail. "I got two more letters!" "Guess what came in the mail today! Another package from Iowa!" "Hey! I finally found The Invaders!" And so it goes.

No, we're not getting swamped. We've made contact with about twenty people around the land, but the amount of trading we're doing is really great. We must've dubbed Flash Gordon for ten of those twenty people. (We're so sick of hearing that raunchy music, we have to turn the sound off!) After Flash Gordon, which has been far-and-away the Top Want, we've dubbed "NBC's First Fifty Years," "Blazing Saddles," and "Day the Earth Stood Still" for a few others. My buddy's Library has grown, thanks to these trades, from 48 tapes to 73. Mine has (choke) almost doubled -- from 76, on the day we ran the Ad, to 130 at present (all but a few are filled). And as a bonus to all this, a fellow recordist here in town contacted me earlier this year about wanting to dub -- he has a 3/4" machine, so we can deal with both formats.....easy as pie. The results we get, dubbing to his machine or from his, are spectacular.

And what about the future? The two-hour "Betamax II" is almost a double-edged sword. Should I buy one and transfer all my tapes to the 2-hour format -- and keep my "outdated" (OUCH!) machine just for dubbing? Or should I sell the original Betamax to pay for the new one? Or -- should I get the new one at all? It's a hell of a decision.

As far as the trades go, I suppose they'll continue for some time. I've collected TV Guide magazine from all across the country; some of the programming that other stations offer make me extremely disgusted with my local programming (only one UHF station, which shows nothing out of the ordinary). My original Want List, which appeared in the Ad, has been cut by more than half. I've now got such goodies as The Invaders, Twilight Zone, The Fugitive, Gunsmoke, The Prisoner, Outer Limits, One Step Beyond, The Lone Ranger, and Man From U.N.C.L.E. -- all of which haven't been on the air here for 6 to 8 years. And my movie Want List has shrunk impressively as well.

Yes, it's hard to say what the future will bring. All I know is, once my car is paid off next January -- which will free \$175 a month -- my tape collection should really skyrocket. It just makes me wonder -- where will it all end?

All this -- plus getting a few books about the golden days of TV, subscriptions to such gems as The TV Collector and TVN -- have really led to an interesting, yet awfully expensive hobby...which is all worth it, IF you're into TV like I am. With the mail still trickling in, my collection of tapes still increasing, and the possibility of cable TV and a local movie service in the future -- I just do wonder -- WHERE will it all end?

Oh, by the way. My friends mentioned here do have names. My 3/4" buddy here in town is Jim Novotny. My fellow Betamax-er is Gary Herman. And I'm Ray Glasser -- a true Betamax "addict!"

Subscriptions

Until further notice (and to make things a little easier on me) I am still only accepting subscriptions up through issue #10. So ... Issues 9 & 10 are available by FIRST CLASS MAIL for \$3.00 or by (sigh) Third Class Mail for \$2.00 I should remind you that most readers get theirs by FIRST CLASS since they would rather get it in a sturdy envelope a couple of weeks earlier than otherwise. They also get any limited-in-number inserts, and may even get (oh, WOW!) a personal word from the editor from time to time.



Still the same rates at which I do not even break even with the printer, but here they are:

CAMERA READY COPY ONLY

A full page (8" x 10") for \$5.00

A half page (8" x 5") for \$3.00

A quarter page (8" x 2 1/2") for \$2.00

These will appear same size as submitted. For best results type it up on regular paper, just like the page you are reading. NOTE: I can no longer accept ads already printed up in a couple of hundred copies.

Mini-Ads: Four lines for \$1.00. I'll type them for you, but I must impose a maximum of 12 lines on these. Judge by the lines on this page how many words there are to a line.

NO ads for copyrighted material for sale will be accepted. Trades are O.K.

Back issues 4~7

Only Issues 4,5,6 and 7 are still available, and they are yours for \$2.00 each as are extra copies of this issue. Supply is limited!

Issue #4 -- In addition to an assemblage of goodies from the era when this venture was still in its infancy (you mean it isn't now?) contains the famous instructions on how to become an expert on deleting commercials while you go that were of such interest to the attorney for Universal City Studios and Disney. Only a very few remain!

Issue #5 -- Contains reports and excerpts from brochures on the Sanyo V-Cord II and Quasar "Great Time Machine" recorders, a report on projection type TV's and an extensive list of manufacturers, plus ...

Issue #6 -- This is the someday-to-be collector's item issue that tells of your editor's adventures as a subpoenaed witness in the Universal/Disney/Sony lawsuit, including excerpts from the transcript.

Issue #7 -- Honest to goodness celebrity photo cover especially for TVN. The response to my special subpoena issue, more about collecting commercials, a write-up on the KC-90, and the usual news, views, etc.

Of course, each of these issues contains the many pages of information directed at users of the 3/4" format prepared by my good friend Joe Mazzini, as well as ads and all sorts of engrossing odds and ends.

My usual thanks go out to each of you who have helped to make this issue possible, certainly including Hal Schie, who sent me a terrific package of goodies from a recent industry video show in Chicago, and also to you Bob for making the Betamax CBS spot transcript possible. 'Til next time -

CIRCULATION: I can still guarantee about 150 in the initial mailing.

DEADLINE: Ads and contributions that reach me by August 24 should make it.

As you have come to expect, the remaining pages are prepared by the West Coast Connection, Joe Mazzini, and spirited to me from out there. His remarks are primarily directed at you 3/4" format folks.

3/4" U-MATIC EXCHANGE NOTES

Have you guys tried the DuPont KC-90 tape yet? I had my local Sony dealer (McCurry's of Sacramento) bring my VO-1800 up to Robert Kerr's specifications (that were mentioned in a reprint we had in the last issue of TVN). Sony recommends a payout tension of between 70-80 gms. DuPont recommends a more precise 75 gm. The takeup tension for Sony is between 55-110 gms. while DuPont prefers 60-90 gms. As the reprint stated, DuPont's specifications are so high that any tape will run better with them. I certainly agree. My machine has never run better. This was the first time in two years that a technician has looked at my machine and I was gratified that all it needed was a little cleaning here, a little lubing there and readjustment of the tension settings. For \$100 the machine is essentially new. I can't recommend highly enough the importance of preventative maintenance. Because of it your machine won't eat tapes or have threading problems.

I thought I would give you some dealers' addresses so you can purchase the KC-90 locally.

A local Sony dealer that I am really fond of stocks DuPont materials.

VIDEO-AUDIO RECORDING SYSTEMS
901 H STREET, SUITE 110
SACRAMENTO, CA 95814
(916) 442-5873

This dealer also has some real bargains on used video equipment. How about an Akai VC-150 color camera w/ccu and AC adaptor for only \$700? Or VO-1800 recorders for \$900. They even have a portable Sony DC-2400 1/2" videocorder (with no battery or AC cord) for only \$75 or make offer. They have used (as well as new) monitors, tripods, etc. I was particularly impressed with their \$1,173 price for a SLO-260 Industrial Betamax with built-in RF. Their blank Betamax tapes (in lots of 12) are only \$13.50 each. So if you live in California, certainly consider this place. The only thing on the negative side is that they don't have their own Sony authorized serviceman yet (and you know how important that is) but they should have a full-time technician in a few months. Give them a call if you are looking for good bargains. When in stock, they have used KC-60 tapes for only \$12 each.

INSTANT REPLAY EQUIPMENT COMPANY
5510 WESTLAWN AVE.,
LOS ANGELES, CA 90066
(213) 870-9437

also handles KC-90's and a lot of other things. In fact I think we could rate them the best video dealer in Southern California. They have everything.

Hoffman &
Henry's

In Illinois contact COLUMBIA VIDEO SYSTEMS
1805 ST. JOHN'S AVE.,
HIGHLAND PARK, IL 60037
(312) 432-0725

AV MEDIA, INC.,
3344 WEST BROAD STREET,
COLUMBUS, OH 43204

(614) 272-0014 is the place my friends in Ohio should contact. They, too have a complete assortment of videocassette stuff and especially the KC-90 tapes. These are all authorized DuPont dealers so I think you'll get a healthy discount if you buy in quantities of 12 or more. The complete list ran seven pages so I know you can find a DuPont dealer near you if you check around.

You 3/4" users will be receiving a pamphlet from DuPont via me very shortly that states in six pages what all the excitement is about with this KC-90 tape. We'll do a comparison of specification sheets in the next issue seeing how well the 90 minute tape matches up with standard KCA tapes. Since it uses chromium dioxide don't expect too much difference. It's not recommended that you still-frame the 90 minute tape, but that's the only disadvantage I can see for the commercial user. I don't think too many of us care about still-framing anyway.

Robert Kerr, of DuPont, dropped me a line informing me about just how involved his company is in the manufacture of chromium dioxide powder for use by other companies in their video tape line. Below is reprinted a portion of his letter dealing with this fascinating topic:

Relative to DuPont's position as a supplier to other manufacturers, I offer the following information: DuPont manufactures chromium dioxide powder for use in magnetic applications, principally magnetic recording tape. CrO_2 is distinct from performance in magnetic recording from iron oxide (Fe_2O_3) and cobalt doped iron oxide ($\text{Fe}_2\text{O}_3\cdot\text{CO}$). There are currently two manufacturers of chromium dioxide powder - the first is DuPont Magnetic Products, and secondly, BASF in Germany, who manufacture under license from DuPont. DuPont coats and supplies chromium dioxide tape in widestock, slit pancakes, and loaded cassettes to a variety of manufacturers for audio use.

DuPont supplies chromium dioxide powder for conversion into videotape to Sony, Memorex, and Philips. On the market at the present time, the 3/4" "U" products are DuPont, Sony and Memorex. A few other cassette loaders supply chromium dioxide tape in their cassettes. These products are either purchased as loaded cassettes or as reel stock from Sony and others. At the present time, Memorex supplies 1/2" reel to reel tape with chromium dioxide under the Chromex label. DuPont supplies 1/2" chromium dioxide tape under the Crolyn (TM) label. Memorex supplies 1" tape under the Chromex label. DuPont is not currently manufacturing a 1" product. The Philips VCR format uses chromium dioxide tape manufactured by DuPont

Amper, 3M, Karex, Fuji, and TDK supply modified iron oxide 3/4" "U" cassettes. In the 3/4" format, chromium dioxide consistently supplies superior signal-to-noise ratio and good color noise which has caused it to be very popular where production work is done in this format.

It's ironic that he mentions the Karex here because I am kind of fond of this tape. It sure is cheap. Video/Audio Recording Systems, Inc., (mentioned earlier in this article) stocks this tape for only \$18 per cassette in single quantities. It's good stuff, but of course since it doesn't have CrO_2 in it, it doesn't have the RF (signal) output that it could.

Robert also mentioned a company called CURTIS INSTRUMENTS, INC.,
200 Kisco Ave.,
MOUNT KISCO, NY 10549
(914) 666-2971

They manufacture elapsed time indicators. Please write to them for their free brochure (which is nicely packaged and very complete). I purchased two timers from them (a CP3 and one from the 'L' series). They are very small and inexpensive and fit just about anywhere and run on just any voltage. They come with an adhesive backing (if you want it) so you can mount it on top of your equipment. The 110V models can be easily hooked up to your on/off switch providing you with a very accurate indication of how many hours your equipment is running. Pickering has made one (that I've used for years) for tone-arms that allows the timer to switch on when the tone-arm leaves its base. Their timer components are Curtis products. The indicators come in scales from 1000 hrs to 10000 hrs. and cost between \$8 and \$10 each when bought singly. If you buy a thousand or more the cost goes down to around \$4. I feel that these timers should be installed in every piece of electronic equipment requiring preventative maintenance. Think of how nice it would be to know just exactly how many hours have elapsed on your video heads and/or bands! One model (the CP-3) can be reset indefinitely giving you a new timer everytime you need to start from 0 hours.

I haven't been able to find a distributor so I ordered the timers directly from them. They sold them to me even though my order was under the \$40 minimum required. I'm sure, though, that if you express an interest and mention this publication, you, too, can purchase them singly. Once the word gets out to the general electronics public, I think we'll see these for sale in electronic supply houses.

By now we have all heard that humidity can play havoc with our video tape equipment. Sony has solved this problem by installing a humidity detector in all of their new U-Matic stuff. If the humidity gets too high, the machine refuses to operate. Though this approach is a little radical, it does prevent problems. I never really believed that humidity was all that bad until the other day when the temperature inside my house reached 90° and the humidity felt at least that. Sure enough my video tape recorder would no longer put information onto the tape in the record mode. Apparently the humidity interfered with the laying down of information from the video heads. When the humidity went down, later that evening, everything was fine. I noticed that the problem was more severe with the KC-90 tapes so be warned about keeping the humidity and temperature under control. The ideal is 70° (F) 50% humidity.

You know, a friend out there (I've lost your name and address) just bought a VO-1600. All tapes worked fine except for a 3M product. Until I hear otherwise from someone who has had good luck with 3M video cassettes, I'd like to take a shot at them here. Apparently his machine rejects the 3M tape toward the end of its run. I've had the same problems (and worse with 3M tapes). Now, this could be caused by any of several reasons:

1. New belts needed for the machine
2. Tensions adjustments need to be made (ONLY BY A SERVICEMAN WITH A TENSION GAUGE!)
3. Too much slack in the tape which can be partly solved by running the tape fast forward and rewind several times.
4. Crappy tape.

Needless to say, I support the fourth reason. My repairman enclosed a note with

my machine when I mentioned my friend's problem. He said:

Non-Sony tapes may not be opaque [dark] enough so that light passes through the photo-sensitive tape presence detector and the unit may not play it. A piece of cellophane tape over the detector opening will usually de-sensitize the circuit enough for it to accept and play tapes.

So, try putting a little tape over that photo-sensitive detector. You can easily spot it by taking the cover off your machine and seeking light sources. This one is near where the tape is pressed against the rotating shaft by a rubber idler. Maybe the VO-1600 doesn't have one, but if you guys out there have problems with your 1800's taking 3M tapes you might try this. Notice that my repairman said to use a cellophane piece of tape and not something dark. This would defeat the whole point of having a photo-sensitive detector to begin with. That device is there to check to make sure that there is tape going through the machine and that it is handled correctly. If you void its use completely you might have a terrible problem with jamming. I hear that 3M is going to release a special heavy duty tape for editing purposes. Until they start to use chromium dioxide I can't see any need to rush out and purchase some. You can have the strongest canvas in the world, but it means little if it won't take and reflect shades of paint well.

This summer I will be working as a secretary for
STUDIO TAPE EXCHANGE
6426 SANTA MONICA BLVD.,
HOLLYWOOD, CA 90038
(213) 466-8101

I've mentioned this fine organization before. They are female-run and really efficient. I plan to mail each of you 3/4" subscribers a personal letter with their price list. Their prices are better than Cine Film Exchange and their service is quicker if you live on either coast. Their New York office

STUDIO TAPE EXCHANGE
630 9TH AVE., 8TH FLOOR
NEW YORK, NY 10036
(212) 977-9330

can help you out if you live in the East. They supply 1/2", 1", and 2" tape besides U-Matic. For only \$14 you can purchase any quantity of KC-60 cassettes. For only \$14.75 you can buy KCA-60 tapes. They have new tape, too, but right now I don't have specific price information. The quality was exceptional on the batch they sent me last time around. I can't recommend them enough. They ship UPS so you'll have to pay postage on top of the base price. I would suggest you call me at the Hollywood address any working day in July for more details. Of all the firms I have recommended in these pages, this one has had the most positive response from you readers in terms of quality and speed of shipment.

Please feel free to write me at either my Arbuckle address (all first class mail will be forwarded) or at 509 S. Manhattan Place, Apt. 111, Los Angeles, CA 90020. Since I don't plan to have a home phone in Los Angeles you can reach me through the Studio Tape Exchange as long as the conversations are business in nature.

Did I tell you that Jim Gibbon bought an Advent 750? Apparently he loves it and I apologize for taking a swipe at the company a few issues back. I was going by what a friend said about the earlier models. Video projection is the way to go.

I was surprised to learn how many of our readers own the "Muntz" system of projection. To me the 50" system is better because the receiver used is a standard one and can be worked on by any technician. The design of the Advent, however, is far superior to any other projection system on the market. From what I have seen the video quality is much brighter. To my knowledge there is no other electronic device on the home market that uses more sophisticated circuitry than the Advent, however. This must keep Jim in constant prayer everytime he turns it on. Incidentally, his Trimline phone turns the set on when it rings. That's the only problem he has had with it so far. Needless to say, if one device of the two has to go we know which one it is, right? Who needs a phone anyway?

There are now over 30,000 programs available in the 3/4" format! This figure was released at the L.A. Video show and is, I am sure, an underestimate because it dealt with commercial releases only. I'm going to start listing sources in the TVN which should be of interest to both the Betamax and U-Matic users.

MAGNETIC COMMUNICATIONS

2600 N.W. 114TH STREET

OKLAHOMA CITY, OK 73120

(405) 524-5258 is the place to contact for a really neat little catalog of Betamax 3/4" U-Matic pre-recorded cassettes. Their prices run from \$65-130. If you're a dealer and can afford to buy 26 copies or more of each program, the price is almost half.

They have everything from REEFER MADNESS (which runs \$65 in Betamax and only \$70 in U-Matic) [THAT PRICE INCLUDES TAPE!] to Ingrid Bergman's JOAN OF ARC (which costs \$110 in Betamax and \$130 in U-Matic). They also have six tapes of MIDNIGHT BLUE, that cable erotic video show that ran in New York some time ago. You can get two 30 minute shows of your choice for \$90 Betamax or \$100 U-Matic. They have a history of the first year condensed to 50 minutes for the same price. If you want a history of the second year (90 minutes) you can buy it for \$100 Betamax or \$110 U-Matic. These prices are a bargain and I'd sure like to talk to someone who has or plans to buy some of their stuff. I plan to get a history of the MIDNIGHT BLUE series in a few months so contact me if you're interested in borrowing a print.

SHOW TAPES

6352 1/2 LANKERSHIM BLVD., SUITE 1344
NORTH HOLLYWOOD, CA 91606

offers both Betamax and U-Matic tapes at the same price (\$100 per hour). Their June list showed mainly X-rated films which have titles such as I'M NO VIRGIN, MY FIRST TIME EVER, and THE WINNING STROKE.

They have 300 titles available and will gladly put your name on their mailing list for an upcoming newsletter announcing new feature film titles after your first purchase. They are selling "classics" (public domain films) for only \$100 per title and the newer "Prime" list of features for only \$130 per set of two cassettes. Their form letter said:

Please write us and let us know what type of programs you are looking for. We will be adding new exciting titles every month. We are also offering a complete line of the finest videocassette recorder/players that you can easily connect to any TV set.

If you are a Super 8mm film fan, why not shoot and edit your films and send them to us for transfer to videocassettes. This will save wear and tear on your film and enable you to enjoy your own home movies on your television set. This service is only \$1 per minute plus blank tape. We have many services and products to help you enjoy your home entertainment system.

The thing that impressed me the most was that their flyer had Sony monitors displaying stills from their various programs. And we know by now the logic that if they like Sony then we like them, right?

I'll have more on this company in the next issue of TVN because I'll be on their mailing list.

If the video disc people keep sitting on their units already in stock in warehouses and thousands of discs already manufactured, they'll lose it all shortly because the videocassette (Betamax or U-Matic) programming possibilities are improving tremendously (and at not a bad price considering you can easily erase the tape if you're tired of it).

You know, the other day I received some tapes from my friends in Ohio. They have been successfully transferring 3/4" material to Betamax and visa versa. You just cannot believe the quality! I saw an industrial Betamax displayed in comparison to a U-Matic and I wasn't that impressed, but in transferring black and white, the quality is all that it could be hoped to be.

If you're interested in doing some dubbing and are not sure about the technical requirements, I suggest you contact one of the following people. They really know their stuff. I've mentioned them before:

JIM NOVOTNY
3639 ROCKY RIVER DRIVE
CLEVELAND, OH 44111 owns a fine 3/4" system. His friends

RAY GLASSER
27621 CHAGRIN BLVD., APT. 215
CLEVELAND, OH 44122

GARY HERMAN
4412 NORMA DRIVE
SOUTH EUCLID, OH 44121

do the dubbing with their Betamax units.

Now, these guys all work different shifts so their time is very limited. I think you would be imposing if you didn't offer them something (like programs in trade they want) or money for their work. It's time consuming and very tedious to do dubbing so always keep in mind that they are doing it as a hobby and not as a profession.

Ray, Gary and other Betamax people (including our publisher) have been concerned about servicing their machines in their home. Well, I guess if you own a Betamax this is of prime concern. (I'm only joking, guys.) Apparently they are tired of taking their units down to a serviceman everytime the heads need cleaning.

I certainly recommend the Betamax Head Cleaner. Sony makes one for both formats and it is a honey. In fact you can buy Panasonic, 3M and JVC cleaners for the 3/4" format so take your pick. These cassettes are loaded with a tape (that works suspiciously like sand paper) to clean the heads. As with anything in

Availability?
not recommended

video (and one of Murphy's Laws) the more you mess with something the more likely it is to screw up. So be careful when using this cleaning tape. It is designed to be used only when snow and picture breakup occurs. If you use it more frequently you'll wear your heads down. I've used mine maybe four times in the past two years. With the U-Matic cleaner, you put it in the machine, watch the tape counter register 10 and take it out. If that doesn't clean it, then do it again, but the first time is usually the only one necessary. The tape should last for quite some time since it will take several cleanings to use it just once. Sony recommends that their servicemen get new tapes every year or so but keep in mind that a serviceman is cleaning heads far more often. The latest philosophy on head cleaning is to not do it until absolutely necessary. This includes the spray or denatured alcohol approach.

No matter what electronic equipment you own, you should have a service manual for it. It makes sense if only for a repairman to have one when you take in your equipment (assuming you're foolish enough to take it to a non-authorized dealer, but emergencies do happen). Sony service manuals for any Sony product may be obtained for between \$5 and \$15 from

SONY CORPORATION OF AMERICA
TECHNICAL PUBLICATIONS DEPARTMENT
47-47 VAN DAM STREET,
LONG ISLAND CITY, NY 11101

By purchasing a repair manual for your particular machine you will be able to keep track of all sorts of maintenance things. Even if you don't do your own maintenance the book is valuable because it tells you (for example) how to remove the cover from your Betamax or U-Matic to clean the tape guides. The Betamax is about the best engineered home use device Sony has manufactured to date so whatever maintenance is required should be pretty routine. I don't think that clogged heads will ever occur on the Betamax often because you are forced to use good quality Sony tape. However, with us U-Matic people that is a different story. We can (and do) feed our machines everything from DuPont (which I think is about the best tape around) to bargain basement used stuff. If my tape cleaner doesn't clean the heads after two applications I bring out the spray and cloth and clean the heads manually.

Never lubricate the machine yourself! Nothing is worse than over-lubrication. If you are brave (or foolish) enough to lube your machine yourself then use the best oil you can find. Sony makes one called K-OL that comes in a nice little dispenser. If you apply it, make sure to clean the previously oiled surface with a cloth to prevent grit from acting as a friction-causing element.

Two things should be done periodically to ALL video machines. The first is to demagnetize the heads. This can be done with a simple audio-head demagnetizer purchased for \$5-\$15 at any electronics store (Radio Shack has them).

Reprinted below is an excerpt from a training manual for a well-known pay cable network:

*Remove power from the cassette machine. [Boy, is this important!]
Using a tape-head demagnetizer, degauss the video and audio/control
track heads. Apply power to the demagnetizer [the cheaper demagnetizers
have to be unplugged, the more expensive have an off/on switch on the
handle which is a nice time-saver]. Bring the top of the demagnetizer
as close as possible to the head tip WITHOUT ACTUALLY CONTACTING THE*

HEAD TIP. Withdraw the demagnetizer very slowly; do not remove power until the demagnetizer is at least three feet away from the head assembly. Repeat the process for both video heads and the control track and audio heads. Remember: the demagnetizer should not be permitted to actually touch the heads.

It should be emphasized that the activated demagnetizer should not be brought into close contact with any piece of video tape stock.

If you shut the demagnetizer off too soon you'll create a magnetized surface which means that you'll have more problems than when you started.

Why demagnetize? Well, every time the tape passes the heads of a magnetized surface, a little bit of the high frequency material on the tape is lost. This means that a vicious circle starts. The machine builds up magnetizing normally because magnetic material (the tape) is constantly magnetizing the heads (and even the guide posts). This builds up to a point where actual visual degradation is apparent in the picture. By demagnetizing your heads every six or so months, you'll prevent problems with recording and playback. The people at this cable place do it weekly.

Tape with high coercivity resists magnetism and when buying a tape you might check the specs to see just how high it is. I notice that the KC-90 tapes made by DuPont have an AC coercivity of 500 OE (oersts) which is excellent. Sony tape also has 500. Others will probably claim it and correctly so if they use DuPont's chromium dioxide particles in their manufacture.

Slightly different from demagnetizing is *degaussing*. This is a more major operation and should, I feel, be done at least yearly. For it you will need a standard audio tape bulk eraser. Again, Radio Shack and other electronic places sell them for around \$15-25. Make circular passes over the whole internal arrangement of your machine starting in a clock-wise motion to the left of the deck and keep on making circles until you end up about a foot from the right side of the deck. Shut off the bulk eraser and you've degaussed your machine. This is a supplementary way of freeing everything from being magnetized. But, boy, be careful when you turn this thing on because it will erase everything within a three foot radius.

It's really nice to see publications that complement ours in their scope.

THE TV COLLECTOR

AVAILABLE FROM EITHER:

CHRIS CAMPBELL
42 WOODLAND STREET
NATICK, MA 01760
(617) 653-8184

OR STEPHEN ALBERT
132 WITHINGTON RD.,
NEWTONVILLE, MA 02160
(617) 332-6842

They've printed six issues now of a really neat publication for collectors of television films and memorabilia. At a cost of \$1 per issue (including back issues) and \$5 per year (6 issues for Canadian and U.S. residents) you just can't go wrong. Foreign subscriptions are \$10 per year.

Just to give you an example of how invaluable they are to us I'll give you a short run-down of their first and sixth issue. The first issue contained a list of

first season original network air dates and episode names with guest stars for THE AVENGERS, a 1951 network schedule, a 1976-1977 first draft network schedule and several pages of want ads. The sixth issue contained a neat editorial, a 1957 network schedule, a series index to the first and second seasons of THE WILD WILD WEST including plot synopsis and show dates, a fascinating column entitled "Instant Replay" by Mark Roberts (a pseudonym to save legal hassles) which mentioned our own TVN, an article by Chris Campbell on what to look for when buying a videotape recorder, a program track record, news articles and advertisements.

I recommend a subscription because they list so many things of importance to us videophiles. Chris uses a NV-3020 1/2" EIAJ reel-to-reel machine and Steve uses a JVC U-Matic.

If you're into collecting audio from AM and FM radio then you should subscribe to

AIRCHECK FACTS
THE AIRCHECK FACTORY
Box 38,
BENSENVILLE, IL 60106

I'm not sure what the price of this publication is but I think it runs around \$10 for 12 issues. They also have for sale airchecks from various stations around the nation singly or for a subscription price of \$18 for cassette (6 issues) or \$24 reel-to-reel. Tom Kelly is the organizer and the person you should contact for more information. The newsletter concerns personnel at various AM and FM stations in the country along with their formats.

TOM HOLLAND

1056 E. CHELTENHAM AVE.

PHILADELPHIA, PA 19124 is a 3/4" (VO-1600) collector who is interested in copies of some Monty Python, Woody Allen and others films. Please contact him for more details on his wants.

Someone out there gave me a call about their VO-1600. They also own a copy of THE OX-BOW INCIDENT. I've lost your address so please write because I really want a U-Matic copy for use in my English class next year.

Did you know that A BOY AND HIS DOG is going to be a TV series next fall? If you've not read this fascinating story by Harlan Ellison please do so. The story was made into a feature film two years ago and I am still desperately looking for a 16mm or U-Matic or Betamax or EIAJ-1 or EIAJ-2 print of it.

Star Trek, as you must know by now, is going to come back as a series on NBC in April.

} Syndicated

Well, that's about all. I'll be able to tape U-Matic copies of THE MONKEES, OUTER LIMITS, TWILIGHT ZONE, and other goodies offered via LA TV stations so contact me if you want something recorded from there in July.

Does anyone have SPACE CADET on tape or 16mm film?

Keep on taping.

Joe

Joe Mazzini, Box 179, Arbuckle, CA 95912 or 509 S. Manhattan Place, #111, L.A. CA 90020

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To meet the ever-increasing range of applications, preferences, and cost-factors, STE offers three types of new 3/4" videotape:

- STE #101 - Chromium Dioxide tape (Sony-type)
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Minutes:	60	50	40	30	20	15	10	5
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#101 & 102	\$20.65	19.75	18.50	16.25	14.50	13.75	13.00	-
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STE also handles the following name-brand videocassettes:

DUPONT 3/4" Extended play	SONY
KC 90 — \$38.50*	KCS20 — \$17.50
KCA70 — 33.00	KCS10 — 14.50
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