

MEMOREX CORPORATION
LARGE STORAGE SYSTEMS GROUP
DEVELOPMENT ENGINEERING
1969 - 1973

This is a photograph of a collage assembled and photographed by Rodney Laas and Geoff Lee in spring of 1973, copies of which were distributed to attendees at the going-away party for Dr. Marco Padalino, in late 1973. Padalino was then the head Large Storage Systems Development; he left to work for Xerox's Computer System organization in Dallas, Texas. Laas was an engineering change analyst and Lee was an engineer. The original negative has been donated to the Computer History Museum.

The period, 1969 – 1973, marks the Al Shugart era at Memorex. Initially formed as Storage Products Corporation, a Memorex subsidiary, Shugart's organization became the storage products engineering organization within Memorex. With the formation of Memorex's Equipment Group in 1969, Shugart added other equipment engineering responsibilities. Hiroshi (Rusty) Nagakura was then responsible for all storage products engineering. Reporting to Nagakura was Padalino, responsible for disk drive engineering and Walter Hillblom, responsible for control unit engineering. In September 1971, Padalino became responsible for all storage products engineering. Hillblom, Nagakura and Shugart are not in the collage.

The photograph in the center, taken in early 1973 for Padalino, depicts the various managers then within Large Storage Systems Development Engineering.

The picture in the upper right hand corner is the team responsible for the Memorex Floppy Disk Drive product line.

In the collage there are 80 persons shown individually, 15 persons in the manager's photo and 11 persons in the FDD photo for a grand total of 109 including Hillblom, Nagakura and Shugart. About 40 were IBM alumni.

This engineering team was responsible for two major successful Memorex storage products:

- The 661 storage control unit and 660-0 disc drive (collectively the 3660 Disc Storage Subsystem) that was plug compatible with the IBM 2314 Direct Access Storage Facility.
- The 3671 storage control unit and the 3670 disk drive (collectively the 3670 Disc Storage Subsystem) that was plug compatible with the IBM 3330 Direct Access Storage System.

The 3670 Disc Storage Subsystem, responding to IBM's competitive product announcements, evolved into the 3672 storage control unit, 3673 disc controller and 3675 disc drive. These Memorex products correspond to the IBM 3830-2 storage control unit, 3333-11 string controller and 3330-11 disk drive respectively. The Memorex products were the foundation of much of Memorex's success in the middle 1970's.

The depth of the talent assembled in this team is measured in part by the many companies founded by its veterans, including but not limited to (alphabetically), Array Technology, Conner Peripherals, Integral Corp., MiniScribe Corp., PrairieTek Corp., Quantum Corp., Seagate Technology, Shugart Associates and Tandon Magnetics.

T. Gardner, December 19, 2006
revised January 20, 2008
revised December 7, 2009
revised, July 4, 2011

Memorex Disk Drive Division Managers

Spring 1973

Marco Padalino had this picture taken after Al Shugart had left Memorex but before Shugart Associates began forming. It was taken in the lobby of building 14 in front of mockups of the Memorex 3670 & 3671. By the end of 1973 all but Gardner, Graham, Harnett, Montero and Singleton had left Memorex.



**Duanne
Secrist**

**Herb
Thompson**

**Larry
Pyle**

**John
Henry**

**Tom
Gardner**

**Bob
Franchini**

**Dave
Osborne**

**Brent
Nilson**

**Bill
Montero**

**Gary
Harnett?**

**Don
Wartner**

**Ron
Singleton**

**Bill
Harry**

**Ian
Graham**

**Marco
Padalino**

**Don
Massaro**

**Dave
Stoddard**

**George
Anderson**

**Erik
Katz**

**Dave
Brown**

**Ron
Holliday**

**Andy
Leon**

**Jugi
Tandon**

**Linda
Kapp**

**Knute
Kundsen** **John
Conners**

**Jim
Black**

