

[Home](#)

[Back to Memories](#)

[Back to Thoughts](#)

Quiktran: In the fall of 1958, I was graduated with a degree in English from the Columbia School of General Studies. In November 1959, I got a job at UNIVAC, to write manuals for their latest equipment. To be able do this work, I needed to attend a four week's course in computer programming. On the second day, I knew that programming was the perfect job for me. I asked for and got my job changed from writer to programmer.

About a year later, I realized that UNIVAC was on its way out and the place to be was IBM. I applied and was hired by John Morrissey. John was something of an innovator. His purpose was to build a service that ran on a multi-million-dollar computer and was available to anyone who had a telephone for a small cost per hour of use. At the time John called the effort *Remote Computing*. Later everyone called it Time Sharing.

I was one of a staff of four that included Jean Keller, Ed Strum, and Georgia Yang. In February 1964, we published our results in the Proceedings of the ACM Bulletin. We published two 10,000-word page articles, under the title *Remote Computing, An Experimental System*. Since I was the only English major in the group, I was the principle writer, under John's direction.

Two papers required two sets of authors. John and I were the authors of the first article, *External Specifications*. Typical of John's character, he listed my name first, Dunn and Morrissey because D comes before M. The authors of the second paper, *Internal Specifications*, were Jean Keller, Ed Strum and Georgiana Yang.

Footnote to history

A brave IBM salesman volunteered to open Quiktran as the first Time Sharing system offered to the public. The cost was at \$20 per hour. Not long after, the business died of natural causes.