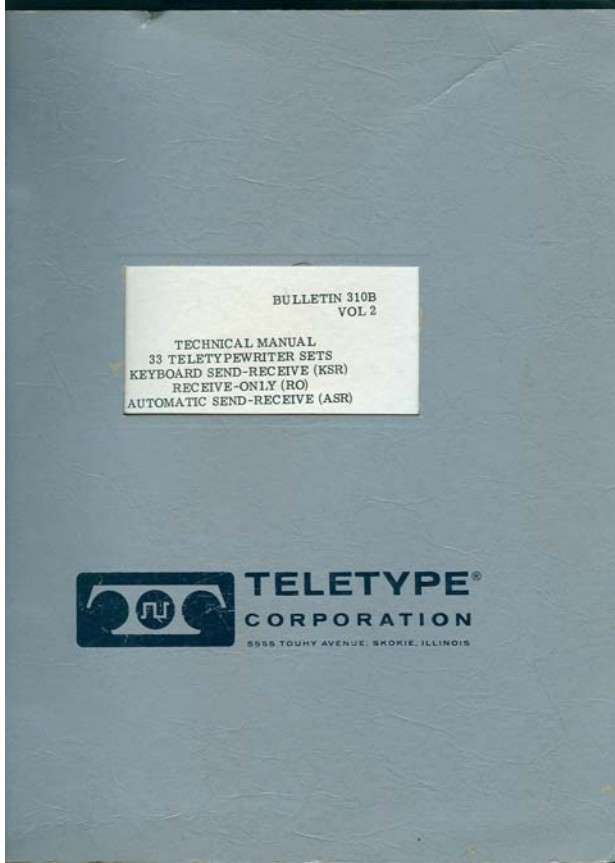


The NCR Century Teletype Writer

By Emmanuel Georgantas

The NCR 615 Century Series input-output device to communicate with the operator was the Model 33 mechanical teletype writer made by Teletype Corporation. Teletype Corporation



does not exist any more, but this machine will not be forgotten. Many hours have been spent by the NCR Field Engineers of the *Century era* to maintain these mechanical units, and surely enough the characteristic noise of the printing head still clicks inside the ears of many of them.

This teletype writer was an integrated part of an NCR Century System. The next generation of NCR Mainframes that followed eight years later, the Criterion Series, employed an electronic CRT display station that silenced for ever the notorious click-clack of the teletype writer printing out a message like:

*42 42A3 1101 – NO VOLUME HEADER ON THIS DISC PACK. . .

The Model 33 Teletype was a reliable piece of equipment, but to repair and maintain it demanded some experience with mechanical stuff. Older NCR Technicians with previous work in the Class 31 and 32 Accounting Machines who were joining the Century team had enough mechanical

dexterity to delve into the levers, springs, and latches of the teletype writer. But new electronics engineers hired to support the innovative company products, with no previous work on mechanical equipment, were afraid of this little devil, and found it even more “terrifying” than the Century Rod Memory which is of course a different chapter of the memories dump!