AN ORIGINAL: The AEG Magnetophone FT-2 audio recorder being shown here by Peter Hammar, curator of the Ampex Museum of Magnetic Recording, was the inspiration for the modern audio recorders first produced by Ampex after World War II. The Magnetophone on display in the museum was produced in 1936 and is believed to be the oldest tape recorder currently on display in the United States.

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INDUSTRY FIRST: Peter Hammar, curator of the Ampex Museum of Magnetic Recording, reviews the features of an Ampex Model 200 audio recorder, the first successful tape recorder produced in the United States. The sturdily-built machine was introduced in 1948 and produced just one channel of audio, but the Model 200 proved the practicality of tape recording and revolutionized the recording industry throughout the world.

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PRIDE AND JOY: Peter Hammar, curator of the Ampex Museum of Magnetic Recording, shows off one of the centerpieces of the museum, an Ampex VRX-1000 video tape recorder. This machine was the fourth one produced by Ampex and the first delivered to a customer, the CBS Television Network, in 1956. CBS kept the machine in operation for 22 years before returning it to Ampex in 1978.

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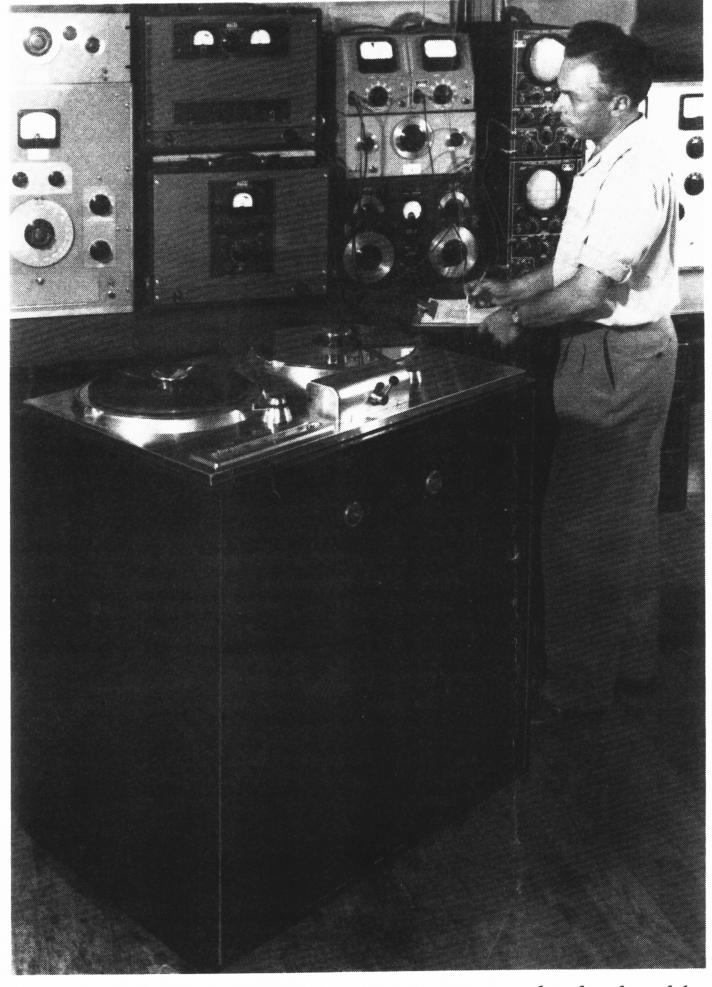
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COMPREHENSIVE DISPLAY: The Ampex Museum of Magnetic Recording recounts the history of the technology's development in 28 separate displays. Pictured above on the left wall are examples of magnetic recording media—including wire, steel band, and tape—covering the period 1898 to 1965. Four examples of early portable and home audio tape recorders are shown at the right.

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THE AMPEX MODEL 200, the magnetic tape recorder developed by Harold Lindsay in the late 1940s, revolutionized the recording industry.