

Computing Educators Oral History Project

Joyce Currie Little video snippet transcript

Recorded October 2006

Available both via the ceohp.org website and on CEOHP's YouTube channel
http://www.youtube.com/user/CEOHP#p/u/6/YgRsJ_Nz7C8

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We recommend that this video transcript be cited as follows:

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On-line, real-time computing on roller skates

I worked for Convair Aircraft Company working in the wind tunnel doing experimental testing of aircraft models. We had an absolutely huge project in 1957 that was to sell a large number of airplanes, Convair Aircraft, to American Airlines. But we had to prove, in a very short time, that it could take off in less than a mile. We therefore had to get all this data coming in from the tunnel: manometer boards, punched cards, all kinds of data. We had to get over to the computer, which was an IBM 650, quickly and run the tests. We interrupted them on the job. We came back and then the tunnel would start up again with the next test. We got roller skates. We had on-line, real-time with roller skates — and that was probably the first occasion. Now, of course, soon after, they became on-line, real-time.