



SMPTE ALMANAC

By Michael Dolan

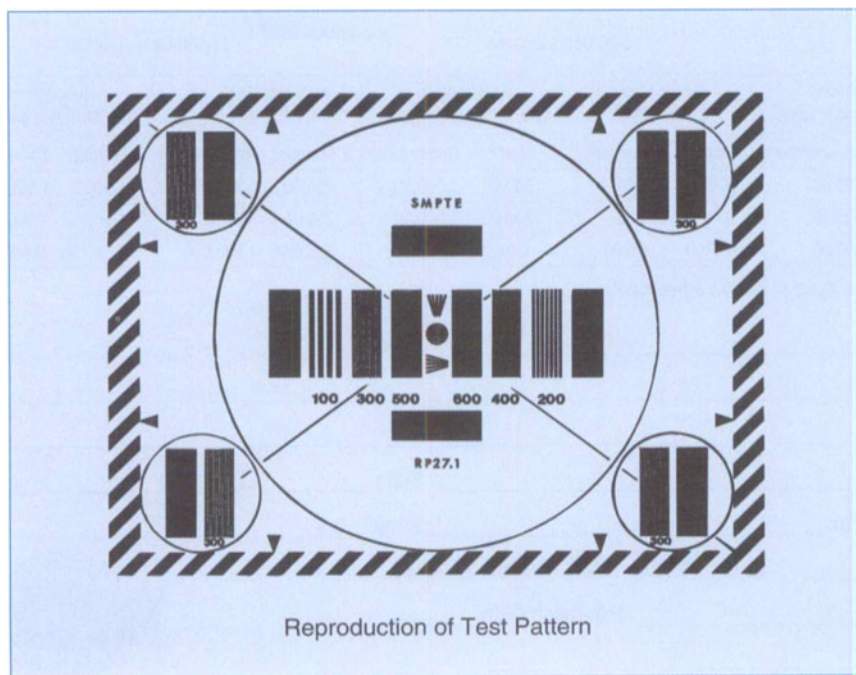
In this column we provide interesting historical briefs from Journal articles of days past.

The purpose of this column is primarily entertainment, but we hope it will also stimulate your thinking and reflection on the Society's history, how far we have come in the industry, and (sometimes) how some things never change. This is not meant to be an authoritative reference, and no attempt is made to correct any past errors or omissions of the Journal. We simply hope you enjoy the material.

25 Years Ago in the Journal

The October 1976 reported on the following Standards and Recommended Practices: "Two Proposed SMPTE Recommended Practices are published here for a trial period and public review: RP 27.1, Specifications for Operational Alignment Test Pattern for Television...and RP 27.5, Specifications for Mid-Frequency Response Test Pattern for Television....The [ISO] recently approved two

International Standards, the technical content of which is published here for your information: ISO 466-1976, Cinematography—Image Produced by 16-mm Motion-Picture Camera Aperture—Position and Dimensions, which is in complete agreement with [ANSI] PH22.7-1976; and ISO 2966-1976, Cinematography—Motion-Picture Film 16/8S (1-3) and (1-4)—Cutting and Perforating Dimensions, which is in complete agreement with ANSI PH22.151 and PH22.168."



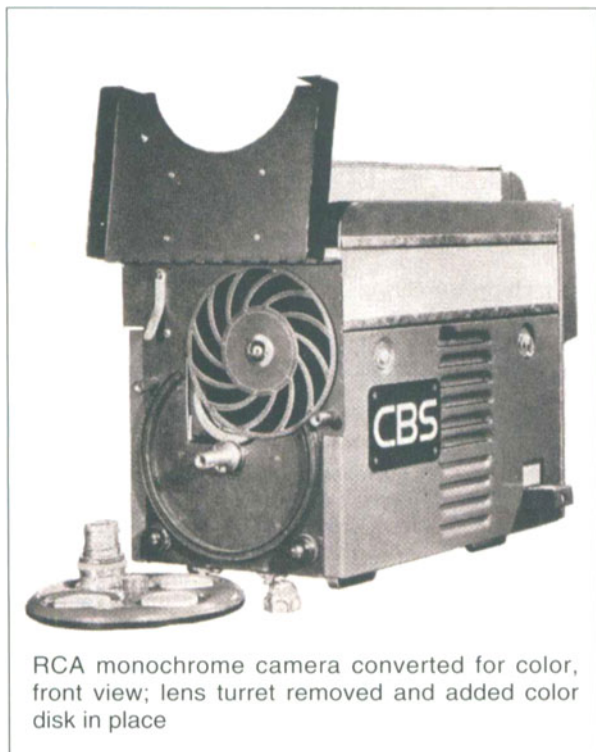
Reproduction of Test Pattern

50 Years Ago in the Journal

The October 1951 *Journal* reported in an article, "Color Television—U.S.A Standard," by P. C. Goldmark, J. W. Christensen, and J. J. Reeves: "It is appropriate to begin with a recital of the official FCC color-television standards as they appeared in the *Federal Register*....It is ordered, that effective the 20th day of November, 1950, the Commission's "Standards of Good Engineering Practice Concerning Television Broadcast Stations" are amended in the following respects:For monochrome transmission the number of scanning lines per frame shall be 525, interlaced two to one in successive fields. The frame frequency shall be 30, the field frequency 60, and the line frequency 15,750 per second. For color transmission the number of scanning lines per frame shall be 405, interlaced two to one in successive fields of the same color. The frame frequency shall be 72, the field frequency 144, the color frame frequency 24, the color field frequency 48, and the line frequency 29,160 per second....The color sequence shall be repeated in the order red, blue, green in successive fields.

75 Years Ago in the Journal

The October 1926 issue reported the Presidential Address of the Fall Meeting of the Society in Briarcliff, NY, by W. B. Cook: "As stated in our Constitution, the object of the Society of Motion Picture Engineers is the advancement in the theory and practice of motion picture engi-



RCA monochrome camera converted for color, front view; lens turret removed and added color disk in place

neering and the allied arts and sciences, the standardization of the mechanisms and practices employed therein, and the maintenance of a high professional standing among its members. Every phase of the motion picture industry is benefited by the papers prepared and the discussions that follow their reading. Upon the members of our Society rests the responsibility that the motion picture production—created for the entertainment

and instruction of the public—shall be properly prepared in the studio, developed and printed in the laboratory, distributed to the exhibitor and perfectly presented at the theater...The very foundation of the Society of Motion Picture Engineers rests on its scientific members and it is the nature of these men to work quietly and alone. In recent years, however, there has been a growing tendency in large manufacturing enterprises to utilize practically the abilities of scientists and technicians, and the world has thus derived almost incalculable benefits from this co-operation...we have a tacit agreement from the Producers' and Directors' Association that they regard the co-ordination of our efforts for the solution of their problems as a very desirable thing."



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