



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.

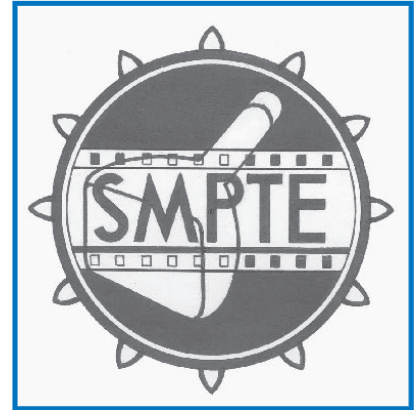
25 Years Ago in the Journal

The December 1976 *Journal* reported on the technical conference of the previous October: "...the most successful meeting the Society has ever held in New York. The total attendance was the highest ever in SMPTE history, with 1000 registrants for the Technical Sessions and 5000 interested persons attending the Equipment Exhibition ... [and] 166 booths..." One paper was on the *First Nationwide Live Stereo Simulcast Network*, and states, "Television receivers cannot reproduce high-fidelity stereo audio, but it is possible to transmit the audio portion of a program from an FM stereo radio station while the video portion is being transmitted by a television station. Simulcasts have become popular recently for the transmission of music programs, but these have to be pre-recorded on tape to permit transmission in more than one center because network audio lines are not capable of high-fidelity (15 kHz) transmission, nor maintaining the phase relationship in stereo

signals. Using a method involving analog FM subcarriers above a video signal, a network has been assembled reaching more than half of all television homes in the U.S. for a live, high-fidelity stereo simulcast. A combination of land line, microwave, and satellite links is used, together with some off-air pickup, by the Public Broadcasting Service, for programs originating in the Lincoln Center in New York."

50 Years Ago in the Journal

The December 1951 *Journal* reported on the *New Society Emblem*: "Design of a new official Society Emblem was proposed at the time of changing the Society's name in January 1950 and the task of producing suggested layouts, then assigned to an Emblem Committee, has now been completed....All told, the two Committees examined 37 designs based on 23 distinct ideas. The Board, by secret ballot voted the adoption of No. 8 (the one submitted by Melvin Stewart, art student)."



75 Years Ago in the Journal

The October 1926 issue reported by H. Joachim in the paper, *Remarks on the Standardization of Motion Picture Sprockets*: "One of the most difficult questions for the motion picture engineer is that of the dimension of sprockets. An incorrectly sized sprocket produces in most cases rapid destruction of the film. For this reason committees on standards in various countries have worked on the dimensions of films and of sprockets....This question was discussed at length at the International Congress of Photography held last year in Paris, and the details of the discussion have been published in the Comptes rendus of the Congress.....A pitch of 4.75 mm. has been adopted, a height of the perforation of 2mm., and a shrinkage of 1.5%. No opposition having been offered to these dimensions, we may consider them in future as the standard dimensions accepted officially."