



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 January 1977 *Journal* reported in the article *Quintaphonic Sound* by John Mosely: "Quintaphonic Sound is a method of recording five channels of sound on 35mm film. It was originally used with magnetic striping, on film cut and perforated in accordance with ANSI PH22.102, "Dimensions for 35mm Motion-Picture Film, CS-1870," and striped in accordance with ANSI PH22.177, "Dimensions of Magnetic String of 35mm Motion-Picture Film for Four-Track Magnetic Sound Release Prints," or their equivalent. It is compatible with the multichannel optical sound systems under development, which contain at least three separate tracks. The film must be run on projectors in conformance to ANSI Standard PH22.103, "Projector Usage of 25mm Release Prints with Four-Track Magnetic Sound Records," or equivalent. All tracks are companded. Tracks No. 1 and No. 3 are matrixed to form the left and right front and back channels. Track No. 2 forms the center front channel. Track No. 4 was not used initially, but recently an FM track has been placed on it for low-frequency augmentation. The film can be played stereophonically, without matrix decoding, after passing through the compander, to give conventional left, center, and right channels. It is essential that the theater sound system

be in excellent condition in order to obtain proper results from this system."

50 Years Ago in the Journal

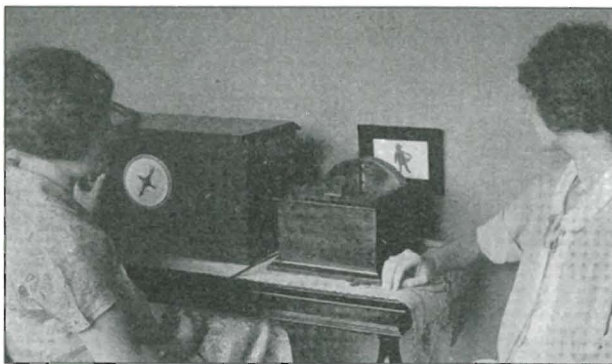
The January 1952 *Journal* reported in *Recent Improvements in Silencing Engine-Driven Generators* by L. D. Grignon: "A gasoline engine-driven, 120-v, d-c generator of 150-kw output for set lighting on location has been improved. The enclosing wall structures, materials and carburetor air-intake were changed. When mounted on a trailer the exhaust and radiator and noise are considerably reduced by methods described. The improvements permit sound recording with the generator as close as 250 ft under reasonably favorable circumstances and not exceeding

750 ft for critical conditions. Considerable saving in production costs results."

75 Years Ago in the Journal

The Summer 1927 *Journal* reported in *Radio Movies and the Theater* by C. Francis Jenkins: "...In our Laboratory we say Radio Vision when we mean seeing by radio, just as it is now common practice to say radiophone and radiogram, when referring to communication by radio. When we speak of wire-carried service we say telephone, telegraph and television...Similarly, we say Radio Movies, when we speak of radio transmission for motion picture film, leaving the term Radio Vision to apply when we transmit directly from a person or a scene, although the same machine is used in receiving the picture from either source...Radio Movies in the home will not hurt theater patronage. On the contrary, Radio Movies will stimulate attendance at the regular picture theater, for the analogous reason that the Victrola increased the number of grand opera patrons. Many of us came more intimately to know and to love the artists of the opera

by familiarity with their personalities as recorded on Victrola discs... people generally fail to notice the fact that a new invention does not put an old device out of use...The coal oil lamp is generally assumed to have driven the candle out of use, yet ninety-five million gross of candles were sold in the year 1925."



VISUAL RADIO HOME ENTERTAINMENT

The time is not very far off now when inaugural ceremonies, ball games, pageants, and other notable events may be seen reproduced in action on a small screen in the home, carried there by radio.