



By Michael Dolan

In this column we provide interesting historical briefs from the 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 1980 *Journal* published in "SMPTE/PMPEA Working Group for Studio Lighting Hardware Standardization (SLHS)" by Ed Phillips: "Chairman Phillips reported a light response to the recent survey distributed by the SLHS Group. The survey requested input from manufacturers, dealers, and users of motion picture and television lighting equipment with respect to recommending standardization of diameter and nomenclature of the "Baby Pin." Phillips reported that the 5/8-in diameter was favored among those responding. Continuing to pursue a recommended standard, the Working Group will draft a proposed standard on the "Baby Pin" and "Junior Stud" to present to manufacturers and users of motion picture and television lighting hardware for comments. Working on this subject in an international scope as well, the Group will also translate the proposed German Standard and obtain the French Standard for review during the next SLHS Working Group meeting."

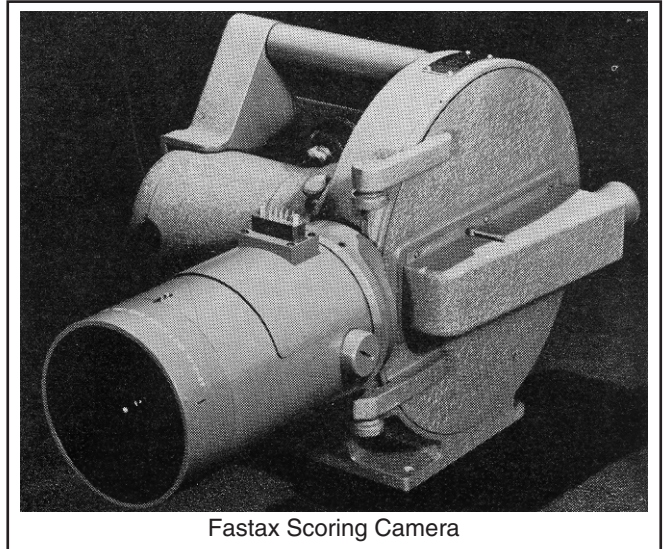
50 Years Ago in the Journal

The January 1955 *Journal* reported in "Simple Electronic Timing Device for High-Speed Cinematography" by Webster Blake: "A single-pulse, simple timing system, to be used in motion-picture cameras in the range of 200 to 2000 frames/sec, is discussed. One msec resolution is obtained with a single neon glow lamp... These scoring cameras were oriented in two clusters for spherical, binocular coverage in an aerial target to record missile miss vectors. From this development two main types of scoring cameras evolved, the Fastax and the Filmo.... One of the main reasons for [their] rather large dimensions is the necessity of housing a circular bank of ten NE-51 glow lamps that constitutes a clock for time correlation. Nine of the lamps are pulsed in a syncopic binary code, which gives a time resolution to within 1 msec and is generated by an electronic master time clock. The tenth lamp flashes for ground correlation on "event" time. These lamps are presented into the

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field of view of the objective lens of the wide-angle assembly and are so photographed simultaneously with each exposed field picture. With this system, in order to determine the time associated with a particular frame, it is necessary only to look up the binary equivalent in a glossary or to employ a decoding device."



Fastax Scoring Camera

75 Years Ago in the Journal

The January 1930 *Journal* reported in "Report of the Standards and Nomenclature Committee:" "At the last meeting of the Society in New York, May 6-9, 1929, the following proposals for standardization were presented to the Society and received preliminary approval of the Society: 1. Taking speed, for sound recording practice. 2. Projection speed, for sound recording practice. 3. Location of scanning slit. 4. Location and width of sound track on positive. 5. Definition of "Number of teeth in contact." 6. Definition of "Safety Film"... The term, "Safety Film," as applied to motion picture materials, shall refer to materials which have a burning time greater than ten (10) seconds and which fall into the following classes: (a) support coated with emulsion, (b) any other material on which or in which an image can be produced, (c) the processed products of these materials, and (d) uncoated support which is or can be used for motion picture purposes in conjunction with the aforementioned classes of materials. The burning time is defined as the time in seconds required for the complete combustion of a sample of the material 36 inches long, the determination of burning time being carried out according to the procedure of the Underwriter's Laboratory."

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