

SMPTE Almanac

sponsored by Television Broadcast Technology, Inc.



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 October 1982 *Journal* published in "Subjective Evaluation of Interfield-Intrafield Adaptive Prediction Coding" by Hitomi Murakami, Yoshinori Hatori, and Hideo Yamamoto: "This paper presents subjective test results of a new high-efficiency coding method to the NTSC color TV signal, i.e., an interfield-intrafield adaptive prediction coding... From the results, it is clear that a picture quality at 30 Mbit/s including the sound program (0.3 Mbit/s) and error-correcting-codes (2.0 Mbit/s), which can transmit two broadcasting TV programs simultaneously via INTELSAT

IV satellite, is satisfactory for almost all the pictures. The adaptive application of the interfield prediction makes it possible to reduce the transmission rate of about 10 Mbit/s to obtain the satisfactory picture quality in comparison with the intrafield prediction solely... Some coding noises were perceptible in the codec in a small number of critical pictures that contained a large amount of extremely fine textures with high contrast and were slow-moving. A kind of edge busyness was also occasionally perceptible in similar pictures containing steep edges with very large luminance or chrominance amplitude differences."

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50 Years Ago in the Journal

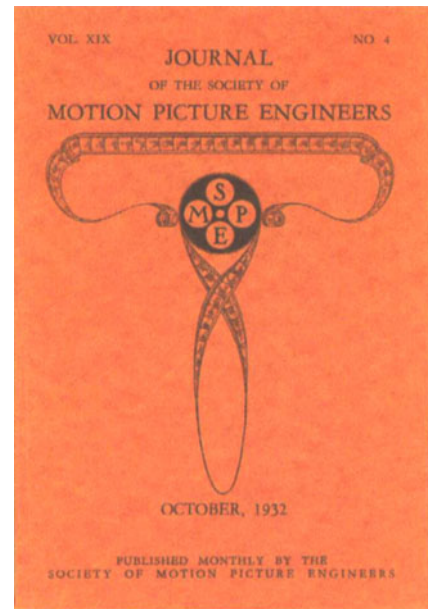
The October 1957 *Journal* published in "news and reports: Combined Forces Make History at Bartlesville:" "Last summer the financing finger of Video Independent Theatres, Inc., pointed at Bartlesville (pop. 30,000), and on September 3, when the delighted citizens turned on their television receivers to view *Pajama Game*, via the new (coaxial) Telemovie system...The monthly subscription rate of \$9.50 became effective October 1... At the New York press conference questions were raised about the probable cost and feasibility of installing the cable and feeder lines in large cities and towns... Telemovie is by no means in the same category as pay-TV. He reiterates that it is nothing more or less than a new form of motion-picture exhibition and is no more a threat to exhibitors than drive-ins...While Telemovies may have slipped in because of the vacuum caused by long waiting for decisions of the FCC on toll-TV, wired movie enthusiasts have been warned in an ominous and well-publicized statement by FCC Chairman John C. Doerfer: "anyone who envisions huge profits in wired-TV had better look over his shoulder. That warm feeling of a 'golden' glow may merely be the hot breath of regulation."

75 Years Ago in the Journal


The October 1932 *Journal* reported on the Museum Committee: "Work has been begun on the construction of a series of miniature dioramas, enclosed in glass, depicting the progress of the motion picture art from its inception to the present sound sets in operation. These exhibits are about 3 by 4 feet, made to exact scale. When finished, they will represent the making of an early motion picture, the making of an animated picture, and an up-to-date sound set in operation with its sound equipment and lighting apparatus. A miniature set will be lighted by

miniature lights that are but slightly greater than two inches in height. The Bausch & Lomb Optical Company and Carl Zeiss, Inc., are cooperating with the Museum Committee in constructing an exhibit depicting the history of lens grinding and the making of precision glass.

This exhibit will show the evolution of the photographic objective from the fist lens to the present highly corrected anastigmat. Special lenses are being ground for this exhibit by the Bausch & Lomb Optical Company. The Pittsburgh Plate Glass Company is supplying its latest products of the glass-making art, including samples of bulletproof, safety, and other types of glass used in motion picture studios. Models of the more popular of the early devices designed to show motion by hand-drawn pictures before photography came into use, are being made by one of the studios in Hollywood. Several manufacturers of equipment are cooperating with the Museum Committee in collecting samples of early sound equipment and various archives and historical records."



Cover of the October 1932 issue of the SMPTE Journal.



ANNUAL MEETING
OF THE VOTING MEMBERS OF THE SOCIETY OF MOTION PICTURE
AND TELEVISION ENGINEERS

Thursday, October 25, 2007 – 6:00 pm
New York Marriott at the Brooklyn Bridge, Brooklyn, NY

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that an Annual Business Meeting of the voting members of the Society of Motion Picture and Television Engineers will be held at 6:30 pm, October 25 2007, at the New York Marriott at the Brooklyn Bridge, 333 Adams St, Brooklyn, NY 11201.