



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.

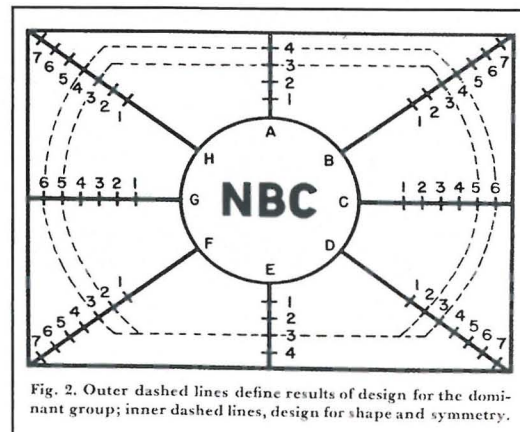
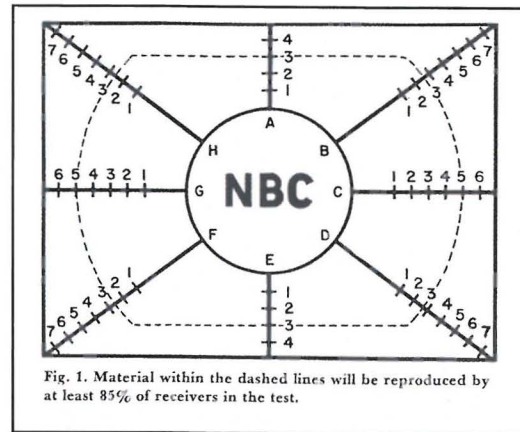
## 25 Years Ago in the Journal

The December 1982 *Journal* published in "SMPTE Television Video Technology Committee: Report on Standardization of Monitor Colorimetry by SMPTE" by Charles W. Rhodes: "Broadcasters have long recognized the need to standardize the colorimetry of picture monitors...In 1970, a prominent U.S. monitor manufacturer standardized his product's colorimetric aim points. In Europe, in 1972 the British Radio Electronic Manufacturers Association (BREMA) established a different set of colorimetric aim points and sets of points defining quadrilaterals around the aim points, which define colorimetric limits. These quadrilaterals and aim points were later accepted by the European Broadcast Union (EBU). Thus they enjoy a high level of acceptance as the standard for broadcasting; not only in Europe, but in most countries operating in 625/50 PAL or Secam systems...It is also apparent that the present tolerance of the EBU recommendation permits quite large color differences. Probably those tolerances represented what could be realized in CRT manufacture in the early 70s. Currently, at least three major manufacturers of color tubes specify a much tighter tolerance for monitor tubes  $\pm 0.005$  x, y (each primary). In the view of the Television Video Technology Committee of SMPTE, it would be unwise to continue the present situation in which only a de facto standard exists in the U.S. unsupported by any professional body of opinion."

## 50 Years Ago in the Journal

The December 1957 *Journal* published in "Television Receiver Picture-Area Losses" by Charles L. Townsend: "Just how much of the picture radiated by a standardized TV station is seen on the home receiver? This question has been asked at frequent intervals ever since television first entered the world of commerce and acquired sponsors for its programs. Complaints that "No one called because the telephone number across the bottom of the picture was cut off," or that a shampoo advertisement

was ineffective because "The model's hair was cut off at home," are no novelty. Probably every worker in the field has had reason to consider the problem of "Safe Area" and many of them have offered drawings and masks to illustrate their ideas on the subject. Some are based upon real and perhaps bitter experience, and reasonably good results are often achieved. But the nagging thought remains that little, if any, concrete evidence exists to support these proposed solutions... WRCA-TV broadcast the basic chart (Figs. 1 and 2) for fifteen minutes just before regular program time in the morning. The chart shown at that time did not, of course, include the dotted



Figures 1 and 2. p. 759, December 1957.

lines. A recorded announcement was played, giving the audience directions for participating in the experiment... Each viewer was asked to jot down a series of letters defining specific lines and numbers indicating how far along that line he could see."

## 75 Years Ago in the Journal

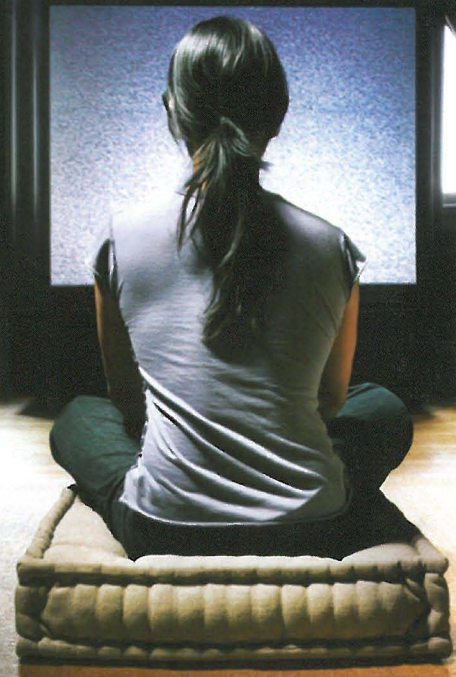
The December 1932 *Journal* reported in "Recording Artificial Speech in Motion Pictures" by C. W. Barrell: "For the first time motion picture recordings have been made of human speech recreated by the artificial larynx...The operation of the artificial larynx is contrasted to the action of the human larynx and the vocal organs in general are shown in combined realistic photography and animated drawings from the sound motion picture, "The Voice That

Science Made,"...With the development and refinement of sound motion picture apparatus, most of the voices of nature have been successfully recorded, from the chirp of the cricket to the roar of the lion. Now, for the first time, the synthetic or mechanically created speech of men using the artificial larynx has been recorded. This remarkable little by-product of telephone research was developed by engineers of the Bell Telephone Laboratories. It has received considerable publicity as an instrument for restoring the power of speech to men and women who have had their vocal cords removed by surgery...artificial voices seemed to register more clearly."

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