

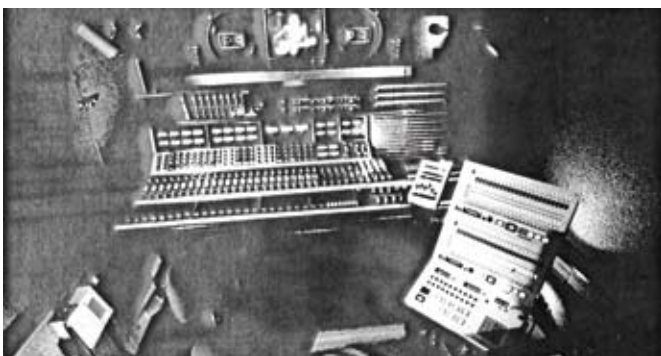


By Michael Dolan

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. This column is sponsored by Television Broadcast Technology, Inc.

25 YEARS AGO IN THE JOURNAL

The February 1984 *Journal* published in “Designing a Mobile Audio Facility” by Steven R. Colby: “WGBH Boston had two reasons for building a mobile audio facility. First, WGBH has long had a reputation for producing high-quality audio for both radio and television programs. As pioneers in stereo simulcasting, we have offered many concert programs such as the “Evening at Pops” and “Evening at Symphony” series, produced mainly on location and, in some cases, broadcast live internationally. As the complexity and frequency of location shoots increased, it became clear that we needed a state-of-the-art audio remote facility. Second, there is an industry trend toward large-scale entertainment events produced live on location for cable and network television or recorded for audio and videodisk distribution...A decision was made to build a mobile unit from scratch, within a 6-month time frame...The production area is built around an API mixing system capable of folding 40 input sources to stereo or mono, and multitrack end production simultaneously. An array of signal processing and effects equipment is mounted in a custom enclosure.”



Mixing production area. (Fig. 3 from *SMPTE Journal*, February 1984, p. 163.)

50 YEARS AGO IN THE JOURNAL

The February 1959 *Journal* published in “Portable Transistor Amplifier for News Recording Applications” by Edward M Tink: “The Auricon 16mm camera is widely used for “on-the-spot” news coverage. The Cine-Voice, the smallest camera in the Auricon line, has a film capacity of 100 ft (2¾ min), and is often used as a news camera. The Cine-Voice is housed in a portable case having a total

weight of 45 lb or in 2 smaller cases with a total weight of 60 lb. Although the vacuum tube amplifier is portable, by virtue of its self-contained battery power supply, the camera itself requires a source of 115-v, 60-c power to operate its drive motor. Thus the camera system cannot be operated at a location remote from 115-v power lines unless an additional portable 115-v a-c power pack is available. The Engineering Department at WLAC-TV...planned a much smaller and more desirable system by substituting a miniature transistor amplifier, mounted directly on the camera, for the vacuum tube amplifier. In order to make the system completely portable, it was decided to provide a portable 115-v a-c power pack. The Dormitzer Model DY-1012 portable a-c power pack was selected. This unit employs two 6-v Dyna Seal nickel-cadmium cells, connected in series...”

75 YEARS AGO IN THE JOURNAL

The January, 1934 *Journal* published in “The Use of the Talking Picture as an Additional Educational Tool at the University of Chicago” by H. B. Lemon: “In the year 1892 about 200,000 students were enrolled in the high schools of this country. Forty years later, in 1932, over 4,000,000 students were enrolled in the high schools of this country...the situation in the colleges, while not involving nearly such large numbers of students, has been closely parallel, and those of us who have been in touch with undergraduate and graduate education in our universities in the last ten or fifteen years, have been aware of serious problems...Going to college in the days of our parents was solely a matter of acquiring a very special training preparatory to entering one of the learned professions. In recent times, going to college has seemed to be something in the nature of having four more years of fun before having to go to work...Consequently, in the first two years at the University, every student is required to take...four general courses—one in the physical sciences, one in the biological sciences, one in the humanities, and one in social studies...Absence of effective laboratory work seemed to doom the enterprise to failure...The talking motion picture is a perfect medium to use in support of the demonstration lecture in these two ways: close-ups of delicate apparatus can be projected on a gigantic scale; natural large-scale phenomena out of doors, and industrial process may also be brought vividly into the classroom...”