



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 April 1984 *Journal* published in "Progress Report—Television," by L. Merle Thomas: "A number of new products were introduced to the television market in 1983. Most of them continue to follow the traditions of past years, using microprocessors to control the units. The complexity of the new systems requires more highly skilled technical personnel than in the past. With many other industries moving into the high tech fields, a shortage of skilled technicians has been created. To help fill this void, many manufacturers have designed self-diagnostic systems into their equipment and offer module repair at a nominal charge. The television industry continues to increase in size. Only a few years ago, the broadcaster was the primary user of videotape equipment and studio style cameras. Today, television is used throughout large companies for training, sales promotions, and advertising. Additionally, a high percentage of homes have video equipment. A proliferation of videotape formats has been introduced in recent years, from the smallest current format of ¼ in. to the 2-in. format introduced in the late 1950's. The availability of all these formats has created a high level of confusion for the user."



VPR-5 portable Type-C VTR, Ampex/Nagra (Fig. T-3 from *SMPTE Journal* April 1984, p. 331).

## 50 YEARS AGO IN THE JOURNAL

The April 1959 *Journal* published in "Language Translation by Machine" by Max G. Kosarin: "In the United States, research in

mechanical translation was given impetus at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology about six years ago, when a group of outstanding educators in the field of languages, research scientists in the application of computers, and others in related activities conferred and decided to investigate whether computers could be used to set up an automatic dictionary by word-for-word translation and then to proceed to sentence-for-sentence by the analysis of syntax...Subsequently, in 1954, International Business Machines Co. demonstrated the possibilities of translation with the Model 701 General Purpose Computer in a joint program with the Institute of Languages and Linguistics of Georgetown University. Meanwhile, at MIT, a journal called MT (mechanical translation) was launched...Ramo-Wooldridge, under contract to the Rome Air Development Center (RADC), has been studying the problems of translation from Russian to English."

## 75 YEARS AGO IN THE JOURNAL

The April 1934 *Journal* published in "Society Announcements: Functional and Administrative Organization of the Society:" "In the amendments of the Constitutions and By-Laws proposed at the Chicago convention last October, provision was made for five vice-presidents instead of the then existing two, and for an additional elective member of the Board of Governors...The following is a complete list of the officers and governors of the Society, in which the newly elected officers and governor are indicated by asterisks. *President*: Alfred N. Goldsmith; *\*Executive Vice-President*: H. C. Silent, *\*Engineering Vice-President*: L. A. Jones (Technical Committees: Sound, Standards, Studio Lighting, Color, Non-Theatrical Equipment, Projection Theory, Projection Practice, Projection Screens, Laboratory and Exchange Practice), *\*Editorial Vice-President*: J. I. Crabtree (Board of Editors, Papers Committee, Progress Committee, Historical Committee), *\*Financial Vice-President*: O. M. Glunt (Membership Committee, Ways and Means Committee, Advertising Committee), *\*Convention Vice-President*: W. C. Kunzmann (Convention Arrangements, Apparatus Exhibits Committee, Publicity Committee), *Treasurer*: T. E. Shea, *Secretary*: J. H. Kurlander, *\*Governors*: H. T. Cowling, \*A. S. Dickinson, R. E. Farnham, H. Griffin, W. B. Rayton, *Chairmen of Local Section*: Atlantic Coast Section: H. G. Tasker, Mid-West Section: E. Cour, Pacific Coast Section: E. Huse."

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- ★ 15 complimentary registrations to SMPTE PDA Now Events\*\*
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- ★ All employees of Gold Member company will receive the SMPTE member registration rate to all SMPTE conferences and events (other than those operated by another entity, such as NAB or IBC)
- ★ Your company name and logo with a hotlink on the SMPTE website
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- ★ A personalized wall plaque

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- ★ One free annual single-user license subscription to the SMPTE Motion Picture and Television Standards and Practices AND
- ★ 20% discount on a company-wide subscription to the SMPTE Motion Picture and Television Standards and Practices
- ★ One complimentary full registration for the annual SMPTE Technical Conference & Exhibition AND
- ★ All employees of Silver Member company will receive the SMPTE member registration rate to all SMPTE conferences and events (other than those operated by another entity, such as NAB or IBC)
- ★ Your company name and logo with a hotlink on the SMPTE website
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- ★ Discount on exhibit space at the SMPTE Technical Conference & Exhibition
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## Bronze Level – \$2,500

### As a Bronze Level Sustaining Member you'll receive:

- ★ Three complimentary individual SMPTE memberships\*
- ★ A 50% discount on an annual single-user license subscription to the SMPTE Motion Picture and Television Standards and Practices
- ★ 5 complimentary registrations to SMPTE PDA Now Events\*\*
- ★ Your company name and logo with a hotlink on the SMPTE website
- ★ Your company name recognized in the *SMPTE Motion Imaging Journal*
- ★ Discount on exhibit space at the SMPTE Technical Conference & Exhibition
- ★ A personalized wall plaque

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- ★ A 25% discount on an annual single-user license subscription to the SMPTE Motion Picture and Television Standards and Practices
- ★ 2 complimentary registrations to SMPTE PDA Now Events\*\*
- ★ Your company name and logo with a hotlink on the SMPTE website
- ★ Your company name recognized in the *SMPTE Motion Imaging Journal*
- ★ Discount on exhibit space at the SMPTE Technical Conference & Exhibition
- ★ A personalized wall plaque

\* Complimentary individual SMPTE memberships each include the opportunity to participate on engineering committees and work on standards development.

\*\* SMPTE PDA Now Events are live, interactive webcasts, taking place the second Thursday of the month.