



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 September 1984 *Journal* published in "Silver Recovery Management for Motion-Picture Laboratories" by Paul J. Mutter and Steven J. Powell: "There are two general reasons why silver recovery management should be given prime attention. The first is to reaffirm that silver is a natural resource, and that it should be managed in a most resourceful and ecological manner. The second reason is to re-emphasize that an effective silver recovery program can be a cost effective operation for a processing laboratory, particularly as the worth of silver tends to increase with time... In studying a silver management program, the expected amounts of silver available under recommended processing conditions must be considered. Table 1 lists the common Kodak motion-picture films and expected silver (in troy oz) that generally is available after processing 1000 ft of unperforated film [0.22-2.6 for 35mm]... The most unsophisticated method of silver recovery is the addition of a chemical to a fixer to form a silver-bearing sludge... One of the more familiar ways of recovering silver involves the use of the Kodak chemical recovery cartridge (CRC). These cartridges employ the metallic replacement principal, recovering silver efficiently from used fixing baths, stabilizers and wash waters... Probably the most widely used method of silver recovery in the processing laboratory utilizes an electrolytic cell... The last technique for recovery of silver is ion-exchange. This method has been used increasingly over the last few years, particularly for recovery of silver from dilute fixer solutions such as fixer wash waters."

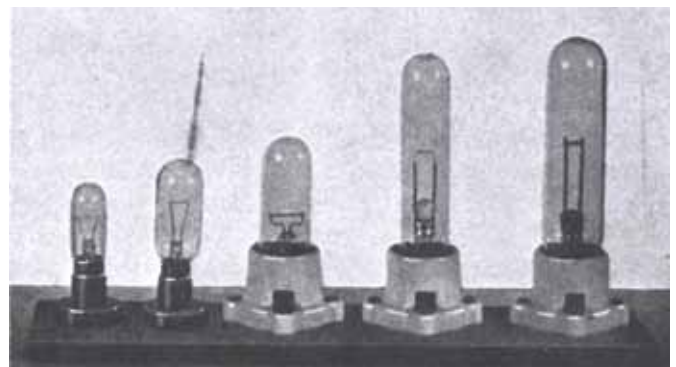
## 50 YEARS AGO IN THE JOURNAL

The September 1959 *Journal* published in "The Ampex Videotape Recorder and its Performance on Foreign TV Standards" by Kurt R. Machein: "Following the introduction of the videotape recorder in the United States it became apparent that the possibility of its adaptation to other than the U.S. Federal Communications Commission television standards should be seriously examined. With three other television standards in current use, modification to other than the FCC standards involved a variety of problems. Any conversion requiring a deviation of components construction would place the burden upon multiple engineering and manufacturing efforts and would certainly result in considerable increase in price and service requirements; therefore, the question of maintaining standard parts

on modern videotape recorders became of vital importance... By analyzing the problems of the modifications, for instance from FCC standards to British standards, it was found that the following deviation in specifications represented the major factors: deviation in power line frequency from 60- to 50-cycle, in frame rate from 30 to 25 frames/second, in horizontal resolution from 525 to 405 lines, plus the differences in specifications of the composite video signal itself, such as a horizontal sync width, horizontal and vertical blanking, equalizing pulses, etc."

## 75 YEARS AGO IN THE JOURNAL

The September 1934 *Journal* published in "Recent Optical Improvements in Sound-Film Recording Equipment" by W. Herriott and L. V. Foster: "Improvements in Western Electric sound-film recording equipment have recently been effected, which offer greater convenience of operation and superior frequency response characteristic and volume range. These improvements relate to the development of new exciter lamps, a lamp adjustment optical system, split-beam monitoring equipment, and two new types of recording objective lenses... In Fig. 1 are shown five types of exciter lamps that have been employed either in commercial or experimental light-valve recording. An effort has been made to reduce the high power requirement of lamps of the early types, and it has been found possible to employ lamps of much lower current rating, making use of filaments of the coiled type rather than of the ribbon type, which imposes an abnormal drain upon the battery supply, and a resulting high cost for power."



Five types of exciter lamps used for commercial or experimental light-valve recording (Fig. 1 from *JSMPE*, Sept. 1934, p. 168.).