



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

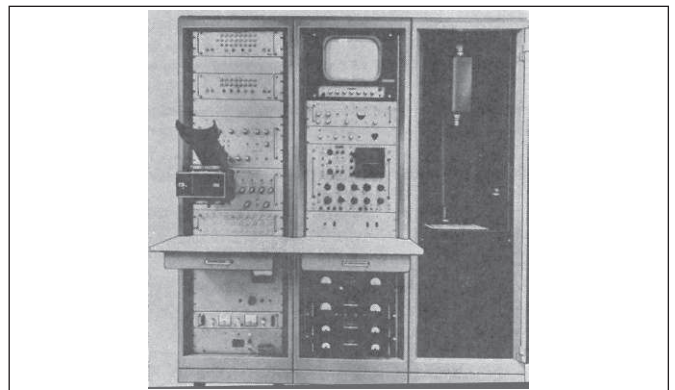
The April 1990 *Journal* published in "Section Meetings: Ottawa, November 22, 1990"—A brief history of the development of CCD chip technology was given by Fred Nanos, Panasonic. He also compared the development of CCD technology with present tube cameras and discussed where the technology is headed. With the use of charts, he illustrated the future of digital signals and the difficulties in setting standards. Harris Kirshenbaum, Panasonic, demonstrated the company's new AQ-20 camera and answered questions on future product development as well as where he thinks digital recording and editing are heading. The meeting was held at the House of Commons Broadcast Studios, Ottawa, and was attended by 65 people. - Bill Graham (Secretary/Treasurer), Carleton Productions." For the full article, see: <http://journal.smpte.org/content/99/4/332.full.pdf+html>.

50 YEARS AGO IN THE JOURNAL

The April 1965 *Journal* published in: "A Video-Modulation Test System for Space Television" by Glen R. Southworth: "A video-modulation system, applicable to space technology, has been designed for use in the investigation of modulation and transmission of single-frame television images. Design objective included generation of a high-quality video signal with resolution precisely controllable from approximately 100 x 100 to 1000 x 1000 picture elements. The output signal, limited to the audio-frequency range, permits the operator to generate bandwidths from 100 cycles to 8 kilocycles. An unusual degree of flexibility is provided and the major limitations of conventional slow-scan systems are eliminated...The system is intended to operate in five basic modes, the first of which is the generation of an analog TV signal essentially identical to that produced by conventional slow-scan cameras. The second mode of operation involves conversion of the slow-scan video signal to digital form at a serial pulse output rate of 90, 45, 15, 5, or 2 1/2 kilobits/sec... A third mode of operation allows tape recording of the slow-scan video data either in analog or digital form for later use...A fourth type of operation uses sampling in both the camera and kinescope recorder in order to simulate unconventional scanning patterns by modulation of the timing of the sample pulse generator... In the fifth mode, the TV camera is useful as a form of densitometer or reflectometer with dynamic readout." For the full article, see: <http://journal.smpte.org/content/74/4/307.full.pdf+html>.

75 YEARS AGO IN THE JOURNAL

The April, 1940 *Journal* published in: "Society Announcements": "STANDARDS COMMITTEE: ...a collection of all the standards of the SMPE and the Academy Research Council, prepared for submission to the ASA, was reviewed. Most of the projects had been approved by both organizations, but several of the standards, including that of the release print sound-track dimensions, are still under consideration. In addition to all these items, which include all the standards published in the March, 1938 issue of the *Journal*, arrangements were made for a revision of the glossary and a study of blooming patches...TELEVISION COMMITTEE: ...A Sub-Committee was delegated to complete the work on the television glossary which had been started during the previous year and another Sub-committee to finish the work on the television bibliography. The scope of the Committee's work was enlarged to include reproducing characteristics of viewing devices, electrical and operating characteristics of pick-up devices, studio lighting and camera technic, characteristics of film-scanning apparatus, and the ultimate recommendations for standardization deriving from these studies... PROJECTION PRACTICE: ...plans were made for continuing the work on tolerances and on projection screen brightness. Arrangements have been made for a presentation on the subject of projection room fire regulations...The Working Committee on the Projection Room Plans has begun a revision of the plans published in 1938 in order to bring them up to date, and the Power Survey Working Committee is now preparing a report from the data derived from the thousand or more questionnaires sent out during the past season to the theaters of the country." For the full article, see: <http://journal.smpte.org/content/34/4/451.full.pdf+html>.



Slow-scan television test system (Fig. 1, *JSMPT*E, April 1965, p. 308).