



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 1990 *Journal* published in: "Television Camera Tubes—A History But Not Yet an Obituary" by Robert G. Neuhauser: "The development of a practical and useful camera tube was the event that made the introduction of television possible. Although systems not involving a camera tube could be and were developed to produce a television image from films, they did not meet the need for a device that translates a live image into a television picture. The television cameras developed involved a series of significant discoveries and inventions resulting in the cameras that are widely used today. No one person invented a television camera tube in its entirety: instead it was built on the discoveries of previous pioneers. This history concentrates on the basic inventions that are the roots of the final development of the practical and useful camera tubes that made modern television possible." For the full article, see: <http://journal.smpte.org/content/99/9/708.full.pdf>.

50 YEARS AGO IN THE JOURNAL

The September 1965 *Journal* published in: "Lunar Orbiter: A Photographic Satellite" by Leon J. Kosofsky and G. Calvin Broome: "Beginning in 1966, NASA will put a series of unmanned photographic spacecraft into orbit around the moon. These will photograph fairly large areas of the lunar surface at high resolution. Exposure is on film, which is processed on board and then read out for transmission to earth...The high information density on the Lunar Orbiter's film (a ground resolution of 1 m corresponds to 76 line pairs/mm on the film) imposes stringent requirements on the film scanner... The 57-mm scanned width of the film is covered by nearly 17,000 horizontal scans of the beam... It takes 40 min to read out the 11.6 in. of film that correspond to a single exposure...Ground Photographic Reconstruction...Here the video data will be displayed line by line on a kinescope face. The displayed image will be recorded on a continuously moving 35mm film strip to create a permanent film record." For the full article, see: <http://journal.smpte.org/content/74/9/773.full.pdf>.

75 YEARS AGO IN THE JOURNAL

The September 1940 *Journal* published in: "Television Pick-Up of the Pasadena Rose Tournament Parade, January 1, 1940" by Harry R. Lubcke: "The first television pick-up of the Pasadena Rose

Tournament Parade was made on New Year's Day, 1940. This was accomplished with the "suitcase" type portable television equipment and beam transmitter W6XDU of the Don Lee Broadcasting System. Two television cameras were used to give long-shot and close-up views of the floats, the cameras being arranged to give instantaneous switching of scene. The distance from Pasadena to the Don Lee Building, site of the home transmitter W6XAO, is nine miles...The sound portion of the broadcast was sent over the nationwide Mutual Network. Camera work and aural description were adequately synchronized. Although rain fell during the parade and the morning was darkly overcast, written statements of reception from W6XAO lookers up to 15 miles away reported clear images, enabling them to read the names on the floats and discern other items of detail...The transmitting location for the Pasadena tests was the Elks' Club building on Colorado Blvd., near Orange Grove Ave. It is shown in Fig. 4. This site was selected because it was in the first portion of the line of march, it gave a good elevation for cameras, close proximity to the antenna, and an absence of tall buildings which would shade the street from the sun." For the full article, see: <http://journal.smpte.org/content/35/9/221.full.pdf>.



Elks' Club, Colorado Blvd. near Orange Grove Ave., Pasadena. Transmitting antenna is seen to the right of the flagpole (Fig. 4, *JSMPE*, September 1940, p. 223).