Michael Dolan

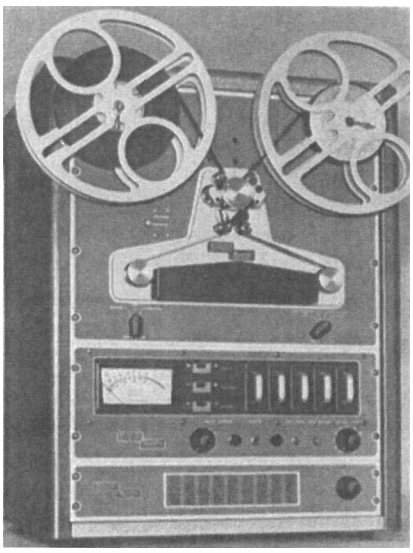
In this column, we provide interesting historical briefs from the Journal articles of days past. The purpose of this column is primarily entertainment, but we hope it will also stimulate your thinking and reflection on the Society's history, how far we have come in the industry, and (sometimes) how some 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 1991 *Journal* published in "Progress Report: Engineering Report: Document Preparation," by Stanley Baron: During 1989, the engineering document preparation process at headquarters was studied by Si Becker. During 1990, a desktop publishing system was installed that enables us not only to better support the activities of the committees but also to improve the cycle required to have the results of that work appear in the *Journal*. The Engineering Department staff has developed a capability to accept text or drawings on a large assortment of media formatted on IBM or compatible computers and can edit text from a broad spectrum of word processing and other software systems. The saving in outside costs to the Society is expected to exceed $20,000 per annum. For the full article, see http://ieeexplore.ieee.org/stamp/stamp.jsp?tp=&arnumber=7234132.

50 Years Ago in the Journal

The April 1966 *Journal* published in *New Products*: "The Magnasync Model DR-1 Displacement Recorder is designed to reposition automatically the soundtrack of a processed 16 mm single-system release print film to "editor's sync," i.e., with sound and corresponding picture in line for rapid, accurate editing, and then to reposition the soundtrack automatically to "printer's sync" or "projection sync" for immediate projection. The unit can be interlocked with other magnetic film recording equipment and projectors, including conventional TV chain projectors. An audio input is provided to permit addition of sound to unrecorded release print film, and a playback audio output is provided for projection tracks. Circuitry is modular plug-in solid state. Monitor speaker, headphone output and automatic switching are provided." For the full article, see http://ieeexplore.ieee.org/stamp/stamp.jsp?tp=&arnumber=7270903.



The Magnasync Model DR-1 Displacement Recorder (*JSMPTE*, April 1966, p. 441).

75 Years Ago in the Journal

The April 1941 *Journal* published in "Hollywood's Low-Temperature Sound Stage," by R. Van Slyker: "The California Consumers Corporation of Los Angeles set aside one of its large ice-storage buildings to introduce to the studios a new method of making realistic snow scenes. The purpose of the ice-storage building was to furnish a low-temperature sound-stage, where water ice could be used for snow, and enable the cast's breaths to become visible, as actually occurs in cold or wintry climates. Snow is manufactured on the low-temperature sound-stage by means of specially constructed portable blowers, grinding 50-pound blocks of ice and expelling through suitable nozzle a fine, aerated snow, directed to the set where and when needed. The introduction of Technicolor to the low-temperature sound-stage created many new problems in ventilation, due to the low temperature of the atmosphere and quantity of air movement needed to remove gases and smoke from the stage during shooting periods. The unusual heat load requirements necessitated the construction of external bunker systems to augment the existing refrigeration for color production. This was accomplished by the combined use of water ice and ammonia refrigeration in these bunkers, giving a total refrigerating capacity of approximately 650 tons in the system to chill 64,000 cfm of fresh air to 20°F." For the full article, see http://ieeexplore.ieee.org/stamp/stamp.jsp?tp=&arnumber=7252920.

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