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 column has been sponsored by Television Broadcast Technology, Inc., since March 2001 (see http://ieeexplore.ieee.org/stamp/stamp.jsp?tp=&arnumber=7257346).

25 Years Ago in the Journal

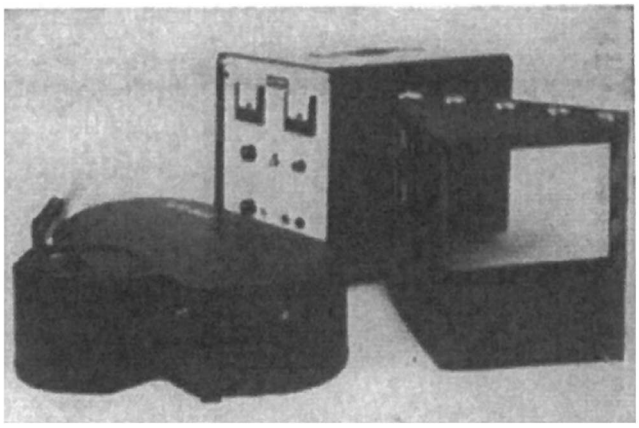
The May 1991 *Journal* published in "Infrared Imaging—Television in the Dark," by James B. Van Anda and Charles L. Carter III: "Although the first thermal-imaging systems were demonstrated in the 1930s, the first practicable system of this kind was built by the U.S. Army in 1952. Rapid growth of army-supported programs in the 1956–1960 era led to the development of thermographs that were used in strip mappers. In the early 1960s, two programs were initiated to develop a forward-looking infrared system (FLIR) as opposed to the early down-looking strip mappers. Most modern FLIR systems operate in the 8 to 12-μm waveband; however, in recent years, a number of cameras in the 3 to 5-μm waveband have appeared on the market, such as the Mitsubishi 5120 (Fig. 5). Most of these cameras are based on platinum silicide as a sensing element integrated with a CCD. They are gaining favor due to their inherent ability to be produced by well-known silicon fabrication techniques, and they promise to be very inexpensive detectors." For the full article, see http://ieeexplore.ieee.org/stamp/stamp.jsp?tp=&arnumber=7234174.

50 Years Ago in the Journal

The June 1966 *Journal* published in "New Products (and Developments):" "The Minipan is a 35 mm high-speed 180° field panoramic camera developed primarily for military aircraft use by Perkin-Elmer. The 10-lb panoramic camera can operate in any of three scan modes—fore-to-aft; transverse; and forward, side or rear oblique. It is equipped for image motion compensation (IMC) in the fore-to-aft and transverse scan modes. Primarily intended for use in low-level, high-speed aircraft operating at altitudes of 200 ft or above, the camera is designed so that curvature in horizontal terrain views from the oblique mode is optically eliminated so that horizons appear flat and true." For the full article, see http://ieeexplore.ieee.org/stamp/stamp.jsp?tp=&arnumber=7264121.

75 Years Ago in the Journal

The May 1941 *Journal* published in "Report on Arc Lamp Noise Tests Including Recommendations for Reducing Set Noise Due to Arc Lamps," by Research Council, Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences: "This report contains an explanatory account of the various tests conducted by the Research Council Committee on set equipment noise conditions, upon which the Council's recommendations for reducing set noise due to arc lamps are based. The principal problem of the Committee was to determine the possibilities for reducing arc lamp set noise in color photography to a level comparable with the noise level on "black-and-white" sets. First consideration of the problem divided the sources of noise from arc lamps as follows: (1) Noises from the carbons themselves during the burning process due to: (a) Commutator ripple present in the power supply, (b) Non-uniformities in the physical structure of the carbon; (2) Noise from the arc lamp rotating parts, i.e., the motor and feed mechanism; (3) Expansion and contraction noises of the lamp house and associated parts." For the full article, see http://ieeexplore.ieee.org/stamp/stamp.jsp?tp=&arnumber=7253076.



The Minipan camera (*JSMPTE*, June 1966, p. 630).

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