



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: <http://ieeexplore.ieee.org/stamp/stamp.jsp?tp=&arnumber=7257346>.

25 Years Ago in the Journal

The November 1992 *Journal* published in: “Pioneers of Television — Philo Taylor Farnsworth” by A. Abramson: “Philo T. Farnsworth was one of the most prolific inventors in television history, with over 75 important inventions in his name. Born in 1906 in Utah, he conceived an all-electric system of television while only 15 years of age. He typified the school of inventors that not only conceived the ideas but built and implemented them. By the time he was 21, he had secured financing and was operating a laboratory in San Francisco, from which came a host of important inventions. Farnsworth was the first inventor in the world to build and operate an all-electric television system in July 1929. This included an electric camera tube, the image dissector; a vacuum-tube scanning, blanking, and sync generator; and a magnetically focused cathode ray tube.” For the full article, see: <http://ieeexplore.ieee.org/document/7236331/>

50 Years Ago in the Journal

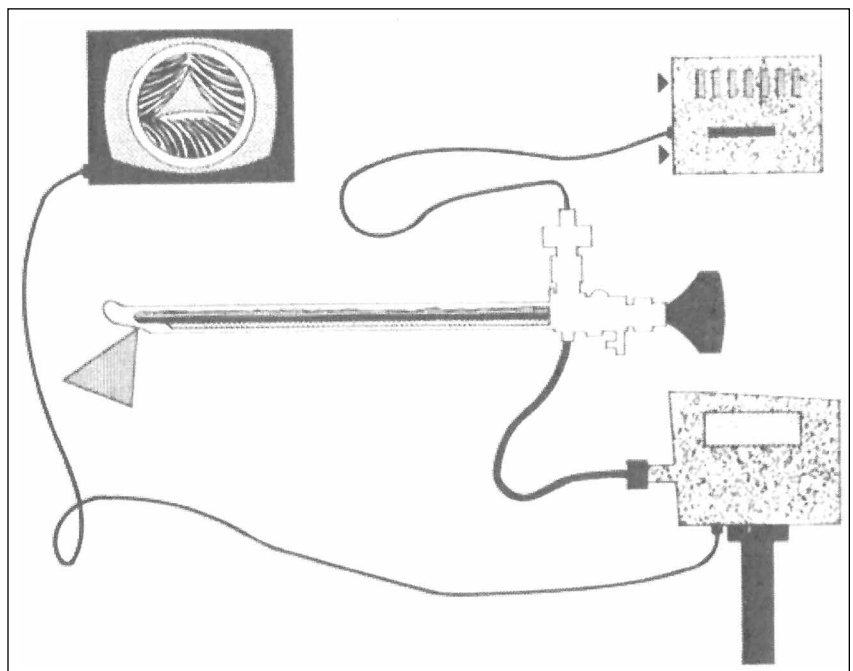
The November 1967 *Journal* published in: “Uses of Television Cystoscopy” by Irving M. Bush, J. Lester Wilkey, Eugene A. Meyer,

and Lee Brandy: “Color television has had limited endoscopic applications because of high costs, bulky equipment, inadequate lighting, and the extra personnel for operating and maintaining the apparatus. With the advent of simpler color television cameras, tape recorders, and adequate light sources, a wide variety of medical applications has become possible. The equipment described

has been used in observation cystoscopy performed on six patients. In general, clear, sharp, relatively true color pictures could be reproduced at will. Though better pictures were obtained when the camera and endoscope were articulate, for patient safety most transmission was performed with only a camera held firmly against the instrument. This experience in the field of urology can be applied to any other endoscopic specialty.” For the full article, see: <http://ieeexplore.ieee.org/document/7264128/>

75 Years Ago in the Journal

The November 1942 *Journal* published in: “Progress In Motion Picture Industry—Report of the Progress Committee, 1940–41.”



Idealized Television Cystoscope: Light from the power supply (right upper corner) enters through the integral fiberoptic bundle. The visual image returns through the lens system (center) and is split between the observation eyepiece and the visual fiberoptic readout bundle, which is connected to the television camera (right lower corner). The endoscopic view is then transmitted to and displayed on the television monitor (left upper corner). (From *JSMPT*E, Nov. 1967, p. 1089.)


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“In an order dated 3 May 1941, the Federal Communications Commission authorized commercial television broadcasting to become effective 1 July 1941. On that date one station, WNBT, started commercial service in the New York area; a second station, WCBW, began regular program service under a commercial construction permit; and several others in various cities inaugurated regular program operation under existing experimental licenses. Subsequently to that date, television broadcast service on either a commercial or experimental basis has been provided in the Philadelphia, Schenectady, Chicago, and Los Angeles areas in addition to New York City. The FCC Rules and Regulations require a minimum of 15 program hours per week for commercial operation, and specify technical standards essentially as recommended by the National Television Systems Committee, and industry group set up jointly in 1940 by the Radio Manufacturers Association and the Federal Communications Commission to study

the problems of technical standards. These standards were given in detail in a report by the Television Committee of the Society in the July 1941 issue of the *Journal*. In spite of the serious handicap caused by shortages of essential materials for both receivers and transmitting equipment, commercial television has made notable progress. It is hoped that it will be able to continue in spite of the war, at least on a modest scale, so that it may be expanded rapidly when the war is over. This is in contrast to the situation in England where television was shut down completely, for the duration, on the first day of the war.” For the full article, see: <http://ieeexplore.ieee.org/document/7252677/>

100 Years Ago in the Journal

The October 1917 *Journal* published in: “Report of the Committee on Electrical Devices:” “The Committee on Electrical Devices has made an investigation of the various forms of converting equipment for use in operating DC arcs from AC mains and submits for

your approval the following report, which intends to show the characteristics and advantages of each of the forms... Either type of equipment will give satisfactory service when properly installed and cared for as directed. The question as to which piece of apparatus should be adopted should properly be determined by the local conditions of the individual application. The arc current required is determined by: dimensions of screen, length of throw, reflective value of screen, intensity of general illumination, angle of projection, and type of density of film... All outfits are designed so as to operate at full load continuously without temperatures that are unsafe. Mercury Arc Rectifiers are made in 30, 40, or 50 DC amperes capacity, and can be made for service on any commercial AC circuit. The inherent characteristics of all outfits are such as to make the arc voltage at normal current highly efficient.” For the full article, see: <http://ieeexplore.ieee.org/document/7308258/> 



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