



Michael Dolan

In this column, we provide interesting historical briefs from the journal articles of the 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 is sponsored by Television Broadcast Technology, Inc., since March 2001: <http://ieeexplore.ieee.org/document/7257346>.

25 Years Ago in the Journal

The May 1995 *Journal* published in: "Testing of the Grand Alliance HDTV Transmission Subsystem" by Jules Cohen and Victor Tawil: "The Grand Alliance, a consortium formed by AT&T, David Sarnoff Research Center, General Instrument Corporation, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, North American Philips Corporation, Thomson Consumer Electronics, and Zenith Electronics Corporation, proposed the use of the eight-level, vestigial sideband (8-VSB) transmission subsystem after comparative testing of 8-VSB and 16-state quadrature amplitude modulation (16-QAM) at the Advanced Television Test Center (ATTC) and CableLabs... In the spring of 1994, a prototype 8-VSB transmission subsystem was delivered to Charlotte, NC, an advanced television test site for testing in the

terrestrial broadcasting environment pursuant to procedures developed by the Systems Subcommittee Working Party Two (SS/WP-2) Field Testing Task Force... The primary objective of the field testing program is to evaluate the performance of the transmission subsystem under real-world conditions of multipath and other propagation phenomena... For the entire sample of 169 for VHF and 199 for UHF, satisfactory VHF NTSC reception was found at only 39.6% of the locations compared to 81.7% for ATV reception. Satisfactory UHF NTSC reception was found at 76.3% of the locations compared to 91.5% for ATV." For the full article, see: <https://ieeexplore.ieee.org/document/7240667>

50 Years Ago in the Journal

The May 1970 *Journal* published in: "Progress Committee Report for 1969:" "During 1969, advances in motion-picture and television engineering kept pace with the historic

events that closed one of the most awesome decades in history. Without the tremendous strides in photo-instrumentation, television, and specially designed cameras, the Moon-Walk could not have taken place as it did and certainly it could not have been vicariously participated in by the millions of viewers who watched 'live,' the slow descent from the space capsule and the first stumbling steps of man on truly alien soil. Not all advances in the fields represented by the Society have been so spectacular... A considerable trend in some European countries (and to a lesser extent in the United States) is the construction of small theaters (sometimes two or three under one roof) rather than large theaters. A cut-back in American investments in film production in Great Britain has already created some financial problems for the British studios... With the introduction of new, finer grain, faster and improved color fidelity, and higher definition motion-picture films and new techniques, design and construction of modern printing and processing equipment, the outlook for the future of the production from camera to screen is exceptionally bright." For the full article, see: <https://ieeexplore.ieee.org/document/7227187>

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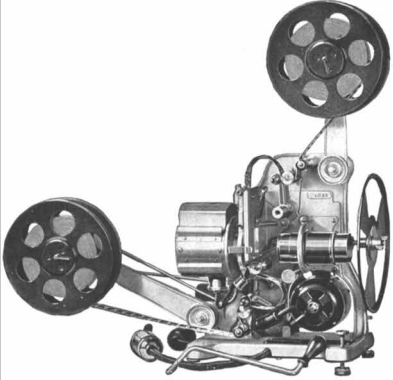
75 Years Ago in the Journal

The May 1945 *Journal* published in: “Developments at the National Film Board of Canada, 1939–44” by Raymond Spottiswoode: “Since its formation in 1939, the National Film Board of Canada has been responsible for the coordination of all Dominion Government film activity and the production of the great majority of films made for government departments and for the Armed Forces. The Film Board’s annual output now is about 250 films. Of its two theatrical series, one is distributed in some 800 theaters in Canada, and the other in some 5,000 theaters in the U.S. Besides, its nontheatrical films are distributed through 120 mobile projection units in all parts of Canada. The staff of the National Film Board has grown from about 40 to 600 persons during the period under review,

and the board’s work now includes the production and distribution of still pictures and film strips, the preparation of posters and displays, and the distribution of motion pictures all over the world. In the film production field, the Film Board overcame certain handicaps resulting from lack of equipment and previously trained personnel by methods which may be of value to engineers charged with the technical development of new motion picture industries abroad.” For the full article, see: <https://ieeexplore.ieee.org/document/7261257>

100 Years Ago in the Journal

The May 1920 *Journal* published an Advertisement for “The New Premier Pathescope...23 Years of Cinema Supremacy.” For all the advertisements, see: <https://ieeexplore.ieee.org/document/7229991>



THE NEW PREMIER
PATHESCOPE
Flickerless Safety Standard Projector
This PIONEER in SAFETY PROJECTION easily maintains the superiority gained in
23 Years of Cinema Supremacy
The Pathescope Co. of America, Inc., New York.

Pathescope (from *Trans. SMPE*, p. VII, May 1920).



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