



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 is sponsored by Television Broadcast Technology, Inc. since March, 2001: <http://ieeexplore.ieee.org/document/7257346>.*

### 25 Years Ago in the Journal

**T**he January 1996 *Journal* published in “Comparing Oranges and Mangoes: Another View of the Emerging Digital Videodisc” by Philip V. W. Dodds, President of the Interactive Multimedia Association (IMA): “At press time, it looks like there is hope that the two rival digital videodisc camps might reach agreement on one common format competing specifications from Sony/Philips and from Time Warner/Toshiba may yet be ‘harmonized,’ thus avoiding a possibly bloody format war over the next several years. This is good news for the movie industry, but what does it mean to those in the interactive multimedia industry? Most people expect that the next-generation digital videodisc will replace both VHS videotape and 12-in. laserdiscs and become the primary distribution medium in the consumer market. It follows, most also assume, that this same format will form the basis for future interactive multimedia applications... The IMA established the Digital Video Disc Special Interest Group (DVD SIC) to articulate the requirements for the ‘content’

layer of digital videodiscs from an interactive multimedia applications perspective.” For the full article see: <https://ieeexplore.ieee.org/document/7241241>

### 50 Years Ago in the Journal

The January 1971 *Journal* published in “SMPTE Winter Television Conference San Francisco—January 22 and 23: The Winter Television Conference is to be held in the St. Francis Hotel in San Francisco... Rates are \$15.00 for members and \$20.00 for nonmembers. Those who have preregistered will receive reprints of ‘Automatic Color Locking Systems’ (four papers and a panel discussion) and ‘Portable Color Cameras’ (three papers), gratis... Standardization in Quadruplex Tape Recording... The Here and Now of Blue Sky Television... Advanced Video-Disc Recording Techniques... A Low-Cost Video-Disc Recorder... A Filter-Integrated Color Vidicon for Single-Tube Color Television Cameras... The following films will be shown before the various papers sessions: *The Beckoning Sea*, produced by Al Giddings; *The Wonderful World of San Francisco*, produced by Vista Productions for the San Francisco Convention and Visitors Bureau; *That’s What It’s All About*, produced

by Al Niggermeyer; and *That’s My Bank*, produced by Linus Mauer for Wells Fargo... The featured trip on Friday evening is to visit Ampex Corp.’s Video Products Engineering Dept. at Redwood City.” For the full article, see: <https://ieeexplore.ieee.org/document/7240002>

### 75 Years Ago in the Journal

The January 1946 *Journal* published in “Technical News: Television Productions, Inc. (Paramount) has a building in construction on Mt. Wilson, destined for completion by the first of 1946. It will house their transmitter operating at a power of 4 kW peak, monitor equipment, living quarters, and other items. A 500-megacycle sight-sound beam relay will transmit the television programs from existing studios on the Paramount lot in Hollywood to the mountain top. The equipment is expected to be in test operation during January 1946. Klaus Landsberg, Director of Television for Paramount’s television station, W6XY2, brings forth the first post-war design of television control equipment. The Telemobile was



The Telemobile, a “control room on wheels” of Paramount’s Television Productions, ready for operation (from *JSMPTTE*, Fig. 1, Jan. 1946, p. 82).

designed along radically new lines by Mr. Landsberg and constructed by his engineering staff in their Hollywood laboratory. It combines all control equipment necessary for the operation of two television cameras, including the synchronizing pulse generator, sweep signal generator, power supplies, and monitoring units.” For the full article, see: <https://ieeexplore.ieee.org/document/7251735>

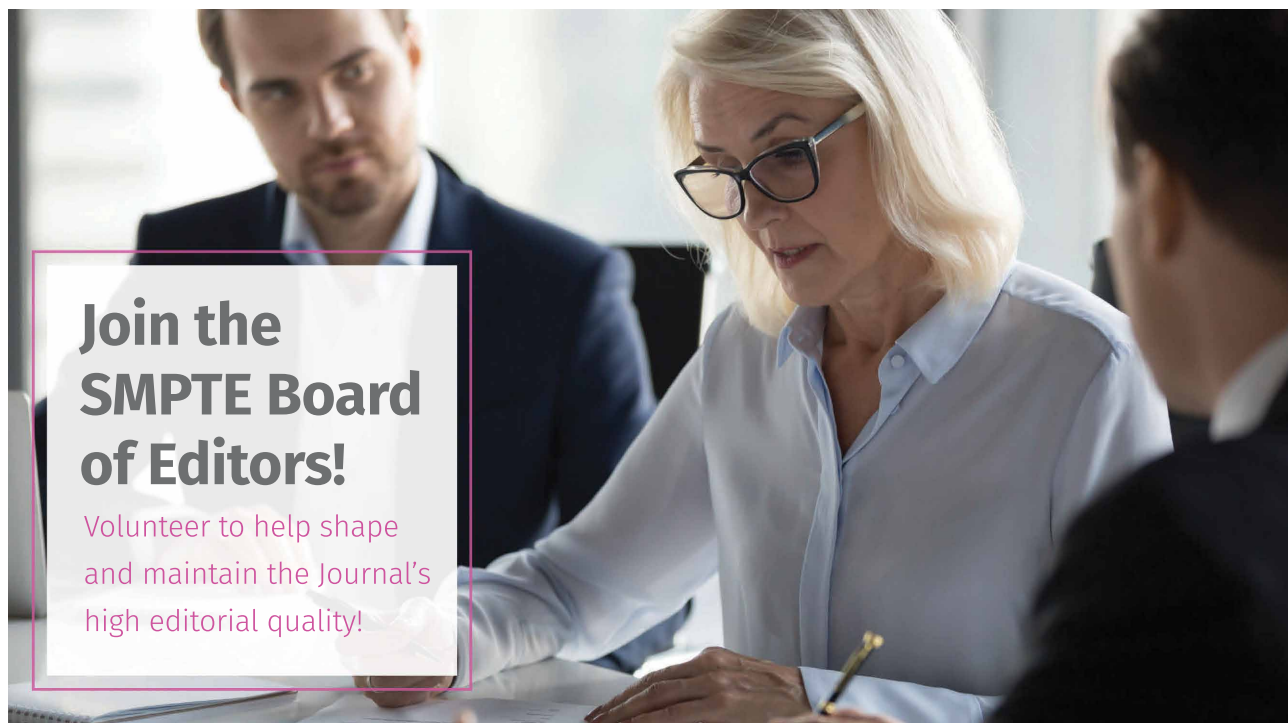
### 100 Years Ago in the Journal

The May 1921 *Journal* published in “The Motion Pictures of Tomorrow” by Mr. Henry D. Hubbard of the National Bureau of Standards at the Washington Meeting of the Society of Motion Picture Engineers, 9–12 May 1921. “When I was invited to speak to you I promised to set aside the

technical difficulties to be encountered and take a long look ahead remembering that time is purely relative and our vision of 1950 may come whenever we are ready to make it true. Certainly, we must agree with Mr. Jenkins that the motion picture is destined to be, perhaps, the greatest industry of the world. It has been said that the time will come when we shall think of nothing but education. The necessity for most of our manual toil will vanish when we have automatic power machines for every task, but education will be the great occupation, for all of us will teach and learn... Some of us feel very strongly that in this future learning and teaching the motion picture will be the great factor, and largely displace the printing press for graphic, vivid, dynamic education... Some years ago

I had the pleasure to witness the formation of the Illuminating Engineers Society which now numbers thousands of members. Before that time there were few real illuminating engineers... What of the future?... To make all existing and new knowledge available for instant use by any technical expert, as handy and accessible as his purse or his pocketknife... I think we all foresee the trend of projector design—we shall soon have the individual projector by which everyone may observe any film at his own desk or library table. An individual projector may use a thinner film with small pictures, so that one may use the projector as he uses a book or pencil, slip it into his pocket, carry it with him for use anywhere...” For the full article, see: <https://ieeexplore.ieee.org/document/7229911>

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