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*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>.*

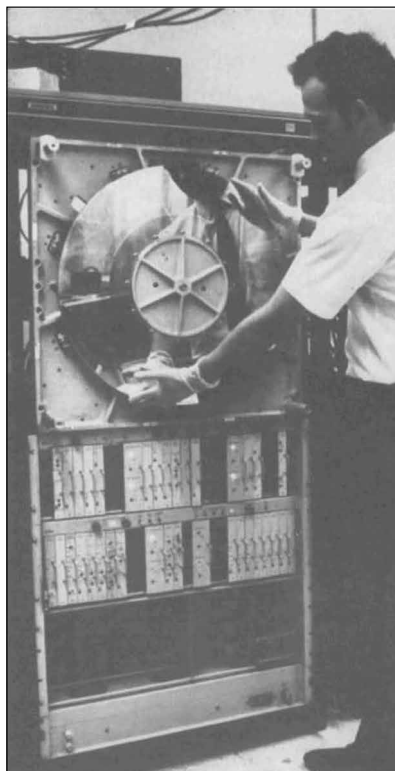
### 25 Years Ago in the Journal

**T**he April 1996 *Journal* published in "1995 Progress Report: An Engineering Perspective" by Mark S. Richer: "This past year, however, was one of remarkable changes for our industry: digital direct broadcast satellite (DBS) services grew at record rates for a consumer product introduction; the U.S. FCC Advisory Committee on Advanced Television Service completed its eight-year effort with the recommendation of the Grand Alliance Advanced Television (ATV) system; and the detailed ATV standard was documented by the Advanced Television Systems Committee (ATSC). As the Chairman of the ATSC T3 Committee, SMPTE President Stanley Baron has played a lead role in this historic activity. The cable television industry is now poised for a massive rollout of digital technology, and the phenomenal growth of the internet is changing the way information and entertainment is delivered to the public... 1995 was a successful year for SMPTE engineering activities... This work includes such landmark accomplishments as completion of work on the D-5 (SMPTE 279M) and D-6 (SMPTE 277M and 278M) recording formats and the bit-serial

digital interface for high-definition television systems (SMPTE 292M). Substantial work was also completed on video index and the 720 × 1280 HDTV video format." For the full article, see <https://ieeexplore.ieee.org/document/7242636>.

### 50 Years Ago in the Journal

The April 1971 *Journal* published in "Magnetic Discs for Video Recording" by Donald B. MacLeod: "Plated



Plated disc video buffer (Fig. 1 from *JSMPT*, Apr. 1971, p. 296).

magnetic discs are being used to store video in broadcasting and information retrieval systems applications. Several hundred video frames may be recorded on each side of a disc, and individual frames may be replayed many millions of times without loss in signal quality.

**Figure 1** shows a 24-in. plated disc on a video buffer used in a document storage and retrieval system... The heads are made of ferrite and the disc surface is made of rhodium... The cleanliness and lubrication of the disc surface is important for proper operating conditions... The method recommended by Ampex involves cleaning the disc and then depositing a film of lubricant, which provides a low-friction surface. A solvent (such as du Pont's TP-35) is used to wet the disc, and the surface is then rubbed until it is dry using Kimwipes." For the full article, see <https://ieeexplore.ieee.org/document/7239870>.

### 75 Years Ago in the Journal


The April 1946 *Journal* published in "American Standards on Motion Pictures: Foreword:" "Once each year, Sectional Committee on Motion Pictures Z22 of the American Standards Association reviews all *American Standards* on Motion Pictures, determining whether the substance and form of presentation are still suitable to continue serving their original purpose. Following the 17 October 1945 meeting of Committee Z22, eight American Standards were reaffirmed, subsequently approved by the ASA, and will remain active for the present time. The war procedure of the ASA requires that all *American War Standards* shall be reviewed after the end of hostilities to determine whether they should be: (1) reapproved and

continued as *American Standards*; (2) revised, if necessary; or (3) dropped if they have outlived their usefulness. Consequently, all published *American War Standards* on Motion Pictures were also reviewed. Fifteen were approved to continue now as *American Standards*. They have been assigned Z22 numbers and are published here in American Standard format.” For the full article, see <https://ieeexplore.ieee.org/document/7252297>.

### 100 Years Ago in the Journal

The May 1921 *Journal* published in “Extracts from By-Laws:”

“Membership in the Society of Motion Picture Engineers stands for unselfish service to the Industry. Applications for the membership are by invitation and endorsement... The objectives of the Society are: The advancement in the theory and practice of motion picture engineering and the allied arts and sciences, the standardization of the mechanisms and practices employed therein, and the maintenance of a high professional standing among its members. Qualifications: Active Member—An Active member shall not be less than 25 years of age and shall be: (1) A motion picture

engineer by profession. He shall have been in the practice of his profession for a period of at least three years and shall have taken responsibility for the design, installation, or operation of systems or apparatus pertaining to the motion picture industry. (2) A person regularly employed in motion picture or closely allied work, who by his inventions or proficiency in motion-picture science or as an executive of a motion picture enterprise of large scope, has attained a recognized standing in the motion picture art.” For the full article, see <https://ieeexplore.ieee.org/document/7229890>. 

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