



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

The June 1996 *Journal* published in “Standards and Recommended Practices:” “A Proposed SMPTE Standard is published here for a trial period and [public] review: SMPTE 298M, Television-Universal Labels for Unique Identification of Digital Data. The proposal will be submitted to the American National Standards Institute if no adverse comments are received from publication. Comments should be addressed to Carlos V. Girod, Jr., Director of Engineering, at Society Headquarters prior to August 1, 1996. SMPTE 298M is available from Society Head-quarters for \$13.00.” For the full article, see <https://ieeexplore.ieee.org/document/7242704>.

50 Years Ago in the Journal

The June 1971 *Journal* published in “World-Wide Television” by Georges Hansen and Eric Griffiths: “Live television exchanges have increased considerably during the last 20 years, in spite of problems caused by the different television standards and the different ways in which the communications systems

are organised in the world. The development of international television is reviewed and the methods used by the European Broadcasting Union for the organisation of international television transmissions are described. ... The first international television transmission took place in August 1950, when the BBC transmitted a programme from Calais, France, to England. ... By 1954, international television transmissions were taking place in Europe on an organised basis, and the name “Eurovision” that was given then, is still used. Since then, the system has grown, and in 1971, the Eurovision Network linked 22 countries in Western Europe and North Africa. Links also exist between the Eurovision Network and the Intervision Network of Eastern Europe and the extent of those two systems is shown by Fig. 1 ... the first transatlantic television transmissions took place via Telstar 1 in July 1962 ... the satellite moved in an elliptical orbit and gave intermittent transmission possibilities for a few minutes at a time during each orbit. ... From 23 July 1962 to the end of 1964, more than 80 transmissions took place between Europe and the USA.” For the full article, see <https://ieeexplore.ieee.org/document/7240039>.

75 Years Ago in the Journal


The June 1946 *Journal* published in “Standardization and the Antitrust Laws” by James D. Hayes: “In 1922, Herbert Hoover, Secretary of Commerce, requested an informal opinion of the Attorney General as to the legality of trade association activity in general and included in his request the following question: ‘May a trade association, in cooperation with its members, advocate and provide for the standardization of quality and grades of product of such members, to the end that the buying public may know what it is to receive when a particular grade or quality is specified; and may such association, after standardizing quality and grade, provide standard form of contract for the purpose of correctly designating the standards of quality and grades of product; and may it standardize technical and scientific terms, its processes in production, and its machinery; and may the association cooperate with its members in determining means for the elimination of wasteful processes in production and distribution and for the raising of ethical standards in trade for the prevention of dishonest practices?’ The Attorney General did not give a very satisfactory answer to Mr. Hoover’s inquiry in the light of subsequent developments. He said: ‘I can now see nothing illegal in the exercise of the other activities mentioned, provided always that whatever is done is not used as a scheme or device to curtail production or enhance prices, and does not have the effect of

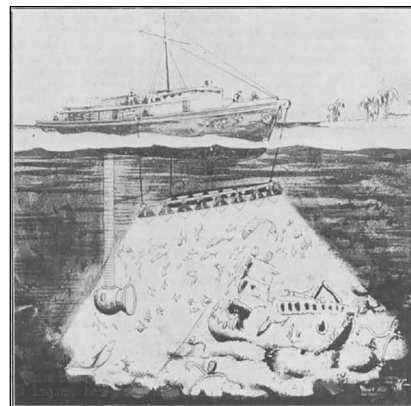
suppressing competition.” For the full article, see <https://ieeexplore.ieee.org/document/7251665>.

100 Years Ago in the Journal

The May 1921 *Journal* published in “Submarine Photography” by J. E. Williamson and Carl L. Gregory: “Except from the lips of divers who have descended on the edges of the coasts to a puny depth of a hundred feet, we are in ignorance of what lies beneath the waves. And the divers, with the limited field of observation accorded them by the crude appliances of their trade, have been able to tell us but little of the nature of things. ... And now the riddle of the deep is about to be solved. What the initial flight of the Wrights was to aviation, the experiments just concluded on the ocean’s

bottom in the Bahamas Islands will be to submarine exploration. For hours at a time, men have sat in comfort within six inches of the bottom and fifty or sixty feet beneath the surface. There they have smoked, talked, and breathed as naturally as though they were upon the shore. ... The apparatus used in the experiments was subjected to a thorough submarine test and structural analysis at the Norfolk navy yard by officers of the navy, who reported that it would be perfectly safe, in its present form of construction, at a depth of 800 feet. ... How well justified their foresight was is shown by 20,000 ft of marvelous film taken beneath the ocean in the West Indies. It is a fitting coincidence that the first successful motion pictures ever taken beneath

the ocean were made at a spot only a few miles from the place where Columbus’s ships first dropped anchor in the New World.” For the full article, see <https://ieeexplore.ieee.org/document/7229910>. 



How submarine movies are made (*Trans. SMPE*, May 1921, p. 153).

Join the SMPTE Board of Editors

Volunteer to Help Shape and Maintain the Journal’s High Editorial Quality

The award-winning SMPTE Motion Imaging Journal relies on our members to share their expertise by submitting papers on the latest scientific and engineering advancements. As a peer-reviewed publication, the Journal depends in turn on its Board of Editors, recognized experts in their fields, to evaluate all submitted papers and ensure that those published are at the highest standard.

To fulfill this important role, we encourage leading academics, researchers and engineers to join the Board, where you’ll collaborate with other leading voices in your specialty in this online peer-review process.



Learn how you can benefit from this great volunteer activity. Contact John Belton, Chair of the Board of Editors, at editor@smpte.org