



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 October 1996 *Journal* published in “The Internet and the Information Infrastructure: What Is the Difference?” by Pekka Tarjanne: “The next big development we can expect to see on the internet is the promotion of realtime services.... At the moment, it is possible to receive near-realtime services; for instance, you can watch a video clip of President Nelson Mandela’s speech at the opening ceremony of TELECOM 95 on ITU’s home page on the Worldwide Web, or, with some technical expertise and a lot of patience, you can make internet telephone calls with a speak-and-listen delay of a few seconds.... The development of realtime services delivered over the internet represents a threat to established communication service providers.... Using the internet for realtime applications could also threaten the revenue streams of future services, such as video-on-demand, music-on-demand, or

home shopping.... It is easy to find information that is interesting, even fascinating, but finding the particular fact that you need is often frustratingly difficult. The internet is like a library run by anarchists in which the trivial is filed next to the erudite.” For the full article, see <https://ieeexplore.ieee.org/document/7243550>

50 Years Ago in the Journal

The October 1971 *Journal* published in “New Products (and Developments):” “Cable Television, Proceedings of the Symposium: After two decades, cable television is undergoing a metamorphosis. It is evolving from a community antenna service for isolated rural locations to a new medium of communications—the broadband communications network. Because of its multichannel characteristics, CATV acts as a catalyst for new services, promising diversity of programing, pinpoint delivery to specific audiences, retention and recall of information and entertainment programs, and a wealth of nonentertainment services. The *Proceedings* of the two-day Symposium on Cable Television, held during the 108th [SMPTE]

Technical Conference in New York City on 8 and 9 October 1970, presents some of the possibilities that exist in this vast new market.” For the full article, see <https://ieeexplore.ieee.org/document/7239731>

75 Years Ago in the Journal

The October 1946 *Journal* published in “Employment Service: Positions Open:” “PHOTOGRAPHER, MOTION PICTURE, \$3397.20 per annum. Applicants must have a thorough knowledge of general motion picture and still photography and the ability to operate animation equipment. His experience should be of such productive nature as to indicate concisely the ability to perform the duties involved. FILM WRITER, \$3397.20 per annum. Requires a knowledge of the development and preparation of film script in training film production. Must be able to prepare a shooting script adequate for the effective presentation of materials by audio-visual means. CHIEF, WRITERS SECTION, \$4149.60 per annum. Applicants must have had progressively responsible experience in the preparation of written material of a scientific or general nature for motion pictures, both general or training films, and other media of dissemination. Must be able to develop and prepare film continuity scripts and of collateral training material to accompany film production.” For the full article, see <https://ieeexplore.ieee.org/document/7252128>

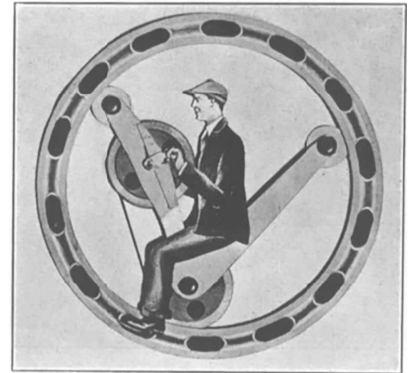
100 Years Ago in the Journal

The October–November 1921 *Journal* published in “Industrial Mechanigraphs” by Harry Levey: “The term ‘mechanigraph’ is the trade name given to motion pictures of animated mechanical and technical drawings and models. ... Mechanigraphs differ from other animated technical films rather in the care and thoroughness with which they are made and the knowledge of subject matter and the engineering skill behind them. ... The subjects which lend themselves to presentation by mechanigraphs are unlimited. The simplest forms are those demonstrating the operation of machinery, which is either too much hidden and inaccessible or too

complex or too rapid or slow or too large or small for picturization by straight photography or which will not operate when opened up to the view of the camera. ... A recently made mechanigraph showed an entire unit of hydroelectric generation at Niagara Falls (Fig. 1). The powerhouse in which the generators are placed is on a level with the river above the falls, and the turbines which drive the generators are just above the level of the river below the falls, that is, nearly 200 ft below the generators. Drive is through a long vertical shaft reaching from turbine to generator through a pit cut of the rock and the penstocks, which carry the water to the turbines run down through the pits. Obviously it is

impossible to actually photograph anything but the powerhouse and its contents.” For the full article, see <https://ieeexplore.ieee.org/document/7229961>

SMPTE



Mechanigraph of the Unicycle, one of the early forerunners of the bicycle (from *Trans. SMPE*, Fig. 7, October–November 1921, p. 62).

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