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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

The April 1997 *Journal* published in “Practical Implementation of Digital Television: Update 1996” by William Y. Zou and James A. Kutzner: “After eight years of system development, testing, and standardization, HDTV is no longer a dream in the research labs, or a proposal debated by committees. In September 1995, the Grand Alliance (GA) HDTV system was documented by the Advanced Television Systems Committee (ATSC), and the ATSC digital television standard was approved by the U.S. television industry. Based on the comprehensive lab and field test results, ACATS officially made a recommendation to the FCC to adopt the GA HDTV system as the U.S. DTV standard. The FCC is expected to adopt a U.S. DTV terrestrial broadcast standard and issue rulemaking on standard and channel allotment in December 1996 and spring 1997, respectively. Broadcasters are expected to begin implementation of the DTV service soon after the standard is adopted, and the allotment assignment plan is issued. Along with the technical development of

digital television, rules and regulatory issues on how DTV service should be implemented have been discussed and contemplated.” For the full article, see <https://ieeexplore.ieee.org/document/7245655>

50 Years Ago in the Journal

The April 1972 *Journal* published in “A Color Video-Disc System” by Walter Bruch: “In June 1970, the three companies AEG-Telefunken, Decca, and Teldec, a subsidiary of AEG-Telefunken and Decca, presented the world's first video disc for monochrome recording in Berlin. After one year, in August 1971, a color version of the video disc was demonstrated in Germany. The recording and playback process of the video disc requires the combination of luminance, color, and audio information into a single signal which has been achieved by a new color video recording technique...the playing time is 5 minutes. ...The disc rotates on an air cushion rather than a turntable. ... The outside diameter of 210 mm (approx. 8¼ in) allows the disc to be enclosed as a supplement in magazines. ...Although it might be assumed that the information in the tiny groove can only be picked up optically, the inevitable dust on the record surface makes this

infeasible. A mechanical pickup stylus, formed like a snow plough, solves the problem.” For the full article, see <https://ieeexplore.ieee.org/document/7239900>

75 Years Ago in the Journal

The April 1947 *Journal* published in “A New Blooming Device” by George Lewin: “Common methods for treating the positive consist of painting over the splice with various types of ink...or covering the splice with a special adhesive tape cut in triangular form. When operating on the negative, the principal method is to punch a triangular hole over the splice which prints through opaque on the positive. The second method is to produce a flash exposure in the printing machine at each negative splice. All of the above methods are very effective when properly accomplished, but all require extreme care in handling the film so as not to introduce extraneous noise caused by dirt, and all are time-consuming. ...This article describes a method of automatically silencing the splices on work prints used for rerecording. Holes are punched in the picture area of the soundtrack by means of a convenient foot-operated punch, at a fixed distance from each splice. These holes then serve to operate a switch in the rerecording head so that the sound output is momentarily cut off while the splice is passing the scanning beam.” For the full article, see <https://ieeexplore.ieee.org/document/7251694>

100 Years Ago in the Journal

The May 1922 *Journal* published in “The Motion Picture Theatre of the Future and the Equipment Probably



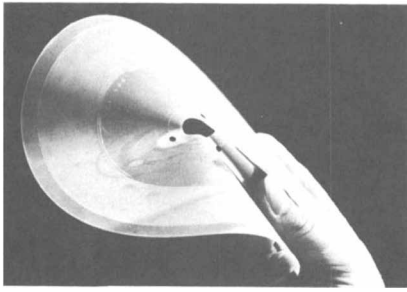
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Teldec video disc (Fig. 1, *JSMPTTE*, April 1972, p. 303).

Required” by S. L. Rothafel: “...the motion picture theatre of the future will be comparable to the greatest opera houses of the world. The future of the motion holds out the great promise of rivaling or running

in parallel form to grand opera. ...I prophesy that the Government, as well as different states and municipalities, will endow a big motion picture theatre. I prophesy that the motion picture theatre will be a great force for education, both in the elementary education of the school child as well as the recreation and education of the grown-up. I prophesy that the motion picture theatre is going to make this nation the most cultured nation in the world. I prophesy that the motion picture theatre is going to create and develop a musical taste that will be marvelous. It is going to create for us American folksongs; it is going to create many new and wonderful

composers; it is going to develop a new form of entertainment. ...The new motion picture theatre will be built...more like the shape of an egg, with a huge stage, without any overhanging balconies, as much as possible without an amphitheatre effect, and on one floor. I believe that the theatre will be of tremendous size, with probably 5,000 or more seats. It will not necessarily be located in the advantageous positions that have heretofore been the rule but will be located in spots where the real estate value will not be quite so high.” For the full article, see <https://ieeexplore.ieee.org/document/7229980>

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