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THERE SEEMS TO BE LITTLE DOUBT THAT THE INTRODUCTION OF A VERY SMALL, LIGHT-WEIGHT **16-MM CAMERA** WOULD BE MOST WELCOME.

## 25 Years Ago in the Journal

The November 1999 *Journal* published in: “Adding Hyperlinks to Digital Television” by V. M. Bove, Jr., J. Dakss, S. Agamanolis, and E. Chalom: “Hyperlinked video is where objects are made selectable by some form of user interface, and the user’s interactions with these objects modify the presentation of the video. Identifying and tracking the objects remains one of the chief difficulties in authoring hyperlinked video; we solve this problem through the use of a video tracking and segmentation algorithm that uses color, texture, motion, and position parameters. An author uses a computer mouse to scribble roughly on each desired object in a frame of video, and the system generates a segmentation mask for that frame and following frames. This technique was applied in the production of a soap opera program, with the result that the user can inquire about purchasing clothing and furnishings used in the show.”

## 50 Years Ago in the Journal

The November 1974 *Journal* published in: “Opinion of the E.B.U. on the use of Super-8 film in colour television” Reprinted from E.B. U. Review, No. 145 (June 1974). “Because of the popularity of the Super-8 film format, the broadcasting organisations have investigated the conditions under which that format might be used as a programme source. Since 1970, Subgroup G3 of E.B.U. Working Party G, whose terms of reference cover the study of films intended for televising, has been engaged on that investigation; it has organised inquiries of the Members of the Union on their experiences of using Super-8 stock...the European Broadcasting Union recommends that the use of Super-8 film in television should be restricted to those occasions where for one reason or another 16-mm film cannot be used...There seems to be little doubt that the introduction of a very small, lightweight 16-mm camera would be most welcome. It could include many of the features of a good quality Super-8 camera - e.g. automatic exposure, cassette loading and integral battery device - and although the performance obtained might not be comparable with the best professional apparatus, it could offer a better solution than the use of Super-8 to many operational problems.”

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.

## 75 Years Ago in the Journal

The November 1949 *Journal* published in: “New View Finder for the Fastax Camera” by Alfred L. Lidfeldt: “...a bright-field focusing and viewing system has been designed...It is mounted on the camera door in place of the ground-glass view finder. The camera with the new view finder is shown in **Fig. 1**...It is essentially a 10-power microscope with a reticle and focusing eyepiece. The image formed by the camera lens upon the film plane is viewed by this microscope through the finder prism system. A bright field of view is seen with a cross line and field frame superimposed. A focusing eyepiece is provided for adjustment to the user’s eye...An important feature of the new finder is that it can be mounted in place of the ground-glass finder without disturbing the camera proper since it is located on the camera door.”

## 100 Years Ago in the Journal

The October 1924 *Transactions* published in: “Means for the Preservation of the Eyesight of the Projectionist” by G. C. Edwards: “The point that will at once attract the attention of the visitor to the projection rooms to-day, is the great number of men engaged in handling the projectors who are compelled to wear glasses, a much higher proportion being found in this craft than generally found in other occupations...It is therefore reasonable to suppose that there is some condition peculiar to the craft of motion picture projection which affects the normal working of certain muscles and nerves of the eye. Let us see what factors might cause this trouble; it is a serious one, as without good eyesight it is impossible to have good projection.

1. The open Spot. This was the greatest offender we had to contend with, the muscles of the eye meeting it had to contract suddenly to an extreme degree which made it impossible to see the screen until the eye had accommodated itself to the screen illumination intensity, a matter of several minutes.
2. The semi-shaded spot. Here the condition was improved somewhat by mounting an eye shield at the cooling plate which protected the eye from the intense glare of the spot, but only when standing in one position. Later, a double eyeshield was put out by some manufacturers, taking care of the glare from each side and top, but left the bottom open, giving a strong reflected light from other portions of the mechanism. The eye is capable of accommodating it-



Fastax with new view finder (Fig. 1 from *JSMPE*, Nov. 1939, p. 599).

self, within certain limits, to anyone intensity of light, but in this case we have two distinct light values of great difference, which cause undue strain. The solution seems to be the totally enclosed spot with glass viewing windows of a color permitting the spot to be clearly seen, and of a tone, which will subdue the great contrasts in light values, this glass should be of a tint that will not permit the most injurious rays to pass, i.e.-the ultra-violet and the infra-red.”

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