



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/stamp/stamp.jsp?tp=&arnumber=7257346>.

25 Years Ago in the Journal

The January 1993 *Journal* published in "Digital Television Broadcasting Dreams, Decisions, and Destinies" by Kenneth P. Davies: "Television broadcasting is a remarkable enterprise that has moved a long way from its beginnings in the pioneering work of the 1920s and 1930s, and that has today become the major informational and cultural influence in the world, without any doubt...It would seem that terrestrial broadcasting might have a bleak future. Competition from competing services on cable and satellite, constant pressure on its use of spectrum resources from land, mobile, and other services, and the inability to offer multiple choices or to enhance revenues through scrambling, appear ominous. The profitability of advertiser-supported network television has declined considerably in the last decade, leading to serious questions regarding its long-term viability and capability to provide the mix of services that viewers expect and which constitute a large part of the viewing hours on cable. It is certainly time for a change, and digital ATV

offers the opportunity to develop new and diverse services and to open up new revenue streams.... Perhaps the biggest danger lies in considering digitally delivered services simply a linear extension of today's situation. The time is ripe, as we redevelop the delivery methods, to archive new efficiencies, to latch onto the new possibilities, and to create a revitalized enterprise of broadcasting." For the full article, see: <http://ieeexplore.ieee.org/document/7236400/>

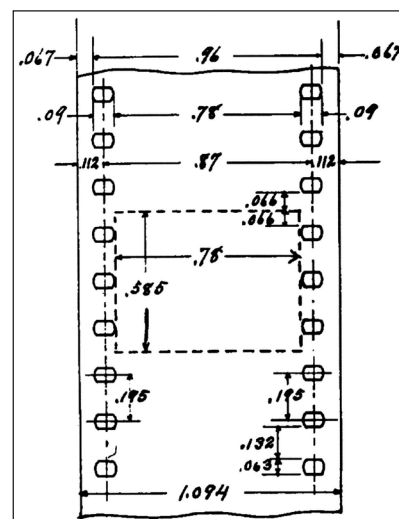
50 Years Ago in the Journal

The February 1968 *Journal* published in "Design of Components for High-Quality and High-Reliability Color Television" by Y. Itoh, T. Katsuta, T. Imai, K. Saitoh, and J. Hirate: "In Japan, the increase in color television receivers has been accompanied by an increasing proportion of color telecasting. Color television programs are quite varied and diversified. They possess high artistic value, which in turn has resulted in greater complexity in the system structure of television studio equipment...The Nippon Electric Company, Ltd., has long been engaged in the design and manufacture of a wide variety of studio equipment for monochrome and color television broadcasting

applications. It is presently directing its efforts toward developing a series of high-performance unit equipment in conformity with the design targets of the Tokyo Broadcasting System Inc., which has Japan's largest commercial broadcasting station. Its studio facilities are the most modern, representative and orthodox." For the full article, see: <http://ieeexplore.ieee.org/document/7264050/>

75 Years Ago in the Journal

The February 1943 *Journal* published in "Report of the Theater Engineering Committee; Sub-Committee on Civilian Defense in Theaters:" "A theater presents one of the most acute civilian defense problems because of the large number of persons involved...One of the purposes of this report is to request the membership to submit to the Sub-Committee its technical problems relating to civilian defense...It would like to



Film standard for "Portable Projector," (*Trans of the Society*, Apr. 1918, p. 32).

have further information upon, and the benefit of your experience, with the following: Emergency Lighting Systems...Shatter Resistant Glass...Blackout Materials...Luminous Paints...Structural Protection...Fire-Fighting Equipment...Inter-Communication Systems...Notification Systems...Sabotage.” For the full article, see: <http://ieeexplore.ieee.org/document/7252581/>

100 Years Ago in the Journal

The April 1918 *Journal* published in “The Portable Projector; Its Present Status and Needs” by A. F. Victor: “Those of you, who ventured into the new and untried, in the days when the motion picture was an undeveloped possibility, may recall that the first projectors were readily and easily portable. At that early stage of the industry, motion

picture projectors were made as attachments to such types of optical lanterns as were then in use. Film reels were rarely over 50 ft in length; and the usual method of manipulating was to run them through into a box, to be rewound after the entertainment...The portable projector is the logical successor to the optical lantern. It does not enter into competition with its larger prototype—the professional projector; but in the home, in the classroom, in the church, and in the equipment of many salesmen, it fills an individual need in a most gratifying manner. However, in spite of its more than worthy performance and its own most creditable record, the portable projector finds itself in a class of ethical outlaws, due to the company it keeps. No projector, no matter how conscientiously

constructed, can take the “flam” out of inflammable film. The professional projector accomplishes the operation by means of the fire-proof booth...I do not believe that noninflammable film of standard width and perforation (even though it carried a definite label) would sufficiently safeguard the public. Many unscrupulous exhibitors would use the wrong kind, and with everyone unconscious of danger, the risk would be doubled...I also submit the following film standard as per drawing, which seems to me to fully meet all requirements. With a standardized noninflammable film, universally adopted by all manufacturers...It could thus enter its field of service, unhampered by the stigma of criminal risk.” For the full article, see: <http://ieeexplore.ieee.org/document/7308284/>

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