1928 Video Days Recalled

Two OSU Grade Saw, Described
Television Pioneering

By JO BRADLEY REED

Two Ohio State University engineering graduates are having a lot of fun these days reminiscing about the small way in which they contributed to modern television.

While television is a new method of communication to most of us, it’s an ancient subject to Stanley Philip Jay, sales engineer for the Electric Power Equipment Co., 35 E. Chestnut St., and C. N. Losewstein, formerly of 530 Franklin Park West, now residing at Los Angeles.

He then wrote a thesis on television receiving, which he received in June, 1929.

Most of the experimental work was done by the two during the summer of 1928 and the winter of 1928-29. Their lab was the third floor of Mr. Losewstein’s home at the Franklin Park ad-

The SUMMER of 1928, the pair drove to Washington, D. C., to meet C. Francis Jenkins. At last minute, Mr. Jenkins was one of the outstanding pioneers in television in the country. The pair had been getting his pictures on the receiver set they had built.

“I remember he showed us through his laboratory and gave us demonstrations of his broadcasting and receiving equipment,” Mr. Jay recalls.

“The pictures were simple, such as a 2011 moving a ball or the silhouette of the black silhouette used in the early tests consisted merely of silhouette pictures by means of moving picture film.”

THE FILMS Lasted for about five minutes, then a voice announce-ment came on between scenes. There was no simultaneous voice transmission along with the picture transmission, as there is in today’s modern telecasting.

The television equipment of the two local rivals was very modest but it brought them these moving silhouettes of early invention.

The receiver was made from discarded electrical equipment they found around the communication department. Mr. Jay has figured the pair, if purchased, would have cost them about $60.

By Engineering Day in the late spring of 1929, their set, which consisted of four tubes and a picture tube, was put on display. (It’s on the market today average anywhere from 20 to 25 tubes, plus the picture tube.)

THE RESULTS weren’t so bad but there was plenty of interest in the new gadget.

“Everyone took a good look at the set—if not the picture,” Mr. Jay recalls.

The picture was about two inches wide, a quarter of an inch high, and three quarters of an inch wide.

“Crede as it was, I remember how wonderful I both thought it was,” Mr. Losewstein recalls.

“When I look back and remember the old methods, and compare them with the way things are done today, I like to think that we contributed at least just a small bit to modern television.”

Pleased with their endeavors Engineers’ Day, the pair invited Prof. W. L. Everest, their faculty advisor, to their laboratory to see the equipment. Prof. Everest now is head of the engineering department at the university.

MR. JAY, who exceeded the invention, called his pal to say he was bringing the professor out in the evening.

Losewstein let out a loud groan. He had just turned it up to make some changes.

Mr. Jay rushed out to the Losewstein home. Together they worked frantically to get it back together in time for Prof. Everest’s visit. They finished well in ad-

As the three sat around waiting for the silhouette picture to come through, they must that Mr. Jenkins was making some changes in his laboratory and the station would not transmit that evening.

THE EXPERTS in their last chapter of the thesis made some predictions about the future of television, which they get a big kick out of re-reading now.

“When will television be per-
fected to a similar state as the radio of today?” they asked in 1928.

“As it is today, it is in the hands of amateurs and well-

veloped laboratories. The ama-

tesre has not had his hand in the development yet to any appreciable degree. This is due mainly to the lack of interest. It is this persistent lack of interest at the amateur that tends to hold back television.

“They think television is something very expensive and impractical. Something they can’t afford—and see no good in playing with something they can’t afford.

“But when the general public develops an interest in television,” this year, “more broadcasting stations will be built and stimulation for development will take place. Development, however, will continue and the difficulties will all be overcome somehow in time.”

Without much doubt, we should say that in 10 or 15 years television will be quite permanent and satisfactory,” concluded the two television-minded youths of 1928.

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