



TELEVISION is an ancient subject to Stanley Philip Jay. He built a receiver set and wrote a thesis on it for his degree in electrical engineering from Ohio State University in 1930. This picture of Mr. Jay, with his four-tube radio and television set, was taken in 1929.

1928 Video Days Recalled

Two OSU Grads 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., 55 E. Chestnut-st., and C. N. Loewenstein, formerly of 135 Franklin Park West, now residing at Los Angeles.

The two wrote a thesis on television which they received in June, 1930.

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. Loewenstein's home at the Franklin Park address.

THE SUMMER of 1928, the pair drove to Washington, D. C., to meet C. Francis Jenkins. At that time, 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 girl bouncing a ball, or the outlines of two men fighting, or other similar skits. Mr. Perkins' methods used in those early telecasts consisted merely of silhouette pictures by means of moving picture film."

THE FILMS LASTED for about five minutes, then a voice announcement 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 youths was very modest but it brought in these moving silhouettes of early television.

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

By Engineers' Day in the late spring of 1930, their set, which consisted of four tubes and a picture tube, was put on display. (Sets on the market today average anywhere from 22 to 32 tubes, plus the picture tube.)

THE RESULTS weren't so good 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.

"Crude as it was, I remember how wonderful we both thought it was," Mr. Loewenstein 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. Everitt, their faculty advisor, to their laboratory to see how good the receiver really was. Prof. Everitt now is head of the engineering department at the

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

Loewenstein let out a loud groan. He had just torn it apart to make some changes.

Mr. Jay rushed out to the Loewenstein home. Together they worked frantically to get it back together in time for Prof. Everitt's visit. They finished well in advance of his arrival.

As the three sat around waiting for the silhouette picture to come on, a voice made the announcement that Mr. Jenkins was making some changes in his laboratory and the state 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 perfected to a similar state as the radio of today?" they asked in 1930. Their answer—

"As it is today, it is in the hands of scientists and well-equipped laboratories. The amateur 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 present lack of interest of 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," they wrote, "more broadcasting stations will be built and stimulation to television 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 prominent and satisfactory," concluded the two television-minded youths of 1930.

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