

Movies Put on Tape for TV; 'Live' Color Show Replayed

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PRINCETON, N. J., Dec. 1—The first formal demonstration of motion picture projection on television sets by means of magnetic tape was made here today. The demonstration was attended by top executives and technicians of the television and motion-picture industries. It was held at the David Sarnoff Research Laboratories of the Radio Corporation of America.

After the demonstration, the viewers generally agreed that the results were remarkably effective and that the system possessed great potential advantages for use in television and, more remotely, for the motion-picture screen.

Included in today's demonstration was a color television program transmitted through the air from the National Broadcasting Studios in New York, forty-five miles away, and picked up here both on regular television sets and on the magnetic tape used in the system. The tape recordings were immediately "replayed" on television sets, placed side by side with the sets on which the direct pickups were being made. The images were almost simultaneous and of equal clarity and color quality.

Also shown on the television sets were magnetic-tape recordings of black-and-white images.

The commercial use of this new system, which substitutes magnetized tape for film and in general does with images what the familiar magnetic tape-recorder does with sound, should be ready within two years in the television field, according to Dr. E. W. Eng-

strom, vice president in charge of the R. C. A. laboratories. Its practical application in the theatrical motion picture field will require more time, he agreed.

Motion-picture men who viewed the demonstrations expressed the opinion that the most likely immediate benefit of the system in their field would be to provide an instantaneous check on shots made with the regular motion picture cameras. A new magnetic-tape camera—which would be essentially a television camera, it was said—would be placed alongside the regular camera and operate in tandem with it. Then the scene as shot by the tape camera could be played back immediately by the director to determine whether he had what he wished.

Further use of the system for theatrical projection would require large-screen television equipment in the theatres, it was said.

The essential operation of the system is this: a scene is photographed by a standard television camera, wherein the impulses are broken down and separated as for television projection. Now the electronic elements may be "packed" directly upon the tape, which is a magnetically coated plastic substance, as thin as paper and one-half inch in width. Or they may be broadcast through the air and "packed" onto the tape through receivers many miles away. The projection of the images from this tape is accomplished through mechanisms very similar to the cameras in reverse, it was said.