Feature Production Shown by Television

West Coast Bureau of THE FILM DAILY Hollywood—Transmission of "The Crooked Circle" in silent form from the Don Lee radio station to a television receiving set at Barker Brothers' store, where an audience viewed it, was successfully accomplished this week. This is believed to be the first time a feature has been sent by television.

Film Daily, March 24 1933

'Crooked Circle' In Television Test

The first practical television broadcast of a motion picture occurs at 4:30 this afternoon when William Sistrom's World Wide production, "Crooked Circle," will be sent through two low wave stations. There are twelve known receiving sets for television in this territory. Picture will be broadcast silent by the Don Lee system, through stations W6XS, a one-thousand watt transmitter on a 140-metre wave length, and W6XAO, a 150-watt transmitter on six and three-quarter metres.

Harry R. Ludcke, Don Lee engineer, will handle the event, with a group of electrical chiefs as witnesses. Barker Brothers' radio department will operate a receiving set for the public, without admission charge. A second broadcast will take place at 9:30 a.m. tomorrow.

Television Trial A Disappointment

Television's first attempt to broadcast a full-length feature picture, "Crooked Circle," was discouraging yesterday. The Don Lee system went through with it for the sake of an experiment, requesting the twelve owners of receiving sets locally to send in their reactions. From a technical viewpoint the broadcast failed to jell, owing to the limited scope of receiving apparatus, a wealth of progress in this field being needed before the threat to either motion pictures and radio becomes a reality.

Giving it the benefit of the doubt, television seems at that point in its history where Edison's magic lantern was in film history, more than twenty-five years ago, according to the exhibition given by a receiving set at Barker Brothers. Owing to mechanical deficiency, it was impossible to read title, cast or credits on the William Sistrom World Wide production, Identification of characters was possible only in close-ups. All other types of scenes were lost on the scanning plate. a magnifying glass which raises a one and a half inch image to eight inch size. Story was completely absent.

Hollywood Reporter, March 24, 1933

Courtesy of Doron Galili