

F. J. Brott Made First Telecast Of Picture in Seattle in 1929

Although commercial television first came to Seattle five years ago, the first local telecast was transmitted by a KOMO engineer as far back as June 3, 1929.

F. J. Brott, director of engineering for Fisher's Blend Station, Inc., was the man responsible for this early experiment. He transmitted a television picture from a home-made transmitter installed in his home.

Several persons received the signal on crude receiver sets. They saw moving pictures in white on a red background. The plate which showed the pictures was slightly more than an inch square.

Said a report in a local newspaper the next day: "Brott came on the air at 9 p. m. using the 160-meter channel. First he gave detailed instructions in the workings of television and the proper procedure in manipulating the receiving apparatus. Then he switched on his motors and proceeded to flash through the ether a series of sketches, letters, numbers and simple figures such as a heart, a diamond and a question mark."

Assisting Brott in the experiment were Hugo Barden and Robert Flagler, a technician at KOMO, who received the pictures. Brott also called on Bob Priebe to borrow Station KRSC's power supply when one of his tubes blew before going on the air.

Persons who did not have television-receiving apparatus, but whose radio sets were capable of tuning down lower than the regular broadcast sets at the time, heard a queer buzzing noise when they tuned across the 160-meter channel, the article reported.

The television transmission system which Brott used in 1929 was the same which WGY, New York, had used earlier that year. He had a motion-picture projec-



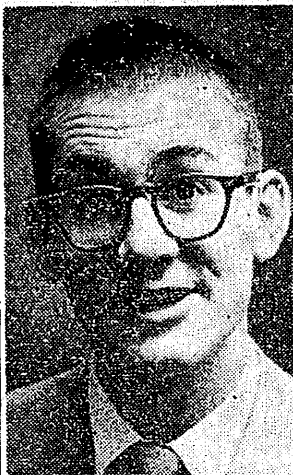
PIONEER IN FIELD: Francis J. Brott, director of engineering for KOMO and KOMO-TV, Fisher's Blend Station, Inc., is a pioneer in radio and television in the Pacific Northwest. Four complete major studio installations have been made under his direction during his 25 years with the station, the latest being the 100,000-watt KOMO-television facilities.

tor which flashed the image on a scanning disc, whose perforations gave the picture form. Photo-electric cells changed the picture into a series of impulses. The receiver apparatus was a large boxlike affair which contained a rotating disc similar to the one in the transmitter. A neon lamp provided the illumination. In the middle of the box was the one-inch screen on which the viewer saw the picture.

Dic Gardner '4-Casts' With Comedy Touch

The old adage that no one does anything about the weather is completely dispelled by Dic Gardner, KOMO-TV's weatherman.

Each week-day evening at 6:30 p. m. on Channel 4, Dic



DIC GARDNER
His show entertains

confers with owls, Arabian scrolls, and the best that Merlin's ledger offers. The outcome is a combination of bright entertainment and accurate weather information for the Puget Sound area.

Besides his inimitable "scientific" weather reports, Dic appears each week-day afternoon as "handyman" on Channel 4's "This Woman's World." He also assists Ruth McCloy, hostess, in interviewing newsworthy guests.

Dic was born in Bremerton and was graduated from Roose-



GORGEOUS GLORIA: One of Hollywood's all-time, all-star "greats" is Gloria Swanson, who acts as hostess and mistress of ceremonies for the entire series of "Crown Theater" and stars in several of the original dramas Sunday nights at 6:30 p. m. on Channel 4. Next Sunday she will introduce "Up Ferguson Way" by Louis Bromfield. Each week a story by a top author will be presented in this series for Seattle-First National Bank featuring stars of stage and screen.

velt High School in Seattle. He received a B. A. degree in radio and speech at Washington State College in June, 1952. While at W. S. C. he was a favorite entertainer with his comedy acts, and was also a disc jockey for the campus radio station.

Dic's KOMO-TV weather people today.

Sunday, December 6, 1953 T The Seattle Times 3

'Range Rider' Star Is Skilled Stunt Man

Jack Mahoney, a tall, lean, rangy fellow, who is bringing Western action to the television screens of America as "The Range Rider" (Tuesday nights at 7 o'clock on KOMO-TV) began his movie career in Hollywood as a "stunt man," doubling for stars when movie scenes called for dangerous action.

Born in Chicago, Jack moved to Davenport, Iowa, where his family when he was a child. In high school, he developed the skills which made him one of Hollywood's top stunt men. He played football and basketball and became an expert swimmer and gymnast.

After two years at the University of Iowa, where he became an athletic star, Jack went to Hollywood, arriving there with \$5 in his pocket. He worked for awhile at athletic clubs as swimming coach and as a dance instructor. During the war, he joined the marines, and spent some time as a submarine hunter in the Atlantic.

In 1945, Jack began to carve out a career for himself in film-land. His physical similarity to several of the top action stars and his natural prowess as an athlete began to get him jobs as a stunt man.

Jack made his reputation as a stunt man doubling for Jon Hall in "Prince of Thieves." Before the picture was finished, Mahoney had been hung by the neck and dropped through a trap door, had a sword run through his leg in a fencing sequence, had jumped from a castle wall 40 feet into a moat filled with water, jumped 30 feet from a rooftop into a net and had climbed hand over hand up a drawbridge chain to scale a castle wall.

Between the years of 1945



JACK MAHONEY
Top Western lead

and 1950, Mahoney became one of the top stunt men in the business.

Although Mahoney enjoyed and still enjoys stunting, he aspired to be an actor and between stunting jobs was cast in bit parts in several pictures. It was while he was doing a small part in one of the "Durango Kid" pictures that he was spotted by Armand Schaefer, president of Gene Autry Productions and discoverer of many Western stars.

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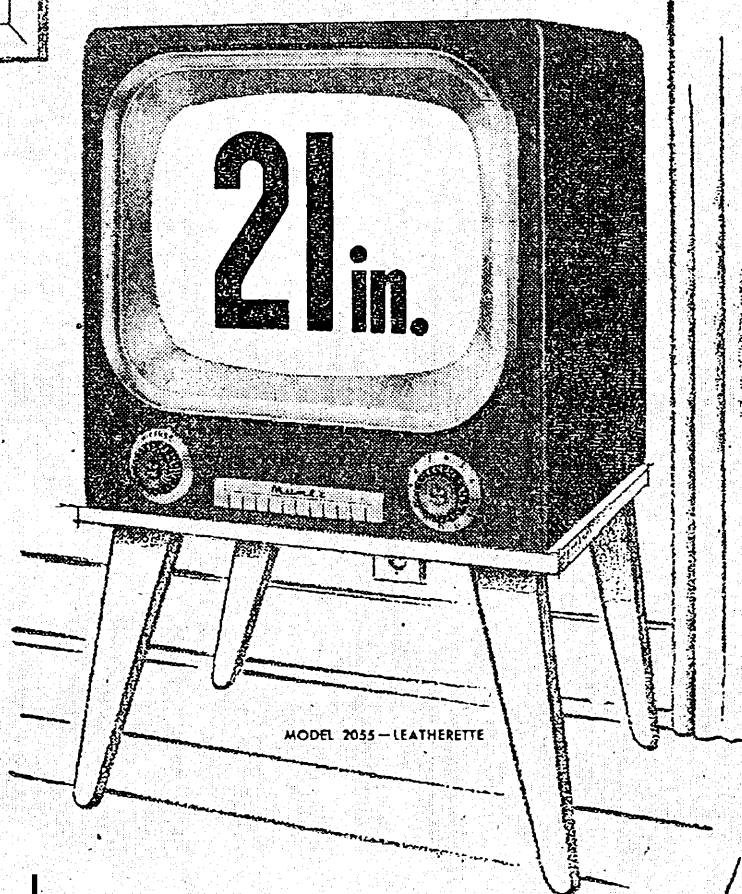
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