



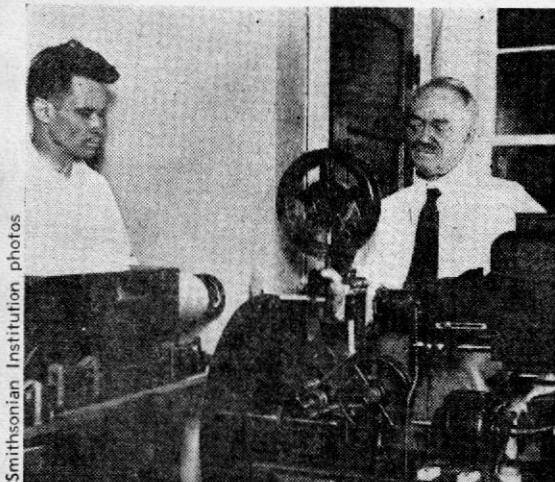
Jenkins 102 "Radiovisor" of 1929 contrasted with 1952 DuMont Royal Sovereign. DuMont had 30-in. screen.

FROM TV'S TENDER YEARS

Most people today think of television as a post-World War II phenomenon. Truth is that the U.S. industry's basic engineering standards were adopted in 1941. Limited programming was available as early as the late 1920s from Washington, D.C.;

the next few years saw more than two dozen stations scattered across the country.

Since the first broadcasts were made with mechanical scanning systems, definition was on the crude side (45-60 lines) by today's standards (525 lines). Even so, receivers



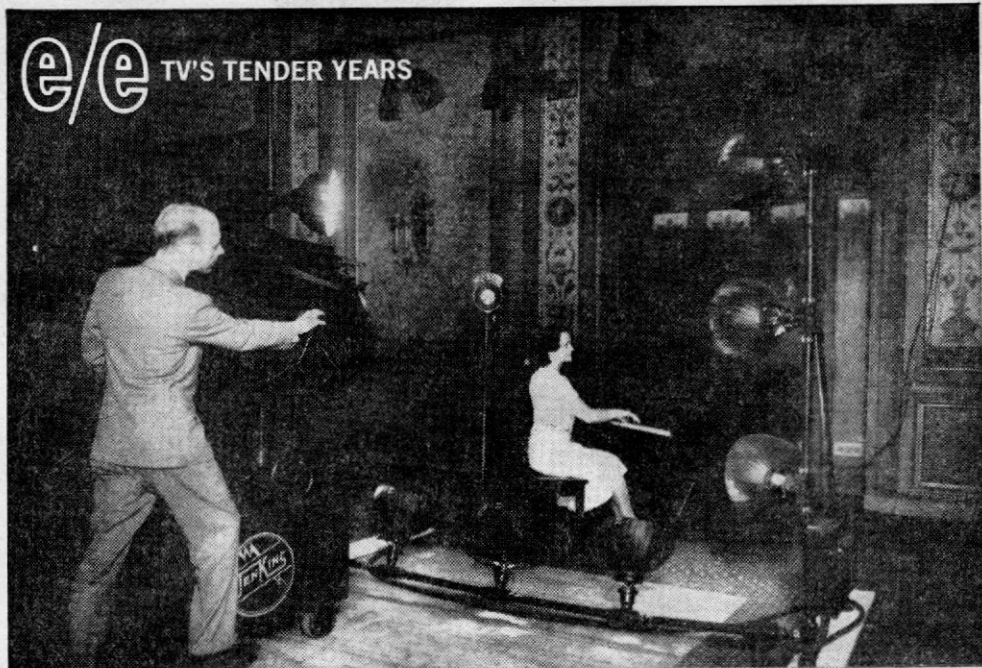
Smithsonian Institution photos



Radiovision, as early TV was often called, relied on motion pictures for much of its programming. 1929 photo at left shows telecasting from Jenkins' lab; at right is early scanner operating in 1800-2100 kHz range.



TV'S TENDER YEARS



Pianist Ruth Rowe performs before TV cameras in 1931 telecast. The station: W2XCD of Passaic, N.J.

were marketed in commercially finished cabinets. And, by 1931, at least one company, the Jenkins Television Corp., could boast that it was selling enough receivers to the public to meet expenses.

Mechanical scan gave way to the versatile

electron beam in the early 30s with successive improvements in the cathode ray tube. And by 1939, the industry's standards were remarkably close to today's versions (even color TV depends on specs stemming from those early monochrome days).

Television Stations on the Air June 1, 1931

Call	Company, Location	(Power in watts, lines per frame)	Call	Company, Location	(Power in watts, lines per frame)
2000-2100 kHz					
W3XK	Jenkins Laboratories, Wheaton, Md.	(5000, 60)	W1XAV	Shortwave & Television Lab. Inc., Boston, Mass.	(500, 60)
W2XCR	Jenkins Television Corp., New York, N.Y.	(5000, 60)	W9XR	Great Lakes Broadcasting Co., Downer's Grove, Ill.	(5000, 60)
W2XAP	Jenkins Television Corp., portable	(250, 60)	W2XR	Radio Pictures, Inc., Long Island City, N.Y.	(500, 60)
W2XCD	DeForest Radio Co., Passaic, N.J.	(5000, 60)	43000-46000 kHz		
W2XBU	Harold E. Smith, Near Beacon, N.Y.	(100, 48)	W3XAD	RCA Victor Co., Inc., Camden, N.J.	(50, 60)
W9XAO	Western Television Corp., Chicago, Ill.	(500, 45)	W2XBT	National Broadcasting Corp. portable	(750, 60)
2100-2200 kHz					
W3XAD	RCA Victor Co., Camden, N.J.	(500, 60)	W1XG	Shortwave & Television Lab. Inc. portable	(30, 45)
W2XBS	National Broadcasting Co., New York, N.Y.	(5000, 60)	43000-44000 kHz		
W2XCW	General Electric Co., S. Schenectady, N.Y.	(20000, ?)	W9XD	The Journal Company, Milwaukee, Wis.	(500, ?)
W8XAV	Westinghouse Elec. & Mfg. Co., E. Pittsburgh, Pa.	(20000, 60)	48500-50300 kHz		
W2XR	Radio Pictures, Inc., Long Island City, N.Y.	(900, 60)	W3XAD	RCA Victor Co., Inc., Camden, N.J.	(50, 60)
W9XAP	Chicago Daily News, Chicago, Ill.	(1000, 45)	W2XBT	National Broadcasting Corp. portable	(750, 60)
W3XAK	National Broadcasting Co., portable	(5000, 60)	W1XG	Shortwave & Television lab. Inc., portable	(30, 60)
2750-2850 kHz					
W2XAB	Atlantic Broadcasting Corp., New York City	(500, ?)	W3XAD	RCA Victor Co., inc., Camden, N.J.	(50, 60)
W9XG	Purdue University, W. Lafayette, Ind.	(1500, ?)	W2XBT	National Broadcasting Corp. portable	(750, 60)
W2XBO	United Research Corp., Long Island City, N.Y.	(500, ?)	W1XG	Shortwave & Television Lab. Inc., portable	(30, 60)