

La première transmission coast to coast de photographies par le système Ferree (1925).

André Lange¹

Le système Marvin Ferree.

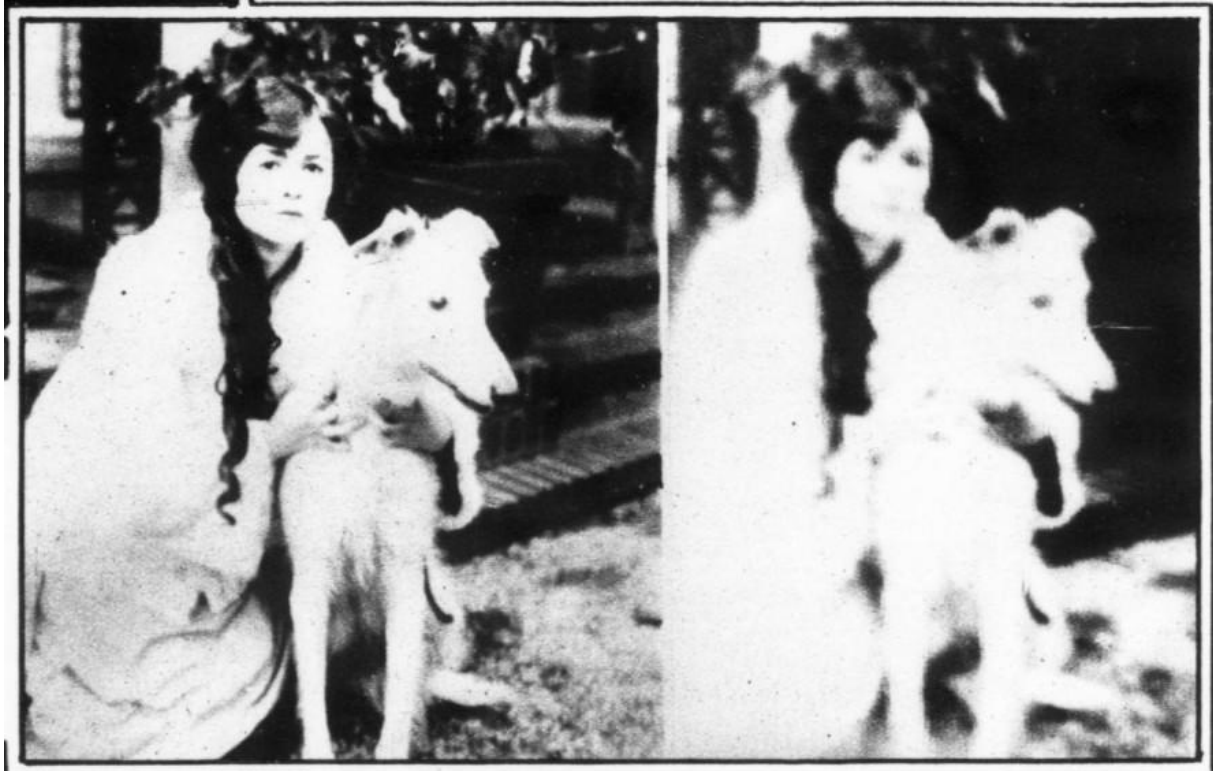
Un système de téléphotographie destiné aux transmissions de photographies de presse a été conçu en 1923 par Marvin J. Ferree, de Cleveland, Ohio. qui était *city editor* au *Minneapolis Daily News* et par Joseph Wissmar, ancien responsable des tests et de la réglementation de la Western l'Union Company à Cleveland.



Marvin J. Ferree,
by courtesy of Hennepin County Library

Le système est annoncé dans quelques journaux dès novembre 1923 comme transportant les images par câble ou en radio (*The Buffalo News*, 15 November 1923). Une photo de Ms Catherine Campbell, qui venait de remporter le concours de beauté d'Atlantic City, est présentée avant et après transmission. De manière très classique pour les appareils de téléphotographie, les fonctions qui sont envisagées pour le système sont l'envoi de photographies de presse, la transmission de photos de criminels, la transmission de signatures pour identification par les banques. Il est signalé que Ferree a réussi la transmission de photos sur des distances de 900 à 1000 miles par radio et de 400 miles par câble. (*Peninsula Daily News*, 27 December 1923).

¹ Article publié sur le site *Histoire de la télévision (et de quelques autres médias)* le 23 janvier 2026.
<https://histv.net/ferree>



*Photographie de Miss Campbell,
Midweek Pictorial, November 29, 1923*

Le système a fait l'objet d'un premier brevet, cosigné avec Joseph Wissmar : M. Ferree et al. *Method of and means for transmitting pictures* [US1529473](#), déposé le 3 décembre 1924 attribué le 10 mars 1925.

March 10, 1925.

1,529,473

M. FERREE ET AL

METHOD OF AND MEANS FOR TRANSMITTING PICTURES

Filed Dec. 3, 1924

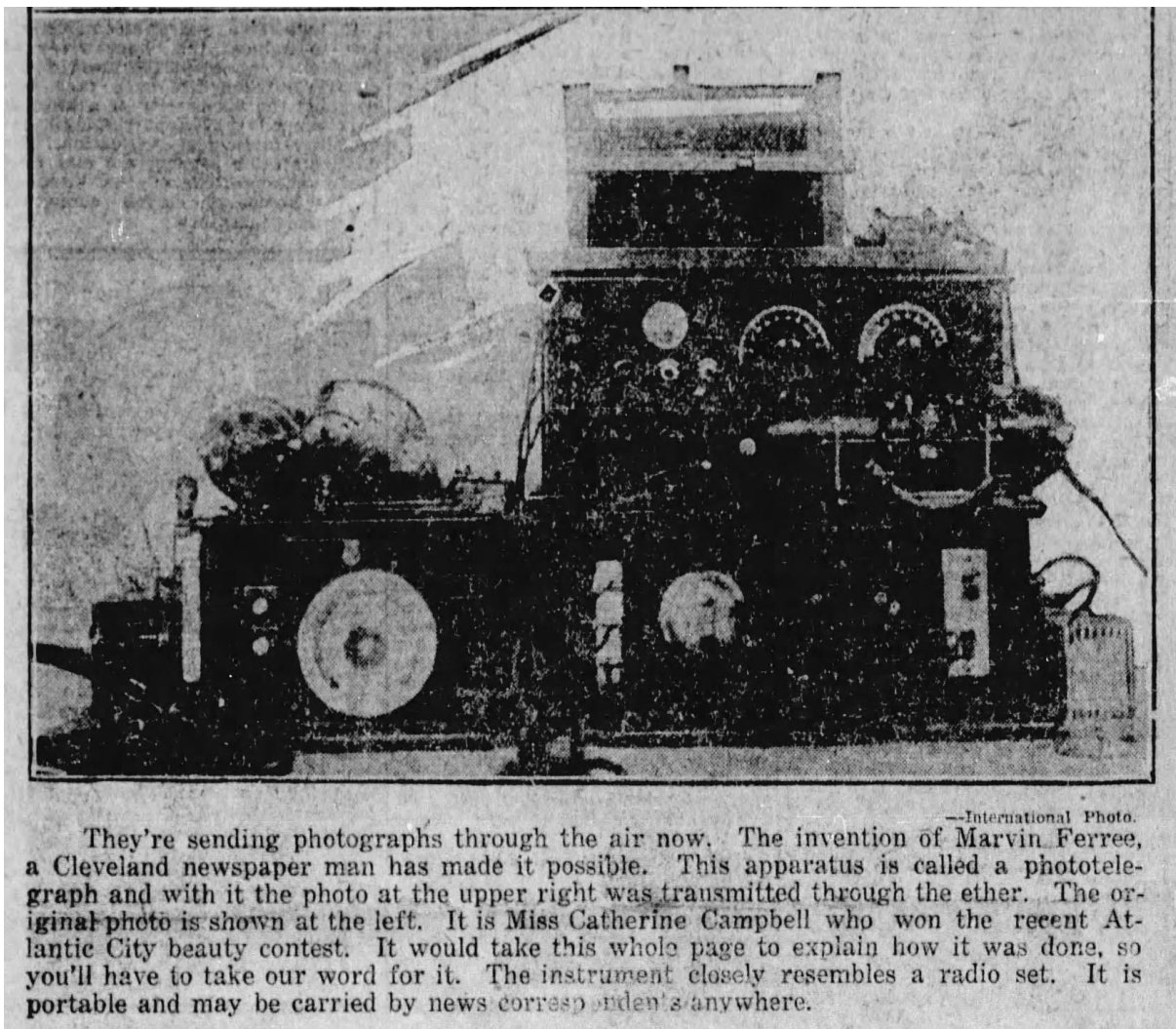
7 Sheets-Sheet 7

Fig. 17.



Inventors
Marvin Ferree
Joseph Messner
By *Thos. A. Moyer* Attorneys
Moore & Blum

Illustration du brevet M. Ferree et al.
Method of and means for transmitting pictures US1529473



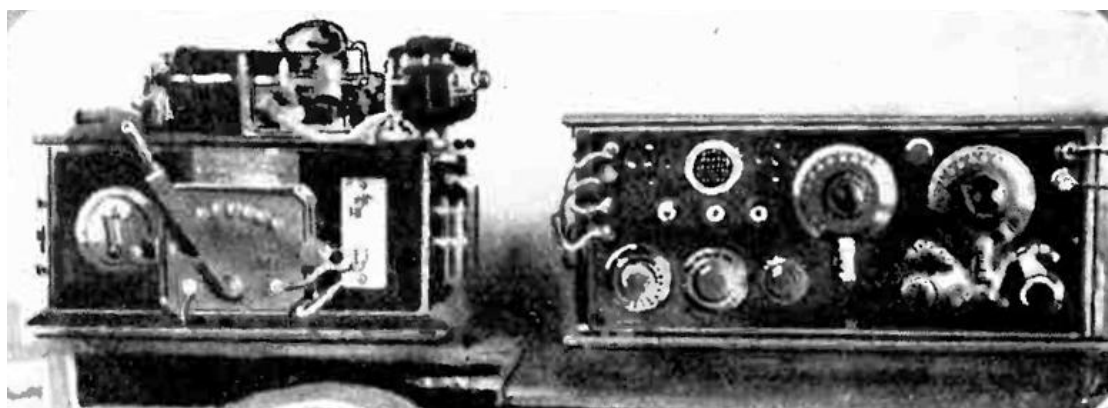
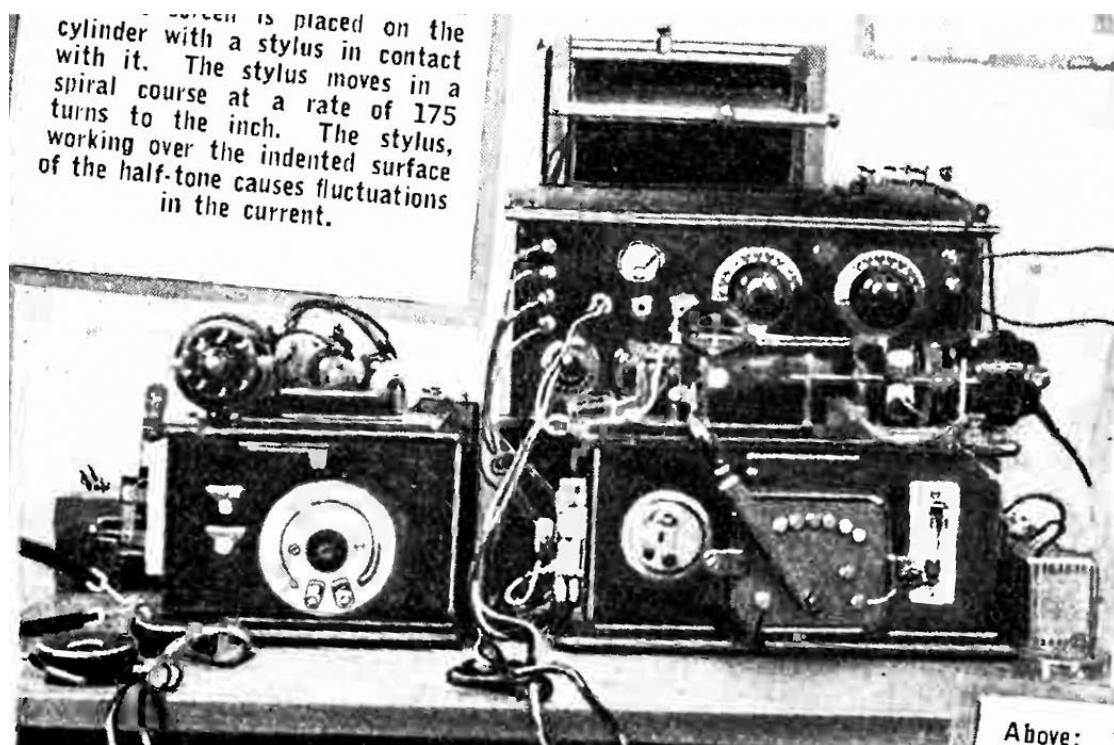
Premier appareil de Marvin Freeze,
Buffalo News, November 15, 1923

Le système a été utilisé à partir du novembre 1924, , sous le nom de Telepix, par l'agence de presse photographique Pacific & Atlantic Photos Inc. ("P & A"), filiale de *The Chicago Tribune*. Au départ, trois journaux étaient impliqués dans l'échange de photos par lignes télégraphiques : *The Chicago Tribune*, *The New York Daily News* et *The Los Angeles Times*. Des photos étaient échangées quotidiennement entre ces grands journaux et paraissent dans leurs colonnes aux côtés d'autres photos d'actualité.

Originalité du système de téléphotographie Ferree

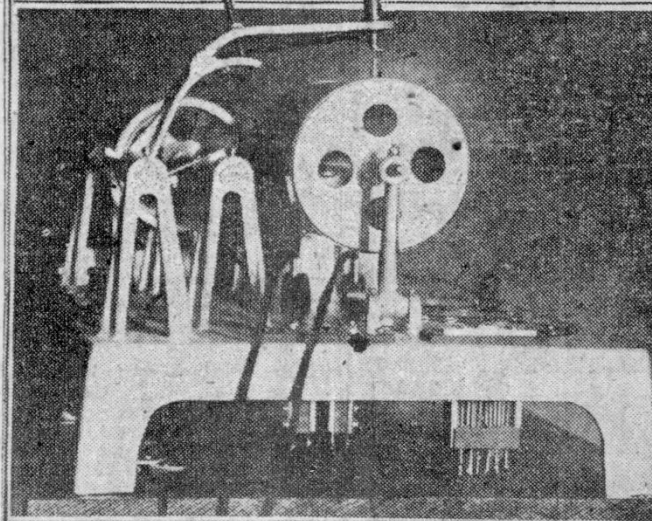
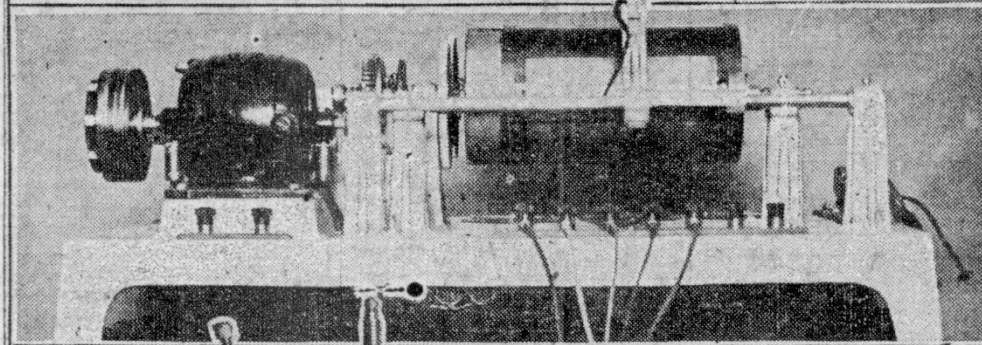
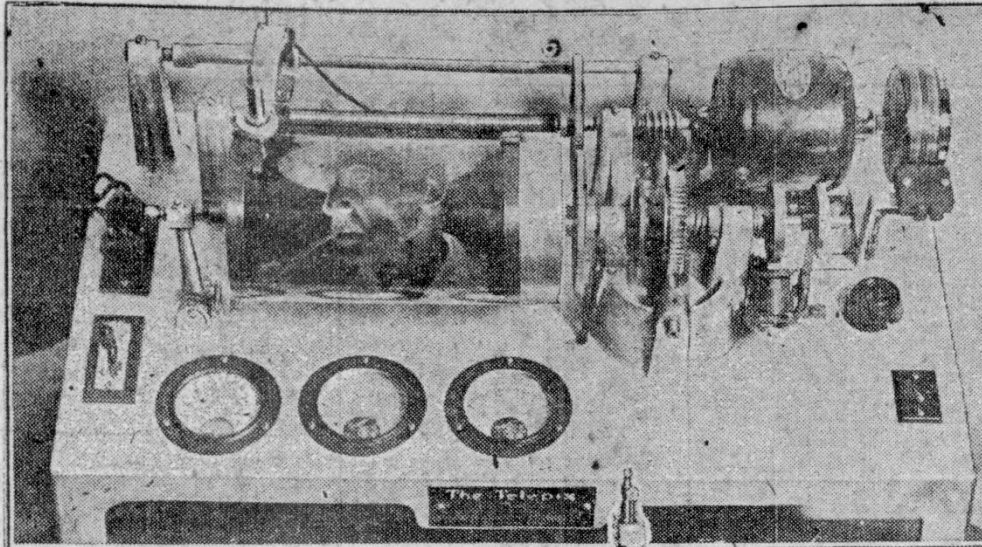
Le système Ferree est un procédé électro-mécanique et électrochimique pour la transmission d'images statiques (photographies, dessins, écritures, empreintes digitales) via impulsions électriques sur fil télégraphique, téléphonique ou radio. Son originalité réside principalement dans plusieurs innovations techniques qui le distinguent des systèmes antérieurs comme ceux de [Belin](#) (1913, optique avec cylindre tournant) ou [Korn](#) (1902-1907, photoélectrique avec sélénium) :

- Préparation de la plaque d'émission en "demi-teintes" avec lignes parallèles uniquement : contrairement aux grilles croisées courantes (qui produisent des motifs en damier visibles et grossiers), Ferree utilise une grille à lignes horizontales opaques parallèles (65 lignes par pouce). Cela crée une plaque de cuivre émaillée où les lignes conductrices varient en largeur selon les densités de l'image, sans intersections. Cette approche simplifie la gravure photochimique (à base de colle de poisson, bichromate d'ammonium et blanc d'œuf) et rend la plaque plus durable et réutilisable, tout en évitant les artefacts visuels des grilles croisées.
- Balayage mécanique avec aiguille et impulsions proportionnelles : l'aiguille en acier balaie une plaque sur un tambour tournant, fermant le circuit électrique seulement sur les lignes de cuivre (impulsions plus longues pour lignes plus larges). C'est une variante analogique mécanique robuste, compatible avec les lignes télégraphiques existantes, et qui intègre un relais polarisé avec biais magnétique ajustable pour contrôler la sensibilité et le ton.
- Réception électrochimique avec effet de diffusion pour ton continu : le tambour récepteur est intentionnellement deux fois plus petit que l'émetteur, et utilise un papier sensibilisé humidifié (amidon/dextrine + iodure/bromure de potassium). Les impulsions (faible courant $\sim 0,3$ mA) décomposent la solution pour former des marques brunâtres qui diffusent naturellement dans le papier humide, fusionnant les points discrets en un ton continu apparent. Cela permet une reproduction directement copiable par photogravure, sans trame visible – une avancée pour l'impression journalistique de l'époque.
- Synchronisation fiable et automatique : des moteurs à gouverneur électrique maintiennent la vitesse, avec des impulsions de correction envoyées à chaque révolution via un disque isolant à segment métallique. Si il y a décalage, un électroaimant arrête momentanément le tambour récepteur (via embrayage à friction) pour resynchroniser, même sur lignes duplex. Cela minimise les dérives sur longues distances, une faiblesse des systèmes mécaniques antérieurs.



Emetteur et récepteur de l'appareil Telepix
(*Science and Invention*, January 1925)

World-Herald Installs "Telepix;" Marks an Epoch in Newspaper Field



○ Above: Front view of "Telepix" machine, showing transmitting plate in position to send a picture. Middle: Back view of the machine. Below: End view.

This is an age of invention. People have come to look today with complacency on the results of scientific wizardry which would have been declared fascinating but impossible dreams of a feverish imagination by their grandfathers. Not one in a million of those living only a few decades ago even dreamed, for that matter, of such marvels as the airplane, dirigible, radio or automobile.

Now comes "Telepix," which has been called "the marvel of the age." Photographs by wire! Pictures sent under the ocean, over mountains, across the plains with the same rapidity as that which marks the transmission of news! "Inconceivable!" But it is a reality. It has been working for several months. The World-Herald has on frequent occasions published pictures so transmitted. But it is just now that this newspaper, in line with its constant policy of keeping abreast of the times, has

New Call Book Out.

The fall issue of the Citizens' Radio Call book, just published, contains a photographic directory of the principal broadcasting sta-

tions' announcers in the country; also a complete list of all the broadcast stations of the world, together with their wave lengths, kilocycles, schedules of transmission, etc.

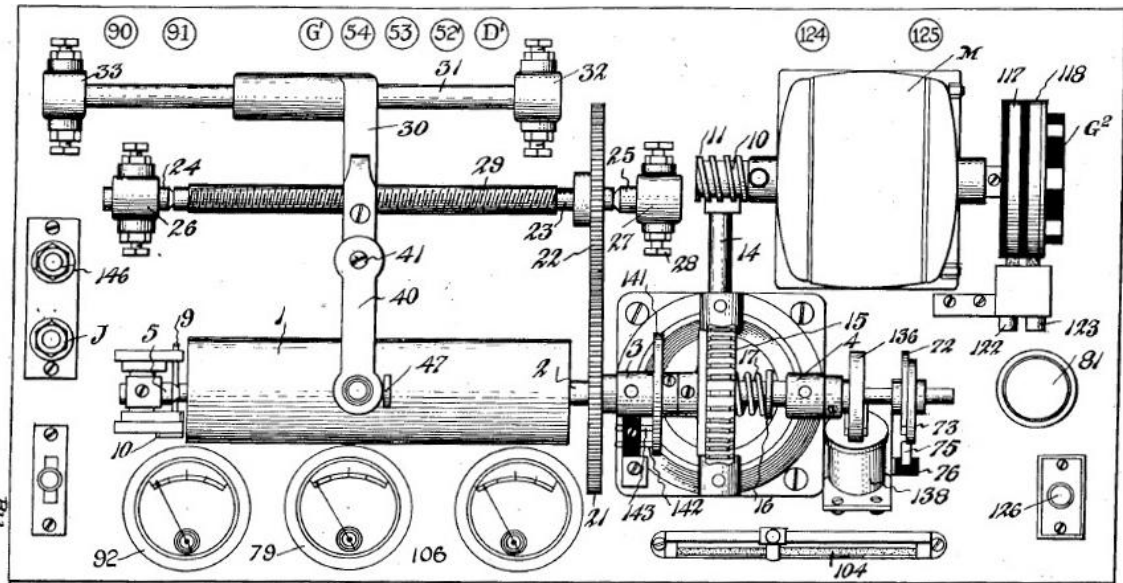


Schéma de l'appareil émetteur

M. Ferree et al. *Method of and means for transmitting pictures* US1529473

Radio Transmission of Photographs

A Recently Developed and Simplified, Yet Accurate Method of Transmission.

BY A. P. PECK

Below and to the right will be seen the transmitting apparatus used for sending photographs by radio. As will be noted, the apparatus takes up little more space than the average receiving set. A cylinder is rotated by means of an electric photograph motor, a governor being used to maintain a constant predetermined speed. The photograph, made into a half-tone on copper or zinc with a one-line screen is placed on the cylinder with a stylus in contact with it. The stylus moves in a spiral course at a rate of 175 turns to the inch. The stylus, working over the indented surface of the half-tone causes fluctuations in the current.

Above: The receiving apparatus used by Mr. Ferree in the reproduction of photographs transmitted by radio. At the right in the above photograph is a standard radio receiving set and at the left will be seen the apparatus for reproducing the transmitted photograph. Mr. Ferree has perfected his apparatus to a very great extent and claims that it will be extremely useful in newspaper work for transmitting photographs of current events. With this apparatus, it is possible to carry on communication over the same lines on which the photograph is being transmitted, both transmissions taking place simultaneously.

Above: The inventor of the system of radio and wire transmission of photographs, Marvin Ferree.

Below at left: A diagram of the transmitting cylinder and stylus contact. The half-tone is prepared on either a copper or zinc plate and then formed on the cylinder so as to fit the latter perfectly. The cylinder turns at the same speed as the receiving cylinder pictured below at right. The receiving stylus acts on a chemically prepared paper which turns black or gray, forming the picture.

COPPER SCREEN CUT OF PICTURE PREPARED FOR TRANSMISSION

STYLUS

COPPER SCREEN ON ROLLER

TRANSMISSION

RECEIVER

REPRODUCING PHOTO ON CHEMICALLY PREPARED PAPER ON CYLINDER

STYLUS

CYLINDERS REVOLVED SYNCHRONOUSLY

CHEMICALLY PREPARED PAPER AROUND CYLINDER

RADIO TRANSMITTER

RADIO RECEIVER

RECEIVING PHOTO BY RADIO

Above: The original photograph and reproduction after being transmitted by radio. The top photograph is the original and the bottom one the reproduction. At the receiving end, no trace of the screen used in making the half-tone is visible, the only effect being a few vertical lines.

Above will be seen two unretouched photographs of America's most beautiful girl, Miss Catharine Campbell. The original is at the left. The reproduction at the right was telegraphed over a 400 mile line. The entire time of transmission is in all cases less than five minutes.

The scene of an automobile accident transmitted 900 miles by radio. The original is the lower photograph and the transmitted copy is at the top. With later developments along this line better transmission will undoubtedly be accomplished and practically perfect photographs will be reproduced.

Dans l'article de *Science and Invention*, le système est décrit comme recourant à la transmission sans fil. Cependant, le brevet initial précise que le système peut fonctionner en transmission sur câble télégraphique, téléphonique ou par transmission sans fil et c'est avec câbles télégraphiques de la Western Union qu'il va être exploité.

Monté sur une base légère en aluminium, de 23 X 12 pouces et demi, le Telepix n'est pas plus lourd qu'une machine à écrire et est aussi facile à utiliser qu'un phonographe.

Une petite image peut être envoyée en quinze à vingt minutes et une grande en une heure et 20 minutes environ. Plusieurs images, petites ou grandes, peuvent être transmises simultanément sur un seul appareil et peuvent être reçues simultanément dans les villes connectées au réseau.

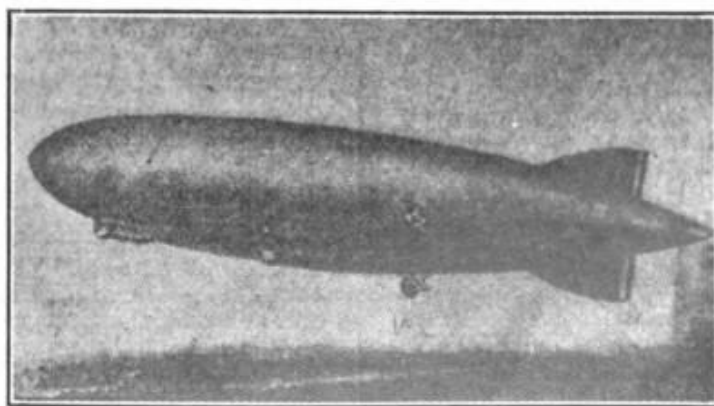


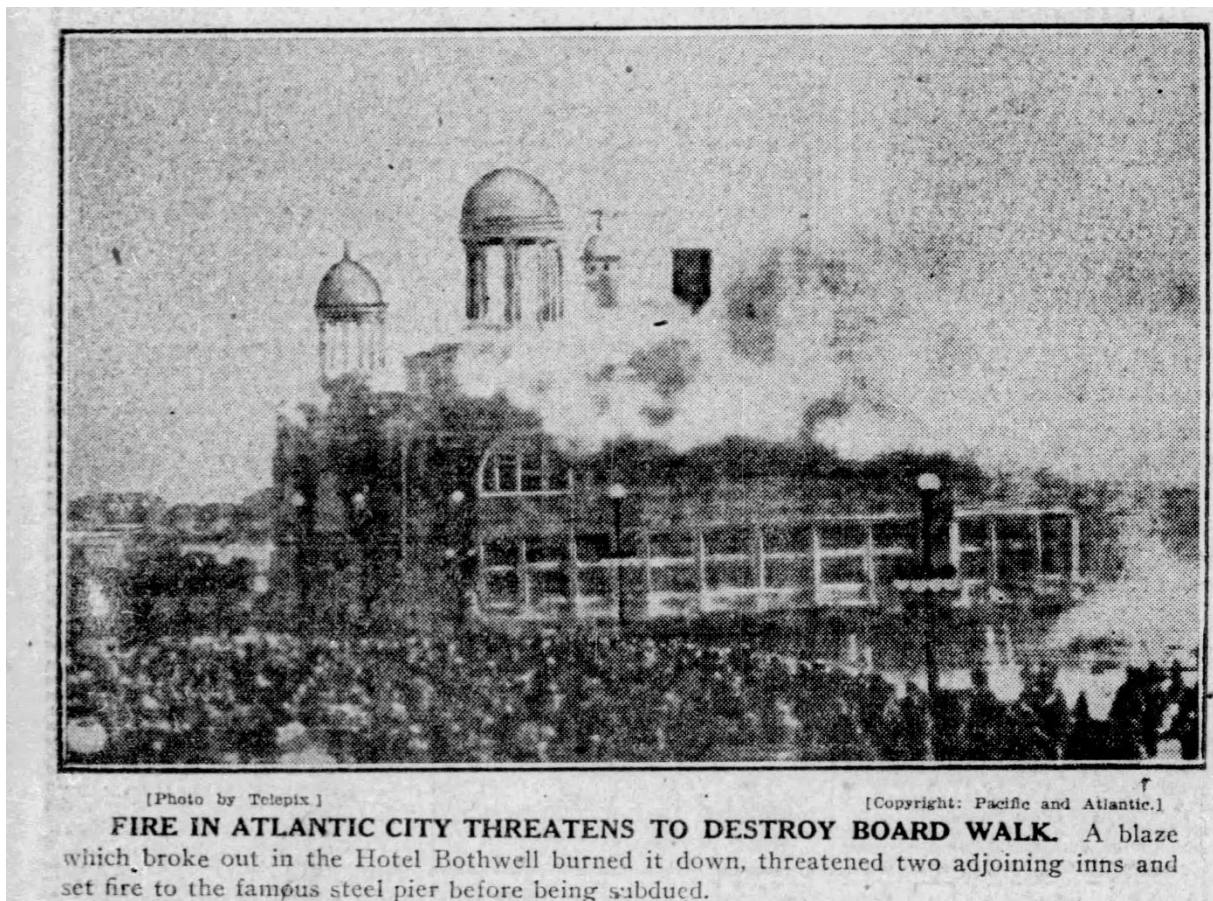
FIGURE 6—This Picture was Transmitted by the "Ferree" System in 1924

Photo transmise par le procédé Ferree en 1924 (reproduite in R.Ranger, 1925.)

Quelques mois d'exploitation commerciale

Le système a été exploité par la société Pacific & Atlantic Photos Inc. ("P. & A. Photos"), filiale photographique du *Chicago Tribune*. *The Chicago Tribune*, *The New York Daily News* et *The Los Angeles Times* sont reliés par le système de phototélégraphie de Marvin Ferree, qui fonctionne sur des lignes télégraphiques louées à la Western Union.

La première photo publiée avec le label Telepix (un incendie à Atlantic City) apparaît dans le *Chicago Tribune* du 19 novembre 1924. Le 4 décembre le journal publie côte à côte un portrait du premier ministre grec Simopoulos, transmis par câble avec le procédé Ferree et de l'ambassadeur Kellog qui vient d'être transmis depuis Londres, sans fil, dans le cadre de la première démonstration du procédé Ranger de RCA. Les lignes ondulées qui caractérisent les *photoradiograms* du procédé Ranger paraissent donner un avantage de qualité au procédé Telepix de Ferree.



Première photo Telepix, City, *Chicago Tribune*, 19 November 1924

Des photos Telepix sont également publiées en décembre 1924 par *The Daily News*, *The Urbana Daily Courier* et *The Los Angeles Times*.



[Telepix Picture: Copyright by P. & A.]

PICTURE SENT BY WIRE. This photo of Charalambous Simopoulos, new Greek minister to U. S., who arrived in New York yesterday, was sent by wire last night over system developed by The Tribune.



[Pacific and Atlantic Photo.]

PICTURE SENT BY RADIO. This photo of U. S. Ambassador Kellogg was sent through the air from the Welsh coast to America by system developed by the Radio Corporation of America. (Story on page 17.)

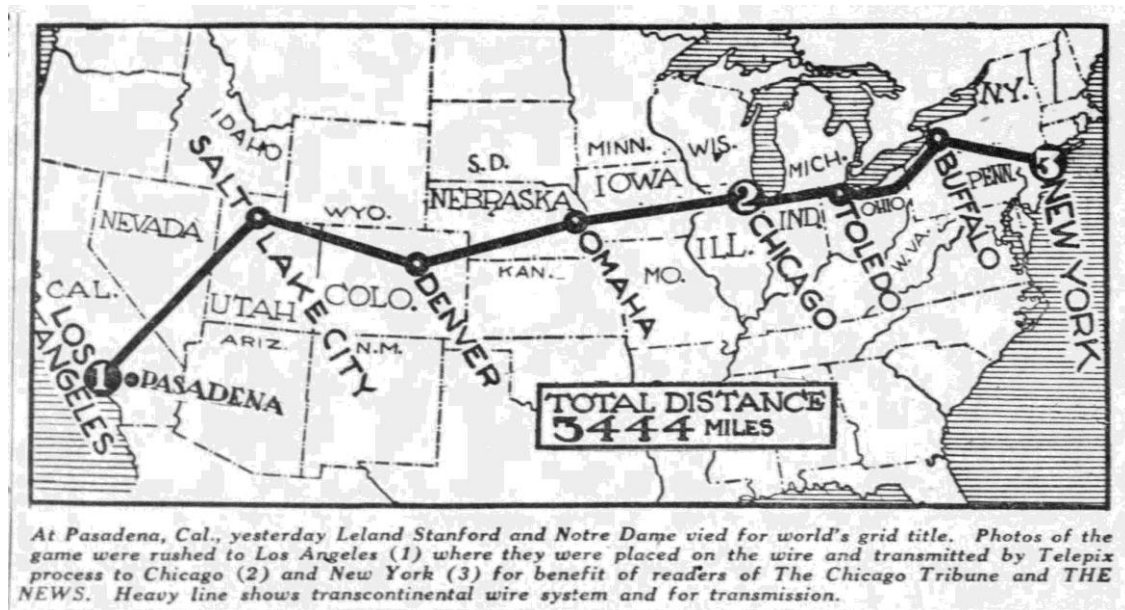
Portrait du premier ministre grec Simopoulos, transmis par câble avec le procédé Ferree et de l'ambassadeur Kellogg transmis sans fil avec le procédé Ranger de RCA.

(*Chicago Tribune*, 4 December 1924)

Ce n'est que dans [leurs éditions du 2 janvier 1925](#) que *The Chicago Tribune*, *The Daily News* et *The Los Angeles Times* présentent le nouveau système. Le quotidien de Chicago valorise des photographies du match opposant les équipes de Notre-Dame et Sandford University, qui a eu lieu à Pasadena, à 2000 miles de distance. Il s'agit en fait de la première transmission *coast to coast* de photographies. Le *Los Angeles Times* et le *New York Daily News* valorisent quant à eux des échanges de vœux (avec photographie et texte manuscrit) entre les gouverneurs de Californie et de l'Etat de New York. *The Daily News* consacre une pleine page à la publication de quatre photos dans leur tirage original et telles qu'elles ont reçues après leur transmission.

La transmission "coast to coast" des photographies du match de Pasedena a eu un écho énorme, le jour même, dans la presse des Etats-Unis. Certains titres, tels que *The South Bend Tribune* (South Bend, Indiana) ont reproduit la pleine page du *Daily News*. Pour illustrer la nouvelle technologie, divers journaux ont dû se contenter de la

photographie de la meurtrière Emma Hobough, qui venait d'être déclarée malade mentale. Seize quotidiens souscriront au service.

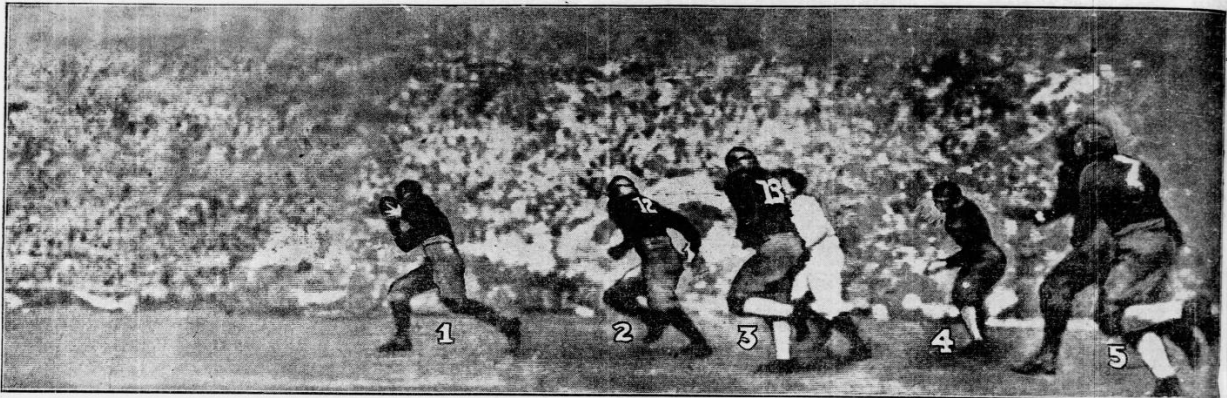


Carte de la transmission des images du match Notre-Dame/Sanford,
The Daily News, 2 January 1925.



The Springfield Daily Republican, 1st January 2025

Telepix Brings First Pictures of Notre Dame Defeating Leland Stanford University, 27 to 10



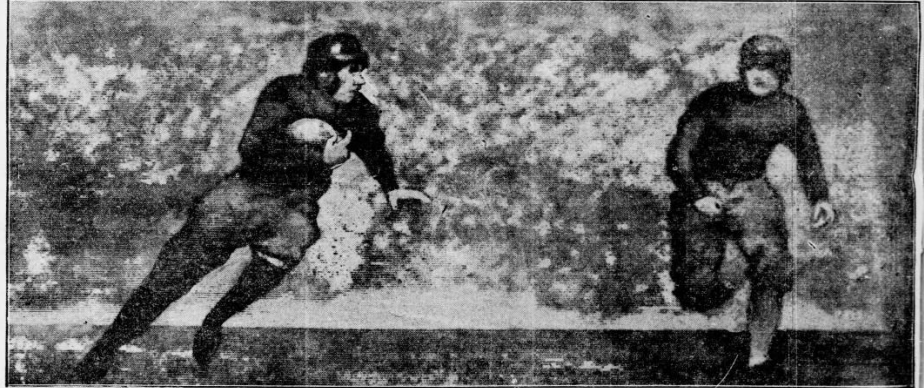
RACING 60 YARDS TO A TOUCHDOWN FOR NOTRE DAME. In the second quarter of game in which Notre Dame beat Leland Stanford 27 to 10, Elmer Layden, fullback for the victors and one of the heroes of the encounter, intercepted a forward pass and tore down the field for 60 yards and a touchdown. (1) Layden; (2) Huntzinger, Notre Dame right end; (3) Solomon, Stanford quarterback; (4) Kelly, Stanford half; and (5) Cuddeback, Stanford half, chasing the Notre Dame player who carries the ball. In the background the crowds in the stands. Some 53,000 spectators, packed in the huge bowl at Pasadena, witnessed the game.

(Photo Photo: Copyright by P. & A.)



STARS FOR ROCKNE'S MEN. Elmer Layden, full back, two times in yesterday's game intercepted forward passes and raced to touchdowns. One run was for 85, another for 60 yards.

(Story on page 1.)



TRAMPLING OVER STANFORD'S HOPES. Don Miller, right half back for the national intercollegiate champions, rides through four tacklers in the first quarter, plunges around Stanford's right end, and is pulled up on Stanford's 9 yard line. Shipkey, left end for the western eleven, is shown preparing to tackle Miller. The gain went for naught, for several plays later Notre Dame lost the ball on an intercepted pass.

(Photo Photo: Copyright by P. & A.)

(Story on page 1.)



ONE OF THE FOUR HORSEMEN GALLOPING. Picture taken in the first quarter of dramatic game played yesterday afternoon at Pasadena, Cal., where Notre Dame defeated Leland Stanford 27 to 10. In the photo, Crowley, left half back of the Notre Dame eleven, tears around right end for a twenty-seven yard gain, taking the ball to the forty-nine yard line. It was one of a number of beautiful runs executed by the dashing half back from South Bend.

(Photo Photo: Copyright by P. & A.)

(Story on page 1.)

Dear Honorable Richardson
The people of New York
Still join with me in
caring my thoughts for
New York itself, and
Chicago, but rather for
a program New Year
to grow and the
City of California
Affectionately
Governor of New York

(Photo Photo: Copyright by P. & A.)

EAST GREET WEST. Photographic copy of New Year's message of Gov. Al Smith of New York. It was sent by Telepix over telegraph wires to Gov. Richardson of California.

News Photos Sent From Los Angeles to New York Like Telegrams

GOTHAM GETS FOOTBALL PICTURES FROM HERE

Governors of California and New York Exchange Greetings in Their Own Handwritings

(Continued from First Page)

—telegraphic pictures—were printed in the Los Angeles Times, giving the Times readers the first view of important news events throughout the country at the same time that the press dispatches dealing with these occurrences were published in the adjoining news columns.

GOVERNORS' GREETINGS

Yesterday, in recognition of the epoch-making event, the governors of New York and California exchanged greetings and their messages and photographs showing them in the act of writing their greetings, were flashed across 1800 miles of continent by the teleplex.

Gov. Smith's message to California, received here in his own handwriting, read:

"Dear Gov. Richardson:
The people of New York State join with me in conveying through the Daily News and teleplex best wishes for a prosperous New Year to yourself and the citizens of California."
[Signed]

"ALFRED SMITH,
Governor of New York."
Gov. Richardson's reply and his photograph were wired over the teleplex to New York. The message read:

"Honorable Alfred H. Smith,
Governor of New York, Albany, N. Y."

"Dear Gov. Smith:
I have received your message of good will and return herewith my sincere appreciation and wish you and the good citizens of New York a sane and sensible New Year. This message is being sent to you through The Los Angeles Times and teleplex."
[Signed]

"FRIEND W. RICHARDSON."
HOW IT LOOKS
The principle of the teleplex is not difficult to grasp. If the reader will closely examine a reproduction of a photograph in a newspaper he will discover that the picture is made up of a multitude of tiny dots. The blacker the spot on the photograph the greater the density of these dots. The teleplex, it may be said in a general way, transmits these dots by establishing an electrical contact where each of them appears on the half-tone plate. The machine transmits forty dots a second, and requires an hour or seventy-five minutes to transmit an ordinary photograph.

Other similar principles have been partially developed, but all were too bulky and complicated, with the result that they were called impractical. The teleplex is as simple and as foolproof as a telephone, its developers say. A single machine will send and receive. It requires but one operator. All the sending operator has to do is to fix a copper plate to a drum and press a button. The machine operates itself. On the receiving end he slips a piece of ordinary bond paper on the drum, presses another button and the machine begins to reproduce the photograph.

The teleplex stands on an ordinary table. It is about ten inches high, less than a yard in length and not over eighteen inches wide. The transmission of photos by teleplex does not cost any more than ordinary press dispatches.

The dramatic possibilities of the teleplex were clearly brought out in the preliminary tests and the first pictures sent to and from Los Angeles.

SUCCESSFUL TESTS
The final details of the installation of the teleplex were completed December 15. A few days later, December 18, The Times printed the photograph of "Paul J. Beach and Mrs. Beach" the first photograph to be printed here of the principals in the weird story of the "Mr. Beach" woman who for years posed as a man. The photograph of Mr. Beach and his wife was wired to The Times from Chicago.

A few days later the crack Soo Line Flyer's observation car was plunged into a river at Chippewa Falls, Wis., claiming eight lives. The last of the victims was not yet identified before the photograph of the accident was placed on the teleplex in Chicago and sent to The Times. The Times printed the photograph of the railway car in the water December 22, the same day that the press dispatches carried the story.

Then came the dramatic day in the trial of Ed McCoy, charged with murder. The tensest moment of the trial was when the once debonair kid took the stand in his own defense. The photograph of McCoy on the witness chair was rushed to The Times office and prepared for transmission. The plate was placed on the cylinder. The next morning the readers of the Chicago Tribune and the Daily News in Chicago and New York, like the readers of The Times in Los Angeles, saw the photograph of McCoy testifying for his life.

The actual elapsed time for the transmission of this photograph—the first transcontinental operation of the teleplex from the Pacific Coast—was three hours, a little more than an hour longer than it would have taken to prepare the photograph for publication in Los Angeles.

The photograph of an important play in the U.S.C.-Missouri football game here Christmas Day was published in Chicago the next morning on the Chicago Tribune's picture page and side by side with a photograph of a fire in a five-story building at 512 River street, a block away from the Tribune Building.

The photograph of the victim in the Torchia Christmas bomb case was sent to Chicago the same day. The spectacular fire in Coney Island was wired to The Times by teleplex and was printed in Los Angeles only one edition behind the New York newspapers.

The other pictures sent to The Times from New York and Chicago included the photograph of Mrs. Florence Terry Hill, the little school-teacher who gave her life in an effort to save the lives of children in the Hobart (Okla.) fire, the wrecked mail plane in Illinois, the opening of the Parliament in England, and the arrival of Sheppard, one of the important figures in the McClellan case, in Chicago.

All of these photographs were exact reproductions of the originals.

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Many Parleys Loom for Year

(Continued from First Page)

pared for a conference called by Mr. Coolidge.

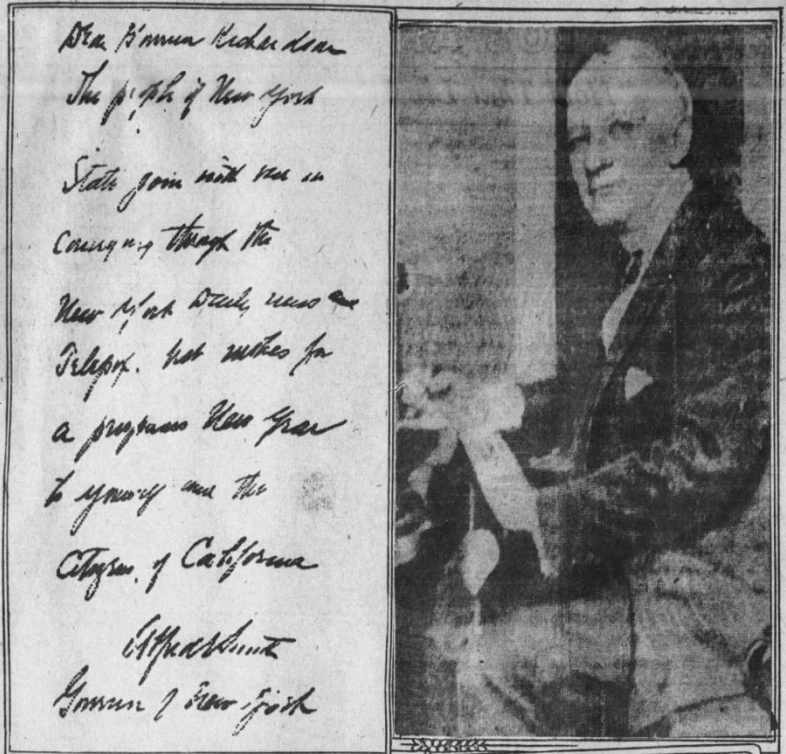
The case of Mr. Britten and his Pacific conference have given our statesmen their one real holiday laugh. Mr. Britten, the intrepid author of gun elevation and other plans to make our Navy superior to all others, surrendered in this instance before he began to fight.

The Chicago Congressman began by introducing a resolution authorizing the President to call a conference of the white peoples of the Pacific for the promotion of their common interests. In support of his proposal he cited a newspaper editorial advocating a conference of the United States, Canada, Australia and New Zealand, looking to the establishment of white unity in the Pacific as a safeguard against possible Japanese designs.

He was sure, Mr. Britten went on to say, that such a conference would be held some day and he had no apologies to offer for having introduced the resolution.

POWER LINE COMPLETED
FABENS (Tex.) Jan. 1.—The El Paso Electric Railway Company has finished the construction of its high-voltage transmission line from El Paso down the valley of the Rio Grande, through Telesita, San

East Greet West as New Era in Communication Opens



of its editor, George Harvey. It began thus:

"Let us calmly consider the case of Mr. Fred A. Britten. We shall consider him not only calmly but coldly and dispassionately as a scientist might a rare specimen under the microscope or a doctor with a guinea pig. Guinea pigs have their uses in the economy of nature. Why do they squeal? We know not, but the same beneficent Providence that makes guinea pigs make Mr. Britten a member of Congress."

The editorial accused Mr. Britten with his expressed assumption that the Japanese war preparations reported by Secretary of the Navy Wilbur to Congress would be directed ultimately against the United States. The next day Mr. Britten arose in the House and beat a retreat in these words:

"Mr. Chairman, I included in my resolution the word 'white'—white nations on the Pacific. I did it purposely, but after thinking it over and reading various editorials for and against the resolution, it might be well to modify that and say 'all peoples of the Pacific' and take Japan and China in for a solution of the difficult problems of the Pacific."

He was sure, Mr. Britten went on to say, that such a conference would be held some day and he had no apologies to offer for having introduced the resolution.



Photo, Original Script by Wire

[Teleplex Photo]

Upper left is photo-static copy of message sent by wire from New York. Upper right is teleplex photo of Gov. Smith. Below is the teleplex machine which transmits photographs with the same ease as electric tickers send messages by wire.

The "Hit" of the Season



Eyes of the Telepix Peer Across a Nation and See Distant Things



Photo at left is the original picture taken after J. Warren Kerrigan, movie star, was injured in auto crash at Dixon, Ill. Compare it with one at right transmitted by Telepix to THE NEWS from Chicago.



Upper picture is the original photo of the exhumation of body of William McClintock, the cause of whose death has been under investigation in Chicago. The lower one is the Telepix photo, in no way retouched, published in THE NEWS just as it was received.



Upper is original photo of Chippewa Falls, Wis., wreck. Lower is Telepix photo

MARVEL of the Telepix, latest achievement in news gathering, which faithfully reproduces photos telegraphed thousands of miles by simple



At left is an original photo of E. M. Torchia, Los Angeles lawyer who was frightfully maimed by a bomb. At right is the Telepix photo of Torchia transmitted across a continent in an hour to THE NEWS, whereas it would have taken four and a half days by fastest trains to bring the photo here from the California city.

process similar to dots and dashes is explained in THE NEWS today. Original and transmitted photos can hardly be told apart. Story on page 6.

The Daily News, 2 January 1925

L'objectif déclaré de Pacific and Atlantic Photos était très ambitieux. Dans une interview à *Fourth Estate*, son directeur général H.B. Baker déclara :

« Une couverture photographique complète du pays est assurée par le système mis au point par le Chicago Tribune Syndicate et Pacific and Atlantic Photos . Notre projet prévoit de recruter vingt-cinq à trente abonnés à travers tout le pays, chacun étant responsable de la couverture photographique de sa ville. À partir de ces journaux clés, des photos pourront être envoyées aux abonnés des villes voisines. Comme le seul appareil requis est un télégraphe Telepix, et que le fil utilisé est un fil

ordinaire loué par Western Union - le même type de fil utilisé pour les dépêches - l'installation est très simple et peu coûteuse. »

Divers magazines (*Science of Innovation, Radio Broadcast, Editor and Publisher, The Four Estate*) publient des articles sur le système Ferree. Un des principaux concurrents de Ferree, Richard Ranger, qui travaille pour RCA, mentionne le système Ferree dans la conférence qu'il fait à l'Institute of Radio Engineers, le 3 juin 1925, mais il ne le discute pas.

La revue *Photographic Journal* dans son éditorial du 4 février 1925 propose un dialogue humoristique entre un journaliste et son grand-père :

« As-tu lu l'article souligné dans le Chicago Tribune que je t'ai envoyé hier, celui qui décrit l'envoi de photos de San Francisco à Chicago par télégraphe ? »

« Tu crois tout ça ? »

« Bien sûr. Tu ne m'as pas encore menti. »

« Eh bien, le même type qui a installé le Telepix pour le Chicago Tribune a inventé... » et là, le jeune reporter baissa la voix et alla fermer la porte.

« Imagine, grand-père, il a inventé un moyen d'envoyer toutes sortes de boissons par télégraphe. Tu peux faire installer une connexion dans ta grange et personne ne s'en apercevra. Tu peux commander de la bière, de l'ale, du rhum, du whisky, du gin, du brandy, du champagne... tout ce que tu veux. »

Le jeune reporter désigna un poste radio flambant neuf posé sur une table d'appoint.

« Il te suffit de mettre cet embout, de coller ta bouche à l'embout, de murmurer ce que tu veux et d'aspirer. »

« Bon sang ! » murmura l'Oracle en s'essuyant la bouche du revers de la main. *« Dis-moi, Sonny, elle est branchée? »*

Le système a eu peu d'écho en Europe. T. Thorne-Baker, lui-même inventeur d'un système, le connaît par un article du *Harrington's Photographic Journal*. Il le classe, comme le sien propre dans la lignée des appareils de téléautographie, dans la lignée ouverte par Bakewell (et donc de Bain). Korn et Nesper ne le mentionnent pas dans leur état de l'art *Bildrundfunk* (1926).

L'intérêt pour le système est cependant de courte durée. La fin du service est annoncée dès octobre 1925. L'intérêt pour le système est cependant de courte durée. La fin du service est annoncée dès octobre 1925. Avec une quinzaine de villes couvertes, l'objectif annoncé de la quarantaine d'abonnés n'a pas été atteint.

Le processus est considéré comme trop lent : il est nécessaire de rephotographier et de retoucher les photos avant de les envoyer à l'impression. (*Omaha World Herald*, 17 October 1925). Ce problème semble avoir été important. Des différentes photos publiées que nous avons pu identifier une seule, l'arrivée à Chicago de William D. Sheppard, publiée le 24 décembre 1924 par *The Daily News* conserve la texture linéaire telle qu'elle apparaissait probablement à la réception. Il s'agissait probablement dans ce cas particulier d'un test.



Arrivée à Chicago de William D. Sheppard,
The New York Daily News, 29 December 1924

Le service semble cependant avoir continué de manière plus restreinte. Les dernières photos sourcées Telepix apparaissent le 5 août 1926 dans *The Daily News* : elle sont consacrées aux luttes religieuses au Mexique, transmises depuis Mexico et elle constituent, paradoxalement une première utilisation internationale du système.

TELEPIX ABANDONED AT END OF THIS WEEK

Telegraph Pictures Are Not
Practical Although Show-
ing the Possibilities.

MILESTONE IN PROGRESS

"Telepix," pioneer and forerunner of the era when telephone and telegraph pictures will be common as Uncle Sam's mail, is discontinued at the end of this week.

Experiments in which this newspaper and fifteen others have been engaged have demonstrated that while "Telepix" is wonderful in showing the possibilities, telegraph pictures have not reached the practical stage. The trying out of the "Telepix" system has been one of the efforts necessary in developing a practical product.

While the telegraph method was fairly successful in transmitting reproductions of faces, the process required re-photographing and re-touching and other treatment which involved time and expense. Experiments to simplify and improve the pictures did not materialize, so that this plan is now abandoned.

The Chicago Tribune, through its picture organization, Pacific and Atlantic Photos, Inc., put "Telepix" in a number of newspapers on a wire across the country and into the south. The World-Herald joined in this pioneer effort, which proved merely a milestone in progress toward "pictures in the newspapers the same day" from all over the world. Some of the other newspapers in the circuit were leading papers in Los Angeles, San Fran-

cisco, Salt Lake, Portland, Pittsburgh, Philadelphia, Kansas City, St. Louis, New Orleans, Birmingham, Atlanta and Baltimore.

REPORT 107 CARS STOLEN LAST WEEK

Of 107 cars reported stolen in Omaha during the legion convention only three have not yet been recovered, according to Police Inspector Pszanowski.

Not one major crime was committed during the week, Chief of Detectives Danbaum said.

The most resultful place to hang your house for sale sign is in the "Real Estate" columns of the World-Herald. Phone JA 6633.

—Adv.



Healthful C

is the protection every housekeeper
Old Dutch Cleanser. The fine flat sh
well as invisible dirt—and it doesn't

Old Dutch is Econom

Telepix Photos Tell Story of Religious Fight in Mexico

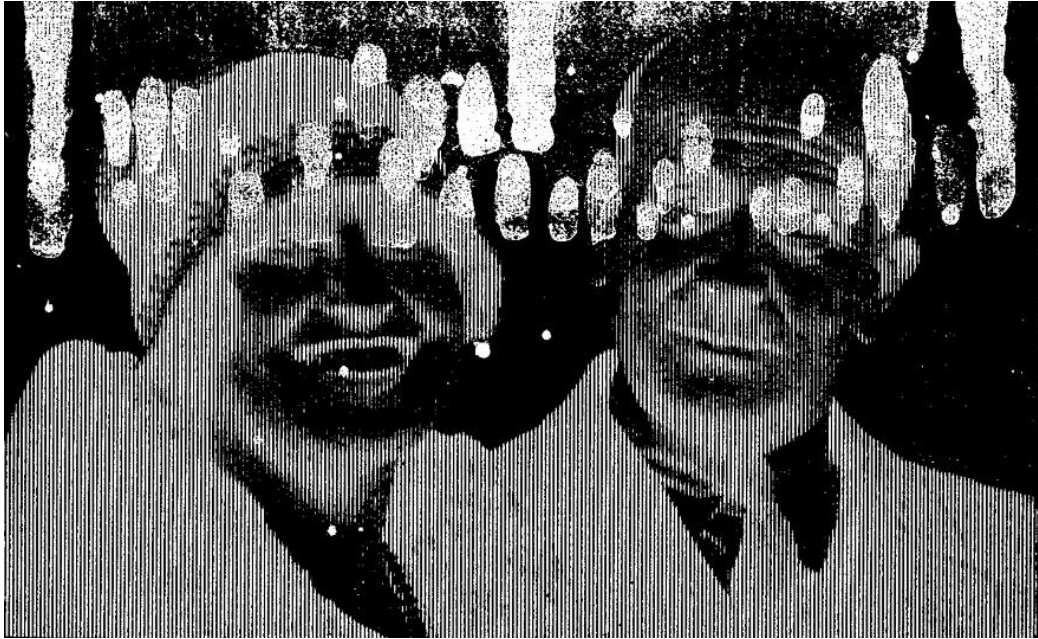


FOUR OUNCES OF DOG—This is Monbar Munkie, six weeks' old Boston Terrier, belonging to Mrs. H. V. Russo of 235 East Eighty-third Street. The animal easily fitted into a four-ounce graduating glass.

PHOTOS TELL MEXICO STORY—Here are some views taken in Mexico since the religious trouble in the southern republic. Upper left, telepix photo showing Rafael Villanar (left), R. G. Gomez (center), E. G. Gomez (right) of Young Men's Catholic School, arrested in Mexico City for having circulated a letter; upper right, latest photo of President Calles and some of his military leaders; center, telepix photo of crowds in front of Cathedral of Guadalupe in Mexico City; lower, photo of Catholic priest, May 2 (above), called before the justice in Mexico City for disobeying the municipal order.

Un second brevet pour un appareil perfectionné, le Ferreegraph

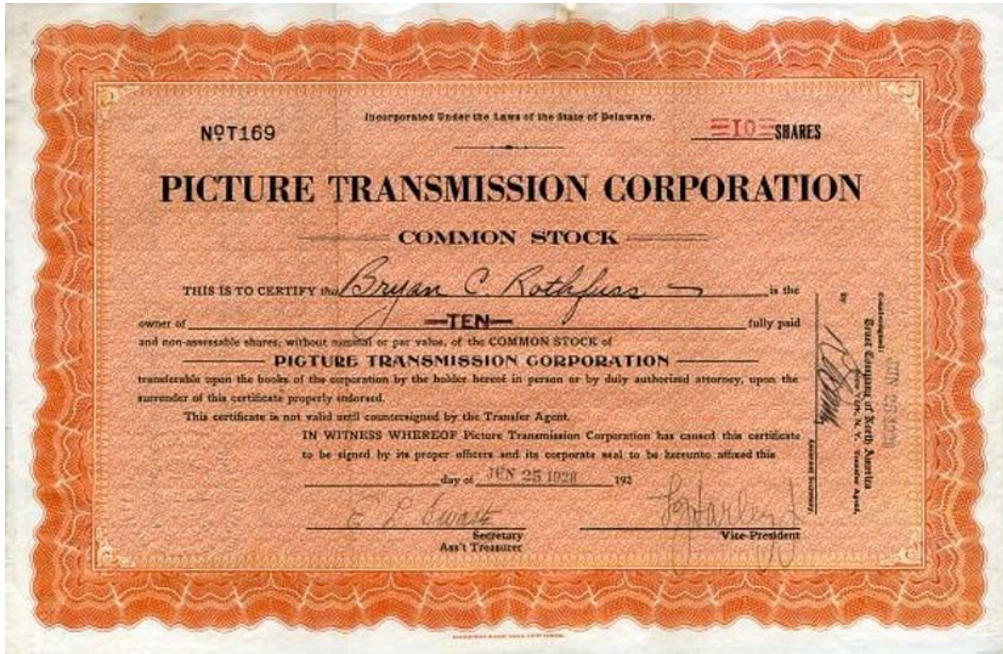
Un second brevet M. Ferree et al. *Method of transmitting pictures and sending plate therefor* [US1680666](#) a été déposé le 28 janvier 1925 et attribué le 30 octobre 1928. Le second brevet va plus loin en détruisant intentionnellement la trame dans les zones grises via une surexposition massive, pour obtenir des signaux continus et une reproduction beaucoup plus proche d'une photographie réelle. Le brevet inclut deux photos en négatif, l'une avec l'ancien système (qui fait apparaître d'importantes tâches) et l'autre avec le nouveau système.



Négatifs obtenus par le premier système Ferree (1924) et par le nouveau (1926) (à droite).

M. Ferree et al. *Method of transmitting pictures and sending plate therefor* [US1680666](#)

Le brevet a été acquis par la Picture Transmission Corporation. Des publicités parues dans le *Brooklyn Daily Times* entre avril 1928 et mars 1929 indiquent que l'appareil est commercialisé sous le nom de *Ferreegraph*. Un article paru dans le même *Brooklyn Daily Times* le 28 mai 1928 affirme que l'appareil améliore la qualité du service du Telepix et qu'il peut être un complément utile à la radio.



Action de la Picture Transmission Corporation

Source : [Early Television and Television Hobby experimenters](#)



Publicité parue dans *The Brooklyn Daily Times* entre le 23 avril et le 15 octobre 1929



FROM HERE

FERREEGRAPH
Gets There First

FROM THE RINGSIDE at the Sharkey-Stribling fight, a photographer rushes a picture to the MIAMI DAILY NEWS plant

A little machine—no larger and not so complicated as a radio set—is waiting.

TELEGRAPH wires lead the way through the rainy night to a duplicate machine 1,200 miles north in the heart of NEW YORK CITY.

In MIAMI a cylinder around which a copper plate has been clamped, begins to revolve and WITH THE SPEED OF LIGHT, the FIRST FIGHT PICTURES start to come off on the receiving drum in NEW YORK CITY.

THESE MIAMI FIGHT PICTURES BY FERREEGRAPH were received in New York many hours IN ADVANCE OF ANY OTHERS.

Picture Transmission Corporation
7 East 44th Street, New York City

HERE

NEW YORK DAILY NEWS says "... the only pictures of the wedding-in and the fight itself to be carried today in any morning newspaper in New York City or vicinity" (issue of February 28th, 1929).

WITH TELEGRAPHIC SPEED

Original from

Publicité pour le Ferreegraph,
Editor & Publisher v.61pt.3, March, 9, 1929

Le seul événement qui a été couvert à travers le service est le match de boxe Sharkey-Stribling, qui s'est déroulé à Miami le 28 février, dont on trouve des photos dans une quinzaine de journaux, dont *The New York Daily*. Le quotidien new-yorkais avait sorti une édition spéciale le 1er mars avec à la une les photographies de P&A, transmises par Ferreegraph. D'après ce que l'on peut en juger, la qualité des images n'était pas très bonne.

Average net paid circulation
of 1928: 1,581,237
Sunday, 1,581,237
Daily, 1,255,101

DAILY NEWS EXTRA EDITION

Vol. 10, No. 212 44 Pages

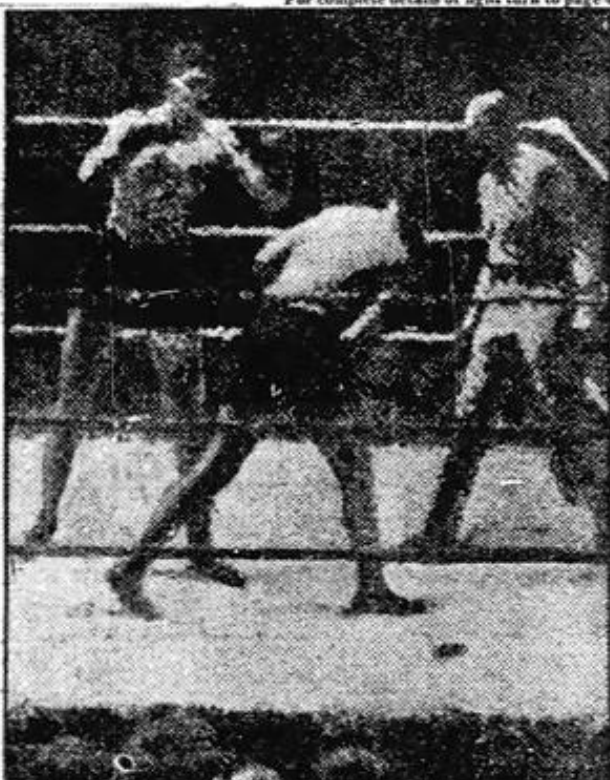
New York, Thursday, February 28, 1929

2 Cents (U.S. & Poss.)

SHARKEY OUTPOINTS STRIBLING

FIRST FIGHT PICTURES

For complete details of fight turn to page 40.



(NEWS Photo, B. P. & A. Photos, Inc., Transmitted by Ferreograph Pictures Transmission Corp.)
On the scales! Stribling (right) smiles sweetly as his tussle is recorded and Sharkey, waiting his turn, grins right back. Then they get in ring and socked.

SHARKEY OUTPOINTS STRIBLING!—Jack Sharkey, Boston bean gobber, had little trouble in disposing of Young Stribling, the gentleman from Georgia, in a ten round decision bout at Miami last night. The

(NEWS Photo © by Pacific & Atlantic Photo Inc., Transmitted by Ferreograph Pictures Transmission Corp.)
It's out! The battle of the century-note! Jack Sharkey, the garrulous gob (center), was loosening a left to Stribling's jaw when this shot was made in the first round last night. He missed that one, but landed plenty of others later on.

DAILY NEWS prints above the only pictures of the weighing in and the fight itself to be carried today in any morning newspaper in New York or vicinity.—Story, p. 40; other pics, back page.

Lindy Hurt in Plane Crash With Anne

PAGE 3

(News Photos copyright by P. & A. Photos, Inc., transmitted by Ferreograph Pictures Transmission corp.)

Here is a photographic reproduction of the extra edition of yesterday's NEWS which gave to New York the first pictures of the Sharkey-Stribling fight in Miami Beach, Fla. The picture at the left shows the weighing ceremony and at the right is a bit of action in the first round.

Une de l'édition spéciale du *Daily News*, 28 février 1929,
reproduite dans *The Daily News* du 1er mars 1929.

Les systèmes concurrents (en particulier le service Telephoto d'ATT recourant à une cellule photoélectrique, mis en service le 4 avril 1925 et celui de RCA, perfectionnement du système Rangern allaient emporter les marchés. Selon Charles C. Henry, la qualité est aussi bonne que celle du [système ATT](#).

Dans les années 50, le terme *telepix* changera de sens désignera les films produits pour la télévision.

L'expérience éphémère du Telepix avec les journaux associés du *Chicago Tribune* n'est pas sans rappeler celle du telediagraph d'Ernst Hummel, qui eu son heure de gloire en 1899 grâce à son utilisation expérimentale par le *New York Herald* et ses associés. Comme le *telediagraph*, le système Telepix de Ferree est tombé dans l'oubli et rares sont les historiens de la téléphotographie, de la presse et de la télévision qui le mentionnent. Le principal historien de la téléphotographie, Coppersmidt l'ignore, de même que les historiens de la télévisions Shiers, Abramson et Burns. Dans son article "A Historical Look at Facsimile" sur McFarlane (1980) ne le cite que d'après Thorne-Baker. Jennifer S. Light (2006) cite le Telepix comme un service d'Associated Press et de Western Union. On ne prête qu'aux riches ! Comme d'autres inventeurs de la période, non encore intégrés dans les laboratoires des grands opérateurs, Ferree n'a pu se confronter à la concurrence des systèmes industriels dont les moyens sont seuls en mesure d'affronter la complexité des développements technologiques et des marchés.

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Les coupures de presse sont extraites de Newspapers.com pour les quotidiens et de WorldRadioHistory pour *Science and Invention*.

