

Topic 43

Videography- Historical Background

With the invention of the kinoscope by Thomas Edison in 1891, the trend towards what we now call videography had begun. The kinoscope led the way to the Kinetograph, which was considered the first motion picture device. The Kinetograph consisted of still photographs that were positioned in a setting of quick stop-and-go film movements and gave the appearance of an actual movie.

In the 1920s and 1930s, people would flock to the movie “picture house” to watch silent movies led by, of course, Charlie Chaplin. Then “talkies” (talking film movies) evolved and the movie industry took off.

In 1932, 8mm movie film cameras and projectors were being sold to the public and the Kodak Company, one of the pioneers for film projection, introduced “Super 8 film.” This format provided images that appeared larger than normal 8mm film.

Whether 8mm or super 8mm film was used, people across the world would use these silent movie cameras to film their families on vacation, their children, and weddings and other affairs. When the movie was complete, the film would be sent to a film development company to process them. In order to view the movie, the film would have to be “sewn” through a “movie projector” before it could be viewed. The process usually took between five to ten minutes to complete.

The technology had its advancements, but in general, making home movies this way continued right into the 1960s and 1970s. Then a breakthrough occurred. What was once only seen in sci-fi movies – “video” became a reality. No more would the people need to use the cumbersome 8mm film cameras and projectors. All that was needed was a video camera, cartridge and a player on which to watch the movies.

In the early years of video, the cameras were large and needed a separate battery back pack when making movies. As technology advanced in the 1980s, the bulky video camera was reduced to a hand-held size, making it much easier for people to take home movies.

Professional photographers embraced this new technology and started offering professional videos for weddings, bar mitzvahs and corporate events; hence, the beginning of the professional videography industry.