

Electronic Tube Stores Images

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WASHINGTON, Dec. 31—

An electronic storage tube invented by a Princeton, N. J., engineer and business man has already found many uses, including the recording of pictures of Mars being returned from Mariner 9. Steven R. Hofstein was granted Patent 3,631,294 this week for the Lithocon, which he says is the first storage tube to record on silicon and silicon dioxide. The patent is assigned to Princeton Electronic Products, Inc., of which Dr. Hofstein is organizer and president. The company has been turning out the device for two years.

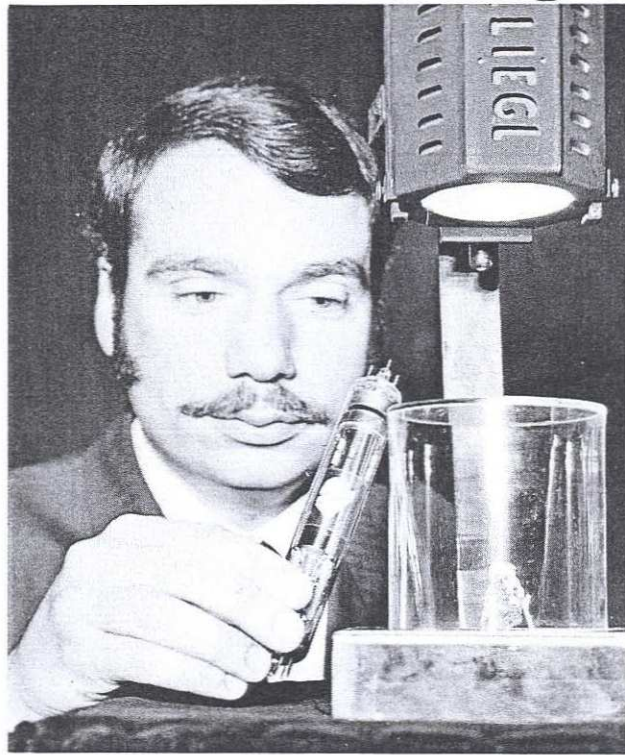
Patents of the Week

The tube has been put to work by the Jet Propulsion Laboratory, Pasadena, Calif., for the Mars pictures; by airlines and Federal agencies for the inspection of parcels that may contain bombs; by hospitals for brief X-ray and sonar exposures, and by libraries for retrieval of publications stored on microfilm.

TV Picture Captured

The Lithocon, which is an inch in diameter and seven inches long, will capture a television picture in less than a thirtieth of a second, and retain it for months. The "target" area consists of more than 10 million silicon storage elements.

The invention has made possible a machine manufac-



Steven R. Hofstein, head of Princeton Electronic Products, Inc., with Lithocon tube he invented to store images.

tured by the Princeton company that looks into sealed, sterile bottles of injectable drug solutions and examines them for contamination by foreign particles.

A number of companies, including RCA, Sylvania and Westinghouse, have recently been putting silicon storage tubes in their products. RCA has such tubes in its new Video Voice for international

communications, which transmits a picture along with a telephone conversation.

In the future, a subscriber may be able to dial a cable television center and get on his silicon tube a copy of the day's horse racing schedule. As many as 30,000 subscribers could receive different pictures simultaneously.

Patents: Wide Uses in Prospect For a Tube That Stores Images

according to Dr. Hofstein.

The inventor resigned from the RCA technical staff in Princeton three years ago to organize his company.