The first camera phone?

- 1997: Philippe Kahn (Founder of Borland)?

Ten years ago, Philippe Kahn was walking around a hospital with a cell phone and a digital camera. His dadly mission: to share pictures of his newborn baby girl. With an assist from Radio Shack, he linked the two devices together and e-mailed photos to family and friends around the world. The day marked a twin birth of sorts: the cell phone camera and daughter Sophie.
The real first camera-phone

OLYMPUS DELTIS VC-1100 - 1994. The VC-1100 was the world's first digital camera with built-in transmission capabilities. Photojournalists and other photographers could connect a modem to the VC-1100 and upload digital photos over cellular and analog phone lines. The camera, which had a built-in zoom lens and an image-capture resolution of 768 by 576 pixels, stored images on PCMCIA cards. Its color LCD viewfinder let you preview photos on location. Shutter 1/8 to 1/1000 second. Lens 54mm and 108mm. The VC-1100's transmitter enabled pictures to be sent over phone lines or a cellular network to a second camera or personal computer. The Deltis transmitted at the rate of one frame every one to six minutes, depending on the picture quality required. The 21-ounce camera, a battery pack, and memory card cost about $4000. The VC-1000 did not have transmission capability and was around $300 cheaper.

The good, bad, ugly camera phone

The Camera Phone

That's not exactly fair, but it's not exactly wrong, either. As Kahn told Wired in 2000: "With this kind of device, you're going to see the best and the worst of things." The best would include phone caller-ID, amateur sports highlights, and the quick citizen snaps taken in the wake of the London bombings. Yet, despite the fun and occasional worthiness, the cell phone camera has launched a thousand jackasses. One representative example: Sportscaster Sean Salisbury was suspended by ESPN last month, reportedly for showing female co-workers cell phone photos of his "equipment."
www.parkingidiots.blogspot.com

picturephoning.com

exploring the new world of picture and video phones

APRIL 24, 2007

VIBRATING MOBILE TELEVISIONS DUE FROM KOREA

These two Korean gentlemen in the photograph are not just watching television on mobile phones - they're actually feeling it. They are checking out the new force-feedback TV standard that's about to take the entire world by storm.

"The so-called 3D broadcasting is so simple in concept it's surprising it hasn't happened before - take key moments from a TV show and send a simultaneous signal to make the phone vibrate. The examples given by LG include a thud as a ball hits the back of the net in football or an in-hand rumble to match whatever onscreen violence is unfolding."

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NTT DOCOMO ADDS MOTION-SENSITIVE GAMING TO CELLPHONES

According to InfoWired, NTT DoCoMo will begin selling in May three cellphones that offer motion-sensitive gaming like that possible with Nintendo’s Wii games console.

Picture left from Joystiq via digg.

"In a boxing game users can throw punches or duck, and their movements are picked up by the phone’s camera.

... To be sure, the cellphones aren’t nearly as reactive as the Wii console but they are likely to become more so as technology improves."

PHONE DESIGNED FOR WATCHING TV

Handset makers are racing to develop better mobile phone screens to meet expected demand for watching TV on the devices, reports Investors Business Daily.

"In Japan, where TV on phones already is becoming commonplace, Sharp announced a fall release of phones featuring 2.2-inch screens that offer contrasts of 2,000:1, about 4 times greater than current top screens.

The new phones also will be capable of receiving digital TV broadcasts, significantly expanding their capabilities since most phones are only able to show video downloaded from the Internet."
Current Events: Voice Recognition on Phones

The phone will tell all at the sound of your voice

By Carolyn Y. Johnson, Globe Staff | April 26, 2007

Voice-activated search is an ancient idea in the sci-fi world of the future, where crew members on Star Trek asked the computer questions. But only now is true voice search making its way onto mobile phones, allowing people to do more than just ask their phones to "call Mom."

VoiceSignal Technologies Inc. in Woburn and Nuxting Communications Inc. in Burlington have both developed software platforms that will provide voice-enabled mobile search and display results on the phone screen. Search giant Google Inc. dipped its toe into the directory assistance business earlier this month with a free 411 service that also offers to send users a text message answering their verbal query. In March, Microsoft Corp. said it would acquire leading voice service provider Telme Networks Inc.

The building interest in such services promises that consumers soon will be able to use their mobile devices to find a pizza parlor in their vicinity and then get a list of options on