

SOAP OPERAS



RHODA BURACK

Q: What is the name of the daytime soap opera you watch?

R: *As the World Turns*.

Q: When is it on?

R: Twelve-thirty Monday through Friday on Channel 2.

Q: How long have you been watching?

R: Two years.

Q: And how did you start watching it?

R: My mother came to visit me from New York and she watched it, so I would sit down with her everyday at 12:30 and we would both have lunch and watch it.

Q: Have you watched any other shows?

R: No, I have never become hooked on any other shows. No, I don't want to become hooked again.

Q: What happens when you miss a show? Do you have somebody watch for you?

R: Not really, except that sometimes there is more going on than other times. Then I will question some of my friends who watch it too.

Q: You are not fanatical about it then.

R: Only during crucial times when there is something very interesting happening. Then I will call a friend and ask what happened.

Q: What do you mean by crucial times?

R: Something drastic happening—somebody dying or somebody having a love affair about to be discovered.

Q: Could you tell me anything that is going on in *As the World Turns*?

R: What holds my interest the most is the intrigue. There is a couple who were in love, and he was married and he was going to get a divorce, but he was having an affair with someone else, and she became pregnant and he didn't know about it. The night he was going to ask his wife for a divorce, he got drunk and she became pregnant, so he couldn't ask for a divorce at that time. He never knew that the girl he really loved was pregnant, and she ended up marrying his stepbrother. So now there is an unhappy child, and she had a nervous breakdown. Now the question is will they ever get together, will anybody find out, things sort of leak out; we don't know what will happen next.

Q: Do you get very involved?

R: Yes, in this particular one I do get involved.

Q: Why is that?

R: Maybe it's sympathy for the woman having been pregnant and marrying a man she didn't love, and as a result having a nervous breakdown. She went through a lot. Even though I haven't had such things in my life. When I was younger my mother used to tell me don't do this with a guy, don't do that with a guy—as far as sex goes she never said anything specific, but she said you will get pregnant. That's all I ever heard. This one got pregnant. And she would cut out newspaper articles for me, and I was always in fear of getting pregnant throughout my young life. I guess maybe I think that is the reason I watch soap operas. Also because the men are so handsome.