



BARBARA EDER

Q: What soap operas did you once watch?

B: *General Hospital* and *Secret Storm*. They were both on at 3:30, so I stopped watching *Secret Storm*.

Q: How did you start watching them?

B: My sister used to watch. She was home with the baby and she got me started. And when the plot started getting boring in *Secret Storm*, I would turn the channel to *General Hospital*.

Q: Was there anything in particular that you did while you watched?

B: I would read the paper sometimes.

Q: Did you watch consistently?

B: Yes. If I was not at home I would turn on a set wherever I was. One time I was back East and I watched everywhere I went. And then once my mother watched for me. Something very crucial was going to happen that day and I was studying for a final and there was no way I could watch. But it is really very funny. You think something crucial

is going to happen that day, but it takes about two weeks to happen.

Q: What did you like about the show?

B: I got involved with the characters?

Q: Do you think they are realistic?

B: I guess not. They have extra traumas. They do not react like normal people.

Q: Why did you get hooked?

B: I guess it is an escape.

Q: I used to watch *House of Dark Shadows*.

B: That was really weird because it was not like the others. It was supposed to be supernatural so you could not really relate to the characters. Did you ever watch *General Hospital*? Jessie is in it and she is like an unreal person and she has been married dozens of times and every man is crazy about her and no one knows what they see in her and why does everyone go to her with their problems? It seems like she has had everything possible happen to her! She has lost babies, been involved in murders, etc.

Q: Did you ever watch *Peyton Place*?

B: Yes, I was going to bring that up. Would you consider it a soap opera? I used to watch it often.

Q: Did you think it was different because it was on at night?

B: Yes, and also because it was filmed, not taped. I loved the people on that show. They were not very real but they were romantic characters. And I loved to see what was going to happen to them. I never saw the movies nor read the book, but I got involved in the show one day. It was the day Barbara Parkins was getting married in the show and I wanted to see how she would look.

Q: What do you watch now?

B: I watch some of the movies that are made for TV and *Monday Night Football*.

Q: There are 14 soap operas on now.

B: Really?

Q: What do you feel about the changing of regulars with new talent?

B: It really turns me off. I remember one character who was a nurse and she left for some reason. So this other woman came in and did it and I just could not stand her. I think the days she was on I watched something else.

Q: Why was the show you watched called *Secret Storm*?

B: Maybe because of the stormy lives the people led. I remember my niece at the time was four or five and her name was Amy and on *Secret Storm* there was a character named Amy. And one day I was watching it in my parent's home and in the story that day they found out that Amy was pregnant. My sister and mother were out shopping and they came in through the door and I ran out screaming "Amy is pregnant," and all they could think of was my sister's daughter. They could not imagine I could be so involved.