

G: As far as watching with the lights out, I really tried to find out if it is really bad for you. It is easier to watch with the lights on because it is too bright otherwise. Sitting too close in fear that you would pick up radiation, well, ah. I have been hanging around TV more than most people. I have worked on high-energy type TVs and projection screens when they first came out, and they were not shielded as they are now. They were running around 30,000 volts. I know they say that the areas pertaining to the ability to have children are affected by radiation. My wife had a child when I was 37, so I feel it did not affect me.

Q: Do you know any other myths?

G: There was a myth about people who used to unplug their sets. Their TV's seemed to start burning when on. It was built with a feature in which the sets burned on a lower level allowing it to come on very quickly. It was not exactly a myth.

Q: Do you know very many people who are really TV addicts?

G: Yes. Most older people. I have quite a few senior citizens who are really fanatics.

Q: Do you find that in most homes there is more than one TV?

G: Yes, most homes do have more than one TV. I have found that the importance of TV is not as great as it used to be. I think that the orientation has gotten away from being a spectator in the world to doing more things. All things are based on cycles, and the cycle of TV is not at the most popular point that it has been.

Q: Also, don't you think it is because of the content?

G: Yes, and the attention span, and people just get bored with it. It is not new anymore. From my observations, I think that with the advent of cable television, with the choice of information, people will develop new special interests apart from the limited spectrum of commercial television.

Q: Do you participate in the new TV services this development dictates?

G: Yes. I felt that with the handwriting on the wall, service is not going to be as lucrative as it used to be. What I have tried to do is go into cable type of work in systems and apartment houses. The service is also changing because of the advent of solid state TV, and the diversity of brands of sets which one man could not possibly service.

Q: Did you go to school?

G: I served an apprenticeship in radio before I went into my own business. I did not go to a formal TV school.

Q: What are most servicemen doing?

G: They are going into big corporations.

Q: What do you think about that?

G: It has to be. The cost of overhead is so tremendous it does not pay for a small man to be in business. It is almost impossible to start up a business now.

Q: It must be great going into so many people's

homes. Did you ever service a TV set someone kicked in?

G: Oh yes. With a baseball bat and broke the screen. They got mad at it. From my experience, in the past people would turn on the TV when they got up and turn it off when they went to bed. Now people are more selective in their programming. They do not watch TV just to watch TV. They watch certain shows that interest them.

Q: Do you like *All in the Family*?

G: I don't particularly care for it. It is overdrawn. I am not saying that families could not be involved in that type of setting. It is just exaggerated.

Q: Do you know people who take incredible care of their sets?

G: Well it used to be that people had giant consoles. Big pieces of furniture and the TV was a piece of furniture. You don't have that impact now. You have portable sets.

Q: Did you have a TV set right away?

G: Yes. As soon as I could. I used to watch it all the time. I would come home and watch it. But again, I got bored with it.

Q: Do you enjoy this business?

G: Yes. Over and above fixing the set, I love getting out and meeting the people. It sure is better than hanging around the office all day.

Q: So if you had to do it again?

G: I would. I have had a lot of fun with it. I think that I was instrumental in making people happy.

Q: You fixed their sets.

G: Yes. It was a great charge fixing someone's set and bringing it back to them.

Q: Do people ever call you and thank you.

G: Oh yeah, and they send cards. I have made many friends.

Q: Do you have any last words to say about how people treat their sets?

G: They are going to do exactly what they are going to do. They treat their cars much better. They take them in for lubrication. Televisions require periodic tuning up, especially readjustments for color sets. Sets should be maintained on a regular basis like a medical check-up. The trouble is that the quality degrades so slowly that most people do not realize that the picture is going bad.

Q: What are the most common sets?

G: RCA and Zenith. Magnavox has gone down the tubes. Sony is a fine TV.

Q: Have you always worked in Los Angeles?

G: Yes. Eventually I want to go into cable. I want to go out into the smaller communities into the mountains where the bigger companies don't want to bother to go.

Q: I wonder how many TVs you have serviced?

G: Thousands and thousands, all over the place.