



Quiz Show — "Who's The Guest"

The new CBC Television Quiz Show has on its regular panel, Bernard Cowan, (upper left) as Moderator; Toronto newspaper columnist Frank Tumpane, (upper right); Coleen Delaney, (lower left); and actor comedian Sammy Sales (lower right). It is the job of these last three to do the guessing. This show will be carried on CFCY-TV.

Television Is Bringing Families Together Again

Of all the surprising facts performed by television, perhaps the most amazing is what it has done to the almost extinct institution of the family.

Before television appeared on the scene, sociologists were lamenting that the home appeared depopulated, that family life had become almost non-existent and that the members of a family hardly saw each other from the beginning of the week to the end.

The function of the home had come to seem something like that of the pits at an automobile race track. Members of the family skidded in individually, were replenished, obtained minor adjustments, then roared off as quickly as possible, followed by subtleties of advice.

Now all that is being changed. Television is reuniting the family, physically at any rate, and turning it back into the home.

Evenings at home

A study made by Rutgers University revealed that families with television sets spent 50 per cent more evenings at home than non-television families. They averaged, five evenings a week in the home, and three hours and 50 minutes watching television.

Chances are that, in addition to the family circle, a number of friends, friends of friends, and just passersby will be present in the living room audience. A noticeable increase in visitors was reported by 70 per cent of the set owners. Twenty-six per cent said their sets had been instrumental in making new friends for them.

Other notable changes in people's daily pattern of living are being made as a result of owning a television set. They listen to radio much less than they did before. They have cut down considerably on their reading and lifetime habits of movie attendance have been broken.

Numerous surveys are being made on this subject but with more than academic interest by the movie industry, by sports magazines and by publishers.

And religious leaders are giving consideration to the effect television is going to have on church attendance.

IN MANY WAYS

In many other ways television is influencing and altering family life.

Mothers report with amazement that their children come right home from school instead of loitering until past dinner-time. Instead of romping noisily about the house, they plop right down on the floor in front of the set, where they gaze spellbound at the screen for hours until finally detached and sent to bed.

Discipline is no longer a problem as mothers threaten to deprive their offspring of their favorite shows.

Among intellectuals it is fashionable to assert that television will be the death blow to the art of conversation. Undoubtedly conversational habits will become adapted to the new situation. Small talk may have to become smaller, but it need not be inferior.

As far as intra-family communication is concerned television already has made notable contributions. Before acquisition of a television set, members of the average family were apt to have little to say to one another, their individual interests being so diverse and seemingly incomprehensible to other members of the family.

But now it is not uncommon for a housewife to display an uncommon grasp of what happened in last night's wrestling matches, when discussing them with her husband at the breakfast table. And, that subject disposed of, father is quite capable nowadays of turning to his 10-year-old daughter and discussing the latest escapade of a puppet group.

All this takes place only in a home that has a television set.

DUE TO NOVELTY

It is natural to wonder whether the changes in living habits which television has affected are the result mainly of novelty. Radio, when it was in its infancy, had strange effects on its listeners. People sat glued to their sets, listening to static. They got up in the middle of the night to log distant stations. They even used to get offended if anyone talked during a broadcast.

Likewise, it was predicted that as the novelty of television wore off, families who owned sets would become more able to take their television or let it alone. Surveys on this point have proved surprising, however.

One survey found that families who had their sets longer than six months used them more

Telephonovision May Come Next

It's been rumored that someday far in the future, somebody might invent an unpopular gadget combining the telephone with television, perhaps called telephonovision.

What will this do to blind dates made over the phone? Will women want to answer the gadget first thing in the morning, with their hair in pin curls? What if you're pretending not to be at home?

There's no limit to how far this could go. The telephonovision of the future between Junior and his mother might well go like this:

"Hello, dear, just thought I'd call from the office and make sure you didn't forget to go to high school today. My, but your teeth need brushing. You go do that right now."

"Gee, Ma," says Junior, "I'll be late."

"And while you're at it, wash the back of your neck. It's disgraceful."

"Gee whiz, Ma, do I hafta?"

"In fact, I think I'll make a dental appointment for you today. Hurry along now. Bye."

"Nah, Ma, I sure wish this thing hadn't been invented."

on an average day than families who had newly acquired them.

Inasmuch as sociologists have blamed much of society's ills and defects on insufficient and unsatisfactory home life, it will be interesting a few years hence, to compare statistics on divorce, delinquency, etc., in television families compared with non-television families.

If such authorities as Leonard W. Mayor, president of the Child Welfare League of America and vice-president of Western Reserve University, are right, the television families will come out ahead in such comparative statistics.

"We have in television a limitless new instrument for improving all phases of youth development from cradle to maturity," he says.

"It can solve the country's lack of educational and cultural facilities and reverse the 20th Century trend of children spending more and more time outside the home. It'll bring children back into the home."

Some sociologists are less enthusiastic. What they mean by family life, they say, is active pursuits in common, not a passive grouping in front of a screen.

Properties Man Has Problems!

One of the most fascinating—yet friendship-destroying—jobs to be found in the CBC's new Television Building in Toronto is that of properties man, commonly referred to as the props man.

The props man must sit in on initial conferences for all projected shows, whether these be popular question-and-answer panels of full-length dramas and find out what will be required in the way of stage furnishings.

Then, when any necessary background flats have been constructed, painted and erected he must arrange his own contributions and decide just what extra trimmings are required to give the studio scene an air of authenticity and completeness.

MANY ODD CALLS

Occasionally the props man is called upon to produce grand pianos of peculiar construction; sometimes all the setting needs to complete it is a glass ash tray; occasionally the object of his search no longer exists in which case he must find an acceptable substitute.

Where, for example, would one find a living, breathing unicorn? Often no matter how much advance notice he is given, the props man is still searching for one particular object right up until camera time.

Toronto Television's props man is Steven Finnie, a veteran of 10 years' window display experience in leading department stores.

Finnie has been avidly acquiring all sorts of objects for his props room, some as common as everyday cups and saucers, others are out-of-the-way as bamboo curtains and old-fashioned gramophone horns—objects he will need from time to time in furnishing the sets for the two studios.

It is examined critically not only for its temporary value in today's set, but for its possible permanent value for future settings. Those which he considers indispensable are purchased or obtained on permanent loan.

FRIENDSHIP DESTROYED

It is just here that the friendship-destroying aspects of being a props man come in. So enterprising has Steven Finnie become in obtaining—by one means or another—various objects for his collection from people, his friends, now evade him when they see him approaching the front door.

The secret of success in the properties business is memory—and friends. Combine the two and you can find almost anything—at the risk eventually of losing the friends.

However, Steven Finnie feels that in time his friends will return. Meantime, he knows his job is one of the most exciting that television has to offer. Not many people, he avers, are able to go down to the office in the morning, confident that within five minutes the telephone will ring, and that a fast-talking producer will plead:

"Steve, I need a statue of Venus de Milo and a fifteenth century (B.C. of course) stone hatchet and I need them this afternoon—and oh, I forgot to mention, there's no money budgeted to buy them so you'll just have to scrounge them."

Don't Tinker With TV Set—High Voltage Inside

Watch television to your heart's content—but don't tinker with the set.

That's sound counsel for everyone, including the handyman who thinks that because he can fix a leaky faucet or install a light switch that he is qualified to delve into the works of the family TV set when it needs adjustment—or even when it doesn't.

The TV set is filled with complicated electronic equipment. Take it apart and you'll probably not be able to get it properly together again.

But even more serious is the danger involved.

There are from 7,000 to 20,000 volts of electricity at different points within the safe confines of the cabinet. This compares with the ordinary house lighting circuit voltage of 110. So it is immediately apparent that no one but a qualified service man should remove the back of the television set or tinker with what is inside, even though the set is disconnected.

There are many points inside the set which accumulate high voltage charges which have to be expertly grounded by the serviceman before he can proceed with adjustments. One of these is the picture tube screen, housed safely behind the safety glass of the set.

The picture tube itself—an expensive replacement—has a high vacuum which means that break-

age is dangerous. Shattered by accidental breakage, this highly explosive, or suctional force, may bury remnants of the tube and other parts of the set in the walls of the room. Only a serviceman or qualified engineer should handle it at any time, and he must take special precautions.

For the same reason no one should be permitted to fool with the safety glass.

TV sets are perfectly safe except in the hands of inexperienced persons. But it can become dangerous to you and yours if you decide to substitute for the trained expert.

Video Aids Baby Sitter

Television has caused a mild-revolution in the "baby sitting" business.

Just ask parents, who own sets. If you have an evening of TV entertainment to offer in your home, there's little trouble in getting a sitter, they say.

There's little time for your tots to get into mischief and cause headaches for the sitter—the youngsters are too busy watching TV horse operas and bedtime stories.

Just about all the baby sitter has to do is sit, and watch. Bobby-sitter or grandmother, they all like TV, too. Some owners even report a drop in fees demanded by their baby sitters.

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