



McCosh's Column

Report: The First Year Blackout

There was a brief period, about a year ago, when people were nostalgic about television.

Both the old programs (Buffalo Bob, Sid Ceaser) and the old sets (remember little screens? remember the sets with the mirror on top?) were frequent topics of conversation.

While the public was being nostalgic, the television advertising business was about as sound as the Penn Central Railroad, and even that one guy in Albuquerque who watches for the polls had clicked off his set.

Personally, I reacted to that point in time as a kind of adjustment period for the industry, a taking of stock before it attempted to restore its public image, if you will pardon the expression.

DURING THIS PERIOD of national reaction against television I brought in a glass of milk for the eldest daughter, who was watching the Saturday morning cartoons.

Her hand reached out, but I waited a minute. The hand flailed in circles, reached behind her back, waved up and down, but her face didn't turn. The need for television had exceeded the need for the milk.

That was one year ago, the day we went cold turkey.

ACTUALLY, WHAT happened was a tube went in the television, and the sound disappeared. That was all the incentive needed, after the glass of milk incident, to eliminate the thing completely.

It seemed then that television was beginning to be a compulsion, switched on mainly at those moments when there was absolutely nothing better to do than to watch TV.

It wasn't that there was nothing to do, it is just that those moments of boredom are actually the only

time you can make any free decision on the use of your time.

The old argument, that there are a "few good shows" on television, didn't seem to hold water. There are, no doubt, a few good times for a junkie, too.

SO WHAT happened? At first, a lot of things that I thought would happen, happened.

There was a bit more time to spend with the kids and a brief flurry of park-going ensued.

Things got done around the house in the evenings, too, for a while. Mainly, breaking this habit involved a lot of going out of the house.

Like chewing gum for cigarette smokers; walking, visiting, parks, etc., in their own way became just as obsessive as the tube.

It was on these journeys that something else became apparent.

It was a bit like coming out of a bomb shelter. There weren't many people around. Footsteps echoed hollowly on the sidewalk on a Monday evening.

You knew why there weren't any front porches anymore, even though an amazing number of people sat on them to watch TV.

Could it be we stumbled on a cause for the modern day lack of hustle and bustle in our cities?

At least one prophet of the tube predicted this: the day when images moved instead of people. What he didn't predict was that eventually there would be nothing to aim the cameras at except more people watching TV.

LAST SUNDAY, I noticed the pains. I staggered around the living room, my right hand twitching in a circular motion. Somewhere in this room were electronic waves depicting the surfing championship at Honolulu, beer ads, maybe some Olympic reruns.

All I needed was some device to catch them and show them on a screen. But that machine lay in the closet on its side, dead.

It was a cold, wet walk around the block.

COMING ATTRACTIONS AAA World Wide Travel Service invites you to attend "CRUISE NIGHT" A preview of the 1972-73 Caribbean Cruise season Monday, Oct 9 7:30-9:00 p.m. Stouffers Northland Inn Color Films • Brochures • Door Prizes (no obligation) Refreshments For Reservations Calls 476-7000 AUTOMOBILE CLUB OF MICHIGAN world wide TRAVEL SERVICE 23334 Farmington Rd C.A. Spencer, Mgr



A MUSICAL JOKE was the theme of the program put on by the Farmington musical women for students of the Larkshire School. Performing are (from left) Sharon Cardecia and Marilyn Trutt.

August Shows Burglary Rise

FARMINGTON Farmington High The City of Farmington reported a big increase in burglaries again for the month of August, according to a report from the Farmington police submitted to the city council Monday.

Another 25 burglaries in August added up to 109 reported this year, compared to 41 last year within the same time.

Violations of the narcotics law also showed a large increase, with 47 so far this year, compared to 22 last year. Capt. Dan Burns, of the public safety department, said most of these were for possession of marijuana.

Curfew and loitering violations were also up, with 24 this year, compared to nine last year, as were runaways, with 20 this year, compared to nine last year.

IN OTHER business, the city council:

- Gave permission to the

Musical Gives Show In School

FARMINGTON A group of 100 Farmington area women gave a performance of "A Musical Joke" on Sept. 28 to the children of the Larkshire School. The group performed Handel's version of "Old Mother Hubbard," Beethoven's "Happy Birthday,"

The group, led by President

Marilyn Trutt, is made up of music teachers, accompanists, organists, and choir directors who donate their time to perform at various functions throughout the community.

In the past they have performed at Harrison High School, Mackinac Island, and Northville State Hospital.

Top Year Scoring Mark

Wayne State University's 1933 (6-0), 1934 (8-0), 1947 (5-0), 1948 (2-0) and 1949 (8-0) cross country teams went unbeaten, but the 1962 team (13-1) was the winningest in the school's history.

Michigan State soph lacrosse player Val Washington of Baltimore, scored six goals in a 1972 game against Michigan to set an all-time Spartan single game record.

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