

Television Has Come a Long Way Since Spending Infancy at the Corner Bar

By WILLIAM EWALD
New York — (U.P.) — Television was conceived in the laboratory but it spent its infancy in the corner bar. It was nursed by bartenders, and beer paid the early doctor bills.
Back in 1946 most of the nation's 6,400 sets were in the New York area and the majority were perched at one end of saloons where Milton Berle pulled in more customers than a free lunch.
One of its parents was Vladimir Zworykin of RCA who invented the original iconoscopic electron tube—the first electronic "eye" for the TV camera.
It happened in 1923. It made TV possible.

Another parent was Dr. Allen B. Du Mont, the Brooklyn-born inventor who now heads the giant Du Mont laboratories. Du Mont, working with \$500 capital, turned a New Jersey garage into a lab and invented a long-life cathode-ray tube.
It happened in 1931. It made TV probable.
TV had a long gestation period. There were transmissions before World War II, but only a handful of viewers.
The war kept TV in the womb. Then came 1946.
But let's let Dr. Du Mont tell about then and now.
"I started, at least it did in New York," Du Mont recalls. "I would say that about 50 per

cent of the sets were in bars, restaurants and so forth."
"In '46, the range of TV stations was 30 or 40 miles. Today, good sets get a station 75 to 100 miles away."
"In the early days, if \$500 was spent on a program it was about par. Now, no one thinks anything of spending \$100,000 or better for a network show."
"The biggest change has been in the expansion of the co-axial cable. In 1946, all we had were New York and Washington. Now, we not only blanket the country, but the possibility of a real international TV isn't far off."
That is the view of the inventor-businessman. But what about the viewpoint of one of the men who puts shows together?
Fred Coe, pioneer producer in TV, probably is best qualified to speak on behind-the-scenes changes. His "Philo" dramas and spectaculars like "Peter Pan" were high-water marks in the history of TV.
Coe tells it this way...
"Ten years ago, there was no budget to speak of. TV drama was in its experimental stages. The top fee for acting was \$250. For smaller parts, a performer was paid \$5 to \$15 including rehearsals."
"There was no one way of doing things." Every new innovation was a precedent.
"Later on, stars appeared on TV for as much as \$2000 with about \$1000 of it going to the Equity actor's fund. Now, someone like, say, Mary Martin, gets \$40,000 to \$50,000 for a single shot." Her "Peter Pan" drew 63,000,000 viewers.

Around Hollywood

By ALINE MOSBY
Hollywood — (U.P.) — Gray hair department: Darla Hood, the button-nose cutie of the Hal Roach "Our Gang" comedies, is back at work at the Roach studio — as a grown-up television actress.
Darla, now 25, is launching a new career. And her first film TV job landed her back at the studio where she started to fame at the age of 4. She's working in a "Screen Directors' Playhouse" drama starring Fred MacMurray that will be shown on NBC-TV next month.
"I want to get more acting roles now," she said. "I love show business and can't stay away from it."
Darla curiously found more fame recently when the "Our Gang" comedies were released on TV as "The Little Rascals." Now, 20 years later, a manufacturer is bringing out a Darla doll.
Mother Boosts Career
Darla's childhood followed the pattern of other talented kiddies whose mamas get them careers. When the part-Cherokee Indian child lived in Leedey, Okla., her mother drove her 150 miles to take singing and dancing lessons. Her dancing teacher won her a successful screen test with Roach. Darla's father gave up his bank president's job and the family moved to Hollywood.
In the "Our Gang" pictures, Darla dimpled, curtsied and sang "I'll Never Say Never Again" and "Lookie, Lookie, Lookie."
After nine years she wore short dresses to disguise her age, but Roach dropped her contract.
"Bad News Broken"
"Mother was afraid to break the bad news to me," smiled Darla. "I couldn't have been happier. I said, 'Just think, I don't have to be in pictures any more. I can go to public school. I can be normal!'"
At a Los Angeles high school she had a "terrible" adjustment.
"The other children thought I was a snob," she said. "I just did not know how to talk to them."
Later Darla married vocal arranger Bob Decker. She sang in Ken Murray's "Blackouts" on TV and joined composer Jimmy McHugh's night club act.
Darla still looks like she did as a child star.
"It used to bother me, but I've learned to live with my type instead of trying to be what I'm not," she said. "I'm playing a teenager in a U-I movie soon — Why fight my young face?"

Brightest Street Lights In Use in Indianapolis
Indianapolis — (U.P.) — Fifty of the brightest street lights ever made have been placed in use on one of this city's main thoroughfares.
Made by the General Electric Co. in Schenectady, N. Y., the giant lights use 12 six-foot lamps and generate 64,000 lumens each — more than enough to light an average-sized home.
The new lights will put three times as much light on the street as former units and with almost no glare.

Prompt Treatment of Tooth Decay Prevents Discomfort

Editor's Note: This is another in the series of articles on dental health prepared for observing National Children's Dental Health Week this week. The series was prepared in cooperation with the Southern Oregon Dental Society.
A child should be started along the road to good dental health habits by the time he is three.
Tooth decay starts at an early age and spreads rapidly. Fifty per cent of all children have at least one decayed tooth by the time they celebrate their second birthday.
Treated promptly, damage can be repaired with a minimum of discomfort, time and expense. Left untreated, the decayed area may spread, causing extensive damage, pain and possible loss of the tooth.
But, some parents think, the tooth is going to come out anyway, so why go to the trouble of having it filled?
Good Condition
Aside from the fact that a toothache in a first or "baby" tooth can be just as painful as an ache in a permanent tooth, it is important for the child's health to maintain those first teeth in good condition until the second set erupts.
In addition to chewing, the first teeth are necessary for clear speech; for giving form and symmetry to the face; for guiding in to the mouth the permanent

teeth which are forming beneath them, and for general health.
There are 20 teeth in the first set. They begin to erupt about the age of seven months, but the tooth buds actually start to form some three or four months before birth.
About the time the child is entering first grade, at the age of six, the second or permanent set of teeth begins to appear. The roots of the first teeth dissolve so "baby" teeth shed easily. At the same time, growth of the jaws speeds up, creating spaces between the first teeth in order to make room for the larger Permanent Teeth.
When the child is about 12, all of the permanent teeth except the third molar will have erupted and the child's head will have grown almost to adult size.
Probably the most important tooth in the child's mouth is the first permanent molar which erupts at age six. It is the keystone which determines the eventual position of the other permanent teeth in the dental arch. Since it does not replace a first tooth, it is often mistaken for one of the "baby" teeth.
Loss of the six-year molar, or a serious shifting in its position because of premature loss of nearby first teeth, can have disastrous effects on the entire set of permanent teeth.
"The bar business got TV

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Most Children Get 'Car Sickness'

New York — (U.P.) — Eighty per cent of all children get "car sick" while riding in automobiles, but most of the upsets could be prevented by following a few simple rules, a motoring expert advises.

Car sickness has many causes, but the most important one is up and down motion, said Claudia Addison, director of women's activities for a motor car company (Packard). Fortunately, she said, resistance to this affliction improves with age and victims gradually become "immune" to it.

Here are a few measures Miss Addison recommends:

1. Eat lightly before setting out on a trip and take only small snacks during the day. It is better to nibble small amounts of food frequently than to eat three heavy meals.
2. Use one of the many drugs on the market that prevent motion sickness.
3. Keep car windows open so fresh air can circulate freely. When driving in winter, use blankets to keep warm, if necessary, but leave the windows open.
4. Have the car checked carefully before leaving home to make sure no offensive oil or gas fumes are seeping inside.
5. Drive smoothly. Quick sudden stops and starts can upset passengers susceptible to car sickness.
6. Avoid prolonged reading or writing while a car is in motion.
7. Stop for rest periods every two hours so driver and passengers can get out and stretch. A little exercise is helpful, Miss Addison said, even if it is just a walk to and from a drinking fountain.

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