

### Television Habits of Sixth Graders Listed

By PAT CONWAY  
United Press International  
Lubbock, Tex. — Two-thirds of Lubbock's sixth graders watch television more



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than four hours a day, and their teachers generally agree the children are better informed on world affairs than the sixth graders were before television.

A survey of the viewing habits of 2,021 sixth grade students in the public schools also revealed that at least a fourth of them are harder to motivate than those before TV, and that two-thirds of the children do less reading in library books.

A special report on the study was made by Eugene Bumpass, a Lubbock teacher, to the Texas Teachers association.

One of the questions concerned TV's use as an easy substitute for a wholesome, diversified program of recreation for children.

The children, however, indicated they would rather play, bowl, skate, visit friends or attend a movie than watch television.

The survey also indicated that TV is in keen competition with homework. Three-fourths of the children said they did homework while watching, and many resented having to do assignments

while other members of the family enjoyed TV.

One-fifth of the students said they would neglect homework if their favorite program was on. Their teachers said that a fourth of the students also use television as an excuse for not doing homework.

Television does not affect the bedtime hours of sixth graders, however. The majority indicated a median bedtime of 9:30 p.m.

Some 66 teachers questioned said they believed many advertisements on TV are detrimental to proper health habits of children. Two-thirds listed cigaret ads as detrimental, one-half mentioned medicines and drugs, and more than a third listed alcohol. Others decried the chewing gum ads.

Are arguments provoked

around the TV set? More than 70 per cent of the students said "yes."

Are any programs educational? Both children and teachers agree that television is helpful. Eighty-seven per cent of the children said they had seen things on TV that helped them in their school work. Many of the teachers said they urged students to watch certain programs.

Programs recommended included Lowell Thomas' "High Adventure," "Bell Telephone Hour," "Twentieth Century," weather and news shows, "Walt Disney," "Mr. Wizard," and "Wide, Wide World."

The children indicated that westerns were their choice. A fourth said they liked programs about the lives of families and nine per cent indicated a preference for detective shows.

### Interior Designers Forecast Rounded Future for Furniture

By JOYCE SCHULLER  
United Press International

Chicago — More and more interior designers foresee a rounded future for modern furniture.

The light, trim look of rounded or gently curved modern furniture seems to blend with furniture of every period, as the severe, straight lines of early modern pieces never did. And with the increasing trend toward mixing modern and period furniture, chairs, couches, tables, rugs and even beds, room dividers and window hangings are turning up in rounded shapes.

Typical of the new upholstered pieces are designer Lawrence Peabody's loveseat and chair (for Richardson-Neschoff), with curved wood frames that appear to be sculptured around the foam seats and backs. Attractive from the back as well as the front, they can be used in free-standing, conversational groupings.

Round tables gaining in favor include both dining and small occasional tables.

Perfect for small rooms, round dining tables take up less space than square ones and seat more persons comfortably. Some of the new round dining tables have single pedestal bases and others (by Kroehler) have practical tops of Fibersin, a solid plastic panel that's virtually indestructible.

The newest of the occasional tables are columns, some carved or fluted and others unadorned. Concealed stor-

age space for books and spare ashtrays beneath makes them ideal for use as lamp tables flanking a sofa.

Rugs now come by the half-circle. They're designed (by Regal) to be used separately in a bay window or in front of a sofa or put together to form a huge circle, eight feet in diameter.

The circles turning up in window hangings and room dividers are round discs of brilliantly colored plastic or glass, strung together like beads and hung in rows.

### Beauticians' Guild Gives Hints About Choice of Hairdresser

Chicago — A professional beauticians' guild offers these suggestions for making a happy choice of a hairdresser.

—Pick one in a convenient location, near home or office.

—Look for a shop with hours that fit easily to your schedule.

—Make sure that the shop's prices fit into your beauty budget.

—Choose a salon which uses products you know or have used before.

—Follow the salon's customary tipping procedure.

—Give a new hairdresser and yourself a trial period. Let her shampoo and set your hair a few times before having a haircut or permanent.

—Acquaint a new hairdresser with your preferences in length of hair and hairstyles. Tell her if you dislike bangs or love French twists.

### Black Magic Is Money For Two Business Women

Hermosa Beach, Calif. — Eleven years ago, two women shook hands, borrowed \$500 and embarked on a million-dollar-a-year business — dish-

ing out dirt. They had no customers then, just an idea. That idea today is sold at more than 2,000 retail outlets throughout this country and in 18 foreign lands.

The women, Martha Parks, 42, and Betty Barnes, 39, claim it actually isn't dirt. But it looks like it and serves the same purpose.

It is artificially created soil for potted plants. It's called Black Magic and needs no drainage. It can grow indoor plants in any kind of deep dish, bowl, pot or pan. Back in 1949 the women

were recently out of the service—Betty was a Lady Marine and Marty, as she's called, had been a Wave petty officer. They met during a double date and their idea for the plant soil-foam was born on a tennis court.

With the help of nurserymen, they concocted an eight-part mixture containing redwood leaf mold, another mold from Germany, several other

kinds of humus, some volcanic ash and peat moss.

During the first two years of the new enterprise they worked days peddling the dirt to nursery stores and packaged it at night. They averaged \$17 a week profit apiece then.

Today, they own a \$350,000 plant here, have 40 employees and the latest equipment and are planning to build a new plant for mixing up the soil in New Jersey.

They packaged and sold

75 million sacks of soil-foam last year, also developing both liquid and tablet forms of special plant food to make any woman an expert indoor gardener.

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