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RG&E consumer news

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"Instant On" Television Sets: Safety and Energy Costs

By Miss Anne S. Fenstermacher
Staff Assistant-Consumer Affairs

Questions about the safety of television sets made the news recently when an individual testified at the Consumer Product Safety Commission hearings that his house fire was TV-related. At the same hearing a representative of Electronic Industries Association denied that defective TV receivers were responsible for several widely publicized fires last year. I received calls from several people asking about the situation, so I called the Commission in Washington, D.C. for further explanation.

I was told that the Commission held the hearings to gather information to use in drawing up a mandatory safety standard for television sets. No definite conclusions were reached by the Commission as to whether the TV sets caused the fires, nor were official recommendations made by the Commission. Testimony dealt primarily with color set, and with the "instant on" feature. The latter was developed as a convenience so the picture would appear almost instantaneously and to lengthen the tube life because the set would not have to adapt to surges of

power as the set is repeatedly turned off. The tube filament is always on, drawing current, even when the set is turned off.

My recommendation for safety is the same as it has been for energy conservation, and that is to turn off the "instant on" feature whenever possible. The "instant on" feature, depending on its wattage, could add several dollars a year to a family's electric bill. Many sets have a switch which will turn off the "instant on" feature. If you have an "instant on" set which does not have this "off" switch you might want to unplug the set when you go away on vacation, or when you don't plan to watch television for a long period of time. RG&E's wiring specialist expresses concern about repeated unplugging of the set because of done improperly it could eventually fray the cord and shorten the life of the wall outlet by wearing out the contacts.

I will try to keep you informed about safety issues as they are resolved, as well as provide energy conservation ideas!

From the Home Service Department Can Your Kitchen Pass the Food Storage Test?

What if a food inspector visited your kitchen? Would the inspector find food thawing at room temperature? A carton of milk sitting out?

The first step is to check out cabinets underneath the sink. If food such as potatoes and onions are stored along with cleaning supplies consider yourself flunked.

Next check the open spaces of your kitchen, if there are open boxes of cereals, crackers and other foods sitting on counters, they will either become stale or they will attract bugs or rodents. If frozen meat thaws at room temperature, bacteria will grow quickly as the outside warms faster than the inside.

Look at storage areas near heat sources, such as the range. Cake mixes, nuts, shortening and other foods containing fats should not be stored near heat. Also, the shelf life of spices and herbs is not long when they are stored near heat.

Check other storage areas for cans that leak or contain bulges. Throw these cans away, do not taste the food. While you're looking, reread the labels to see if any of the goods should have been refrigerated. Some foods need to be refrigerated after opening, salad dressing, peanut

butter and containers of parmesan cheese.

Inspect the refrigerator for food that's stored too long. Gravies, leftover meat and raw meat should be used within two days after being placed in the refrigerator. Also now is the time to clean the freezer and use or discard the frozen food that's been in over a year. While food does not spoil in the freezer, it can lose flavor and food value if left too long.

Careful storage of food can save money and prevent illness. Be your own official kitchen inspector and check your cupboards, refrigerator and freezer often.

Central Air Conditioning Buying Guide Available

Air conditioning is becoming an increasingly popular addition to the climate control system of a home. As with a heating system, there are many considerations in planning a central air conditioning system.

The ideas explained in this new booklet will save you money on the cost of installation and the operating costs and will enable you to have a more efficient, more comfortable air conditioning system. If you are interested in obtaining a copy, please fill out and return the coupon on this page.

Come out to Brookwood And let us entertain you

Where can you find entertainment that is not very far away, doesn't cost much, has no parking problem, is educational and is something the whole family can enjoy? Answer: The Brookwood Science Information Center. It is located on beautiful Lake Road, 16 miles east of the

city in Ontario, N.Y. There is no admission charge to the Center, and it has plenty of free parking.

Best of all, a visit to the Brookwood Science Information Center is an experience that the whole family can learn from and enjoy at the same time.

At Brookwood you and your family will learn a fascinating story. It's about the atom. How it splits. And how the energy from the splitting of the atom (a process known as nuclear fission) is used to produce the heat that is used in the generation of electricity.

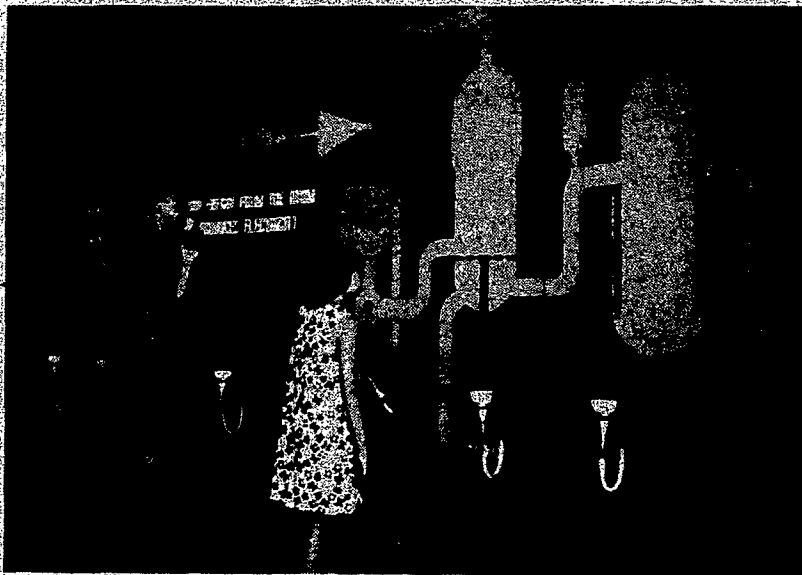
Animated displays with taped narrations graphically illustrate the generation of electricity, the structure of the atom and the occurrence of nuclear fission.

A narrated flow diagram shows you how heat from Ginna's nuclear reactor produces steam to operate the turbine that drives the electric generator. Films and slide shows also help in the telling of this marvelous story.

But the most meaningful part of your visit to Brookwood will probably be your conversations with the staff members. They are ready to answer any questions you have about Ginna, nuclear power plants in general and about how RG&E plans to meet future energy needs. Questions like - How much natural radiation are people living in this area exposed to? What are our future needs for energy, and will RG&E be able to meet them? What about so-called thermal pollution?

Next time you have relatives visiting, and you are looking for a way to entertain them, or the children are home for vacation and looking for something different to do, bring them out to the Brookwood Science Information Center. It is open Sunday through Thursday between the hours of 10 a.m. and 4 p.m. Arrangements for special group visits can be made by calling 546-2700, extension 291-203.

During the month of May you can see a preview of your visit to Brookwood when you stop in at our Consumer Information Center on the Main Floor at 89 East Avenue. We're open Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Tuesday and Thursday to 9 p.m. and Saturday from 8 a.m. to noon.



Schoolchildren enjoy visiting the center.

Explore Your World - Join the RMSC

During the next few weeks, the Rochester Museum and Science Center will be inviting 30,000 area residents to become RMSC members.

According to director of development Lou Popp, "we will be telling people that there's education and entertainment for the whole family at the RMSC. Our new brochure, which will be included in the mailing, beautifully describes RMSC programs and the special RMSC membership benefits."

The benefits offered to families are:

Unlimited free admission to the Rochester Museum exhibits, events and Film Classic Series.

Four free tickets to Planetarium Shows.

A minimum of twelve members-only events show premieres, trips, lectures exhibit openings.

Member's discount at Museum and Space Shops.

Monthly newsletters with advance information on events, trips, films series and special classes.

Advance registration for popular School of Science and Man Courses.

Free admission to the spectacular Time-Life Film series on Sunday afternoons.

Guided tours to the upspoiled Howard T. Cumming Nature Center. If you would like to become a member of RMSC or would like more information call 271-4320.

Two RG&E Employees give full time aid to '74 Community Chest Campaign

This year's United Community Chest Red Cross Campaign hopes to raise a record \$12,857,000 for its 93 member agencies and the Red Cross. This year their campaign was aided by Mrs. Anne K. Ehrbar of RG&E's Marketing Communications Department and Ronald L. Weber of the Right-of-Way Department.

Both have been working full time at the Community Chest headquarters on St. Paul Street since March, 1974, in the "Loaned Executive" Program.

Mrs. Ehrbar's responsibilities for the Community Chest's Individual Subscriber Division included providing publicity and coordinating weekly newsletters and training packages.

Mr. Weber worked in the Commercial and Industrial Division where he helped set-up and coordinated campaigns for area companies.

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89 East Avenue, Rochester, N.Y. 14649

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