Television

by
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Television, like work, fascinates me. . .I can sit and watch it for hours.

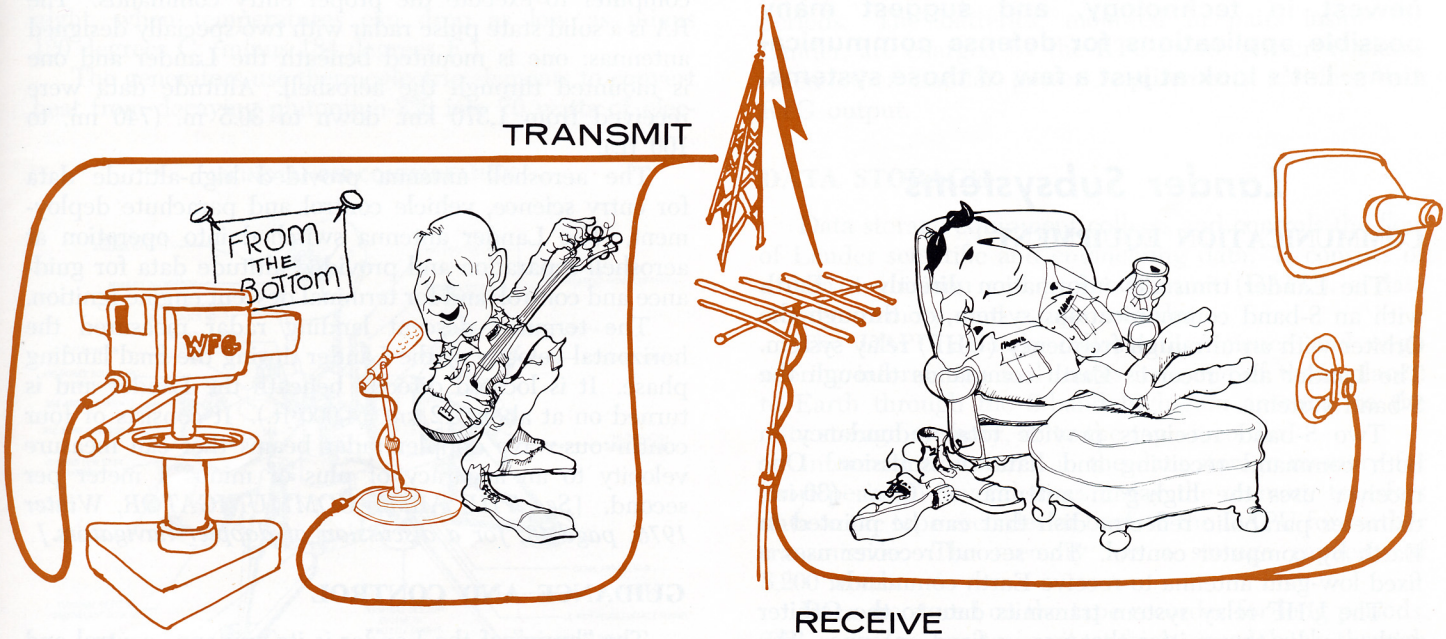
Certainly one of the most amazing inventions of this century, TV informs and entertains millions of people every day. We watched and listened as Neil Armstrong first stepped on the moon and as ABC's Jim McKay provided his outstanding commentary during the recent Olympics. Television has also been available in most of the military and civilian schools I've attended.

TV has grown at an amazing rate during the past 30 years. In 1945 there were only nine commercial stations and 7,500 TV sets in the United States. Today there are more than 700 commercial and 145 noncommercial stations broadcasting to over 120 million operating TV's in the States alone. Current estimates are that 97 to 99 per cent of all American homes have at least one TV, with more than a third having two or more sets.

A TV works a lot like a telephone, which I talked about last time. If you remember, the telephone converts sound to electricity and back to sound. TV goes a big step further and converts not only sound to electrical energy, but a picture as well. This energy is then transmitted by radio waves and/or wire to a good old TV set and converted back into sound plus the picture. (See diagram below.)

There is plenty of other neat stuff about TV. . .the picture you see is actually made up of a bunch of still pictures (30 per second) and is transmitted by an AM signal while sound uses an FM signal. But we'll save all that for another day. . . .

TV has many educational uses and plays a vital role in today's command information programs. Why, do you know who has the WORLD'S LARGEST (32 channels) closed-circuit TV system? Would you believe WFG-TV at Fort Gordon? How about that!

Next issue I'll really get into some nitty-gritty signal stuff and tell you all about. . .SINGLE-SIDEBAND RADIO!

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