A REMOTE AND A COUCH

A remote, a couch and 200 stations on TV is now the “norm” for every TV watcher in America. I know if I didn’t have a remote, I would sure hate to get out of my comfortable chair and change the station.

Flipping through the many channels is something in itself. We can watch breaking news, soap operas, movies of choice, old shows, new shows, country shows and farming shows.

We can flip over to the Food Network and enjoy the recipes of our favorite chefs, click our way over to the Home Shopping Network and go Christmas shopping or take a trip down in the south lands and watch the Swamp People. What an era we live in.

There are all kinds of reality shows such as “Dancing with the Stars,” “Survivor,” “Big Brother,” and of course, “Honey Boo Boo.” Even with all these channels at my fingertips, I still find myself saying, “There is nothing on TV.”

However, I remember when I was growing up my family did not even have a television. I was probably at least 15 years old before we got our first one.

We were so proud and excited to get that first old set. It was a big and clunky looking with a small black and white screen. Of course, it did not come with a remote, so we had to get up and change the channel.

Changing the channel was not that big of a deal because we only had three to choose from. We watched TV as a family while munching on popcorn and laughing delightedly at shows like “Groucho Marx,” “I Love Lucy,” “Jack Benny,” and “Tennessee Ernie Ford.”

Those were the years when television shows were pure entertainment and catered to a variety of audience. There was an essence of innocence and charm that glued us to the television shows. Most of the shows today are glamorous, yet lack the luster of the television shows of the 1950s.

Perhaps one of the most loved comedy series ever on television was “I Love Lucy.” This 30 minute series on CBS was about a Cuban band leader, Ricky, and his American wife, Lucy, the wacky, redhead. Ricky was almost a star at the Tropicana Club, where he performed.

Although he loved Lucy a lot, he just wished she would be satisfied being a wife and mother. But, even though she loved her husband very dearly, she had an enormous talent and craved to become a star like her husband.

You can still catch reruns of “I Love Lucy” and will probably laugh over and over at her antics.

Another show I always liked was “You Bet Your Life.” This program, starring Groucho Marx, had a secret word and if one of the contestants said the word a bird came down holding a sign and the lucky contestant would win money. I remember this show came on at 10 p.m. on Thursday nights and I always had to beg to stay up for it.

Does anyone remember the show called, “The Real McCoys?” This was a favorite all time early show and starred Walter Brennan and Richard Crenna. It took place on a farm and drew watchers in with its simplicity.

Another show I liked was “Green Acres.” Remember when Mr. Edwards had to climb a telephone pole to answer the telephone?

I could go on and on about the various popular television shoes of the 1950s. I cannot fail to mention the “Adventures of Superman,” “Alfred Hitchcock Presents,” “Colt 45,” “Have Gun, Will Travel,” “I Married Joan,” “The Lone Ranger” and many more.

Even though we have a wide variety of shows to watch, the 1950s and ’60s were truly the golden days of television. “Hi-O Silver, Away!!!!”

What old television shows do you recall? Do you like flipping through the channels with a remote? How do you compare shows today with shows of the 1950s and ’60s?

Let me know and I’ll give you a Penny for Your Thoughts.