



Falling Leaves

conversion to digital.

We had been told that the new digital pictures would be much better. So armed with my converter boxes and new antennae I hooked everything up. I even bought a small digital television just to see if I could receive digital signals and at first it seemed that I could. But in the spring just after the digital switch I lost channel 10 and 13 and 8 was not very good. I bought a different antenna. I moved the TV around from room to room. I moved the antenna. I talked with folks who said that for several hundred dollars I could have an antenna installed on the roof that might -- might? improve reception. I was even told that I could hook up my gutters as an antenna. There were no assurances that any of this would work.

I read that Rochester was one of the several areas that were having trouble with the strength of the digital signal. Now and then there was a letter to the editor or an article about people who, like me, were having trouble with reception. But we were in a minority – or at least that’s what they want us to believe.

I posted my disgust on a museum chat list and several folks - one from Cooperstown, another from Pennsylvania, another from the Midwest and a couple from other “remote” areas shared their frustrations. Someone posted that it was good reason to give up the television and pick up a good book. But someone mentioned that they were from an

area that relied on the television for weather warnings and they were concerned about the lack of reception for that reason.

I reconciled myself to the radio. Now I have to share with you that I have always been a baseball fan and I wasn’t happy that I couldn’t watch the World Series on television. So I listened to the first game on the radio. The next night I turned on the television to see if there were any baseball highlights on Channel 8 – (the only channel that I could receive). The television kept scanning and all of a sudden I had reception! It was a miracle! Just in time for the World Series (and Dancing with the Stars) and then I figured out what happened. The leaves had fallen.

Now I have to tell you that I haven’t been happy with the length of the baseball season. Baseball is a summer game. The World Series shouldn’t be held in 40 degree weather. It’s stupid! But now I have to admit, that if the season wasn’t so late, the leaves would still be on the trees and I wouldn’t have television reception. Strange how these things work out.

I’m still not convinced that digital television is better and for that matter I’m not convinced that fluorescent lighting is better either. I can’t remember what year the government has decided that we can’t buy incandescent bulbs and will have to convert to fluorescent bulbs, but I’m going to be in trouble again. Most of my fixtures are for the little candle-

like bulbs. So far, they don’t make little fluorescent bulbs that fit into my ceiling fixtures. If they don’t offer converter boxes (just joking) I’m going to have to buy new fixtures. I guess it’s part of the economic incentive program. New televisions, new antennae, converter boxes, new light bulbs, new fixtures ... Somehow I think this is a twist of the old joke about the pioneers, who had to watch television in the dark before there was electricity.

This year to celebrate the falling of the leaves and the return of television reception, I thought it might be nice to return to the day when fall was marked by the smell of burning leaves. Now there was a smell you couldn’t forget! Of course because of global warming, we can no longer burn leaves - - and it certainly was warmer this summer - - ooops, I guess it wasn’t warmer. Maybe I’ll just burn one little leaf and remember the good old days.



by Lynne Belluscio

Don’t expect too much historical information in this week’s article. I think this is more of an editorial. It begins with my frustration over the conversion to digital television.

I bought two converter boxes. I understand how to hook them up. I bought two digital antennae. Maybe I should first state that I live in the country and cable is not an option and I live in the woods and a satellite dish can’t clear the trees. When I think about it I don’t need all the stations that are offered by cable or satellite. I was content with my old analog reception - all three Rochester stations, Channel 31 and Channel 21. I rarely had trouble with reception before the

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