

Kevin Yan
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Duologue with Anne Valter

Dear reader,

This is an interview where I ask Anne Valter a couple of questions about inventions in the 20th century. Anne Valter has experienced several of these inventions during her lifetime. Anne Valter has a PhD in history of technology and teaches a history class at the Stanford. She has a personal journal throughout her lifetime and I have rewritten part of her journal and put in on my website for everyone to read about her experiences. I have invited Anne to my studio and we had a recorded interview and I had put it out in script form.

Sincerely,

Dylan Walker

Dylan: Hello Anne. Welcome to my new studio. How do you like it?

Anne: Thank you for having me here Dylan. I like what you have done with this place.

Dylan: Thank you and lets get started. Let's start off with my first question, which single invention, in your opinion, made the most differences in home life?

Anne: That's a very tough question Dylan. I personally think that there are many different inventions that would be very important and would have a huge impact in society. The question you asked is a very bias based question and I personally think that there is no right answer because of the amount of different inventions which do different inventions. If your asking which did the most in general than I personally think that the TV made the biggest difference because everyone nowadays use it way too much. A person now can spend nearly all their free time watching TV. Other people could have answers revolving around something more essential but I think of something like the TV So my final answer is the TV.

Dylan: Ok the TV is something that had a major effect but what about something like housework. So my next question is what was the most important invention that would help with housework?

Anne: There are still a lot of inventions that I can choose from but I think I'm going to go with the Refrigerator. Before, I went with something from the entertainment industry but now I think I can go with the essentials like the refrigerator. I say this because I think that the most important part of a person's life is the food and cooking part. If a person doesn't have a refrigerator they would not be able to keep food edible for an extended period of time. I know a lot of people that fill up their fridges with food. Imagine these people without the refrigerator. More than half of the food they have would most likely not be eaten since they all spoiled because they didn't have a refrigerator. Another reason I say this is because the refrigerator is like an essential for other inventions too. I personally always take something from the fridge and heat it up in the microwave. I think I

speaking for most people when I say that I heat up a lot of things from the refrigerator in the microwave. Actually, I think that the microwave and refrigerator, and maybe the safer stove, would be made up the most important invention that helped with housework.

Dylan: The microwave and the refrigerator are very good choices and this leads me into the next question. So pretty much anything in the kitchen?

Anne: Yeah.

Dylan: Do you think there are side effects to these kinds of inventions?

Anne: What do you mean by side effects? Good side effects or bad side effects.

Dylan: Bad side effects.

Anne: I personally think that there aren't too many side effects especially since most things are perfected these days. Some of the obvious side effects are people being more lazy since they don't have to do anything like go outside which adds up to being unhealthy. Another side effect I can think off the top of my head are the screens on devices. I read an article called, "10 tips for Computer Eye Strain: 10 Steps to Relief" by Gary Heiting and Larry K. Wan. This article says, "Studies show that eye strain and other bothersome visual symptoms occur in 50 to 90 percent of computer workers. This shows that people that use screens for a long time, like computer workers, will most likely get eye strain. Things like the microwave don't have too many bad things about it but a person could be clumsy and burn themselves on something too hot but that's not the microwaves fault so most of the bad side effects are from electronics with screens."

Dylan: Ok so you think electronics with screens had some of the most side effects?

Anne: Yes.

Dylan: Here is our last question of the day and this is a fairly broad question so feel free to just very simple answers but keep it informational for everyone out there listening or reading.

Anne: Okay.

Dylan: How has home life changed between early 1900's to late 1900's?

Anne: There are many different parts to the home and most of these parts of the home have changed a lot. I personally think that everything has gotten so much more high tech over the years. I personally think that life has changed because of the variety of things the house could have before and after the 1900's. Before the 1900's, electricity wasn't too common in a house but now nearly every house has it. Nowadays, nearly everything in the home is powered by electricity which makes things easier. I personally think that life has changed because of the variety of things the house could have before and after the 1900's. These variety of things include simple things like a computer or a refrigerator and things advanced like a smart home that controls the entire house. These things have all changed the life at home in some sort of way in there own and together, they have changed the home drastically.

Dylan: Thank you for your time today and have a good day everyone!

Anne: No Problem Dylan.