

Documentary Review

I watched A T.V. Series called, "Inventions that shook the world". This T.V. Series is a 10 episode series that takes a decade, starting from the 1900's and ending in the 1990's, and puts the biggest inventions in that timeframe and gives the story of how it was invented and the backstory behind that invention. I chose this T.V. Series because I know that it helps me with my research question, What was the effect of home technology in the 1900's. I was looking for information or inventions that could be found in a home and how it changed the way people do things.

In the 1900's episode, Season 1 Episode 4, it takes the story of how there has never been a wireless voice message sent across the atlantic ocean so the radio was invented. When the radio was introduced to the public, the radio would spread like wildfire into peoples homes.

Other inventions mentioned in the documentary were the Vacuum cleaner. Before the Vacuum cleaner, houses, streets, and especially carpets were dusty and bad for people with asthma. In 1908 James Spangler, the inventor of the vacuum cleaner, realized that if he could somehow take a carpet sweeper and a ceiling fan and put them together, he could suck up all the dust that was rising from the floor. After many different tries, he made a carpet sweeper with a pillowcase attached the back and this carpet sweeper could suck up all the dust. This invention would make sweeping and cleaning the floor much easier and safer.

In 1902, controlling the temperature and the humidity safely was not a thing and most people believed was not possible. A young inventor named Willis Carrier had an assignment to control the temperature and humidity of a copy room so the paper copies won't come out differently. He figured out that if he had 100% humidity and added enough dry air to lower the

humidity, he could lower the humidity to 55% like his boss wanted. Carrier's invention had created the perfect temperature and humidity which would be the world's first air conditioner. The air conditioner would revolutionize comfort. Air conditioners could be found in factories, restaurants, and more. Carrier would continue on by creating Carrier Engineering Corporation with other inventors and the business would be worth billions.

The T.V. series would discuss simpler but interesting inventions. Some of the inventions that were mentioned were the crayon which was a colorful small non-toxic stick of wax and pigment. It would make drawings more colorful. Another invention that was mentioned was the Model T Ford which was the first affordable car and this, "...introduced mobility to the middle classes." said the narrator. The last small but interesting invention was the safety razor. The safety razor was invented by King C. Razor and it would take him years to invent it with the help of William Nickerson. The razor would make shaving easier and safer.

In the 1940's episode, there was an inventor named Percy Spencer. Spencer had figured out that a magnetron could heat up food so he controlled the microwaves inside a box. He had just invented the microwave. After 20 years of perfecting the microwave, the first countertop microwave would be sold and changing the way we eat food for the rest of our lives.

Another invention in the 1940's episode was the computer. The computer was inspired by the hatred for the adding machine. It was made up from thousands of different switches which represented different letters or numbers. The computer was based off of binary and it could solve a complicated math problem in minutes. This started the phones and the laptops of today.

After watching these two episodes I have some good things to say and some bad things to say. Starting with the good things, the episodes go

into detailed stories of how the inventor was inspired. The inventions were usually just the inventors solving a problem that they were having or the inventors were finishing an assignment. Each of these inventions were inventions that the world needed and after someone invented it, most of the world would be using it after multiple years. Most of the inventions mentioned were true and all the facts about the invention, like the inventor and the backstory, were true. Each invention segment helped my research on the effect of home technology by having multiple parts of how the invention "Shook the world." For example, when James Spangler perfected the Vacuum cleaner, the narrator said, "*What he came up with in that department store, cobbled together by bits and things that he had in that janitor closet, are still, today, the perfect way of getting a carpet clean.*" This means that the narrator gives explanations of why this invention is important to be mentioned.

Leading into the bag things about the documentary, some the facts were questionable. I know this because the radio's inventor that was mentioned did it after Marconi and I don't think he was truly the inventor instead he had an idea and made it after it was already done. Another bad thing was that after a 10-20 minute invention segment, it would give a couple of inventions that were invented during the time period but would give a brief description of the invention and what it did but I personally think that some of the inventions deserve more time to be explained like the other inventions that have 10-20 minute segment. I know that giving these inventions a segment of their own would make each of the episodes over an hour long but the longer it is, the more information it has.

I think that this documentary has a lot of information in it since because of the amount of information in a single episode and the series contains 10 episodes. The series is entertaining in a way with the graphics and the transitions. The acting was okay and it gives that 20th century feel with the way the actors dressed and looked. The series did a good job with the narration and made the segment with the inventors. Overall, the documentary did a good job making it feel like a old film but modern while

keeping it entertaining. Those were my personal opinions on the episodes and how I like them.