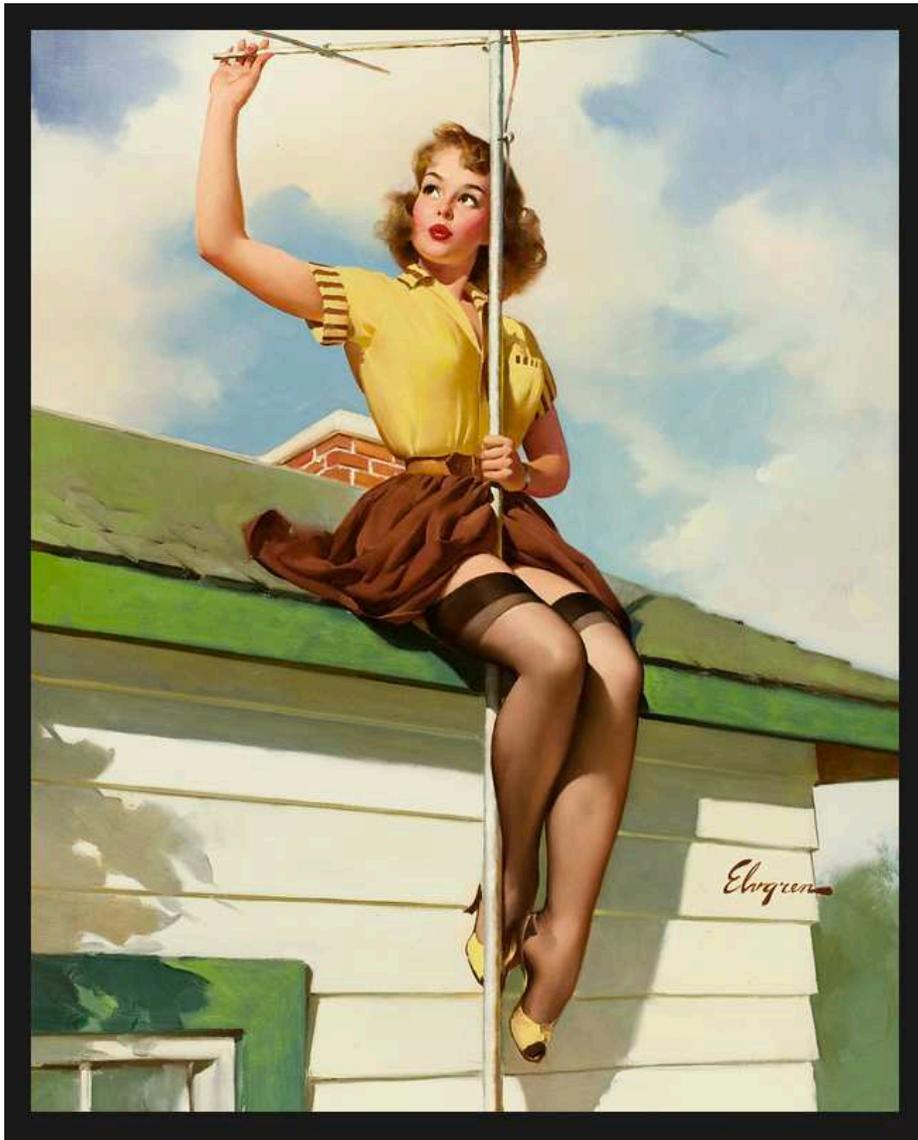


TV DX (long gone...)

A note by Bart Lee, K6VK, Archivist

Summer Fun -- TV DX. In Summer, the old VHF TV channels could skip for long distances, especially Channels 2, 3, and 4, from 56 MHz up to 75 Mhz. Of course, one needed a good antenna:



Gil Elvgren "On The House"

Sporadic E layer ionization provided this opportunity to see what was going on in other cities. One of the earliest reports was pre WW II in 1940, of Chicago reception of the experiment station in New York. (www.earlytelevision.org/dx_prewar.html).

With the US and Canadian changeover to UHF digital TV, only a few Mexican stations still broadcast in VHF analog. This summer of 2015 would have been the last summer to try for that TV DX.

The Wiki says, with respect to the now defunct hobby of TV DX:

“While only a limited number of local stations can normally be received at satisfactory signal strengths in any given area, tuning into other channels may reveal weaker signals from adjacent areas. More consistently strong signals, especially those accentuated by unusual atmospheric conditions, can be achieved by improving the antenna system. The development of interest in TV-FM DX as a hobby can arise after more distant signals are either intentionally or accidentally discovered, leading to a serious interest in improving the listener's antenna and receiving installation for the purpose of actively seeking long-range television and radio reception.”

The FM band at 88 to 108 MHz offers some DX possibilities. Summer tropo ducting, sporadic E and perhaps grey line F2 propagation (in a time of high sunspots) may make it possible to hear distant stations.

Of course, to enjoy TV and FM DX, the outdoor TV antenna required careful adjustment and maintenance. In the image above, noted pin-up artist Gil Elvgren presented “On The House” antenna adjustment, no doubt optimizing for TV DX (1958).

(de K6VK) ##