

Television Comes to Santa Clara

The first television set in Santa Clara, to my knowledge, was purchased by Verl (Si) Graf. He lived in the house just across Highway 91 from the Santa Clara Church, on the southwest corner.

Si was very patient, and willing to let people crowd into his small home to get a look at the newest invention, finally arrived in our small town. The year must have been in the mid-1950s, maybe 1955 or 1956.

I vividly remember the day I knocked on the door to ask if I could see the television--I was probably 7 or 8 years old. I was invited in, and sat down on the floor to look at the TV, which displayed a very snowy test pattern because nothing was being broadcast at the time. This is similar to how it

looked, although it was not this clear.

I remember that there were probably 8 or 10 other people there wanting to see television, adults and kids. After a while, I finally went home. I didn't get to see a television show that day, but it was still very exciting to see something that actually could show a cartoon, or a movie right in your own home!

Television wasn't new in the mid-50s, but to the greater part of the country it was! My own family didn't get a TV set until the early 1960s. We were so behind the times!

