

Song Noise

By Hap Hansen

People are sure different. Walk into some homes and it's almost like walking into a morgue. Absolute quiet pervades the atmosphere. Walk into other homes and quickly discover that any appliance that comes with a speaker is on full blast. Noise is the thought of the day. Many of those speakers are blaring out songs that I cannot understand, sung by singers who sound enraged. A little song noise is okay. A lot of song quiet is better. I could never understand how someone could concentrate on anything with two television sets and at least two radios blaring simultaneously. And all tuned to different stations! Can those folks separate and understand four different conversions, plus mine, at the same time? Can they tell from the loud ads where the best buys at stores are? Which stores are having sales? I don't think so, but it sure doesn't bother them! What is so surprising is that many of those folks do not turn their television sets and radios down when someone comes to call. Different songs are being played on each different speaker. They just sit there, hollering over the din, just to make themselves understood. Guests cannot say anything quietly, of course, they just holler along with their host. And the hosts will many times ignore their guests if a more interesting song appears on one of the speakers. Perhaps the folks with constantly running noise machines prefer the racket. That way, they do not have to deal with their own thoughts, or perhaps song noise delays the time they must deal with reality or problems with relationships. Absolute quiet in someone's home can be little disconcerting to a guest as well as noise. Although conversations are much easier, guests may have to feel they have to whisper in order not to disturb the quiet thought processes of their hosts. It's okay to speak loudly once in a while, just to make sure everyone is alive!

Silence began to fade with the introduction of radio. Silence almost disappeared when television came on the scene. Unfortunately, except for the news, there's not much worth watching on TV anyway. So why do some folks listen and watch up to eighteen hours a day? Why not do them a favor and send them a good book.