



ALBERT L. LORENZO

Cultural Center

MACOMB COMMUNITY COLLEGE

**Videos in Use During
THE 1950'S:
AFFLUENCE AND ANXIETY IN THE ATOMIC AGE
FEBRUARY 26 – MAY 7**

On the Television on Discovery Hall

Videos in rotation throughout the duration of the program

The Polio Crusade

PBS Home Video, 2009

In the summer of 1950 fear gripped the residents of Wytheville, Virginia. Movie theaters shut down, baseball games were cancelled and panicky parents kept their children indoors- any thing to keep them safe from an invisible invader. The ones who couldn't escape the perpetrator were left paralyzed, and some died in the wake of devastating and contagious virus. Polio had struck in Wytheville. The town was in the midst of a full-blown epidemic. That year alone, more than 33,000 Americans fell victim-half of them under the age of ten. This film interweaves the personal accounts of polio survivors with the story of an ardent crusader who tirelessly fought on their behalf while scientists raced to eradicate this dreaded disease.

Truman

PBS Home Video, 2008

He was a farmer, a businessman gone bankrupt, an obscure Missouri politician almost unknown in Washington. Of all men who had held the highest office, he was the least prepared. But he would prove to be a surprise. Incorporating remarkable archival film footage and photographs, *Truman* traces the unlikely rise of a gritty American original. Taking over after Franklin Roosevelt's death shocked the nation, Truman faced some of the biggest crises of the century. He would end the war with Germany, use the atomic bomb against Japan, confront an expanding Soviet Union and wage war in Korea-all while the woman he adored, his wife Bess, refused to stay in the White House and play the role of First Lady. Truman's stubborn determination and Midwestern modesty eventually earned him the admiration of many middle-class Americans, who propelled him to a stunning political upset with the rallying cry "Give 'Em Hell, Harry."

Dwight D. Eisenhower/Commander-In-Chief

A&E Biography, 2004

A West Point graduate whose military know-how catapulted him through the US Army ranks, Eisenhower's steadfast leadership helped turn the tide of World War II. In his role as commander-in-

chief, Eisenhower became a well-respected and dedicated advocate for peace and human rights throughout the world.

The McCarthy Years

See It Now, 1991

Narrated by former CBS News anchorman Walter Cronkite, *The McCarthy Years* turns back the clock to the 1950s, a time when the country lurched into a murky period of blacklists and witch-hunts for alleged Communists, all led by a young Senator named Joseph McCarthy. Revered for his bravery and incorruptibility, Murrow made a controversial series of broadcasts that challenged McCarthy's abuses of power, which-as this gripping program investigates-signaled the emergence of television news as a momentous and highly influential force in American life.

Playing on the Kiosk near the Home scene

Historic Suburban Sprawl

Historic Film, Quality Information Publishers, 2007

Suburbs and shopping malls and consumerism – oh my! Back in the 1950's, these concepts were fresh and new and spawned a whole generation of baby boomers with plenty of income to push the consumerist culture of our country.

Playing on the Kiosk near the Bomb Shelter

Living in a Fallout Shelter ca. 1950s

A Cold-War era film that was meant to instruct Americans on how to live within a Fallout Shelter should nuclear war ever break out.

Playing on the Television in the Korean War Room

Videos in rotation throughout the duration of the program

Korean War Stories

PBS Home Video, 2001

More than fifty years ago, American and United Nations troops fought a bitter and bloody war in a country unknown to most Americans. Many weren't quite sure what we were fighting for. But in just three years in Korea, 37,000 Americans lost their lives; thousands more are still listed as missing. The Korean conflict is often called "The Forgotten War," but it has never been forgotten by the men and women who experienced it. In *Korean War Stories*, these veterans share their memories.

Korea - The Forgotten War

The History Channel, 1987

At the end of World War II, few Americans dreamed the nation would soon be involved in another overseas conflict. Yet June 25, 1950, marked the dawn of the Korean War. This film explores the violent battle, from the forces that shattered the post-war peace to the delicate resolution that set the stage for the Cold War. Witness dramatic footage of Marine forces as they execute an amphibious landing at Inchon; follow soldiers as they push the North Koreans to thousands of troops over the border in a move that many thought signaled the beginning of World War III.

Playing on the Kiosk near the “Atoms for Peace” Room

Freedom to Learn (1954)

Historic Film, Quality Information Publishers, 2007

Freedom to Learn explores the implications of 1950’s communist witch hunts through the story of Mrs. Orin, a high school social studies teacher. When a parent notices that her daughter’s notes contain information about communism, she confronts Mrs. Orin and eventually takes the issue all the way to the school board. Mrs. Orin must defend herself in front of an angry mob. The film’s conclusion is a chilling representation of the times – Mrs. Orin may not prevail in her quest for freedom of speech and ideas.

Playing on the screen in the “Atoms for Peace” room

Episodes playing in Rotation throughout the duration of the program

America’s Atomic Bomb Tests, 1997

After World War II, American scientists and military officials conducted numerous atomic tests in the American Southwest; now this incredible documentary footage (intended for internal use and not declassified until 1997) comes to light in three essential DVD’s.

Playing on the Television near the home scene

Videos in rotation throughout the duration of the program

Shane, 1952

This quintessential Western myth earned six Academy Award nominations, and is one of the classics of the American cinema. The story brings Alan Ladd, a drifter and retired gunfighter, to the assistance of a homestead family terrorized by a wealthy cattleman and his hired gun (Jack Palance). In fighting the last decisive battle, Shane sees the end of his own way of life. Mysterious, moody and atmospheric, the film is enhanced by the intense performances of its splendid cast.

Good night, and Good luck, 2005

It's 1953, and the talking piece of furniture is called a TV is still a novelty in America's living rooms. On it, Sen. Joseph McCarthy uses fear, falsehoods and belligerence to become to become arguably the most powerfully man in the land. On it, newsman Edward R. Murrow, who's had his fill of the senator's tactics, fights back.

"THEM", 1954

Man has split the atom and ushered in a new era. But how could he know he would also create *Them*? A landmark movie about giant radiation-mutated ant that gets the better with age. Starting with a battered corpse in New Mexico full of enough formic acid to kill 20 men, it ends with an epic struggle in the 700 miles of storm drains under Los Angeles, where the insect hordes are beaten.

On The Beach

Metro Goldwyn Mayer, 1959

The war is over. Nobody won. Only the inhabitants of Australia and the men of the US submarine *Sawfish* have escaped the nuclear destruction and radiation. Captain Dwight Towers takes the *Sawfish* on a mission to see if an approaching radiation cloud has weakened, but he returns with grim news: The cloud is lethal. With the days and hours dwindling, each person confronts the grim situation in his or her own way. The final chapter of human history is coming to a close . . .

Dragnet, 1957

The spare, stunning style of the classic series *Dragnet* has influenced the police genre for over fifty years. Director/star Jack Webb struck new ground through his pursuit of authenticity, extracting the stories from actual LAPD cases and focusing on deductive and investigative police work. Begun in 1949 as a radio program, the original television series ran from 1952 through 1959 and was the most popular detective series of the decade.

The Roy Rogers Show, 1951

The beloved Roy Rogers hit a bulls-eye with this popular television series that premiered in 1951. The "King of the Cowboys" was joined by his wife Dale Evans and bumbling sidekick Pat Brady in his fight for law and order in the contemporary West. Roy's horse Trigger, dog Bullet and Pat's cantankerous jeep Nellybelle were all part of the cast that centered on Roy's Double R Bar Ranch.

The Lone Ranger, 1950

This DVD chronicles the legend of the Lone Ranger and how Dan Reid (Clayton Moore) became the masked rider of the plains. Discover how he was rescued from certain death, how he found "Silver" his fabulous wild stallion, the meaning behind his black mask, why he uses silver bullets, and answers to many more regrets! "Hi-yo Silver, Away!" Includes Jay Silverheels as his faithful companion "Tonto".

I Love Lucy, 1951

By the end of its initial season, *I Love Lucy* was TV's first bona fide smash-hit – the very first program seen in more than 10 million homes. America just couldn't get enough of this stunning new comedy talent. Fall in love all over again, with the wild and wacky series that changed TV forever!

Ozzie & Harriet, 1952

One of the lynch pins of the series' tremendous fan base was that audiences truly believed that the Nelsons were playing themselves, an illusion the Nelson family did nothing to dispel. The exterior of their TV home was modeled on the actual Nelson home, and Ozzie incorporated many genuine events, neighbors, family and hobbies into the show.

Father Knows Best, 1954

This program's depiction of a "typical" mid-century, middle-class, Midwestern American family is fondly remembered by those of us lucky enough to come from such families and those of us who longed to. Jim and Margaret Anderson treated their kids with authority, empathy and wisdom. And by the end of every episode, we'd all learned our lesson.

The Honeymooners, 1953

"One of these Days . . . Pow! Right in the Kisser" or "to the Moon Alice . . . to the Moon!" Working class New York bus driver Ralph Kramden is always coming up with get-rich-quick schemes for him and his best friend, Ed Norton, who's always around to help him get in (and out of) trouble.

Lassie's Christmas Stories, 1958

Lassie has saved the day without fail for more than six decades in film, television, radio and books. Her embodiment of the American notion of a boy and his dog has fueled unparalleled success in all forms of pop culture. No other dog, real or imagined, has the emotional bond that has forged with multiple generations.

Hollywood Singing and Dancing: The Musical History of the 1950's

Great Musical Treasures, 2009

During the 1950's, musical masterpieces that have yet to be equaled were produced in Cinemascope with stereophonic sound. This DVD explores how the post-war years were alive with bold experimentation in musical film. Later in the decade, Rock & Roll became the musical choice of the younger generation and movie musicals followed suit.