

G. William Whitehurst's recollections about teaching on television in the 50s

Sweeney: You were a pioneer in the 1950's with Bob Stern in the television program "Trouble Spots Around the World" and then you taught a history course on Virginia history on television. Do you feel that these early exposures on television helped you when you became a news analyst on WTAR in 1962?

Whitehurst: Without a doubt. I tell you those programs were put together on, you know, a wing and a prayer sort of thing. We had a lot of fun, and you know, they gave us a sufficient amount of preparation, but we got over the business of... that a person always does who first goes on television or having an eye look at him and have to look back in it. Being able to speak with a certain feeling of being extemporaneous and with spontaneity. So, I really did profit from it, especially teaching the course, because the place where I taught was . . . the fellows would play jokes on you. They'd set the alarm clock on you to go off in the middle of it and it was just a very loose arrangement. You really had to hang loose, as it were. So, I felt that I really cut my teeth, and therefore, when the opportunity came to be a news analyst for WTAR, why, as far as the nuts and bolts of appearing on camera were concerned, I had that behind me. And so, it was really, really duck soup. (p. 6)

Full interview at:

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