

Snyder's home laboratory contains many types of electrical devices and machines. He once spent 10 to 12 hours a day working in it, but now can only work about an hour a day.

When the Snyder's mixed with Hollywood and other notables at parties in California, the best thing for Dick, he said, was that he couldn't hear the gossip going on. People have to stand close to his ears for him to understand what they say. "Mimi," of course, had no such impairment and could pass along what she learned.

Snyder was in the New York-New Jersey social whirl when a bachelor. He lived for five years in the exclusive Nassau Club at Princeton. No conniving hostess ever introduced him to a woman he wanted to marry until his reintroduction to "Mimi".

Snyder has written articles on electrical engineering for a number of national magazines. He has been a member of the American Ordnance Society, Institute of Radio Engineers, Sigma XI (electrical engineering society), American Institute of Electrical Engineers and is a life fellow in the Institute of Electrical and Electronic Engineers.

Snyder has a brother, Chris, five years his senior, who was graduated from the University of Pennsylvania electrical engineering school. Now retired in Plainfield, N.J., Chris Snyder chose electrical and electronic management rather than laboratory work. He first worked for Philco and then for General Ceramics Company, where he became vice president and director. He also was a director in other related companies. During World War II, Chris was commissioned an Army colonel and was sent to Europe to secure as many scientists and engineers as practical for U.S. industry.

Dick Snyder rates Cyrus McCormack as the greatest inventor of all time because his reaper revolutionized the production of food. He also says the only genius he ever knew was Phil Farnsworth, his first boss, "who worked out all the principles of black and white television when he was 14 years old."

If you understand electrical and electronic terms

(the writer can't even repair an electrical lamp switch), you no doubt would be fascinated with every technical word he knows. Even to an electrical know-nothing, Dick Snyder is an entertaining and charming man of culture and grace and, if you stand or sit close enough, his hearing is good enough for him to understand and appreciate what you might say on many subjects.

Proud moments of Snyder's professional life came when:

—He invented a practical way to increase the sensitivity of a camera tube called the image dissector and showed it at Franklin Institute in Philadelphia.

—He developed a sensitive light detector for Mt. Wilson Observatory and astronomers.

—He exhibited an electron multiplier and displayed it at the New York World's Fair in 1939.