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sept 29 72

"I've been thinking about the C.B.S. thing again lately."

"Oh yea, how come?"

"Oh, everyone who writes ~~an article~~ about us still asks about that story first"

" but that was <sup>ALMOST 5</sup> ~~three~~ years ago, it must be some story."

" Not really but I guess it made us sort of folk heres in a way, <sup>cause</sup> ~~and~~ we were the first video people to have direct dealings with the networks. And it was funny so I guess thats why they ask."

" Tell it once more and Ill never ask again, o.k.?"

"Well its only my point of view you realize, everyones story would be different."

" Thats O.K."

"Sure. Maybe it would be good to tell it since so many people are flirting with the networks these days. Personally Id like to see everyone say no to the netwer works same as id like to see us all say no to the government and to the phone company too. But anyway Ill tell you the story."

" O.K."

"Don was the assistant to Dr. Frank Stanton and Don wanted to produceaa T.V. shew. Something new, somethin that had never been done before. And he wasnt afraid, after all, he was Dr. Stantens golden boy. Carol and I wanted to raise money for a multi media showcase up near Colombia and I went to see Don for support. When I found him he was doing think sessions with the same old gag writers and it just didnt gell with his "New Project " Rap. I didnt know anything about ~~video~~/T.V. or video but I thought I knew something different when I saw it, and that wasnt it!

2

So after a few weeks of hesitation Carol and I went to work for Don on his project and were installed in the big conference room on the fourteenth floor with a separate lock. And that's where I sat smoking dope until I met the Videofreex the week after Woodstock. The minute I saw their tape of the shithouse at the festival I knew that here was something different.

At first Parry David and Curtis seemed very anxious to work for C.B.S. and I guess they thought they could get what they wanted, but experience and power will out and nobody fucks the networks. At least not yet."

"But I heard you got a lot of bread and equipment out of the project"

"Well, we spent a lot of money, at least it seemed like a lot to me. I think it totaled about 90,000 by the end of the project in December."

"What exactly was it you were doing?"

"Well at first I had the idea that it would be a

totally live show where anything could happen and would be open ended or if it couldn't be at least it would give the illusion of being open ended, and Don agreed, but the Videofreex did not. Very often I found myself in the middle of tremendous hassles between Don and the freex who were afraid of ending up on the cutting room floor so to speak, when the show went on. But David was very strong and made sure that the show was an experiment in using half inch video for broadcast.

He was also careful that no other videos musseled in on his score like Global Village tried to do while the freex were in California."

"The freex went to California?"



(3)

" Sure, they flew and when they got there they had a big Dodge motor home fully equipped to travel and

shoot. Ya see at this point we were going to utilize the mobility of the equipment and tape things that had never been done before and Don was thrilled and Mike Dann of programming and the entire tech department were shitting in their pants about how Don could get support for what they thought was a totally worthless project. But they were wrong. The tapes were hot and we knew it. We covered Chicago during the Conspiracy trial and talked to people the networks could never get to. We spent ~~days~~ with Fred Hampton and the Chicago Black Panthers just days before he was murdered by Chicago police. It was about this time when we started to realize why these people would talk to us and would never talk to the networks. Don told us

that if the government sepeoned any of their tape or film that it was the policy of the network to hand it over and then we started wondering who owned the tapes we were shooting. I myself was radicalized enough by Chicago not to want anything to do with the network, and even Don started wearing his tennis shoes and crew neck sweated to the office, but he couldn't make the break."

" So what happened?"

" Well, papers were drawn up to insure that the ownership of the tapes ultimately went to the free press but David didn't trust them, Parry had totally stepped communication with them to the point of leaving the meetings at Black Rock to dismantle the elevators on the top floors."

"Did you do the show?"

(4)

" Yea, Don set us up in a house in the country to do

the edit because there had to be a very cooled out environment because no one had ever done a big edit like this before. We decided to use the best of the taped segments and mix them with a live show with controversial people in the studio to comment and also rock and roll so we had live music from Morgan Mason and Downs and Major Wiley who I had fantasies about making stars and oh yea Buzzy Linheart who lived upstairs from the Rivington Street Loft and thought he was a star already, but I digress.

" The edit and the house in the country."

" Oh yea, the edit had old fashioned circus arts people, it had new fashioned free school in California, it had inflatable makers( the first time I ever saw one and I

watch T.V, all the time) it had Abby and Jerry and Fred Hampton and when we brought the edit down to the Prince St. Loft for the live presentation on the 17th of

December, we left the originals in the country, MISTAKE.

" You did the show at Prince St.?"

" Yes and the place was a mess. We had just gotten it about two weeks before the thing. But we rented some real fancy french provincial furniture and set up a viewing space for Mike Dann and the other execs in the loft of our new neighbor, who was also our landlord. The only reason he rented to us in the first place was because he saw we had a big gig with C.B.S. Anyway the show went on live as promised and also as promised it was like nothing that was ever done before. Good r/bad wasnt the point it was an amazing piece of work. And because of the shaky technology and the spirit of the people involved it was a show noone could take their eyes off of. Dann Dann came drunk and after viewing the thing and putting his fat cigar out in our neighbor and landlords carpet, came next door to address the sleezy production crew, participants and well wishers and Don. And although I was in a total daze at the time I do remember something

about us kids and dirty attic and how the networks werent ready and maybe in five years. I said to myself how typical, sure in five years the networks will be using things like this, of course it wont be hip by then. These dumb fucks, they didnt understand. But they did understand something cause after the smoke had cleared and we had had our last expense account bash at St. Adrians, we found that during the presentation



(5)

a private plane had flown up to the country to gather up the tapes and what do you think, the big boys had them. Oh boy the game was over and the freex were right. What were a couple pf EV mikes to our work, our sweat, our tapes. I knew what side I was on. We tried. Skip and I went back up to the pffice. Late. Sign in, past security and up the elevator with the empty guitar case but the tapes were in the safe. We took some papers, some agreements but so what. And Don? He had guts, he had vision, he got fired. He tried to peddle the presentation tape for a long time but the thing about that kind of show is that there has to be a new one each time. We kept taping, he didnt."

"So is there a moral to the story?"

"Me, well I dont moralize, I dont know who are the good guys. I do know that since that time I dont know anyone who has dealt with the network without feeling ripped off and somewhat soiled and ashamed of the association."

"Noone?"

"Well, of course there must be some, but ya know those people just sort of melt into the system and are never seen again, i think. But for them its ok. right? Say ya wanna go over and trash up Black Rock this afternoon? I heard if ya go down to the Fulton Fish market and get a biiiigggg mackerel....."

"Wasnt there something about Lou Brill — ... that kid from Queens College that started the whole thing? And someone told me Mel Lyman was involved in that Project!...!"

"And thats another story....."



~~So where does that leave you, its almost like years right?  
 /lea, / I stick with Media / But / see / No / deep / deep /~~

So where does that leave you now?

/so now here I am in a lovely house in the country and a  
 reasonable facimile to a little tv sataion that answers to  
 nobody, has no rules ~~and as far as I can tell is perfectly~~  
~~pure~~ --but dont get me going, Im obsessed with it, I mean  
 it / it / sounds / like / paradise /

kwely-

none / the show can be about absolutely anything, can go on for  
 as long as it likes, is a total two way system with its audience  
 Its an absolute mind blower and only a couple hundred people  
 see it. Don would love it, I mean as far as I can tell its  
 absolutely pure

