

deo skills and knowledge. Citizens have produced programs exceeding 300 hours of recorded materials. Individual programs of local events and issues have had 250 separate public viewings. Approximately 10,000 people have seen these programs. Tapes reflect the citizens-producers interest.

Areas of Intensive Community Video Utilization

As this completely volunteer program has developed, video users have been working in self-selected interest areas. Although there are others, these areas predominately fall into the following categories: Town of North Hempstead Planning Board; Port Washington Senior Citizens; Sands Point Nursing Home; Educationally Concerned Parents and Teachers; and the Recording of Local History through Events and Personalities. To date, these interest areas are producing discernable results.

These interest areas and results also illustrate the various ways in which video exploration has taken place. They include:

- 1) Video demythification – Video is a tool with which many people can become adept, not only a selected few.
- 2) Catalytic agent – Video has been effectively used to engender, to inform discussion and action on local events and issues.
- 3) Self-image – Video has helped individuals and groups to better understand each other as they are.
- 4) Personal expression – Video has been the source and means of personal expression.
- 5) Archival use – Video is providing an on-going oral-visual history of local events, issues, and personalities.
- 6) Video amplification – Video has presented people without distortion in their natural activities and conversation.

The following two areas of video tape involvement clearly illustrate how citizen production has used video to achieve some of the above video results, as well as community awareness and dialogue use. (These two areas are representative of the dozens that the Port Washington Video Program are involved with. - eds.)

Educationally Concerned Parents and Teachers

Individual housewives and members of various PTA groups have gained instruction in video and consequently become quite adept in its utilization. Their major concern has been the nature and quality of elementary school instruction. They have video taped classes, special events, and innovative instruction. These tapes were made available to parents. For many parents it was the first time they could be seated with their child beside them and see on the screen before them their children and others in a class situation as it happened. This is a novel, innovative and personal experience.

This type of video information has provided many people, for the first time, with a direct sense of what actually is taking place in the educative process of their children. Also, such tapes have provided secondary school students with a knowledge of educational change since their recent days in elementary school.

A major breakthrough in school and community understanding has taken place. With the consent of the individual classroom teacher, members of the community are entering the schools at will to make a record of the activities taking place within the schools. This is a major step in moving from third-hand gossip of what is occurring educationally to an informed understanding.



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