

Cultural and Entertainment – Production of Chinese drama, concerts, celebrations, homemovies, documentary study of Chinese philosophy and practices, dubbing UHF shows into Chinese, exchange of tapes from outside the immediate community.

At the same time, we are putting together a library of professional quality tapes exploring the Asian experiences in the United States. Thorough treatments of the history, the culture, the people, the problems; the joys, will be made available to facilities outside of Chinatown. We believe our struggle is your struggle, and your struggles are our struggles.

Address: contact Danny Chung Yen Kwan at Video Chinatown, 850 Kearny Street, San Francisco, 94108, (415) 421.1341.



Dan Kwan with Video Chinatown.

HOMESKIN

by Peter Berg

HOMESKIN set out in a van a few years ago to visit land-based groups in North America and video tape "letters of introduction" to carry along from one group to the next. We were looking for planetarians, Earth-rooted people who saw the planet as a whole without reference to political or cultural boundaries. We wanted to make the video tool available to them for whatever purpose they might imagine, and we hoped the messages they made would deepen common consciousness between groups.

Superculture media mainly links the consciousness of cities to other cities. Traditionally NYC pumps out broadcasting and publishing, LA spews film. Some other cities answer back with chunks of TV, a few books, a radio blast, and a magazine or two; but the distribution patterns of media are something like those maps of airline routes between no more than thirty major cities. Radial lines with service in both directions and very few stops in between.

People outside of cities are subjected to information and images, including that about themselves, after it has been first processed by city media consciousness.

A circuit of video mail carried across the continent could produce the most direct connection between people living on the land, even it were much slower than broadcast media, simply because it was made by the people themselves.

HOMESKIN barely touched the whole web in its circuit west to east and back again. There are potential stops in hundreds of places we never got to and the number of new settlers, co-operative villages, and communeers is growing. It seems natural that there should be an increasing number of Video Pony Express Riders filling in the continental web. For anyone about to hit those long dirt roads and climb mountains in low-low gear, we offer the following as a context for riding the new land-circuit.

Be willing to join in with the continual work of the place you're visiting. Country scenes are often over-exposed to city recuperatees who are simply dead weight until they recover. Making an announcement of your goodwill is probably not enough to cover the extra energy that will go to cover your stay.

Try to bring as much non-tape information about groups or whatever you show as possible. Addresses, directions, sharable tools and skills, wild herbs that are available, crop and seed information, etc.

Encourage people to make their own tape by letting them use the equipment or tape things they would like to record. Some of our best stuff was made by people who had just learned to use a VTR. You can always edit some of the tiresome stuff later ("Is the microphone on now?" . . . "Does the red light mean we're shooting?") It's an obvious fact that people will be more comfortable having someone they already know on the other end of the camera at least part of the time you're helping to record their letter.

We propose a Planetarian Video Mail Service to provide information about potential routes and circuit-riders.

Please write: HOMESKIN, P.O. Box 31251, San Francisco, California 94131

Note: Space limitation prohibits the publication of this piece in its entirety — write HOMESKIN for copies of the complete paper. — Editor