

Response in town has been overwhelming. Contrary to conditions in a big city where you never even know if anyone is watching, people in a small town are really tuned in. In fact, one afternoon after we had made a successful but unannounced test on the system, we went into town to get groceries and some woman came running out of the beauty parlor (she must have jumped right out of her chair because she still had her plastic smock on) just to tell us how wonderful it was!



So much for enthusiasm. As far as programming is concerned, possibilities keep growing. We have shown only local tapes so far, mainly because people are most excited about seeing their own little town on TV . . . the local grocer making sausage, a former school teacher caning chairs, the cop talking about the non-existence of crime in a small town, a terra firma man talking about his Wallace politics and how his life has changed since he came to live in the country, some city kids turning people on to video at a fire house bazaar, interviews with townspeople about a local controversy on whether to close an old covered bridge to cars, American Indians dancing at a nearby crafts fair as well as people demonstrating their crafts, an auction, a square dance, the Memorial Day Parade (much requested since everyone in town was there), and numerous events from the school. The school by the way, is purchasing a portapack and a 3600 in September, so hopefully a lot of programming will be originating from the kids themselves.

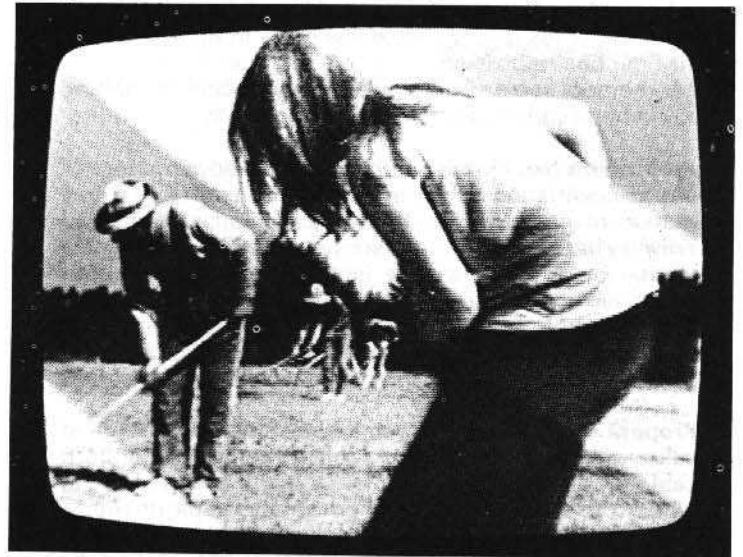
We are quite interested in generating a series on small farmers and the problems they encounter in trying to maintain a living in a society which consistently supports bigger and bigger farming operations. We hope to gather



survival information which may be of help to those people who want to earn a living in the country, be they farmers who don't want to be forced to sell out to city people because they can get more for their land than from farming, or whether they are young people who want to leave the city and get into the land, learn a craft, and simply live as self-sufficiently as possible. This also applies to local young people who may be tempted to move to a city to find work because they haven't gotten themselves out of the "get a job" mentality.

TECHNICAL DATA: We are using the Sony RF modulator out of the 3600 and the portapack, going through an old tube RF amplifier (worth about \$10, could be better but it works), and padded down to match the other signals. At the moment, we are going into a 30db down test tap in the first trunk amplifier. Hopefully, when we get the right kind of connector, we'll go directly into the line without a pad. We're ordering a Hamlin band pass filter (\$15 from Hamlin International Corp., 126-B S.W. 153rd St., Seattle, Wash. 98166) to minimize spurious side band signals.

A few sets in town do get bleeding of video into Channel 2 (noticeable as a herringbone pattern). The point we are plugged into is the first place the cable splits after coming down the mountain from the antenna. We also get AC there. People usually have to fine tune their sets (some old sets don't get the signal at all) but, in general, quality is quite acceptable. The cable system is in good shape and there are about 250 subscribers. It is a community-owned system which tends to minimize bureaucracy!



ENVIRONMENTAL INFORMATION NETWORK

We have an hour edit from the Environmental events in Stockholm last June which should be seen by anyone concerned about the quality of life on the planet. There is emerging an unquestionable realization that our basic value systems must be changed before we can maintain a standard of living which meets our spiritual as well as our material needs. Also of note is a half hour edit on some people in Sweden who are into what they call "friendly farming." This goes beyond simple organic techniques. They don't believe in plowing (it disrupts the ecological balance of the soil and thus requires even more energy to be put back into the earth in order to regain the balance) and of course, they use no chemicals or even animal waste to fertilize. They work with nature, not against it, and the old man who is their inspiration has much to teach us all about living on the earth and making things grow.

We are interested in gathering and disseminating information which raises people's consciousness about the environment. Unfortunately, since ecology has become such a political issue, many people relate to it only superficially rather than trying to develop life styles that are ecologically sound. It seems that video could generate information to change some of these patterns.

Dean & Dudley
P.O. 190, Downsville, N.Y. 13755

photos: Dudley Evenson