

Beltrami Ethnic History Project

Beltrami is a neighborhood, a small pocket community of some five hundred homes in Northeast Minneapolis. It is also a unique ethnic community rich with history. The Swedes were the first to settle; later came the Italians, Poles, and other ethnic minorities. Some fell into the "melting pot," others did not. Today, few remember Swede Alley, mainstreet for the Nordic immigrant. Tomorrow, perhaps, few will recall Beltrami Park, once a Civil War cemetery, now a growing park and recreation center.

Three or four generations can still be found in many Beltrami homes. The neighborhood is as colorful and complex as ever, but the cultural community is changing -- both in face and spirit -- and the young are leaving without the knowledge of their own heritage.

Now, with the prospect of losing the past entirely, the residents of Beltrami, through a community council, will recapture and document their history as they remember it. Conceived and directed by the community, the project will result in a video tape production of the history of Beltrami as remembered and told by its residents. This includes oral history as well as performance and exhibition of cultural activities -- virtually anything the community wants to preserve.

The project is attracting community volunteer help from students' groups, professional sources from the community and the University of Minnesota, and from residents in general. At regularly scheduled meetings of the resident council the video tapes recorded up to that point will be reviewed. Here the residents can suggest additions, deletions, and other changes, and aid in outlining the next shooting schedule. Distribution of the tapes will be left to the discretion of the community. Conceivably, copies of the tapes can be made and distributed to various institutions, communities,

and other interested parties.

The Beltrami Ethnic History Project not only introduces video tape ($\frac{1}{2}$ inch) as an excellent community tool, but also draws the neighborhood closer together in understanding and appreciating its past -- preserving community tradition that might otherwise have been lost.

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Video Involvement Project

South Minneapolis has a large Black community, the Afro-American Cultural Arts Center, and little video/cable information. The Cultural Arts Center, with the aim of improving communications in the community, offered its space to the Twin City Urban Corps and the Minneapolis Public Schools to put together a summer program in the instruction of video for Black youth in the area.

The program that developed, the Video In-

volvement Project, became a ten-week workshop for elementary, junior and senior high school students, but also included other interested persons from the neighborhood as well as staff members of the Cultural Arts Center. Using public school 1/2" equipment (but local video freaks rather than "A.V." teachers,) the project served to instruct students in both studio and portable equipment, recording and editing techniques, the major objective being the development of Black community cultural and educational video tapes for distribution in public schools and community centers.

Participants were involved in classroom instruction sessions, studio production workshops and demonstrations, and a variety of community outreach and fieldwork experiences. Classroom sessions (demonstrations, research, writing, etc.) were held at the Cultural Arts Center, and most production work was done at a local high school radio/television studio or in the streets.

As an alternative to the traditional options of summer school or summer employment, Video Involvement Project students could receive up to four school credits or be paid for their work under the federal Neighborhood Youth Corps program.

A list of tapes is available upon request from:

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D.C. Video Center

The Washington Community Video Center has been organized by members of the Community Video Center at Federal City College

in order to become more responsive to the people in the local D.C. community and to expand activities outside the college structure. WCVC will undertake several new programs designed to enable more community people to become involved in controlling their own communications process. These specific projects were begun in the Fall of 1972:

Cable Television Resource Office, a project to involve citizens and community organizations in the decision-making process for cable TV in D.C.

Survival Information Network, a project to develop videomedia in the areas of health, nutrition, legal services, sanitation, consumer affairs, and to make this information available through video access centers in clinics, waiting rooms, schools, libraries, and other public institutions;

Research on Television as a Common Carrier for Social Services, a project to produce a videodocument about the unexplored potential of television for the distribution of social information services;

Training and Production Service, a project to provide professional expertise in video production, training, and technical assistance for community people.

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Video Rivington

Young Filmmaker's Foundation, Inc. is a non-profit, tax exempt, educational organization developing interest in and support for media production and utilization of works by children, young adults and community interest groups.

Beginning in September, 1971, the Foundation introduced two youth groups to helican scan video tape recording, one on Rivington Street, the other in a public school. The first results have been en-