

How video helps you keep track of your goods

By Marie Chesney
staff writer

Let's suppose adversity struck and your home burned down. Or a burglar broke into your home and made off with your most prized possessions.

One of the first people you'd talk to is your insurance agent. The second, the police.

Both would ask the same question: What was burned (stolen) and what was its value?

"People often forget what they have," said Corey Monson, vice presi-

dent of Real to Reel Inc., a video inventory company, based on Hillcrest in Livonia. "People forget they had 20 suits in a closet or every piece, every knick-knack that was in a living room. Or, they can't prove the value of the things they do remember."

Monson's company comes to the rescue of all who own something of value and want to be prepared in the event the very worst happens. Whether at a home, apartment, factory or even a church, owners faced with a theft or fire need to be able to prove the value of items burned or stolen.

"THE SHOCK comes when people look at their insurance," Monson said. "People have \$100,000 in insurance and think if their house burns down, they would get the \$100,000, no questions asked. But you have to prove you had what you say you had. If you can't, you'll get the minimum unless there's a specific rider on your policy."

Of course, you don't need a videotaping company to inventory your possessions. With camera, notebook, receipts

and serial numbers, you can do it yourself. Just remember to update the list occasionally and store it and the photos in a safe place outside the home.

But, as offered by Real to Reel, you can use space-age videotaping to do the job for you. For sometime now, weddings, pets, wills, seminars all have been put on videotape. By now taping the valuables of owners, and getting customer contacts through insurance companies, the company simply is offering

a new twist on modern technology. THOSE WHO hire the service become video stars. With microphone in hand, they walk from room to room in a home or office. They pick up or point to each object, turning it over to show labels and brands. All the while the owner talks about when it was bought, how much it cost and what the value of it is now.

After filming the inside of a building, the cameras move outside to record garage equipment and even the bushes surrounding a home.

"We show different angles of items, even scratch marks," Monson said. "They don't have to take everything out of a china cabinet. Just bring one dish out, turn it around, show the insignia and say how many others there are. Then open up the cabinet doors and the tape will show the stack of dishes. As people start walking around the house,

things really add up." As when you do the inventory yourself, the videotape should be stored in a safe place outside the home. The company offers lower-cost retakes if you move or if you want to update the inventory. It also offers the free use of a videotape machine if your insurance agent or police need to play back the tape.

THE SQUARE footage of the building determines the cost of the taping. A 2,500-square-foot home can be shot for \$200, Monson said.

Monson, a 1973 graduate of Stevenson High School, has worked for Detroit's Montreux Jazz Festival, videotaped three of Detroit's Grand Prix races and worked as the personal videographer for Wayne County Executive Bill Lucas.

The firm can be contacted at 478-4338.

Machines discarded

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had potential problems in 1978 and asked Puritan-Bennett technicians to ensure that the Botsford machines were operating without the possibility of malfunction.

"AS SOON as we knew there was something wrong, we had them come out," Faine said. "They (hospital personnel) found it when it was acting up," Faine said.

The hospital's earliest documentation of problems with the Foregger machines was in early 1978. Puritan-Bennett servicemen came out to the hospi-

tal in 1980 and again 1982 to fix defective valves.

After the 1983 deaths, representatives of the FDA checked the machines at Botsford, Faine said. The FDA representatives provided hospital officials with a letter certifying that the three machines were safe to use, he said.

"Once they were repaired they were OK," Faine said. "All the time they have been in use they have been safe."

The three Foregger machines were put in "lesser used areas" of the hospital, such as outpatient surgery, Faine said.

Hanover promotes vice president

Manufacturers Hanover Mortgage Corp. has announced the promotion of Ralph J. Miller to senior vice president in charge of the Servicing Department.

Miller began his career with MHMC in August 1975 as an accounting manager. He was promoted to deputy controller in April 1977, and associate vice president in August 1977. In May 1981, he was promoted to corporate vice president in charge of the Servicing Division. Before joining MHMC, he was employed at Consolidated Mortgage Corp. as secretary-treasurer.

An active member of many organizations, he serves on the Mortgage Bankers Association of America's Servicing Committee, the Michigan Mortgage Bankers Association's Legislative Committee, and recently served as president of the National Association of Accountants-Macomb County Chapter. He is a graduate of Heidelberg College where he received a bachelor's degree.

MHMC's corporate headquarters are in Farmington Hills.



Ralph Miller

Protection debated

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as long as no one goes out to purposely hurt someone there is no libel," according to Lark Samouilen, executive director of the Southwestern Oakland Cable Commission.

But McElveen disagrees.

"All programs are obviously subject to rules of libel and all producers should be conscious of that," he said. But up to this time local access has had little trouble in this area.

"As far as I know there haven't been any lawsuits concerning public access, and probably because they're not making money on cable television," Samouilen said.

IN SOME cases the producers are protected by governmental entities.

For instance, legal fees and court costs would be paid for by the city if the people involved in the suit were producing a show for the city.

Presently, there are between 16 and 25 programs on the community-access channels, covering topics ranging from entertainment, how-to shows and informational segments.

"It's amazing how responsible producers are," she said.

A news show that is being considered for community access is intended to be for informational purposes, Samouilen said. It's not going to be there to "make it controversial."

"Public access is a unique opportunity for citizens," Samouilen said. "Cable is going to be the transmitting medium."

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