

Cable Comments

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"Quite a surprise!" said Kay Briggs. Elinor Holland of Novi and I walked into the book store at Northwood Institute in

Midland last Friday. Two of the clerks recognized us from being on Channel 12! They talked about my travel program and said they heard Elinor talk about the new Novi Garden Club! How thrilled both women were to learn of their program being seen elsewhere as well as being recognized! Viewership on all television stations is increasing and changing as never before. This phenomena is to the benefit of Community Television Channels. People are changing. More and more are developing a thirst for knowledge.

People are beginning to take stock of all the opportunities available to them on community television. I want them to experience the richness. Community Television brings to those who participate and watch. Kay Briggs is the perfect example of such positive energy. She is making every moment count in her life.

Not only does Kay have a lifetime of honored recognition, but she bounds out of bed every day energizing everything she touches.

Kay was one of the first people to have faith in the concept of Community Television. She was the first to take the Garden Clubs and to share

their colorful splendor. I will never forget what a wonderful time two of my staff people, Todd Whitman and Intern Julie Smith, had with Kay as she drove them all over the area introducing them to lovely gardens. They could hardly keep up with her.

Kay has traveled throughout the world as well as the United States. She used to take pictures with film.



Now she has a 8mm camcorder. Among the areas Kay has shared with us are: Iceland, New Zealand, Vienna, Austria, Rome, Italy, Africa, Israel, Japan, Venezuela, Ireland, Scotland, China, Tibet, Spain, Peru, the South Pacific, Switzer-

land, Iraq, the Philippines, the Baltic States, the Orient, Alaska, the Galapagos Islands, the Colorado River, England, Yugoslavia, Sri Lanka and the lower Mississippi.

The emphasis of the program has been to show the people and well known sites of the visited area. Her advice to fellow travelers with a video camera is, "Think a smile!" Approach people in a pleasant way and everyone, everywhere, returns it. She always asks the people permission to tape them, especially parents. They have always been pleased.

When I asked Kay what could she share with us as result of traveling throughout the world she replied, "Except the Netherlands and Belgium the standard of living is much lower than ours. Yet people are happy and proud of what they have. They like to share what they have, too." Her favorite country is New Zealand as "the scenery is a microcosm of the world." There are mountains, hot springs, rain forests and large cities. "Christ Church, New Zealand, is a very British City," says Kay, "it looks more like the English than England."

For Kay the most work of the entire project is to edit all the footage afterwards. The decision making necessary to create a program that flows well is a lot of work. Editing doubles the television production time for her. MetroVision's staff works closely with her.

I asked Kay to give us a piece of advice. Her voice was full of warmth and enthusiasm as she chirped, "Do it now when you can!"

Look into your life. What do you already do? Who do you already know? Through Community Access Television you may have the knowhow to make a difference in someone else's life. Through Community Access Television you can add challenge and purpose to your life. All you have to do is share. This concept is what makes advertisers flock to be placed within network talk shows. If you have something to say, someone will be in the viewing audience to listen.

You may have the good fortune to travel throughout the world as Kay Briggs does or you may just be able to travel across the room to your television dial. Either way, you have something treasured in your life just waiting to be shared.



Richard Dean Anderson plays the title role on the ABC series *MacGyver*, Mondays.



Richard Kiley hosts the special, *The Story Behind the Story*, airing Tuesdays on NBC.