

The Local Television News Archive Pool

WPA Film Library

In the spirit of this report, and believing that preservation of and access to local television news is of tremendous importance as part of our national historical record, the WPA Film Library, one of the largest audiovisual archives in the country, announces the formation of the Local Television News Archive Pool. WPA is actively seeking local television stations and others interested in participating in this new cooperative venture.

We invite the managers of local stations from around the country to contact us regarding their inclusion. We will review your news collection, and, if interested, select with your help one hundred hours or more of your material to preserve, catalogue, and represent. We will be looking for items that address national agenda issues (such as education, civil rights, religion, law and order, terrorism, medicine and science, consumer and social issues) but from the local perspective, as well as footage that gives a real sense of your particular locality (landmarks, everyday scenics, natural disasters, regional cuisine, ethnicity, art and music, customs, fairs and festivals, etc.). We especially hope to locate some collections that span several decades.

WPA will take on the full cost and responsibility for duplicating, cataloguing, preserving, and actively marketing your material to the public, via traditional means as well as through our presence on the Internet, and we would develop with you a revenue-sharing plan based on our sales of your footage. In addition, as a member station, you could use any other footage in the Pool simply for the cost of the tape duplication. WPA would resolve any underlying rights issues, and would indemnify members from problems arising from its reuse. We would also periodically review your new footage with an eye toward inclusion of additional material. This way, you can contribute to this unique historical record while you continue, uninterrupted, to exercise your primary function: producing the news each day.

We also invite contact from university collections, museums, historical societies, and other depositories of local television news footage that have had difficulty financing and finessing the cataloguing, preservation, and access this material so richly deserves. We would like to explore how we can cooperate with you and with the original donating stations to safeguard the life of this material and make it more accessible to the public.

WPA believes that a well-run commercial archive can more easily develop the kind of revenue stream necessary to actively catalogue, preserve, and maintain a collection of local news film and video, while providing the public with the best and fastest possible access to this material. At the same time,

we also believe in fair and flexible pricing policies that allow access not only to the high-budget commercial users, but to the more modestly endowed but equally important educational and documentary clients as well.

A bit about us: The WPA Film Library is a subsidiary of The MPI Media Group, a multi-faceted, total-media company with headquarters in the Chicago area. The WPA Film Library itself exists to preserve, and make available on a commercial basis, thousands of hours of stock and archival footage from collections such as British Pathé News, Colorstock, Hullabaloo, and The Music Scene. Besides WPA, the MPI Media Group also includes the oldest independent video label in the world, MPI Home Video, which maintains a catalog of over 2,500 titles in entertainment, music, history and popular culture; and MPI Teleproductions, a self-sufficient, post-production facility that creates original, in-house programming for all media, including home video, television, educational, and corporate films. A database for WPA is available on the Internet, as is additional information on the MPI Media Group, and can be accessed at <http://www.mpimedia.com>. All aspects of the MPI Media Group will be used for this effort, including the creation of programming and distribution through MPI's commercial and institutional channels.

For more information about the Local Television News Archive Pool, please contact Kenn Rabin, Project Coordinator, during Pacific Time business hours, at phone number (415) 459-4429, fax number (415) 459-4498, or email address krabin@sirius.com.

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