Elizabeth Coffman is a documentary maker who has published scholarship on avant-garde film and video, documentary media and serial violence. She recently guest-edited a double issue of the Journal of Film & Video on video history, with articles discussing the significance of the Videofreex, Shirley Clarke’s video work, the Raindance Corporation, video archives and an interview with Skip Blumberg. Coffman teaches at Loyola University Chicago in the School of Communication and writes a column about being a “Long Distance Mom” for Inside Higher Ed.

Panelists

Skip Blumberg is an active digital producer, camcorder reporter, and video pioneer, with hundreds of titles on-line, on many TV channels, in museums, libraries, schools and universities around the world, as well as for clients’ educational, development and fundraising films. He was a John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Foundation Fellow and artist-in-residence at the Winter Olympics and WNET/13. His video doc classic Pick Up Your Feet: the Double Dutch Show was in the Museum of Broadcasting’s series “TV Critic’s Favorite Shows of All Time.” Seven of his videos are in the permanent collection of the Museum of Modern Art.

Deirdre Boyle is a media historian, writer and programmer. She is the editor of eight books and author of Subject to Change: Guerrilla Television Revisited (Oxford, 1997), a history of early documentary video. Her essays on independent video and film have appeared in scholarly and popular journals such as College Art Journal, The Village Voice and Wide Angle, among many others. Her honors include Guggenheim and Fulbright Fellowships, the New School’s Distinguished Teaching Award and an ACE award for programming the Best Documentary Series on cable TV. She has been a media curator for museums, festivals, galleries, universities, media arts centers, and libraries around the world. She is Associate Professor in the School of Media Studies at The New School for Public Engagement in New York City and was Director of their Graduate Certificate in Documentary Studies.

Nancy Cain is a member of the Videofreex collective. Along with Media Bus, Cain traveled New York state running video workshops teaching hundreds of people how to shoot video and how control their own media. And, along with TVTV, she defined the video documentary movement of the 70s, known as “guerrilla television.” Cain was a co-creator and producer of The ’90s, a weekly hour-long program that ran for three seasons on PBS, and which the New York Post called “refreshingly irreverent, opinionated and outlandish.” She was also co-creator and producer of CamNet The Camcorder Network, America’s first all-camcorder channel, which Rolling Stone designated as “a brilliant and democratic vision...a peoples CNN,” and “the inevitable next stop in the liberation of television from network owners and broadcasters.” She recently authored Video Days: And What We Saw Through the Viewfinder (Event Horizon Press).

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Don West has worked in print journalism and the broadcasting industry. In 1969 he produced the radical and ultimately rejected TV pilot, “Subject to Change” before taking a position as editor of the broadcast industry’s leading trade publication (Broadcasting, later Broadcasting & Cable). In addition to his privately published book of aphorisms, The Alabaster Box, West has been published in The New York Times. West is a recipient of the Media Institute’s Freedom of Speech award and a Society of Professional Journalists Hall of Fame inductee. He is currently president and chief executive of the Library of the American Broadcasting Foundation.

Davidson Gigliotti is a member of the Videofreex. He served as Director of Video at the Experimental Intermedia Foundation in New York from 1975 – 1987. Gigliotti’s work as a filmmaker includes single-channel tapes and multi-channel video installations. He has also produced anthologies of the work of contemporary performance artists and musicians. He is the recipient of grants from the National Endowment for the Arts and Creative Artists Public Services and has been artist-in-residence at KTCA-TV, Minneapolis; Visual Studies Workshop, Rochester; and WXXI-TV, Rochester, among other institutions.

Ray Mungo was the radical editor of the Boston University News before joining Marshall Bloom to found Liberation News Service (LNS) in Washington in 1967. His account of the early years of LNS, “Famous Long Ago,” recently republished, is now a college history text. After the news service, he went on to Total Loss Farm in Vermont, a collective and second book. His other titles include “Palm Springs Babylon” and “No Credit Required.” Since 1996, he’s been a social worker in the LA area, tending mostly to AIDS patients and the mentally ill.

Mark Tribe is an artist whose work explores the intersection of media technology and politics. His photographs, installations, videos, and performances are exhibited widely, including recent solo projects at Momenta Art in New York and the San Diego Museum of Art. Tribe is the author of two books, The Port Huron Project: Reenactments of New Left Protest Speeches (Charta, 2010) and New Media Art (Taschen, 2006), and numerous articles. He is an Assistant Professor of Modern Culture and Media Studies at Brown University and a faculty member in the Art Practice MFA program at School of Visual Arts. In 1996, Tribe founded Rhizome, an organization that supports the creation, presentation, preservation, and critique of emerging artistic practices that engage technology. He lives in New York City.

Parry Teasdale is a founding member of the Videofreex and author of Videofreex: America’s First Pirate TV Station & the Catskills Collective That Turned it On and co-author of Library Trustee Handbook. He served on an FCC task force on small local TV stations and co-founded The Television Center, a low-power consulting firm in Washington, D.C. Following several years of work in television and video, Tesdale became a writer and later editor for the Woodstock Times. He is currently the owner, publisher, editor and janitor of The Columbia Paper, a weekly web and print publication based in upstate New York.