

Gary Mack
KXAS-TV
Fort Worth, Texas

3/6/92

Dear Gary,

At almost this moment yesterday morning, dawn, Mike Snyder and his cameraman, Chuck, having rather indefinitely decided that scrapple is OK, drove to Washington, into the rising sun, for another long day - going on four hours after they got here. Scrapple, if you also are ignorant of farm delicacies, is the boiled, chilled and more or less solidified last remnant of hog butchering that is mostly cornmeal. The waitress erred in putting syrup on the table, intended for pancakes, which they did not get, and they assumed it was to be put on the scrapple. which it wasn't. So, it was sweetened when it ought not be. (We never raised pigs. We did cooperatively with one of 'il's uncles, who housed and fed them. The butchering was a family affair, also a rural social affair, albeit laborous and also an art and a science. I was never trusted with the actual butchering once the hogs were scalded and scraped of their hair. I tended the fires under the large cauldrons in which the lard was rendered and the meat scraps for various purposes were cooked, all requiring constant stirring, all outdoors, regardless of ^{winter} weather, rain, snow, sleep and wind and what the wind did to the smoke.)

I enjoyed them. Good men and professional.

Mike had indicated some areas of interest and I had xeroxes of some of the records he wanted to have and use when he phoned. As a result of this and some of his questioning we went into some areas about which I'd not been asked before. I asked him if he could give a dub of what he taped to Hood College, where all my records will go and some are already. It is an excellent small local college. Busy as he was and was going to be after he left ~~in~~ there, this is a reminder.

In thinking of this later it seemed that with all his interviews a dub of all, if that is possible, would be good to have there, along with what was actually aired. Aside from subject-matter content, this could also be useful in the small journalism courses, allowing students to learn both from the unedited interviews and what was selected to be aired. I hope this can be done.

In all my years of experience on both sides of interviews this was the only one ever scheduled for three a.m.! Gives you also an idea of how they worked!

My impression is that the shows have been and will be excellent. I hope they get a good reaction, as I think they should from the interests Mike reflected and how he got for your audience what I think will be new to most if not all.

As Mike will probably have told you, I cannot avoid getting up too early so I never see anything aired after eight p.m. so I've not seen ^{much of} what TV has been doing. Like 48 Hours last night. What I've seen has not been good, true also of the transcripts I've read. I saw Blakey on NBC-TV yesterday a.m. and he was not very informative and did err a few times. He fears embarrassment if HSCA's records are disclosed. I think their mass will effectively deny meaningful access. Best to you all,

Harold