

Dear Dave,

2/20/93

Perhaps your fine work with and for the Indians may get some good attention as a result of the crew from Unsolved Mysteries being here yesterday. For more than six hours yet!

They apparently have a crew of Washington free-lancers they use because there were three or four who came in their own vehicle and returned to Washington, where they live. Well, one of them also works for the National Geographic. Probably as a photographer. I told him a bit about the wood sculptures and the being-developed Menominee written language and he seemed interested. I hope so!

Do not get the idea that because they were here for so long they spent all that time interviewing me. They spent an enormous amount of get-ready time and with all the equipment they brought, more than I can remember any other crew bringing, it took some time to unload and repack and reload it.

They used what I'd heard of but not seen used before, 8mm tape cassettes. They seem to be about the size of audio cassettes and each lasts I think they said 11 minutes. I think they used a dozen or so during the interview.

Which seems to have gone very well. For them and for me. I was satisfied and they seemed to be more than just pleased.

There were seven of them and I can't remember all the names. The producer/writer is a Jim Lindsay. It may be that the man I tried to interest in you and the Indians is named Jim Aaronson. ^(Real name?) There has never been a TV crew of that size here before and none took as much time for just the lighting. They were also the first crew with sound equipment that did not require a level before filming. And they did not use a clip-on mike. A mike on a boom, as in the studios. They were really particular with the technical stuff.

And they were a little embarrassing as they left. About four of them separately, including Lindsay, as they left, told me they were "honored" to have met me. I'm not used to that, do not think that way, and I was uneasy and uncertain in responding. But it was nice and I appreciated it.

The show will be aired March 31, a Wednesday. Chip says their audience ranges from 30 million to 40 and sometimes 50. That's a lot of people!

Before coming here they interviewed Cesar and Blakey. While the crew was setting up Chip started talking about the interview and I suggested that it might be better if it were entirely ad lib, nothing that could be a ~~re~~ rehearsal, and Lindsay agreed. So, when in the interview they got to Blakey I got off a line they liked, whether or not it survives the extensive cutting. I said that he was on the assassins committee A Keystone Kop who pretended he was Sherlock Holmes and the hat covered all of his face except his ~~mouth~~ mouth and that mouth said how he will be remembered in history, as an apprentice Keystone Kop who had failed his obligations.

I was surprised that Lindsay made no effort to work the title, ^Unsolved Mysteries into his questions or my answers and that I liked. I was able to volunteer a few in my responses where appropriate. Their indifference to the show's title reflects the seriousness of their approach, nothing cheap in it. I'm sure that Chip gave Lindsay the questions, with Lindsay ~~perhaps~~ perhaps selecting those he preferred and maybe rephrasing some. In any event, it was all quite responsible and informed and there were no cheap or ~~xxxx~~ sensational questions. Nothing from the paranoid fringes or the nutty conspiracy theories.

If you are interested I suppose Chip can give you a copy. I asked only for a sound tape for Hood, to be sent to Jerry, for the archives. If he wants more Chip will provide it, I'm sure.

If the reprint of Fram-Up is out then it should help sales. I have no idea when it will appear. It will reach an ever so much larger audience than the frightfully expensive Thames TV/HBO "trial of James Earl Ray" that is to air slightly later. I asked Chip if he'd heard how much they'll air and he said he'd heard about three hours. I suppose that the story I was sent from some trade paper saying that each side would have 17 hours referred to the time each side would be filmed and that both then would be edited down.

Earl Caldwell, the black former Times reporter who was at the Lorraine when King was killed was a no-show. He had agreed to be taped but he then did not respond to about six calls Chip made to him, leaving messages each time. They have not heard from him.

So I guess that what will be aired is Blakey, Cesar and me.

They struck me as good people, all of them. Not only good professionals but good human beings. Which is also fine for Chip and his future there. They seemed, particularly Lindsay, to like him and to depend on him.

What was a minor but pleasant surprise to me is that one of the Washington crew, I am sure not the sound man, mentioned knowing my nephew, my younger sister's son, who is also a free-lance TV sound man. After saying that he added, and what a boy he has! Jon had a bright five-year old. He is a single parent and is doing a remarkably fine job with the child. Who apparently has already met many if not most of the free-lance TV sound and film people. (Fox used a woman photographer, also a stickler for perfection, who mentioned Jon and the child. She had me walk to a file cabinet and remove and look at a file folder's contents about a dozen times before she was satisfied. Yesterday I had to do it only ~~at~~ three times, I think from the different angle because of shadows. And, I think remarkably, throughout the entire thing I was asked to respond to a questions ^{twice} only two times. Once because the cassette ended in ^{the} middle of one and once because although I thought the answer was much longer than they'd used and would edit it down to what they wanted, they wanted even more.) It was a bit tiring but there was not a single unpleasantness or a single unprofessionalism. I think it will be a good show as aired. *Janet*