EXHIBITION CHECK-LIST

Clockwise from right

CODE OF BOSTON BROADCASTERS, INC.,

Originally published in a booklet published by BBI in 1970 that informed the people of Boston of their intentions with Channel 5.

‘SCREENING ROOM’ SET

A re-creation of the Screening Room set, which went through many incarnations in the 9 years it was on the air. On the television are clips of films and conversations selected from the 100 episodes that aired between 1972 and 1981. On the wall is a selection of mail from viewers. Letters courtesy of Robert Gardner. Furniture generously loaned by Machine Age (Boston).

BILL OF RIGHTS

A realization of Robert Gardner’s proposal to shut down regular programming on Channel 5 for 24 hours during the bicentennial, and replace it with a live feed of the Bill of Rights.

THREE TELEVISIONS

Clips from a selection of locally produced WCVB programs. Also inserted randomly are three of Robert Gardner’s ‘non-commercials’: 60-second short films showing a member of the community at work, and Richard P. Rogers’ Anthem, a 3-minute short film commissioned as the station sign-off. (Ask for a complete list of programs sampled for these televisions. See the back screening area for full episodes of many of these shows.)

VITRINE & WALL

Assorted objects, press and ephemera from the creation and life of WCVB-TV:

1 A spread from BBI’s information booklet (1970) featuring the sketches and notes of Lance Wyman and Bill Cannan, designers of the Channel 5 logo and its applications. Courtesy Lance Wyman
2 The Channel 5 identity applied to their remote broadcasting vans, one of the first to exist. Photo courtesy Lance Wyman.
3 5 TV Place, Needham, Massachusetts. The original, and current, home of WCVB-TV. Photo courtesy Lance Wyman.
4 Lance Wyman’s notes from an early meeting with BBI outlining a rough timeline of the legal battle BBI went through to win Channel 5 from The Boston Herald-Traveler Corp. Courtesy Lance Wyman
5 Stay Tuned (1983), a book by Peggy Lamson that tells the tale of BBI’s ownership of WCVB-TV. Open to a spread with a photograph of Leo Beranek (BBI’s president) and his son witnessing an early signal test.
6 Channel 5 logo patch. Courtesy Lance Wyman
7 The Hundred Million Dollar Lunch, (1973) an insanely detailed book by Sterling Quinlan about the legal battle over Channel 5.
8 One of several alternate Channel 5 logos designed by Wyman-Cannan. Courtesy Lance Wyman
9 Happy Birthday Channel 5 advertisement (1977) from the Boston Globe.
10 The legendary Channel 5 news desk designed by Wyman-Cannan. Photo courtesy Lance Wyman.
11 Derek Lamb on the set of Psychic Parrot.
13 3/4” U-matic tape of Teenage Wasteland, an hour long documentary about the juvenile justice system produced by Arnie Reisman. Courtesy Arnie Reisman.
14 Letter from Lee Polk (former head of ABC’s childrens programming) to Bob Bennett (WCVB’s General Manager) critiquing two episodes of Park Street Under. Courtesy Arnie Reisman.
16 January 5, 1973 article from The Patriot Ledger about Screening Room. Courtesy Robert Gardner.
23 Production photograph from Cost of Living, by Richard P. Rogers. Courtesy of Susan Meiselas.

ADDITIONAL MATERIALS

100 copies of BBI’s informational booklet originally published in 1970, and 250 copies of a poster containing Arnie Reisman’s ‘Changing Signals in Boston’ and Tony Schwartz’s ‘Some Say This Is America’s Best TV Station’—two articles that bookend the story of BBI’s ownership of WCVB— have been re-produced for this exhibition. They are free upon request.