**The Golden Age of Guggenheim**

_The Local Documentary Filmmaker, Keeping Focused—and Up for a Fifth Oscar_

By Phil McCombs
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"It was over, I mean, it was quiet, as if nothing had happened. The beach was not any general's business. They had no say, none whatsoever."

—Of his name in "D-Day Remembered," a 1994 film by Charles Guggenheim

Late one recent afternoon, a 74-year-old man with crinkly whitish hair and a crinkly grin to match was wandering exhaustedly around his Georgetown offices calling out, "Grace! Where's Grace?" Charles Guggenheim, the documentarian, had arisen at 3 a.m. to worry over a talk he had to give at a luncheon in his honor sponsored by CINE, a filmmakers' organization. Now, fatigued, he needed his daughter and producer, Grace Guggenheim, to drive him home.

"The truth is, we're living in wonderful times and a wonderful place," he'd told his CINE audience at the Willard Hotel. "This country provides more possibility to learn about oneself, and what the journey of humanity has been, than any other place. I've made movies in art and politics and civil rights and history and architecture, and every time, I've met someone I'd never meet otherwise, or gone somewhere, or read something."

Then he'd given, in one sentence, what amounts to his credo: "There are great stories in what is very common." Guggenheim himself seems to exemplify this. He's such a modest, friendly man, living a quiet family life in Washington, that you'd never guess he's tied 4-4 with Disney for first place in Oscars won for documentary.

See GUGGENHEIM, G6 Col. 1

Charles Guggenheim today, far left, and in the early '60s. Two of his films were "Monument to the Dream," top, about the building of St. Louis's Jefferson National Expansion Memorial Arch, and Steve McQueen's first film, "The Great St. Louis Bank Robbery."
George McGovern's speech at the Democratic Convention.

"We must be the change we wish to see in the world."

The speech was delivered to the Democratic Party's annual convention in Los Angeles, where McGovern officially accepted the party's nomination for the presidency. The speech highlighted the importance of grassroots activism and the need for unity among Democrats.

The speech was widely praised for its clear and direct language, and it helped to solidify McGovern's image as a principled and thoughtful candidate. It is considered to be one of the most important speeches in American political history, and it remains a classic of modern oratory.