



Network Advertising & Promotion Reunion

...and other get-togethers



INSIDE PN

A Colorful Group Reunion	1
Marilyn's Page / 13th GE Pension Payment for 2011	2
What's Now! - Dep't of Pictorial Correction	3
What's Now! - MSNBC Turns 15—Phil Griffin Interview	4
What's Now! - David Bohrmann New President of Current TV.....	5
What's Now! - "Single Camera Sitcoms Rule"	6
What's Now! - Black News Coverage Boost at NBC Units....	7
We Get Letters & Pictures - Walter Miller and Gil Cates	8
What's Now! - Bambi and Hurricane Irene.....	9
What's Now! - Correspondents on the Move.....	10
What's Now! - I.T. Korean BBQ	11
What's Now! - Net A&P Reunion.....	12-13
Thaine Engle Remembered	14-15

INSIDE PN

We Get Letters & Pictures - The Muppets Join the NBC Tour.....	16
What's Now! - "The Daddy-O's"	17
We Get Letters & Pictures - Steve Rosen's Girls.....	18
Silent Microphones - Gloria Clyne.....	19
Silent Microphones - Norma Rios Rydell	20
Silent Microphones - Vic Roby	21
Silent Microphones - Ed Planer.....	22
Silent Microphones - Bernie Gavzer	23
Silent Microphones - Al Robbins	24
Silent Microphones - Phil Minoff.....	25
Silent Microphones - Jack O'Rourke	26
Dan Grabel: "A Dickey Day on the Job" / Membership Coupon	27
New Members	28

Marilyn's Page



"Fall of 2011" has a nice ring to it. Many things in the offing: A mainstay of the "Today" show, "Where in the World is Matt Lauer?", is being revived after a three-year break. Matt will travel to five surprise destinations the week of Nov. 7-11, adding something like 30,000 miles to the quarter of a million he has accumulated in his nine previous trips for the show. It is the 15th anniversary of MSNBC (I was the TD and John Libretto was the director of the closed circuit announcement of the startup); as some of you begin collecting your GE pensions, you are also continuing to work for the new NBCU/Comcast, as allowed by the Comcast takeover deal; Andy Rooney retired from "60 Minutes" (actually worth mentioning here in PN Magazine). I cannot help but wonder if he also collects Social Security? and oh, yes, the political year has begun! Personally, I love the political year, so much to read (and toss), keep up with (and forget), so many heated dinner table discussions (no knives!), and it is only October 2011! And each political cycle has its own version of how it will be covered by the network as well as its cable partners.

I have been involved with political coverage since 1980. Back then the political year truly did not start till just before the NH primary and Iowa caucus. Things have "earlied up" (is that a phrase?) since the 2004 (or was it 2008?) election. Not sure, but I am sure that things are in full swing. When we next meet, there will have been some political casualties.

On a business note, I have asked that EACH of you bring in one new member. So far that has not happened. Very disappointing. Please give this some thought and effort. It is important to the health of this very special organization. In order to truly flourish we need new membership participation.

And now, for the rest of the magazine...

News From Bill Freeda—13th Pension Payment in 2011 for GE Retirees

One of the results of contract negotiations this summer between GE and the International Union of Electronic, Electrical, Salaried, Machine and Furniture Workers (IUE) is a 13th pension payment for retirees, not just IUE members, but all GE retirees who began collecting their pensions on or before June 1, 2007.

If you retired "directly" from GE there is no Pension Qualifying Service (PQS) requirement. If you are a "vestee", a retiree who left GE/NBC, and began collecting your pension when you reached retirement age, there is a requirement of 25 years of PQS. Former executives are excluded.

The 13th pension payment also applies to surviving spouses.

There will be no deductions for medical insurance, long-term care, etc from this payment. There will be deductions for withholding tax, if that is option you chose, as well as for garnishments, and arrears scenarios.

The extra payment will be included with your December 1 pension payment. Letters will notify eligible participants in early November.

Ed. Note: Bill Freeda is the NABET-CWA National Retiree Coordinator and is always on the alert for information of interest to all retirees, both union and non-union. He can be reached at bfreedanabetcwa@verizon.net.

**Support Our Troops,
Our Crews
and Our Correspondents
In Harm's Way**

Current E-mail Addresses

REMINDER—When you change your e-mail address, please remember to notify us at peacocknorth@yahoo.com. This is a great way for us to help members keep in touch with each other.

Brunch Update!

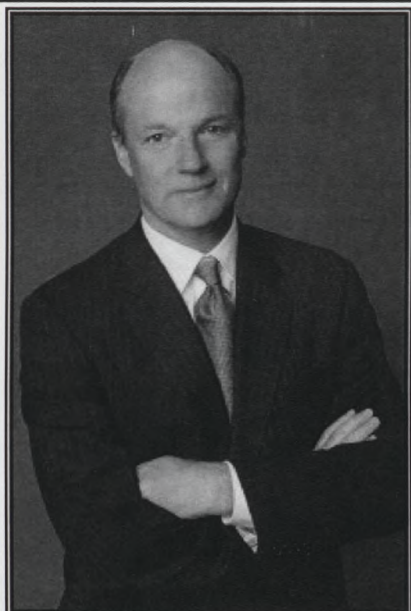
**We hereby rectify an unfortunate omission from our Brunch wrap-up report
in the Spring issue.**

**Peacock North's good friend and contributing photographer Carol Aerenson,
seen here with her friends**

**Lauren Fairbanks and Cathy Lavaty,
was most certainly present and had a fine time.**

What's Now!

An Interview with MSNBC President Phil Griffin



July 15th was the 15th anniversary of the launch of MSNBC. To mark the occasion, I spoke with Phil Griffin, the network's president and the guy whose job it is to put out the fire when one of his hot-blooded hosts says something inexcusable or crosses a journalistic line. We talked about how MSNBC found its identity after years of floundering, why its viewers enjoy its ongoing grudge match with Fox News and why a network with big personalities needs a strong disciplinarian in charge.

Mixed Media: MSNBC's been around for 15 years, but it's really only the last, what, seven or eight that are worth celebrating, right? Before that, it wasn't doing so well.

Phil Griffin: I'd say five. The first decade, cable news was finding itself. Fox started with a niche but we were more general interest, trying to be all things to all people on the model of CNN. But I think the world changed, and the media landscape definitely changed. We found our voice that fit in this new landscape about five years ago, and since then we've taken off.

Was there a eureka moment? What was the turning point?

I think the eureka moment was recognizing that this is really a niche. Cable is a niche space. We sort of defined ourselves. We decided to be "the place for politics," and we committed to it and made it real. And ever since that time, late 2006 or early 2007, we've been on a total positive trajectory.

If you were to boil down what you've learned in the course of making MSNBC into a success story into a business school case study, what would the lesson be?

Know your audience. Look, the world changed with the computer. All of a sudden there are thousands of information places where you can get very specific news, information, headlines. And because people can get news when they want it on the web, on smartphones, wherever, there wasn't a need for a broad-based, general headline news service. So you have to have an audience. Ours we defined as people who are interested in politics, and in our prime time we pretty much go progressive politics.

How much more will the world change in the next 15 years? Will there still be an MSNBC, or will it exist in the form of a package of on-demand programming delivered a la carte over the internet?

There's one thing I know for sure. Fifteen years from now it's going to be entirely different than it is today, just as 15 years ago we all thought CNN was the model, that a broad-based, headline-news model was the way to go. And when we began, that was actually the very end of that. The computer was just really becoming popular. It took several years for it to become ubiquitous. By the early 21st century it was clear that there were so many different places for news and information, it changed everything. It changed newspapers, it changed magazines and it changed television, and you have to figure out where you fit into that. You can't be all things to all people. You've got to stand for something.

Listen, one of the most successful people I worked with was a man who, you didn't know his politics but he had as passionate a following as anyone I know, and that was Tim Russert. And it was the qualities that he had that will make a journalist popular. Nobody was more passionate about politics than Tim, and that's what came across. You had to watch him.

Nothing's changed. The world is still based in the human world that really hasn't changed, the basic sensibilities. You've just got to be able to reach them and touch them.

—Excerpted from an article by Jeff Bercovici in *Forbes* "Mixed Media" – July, 2011

*What's Now!***Current TV Names Former NBC and CNN Executive David Bohrman as Its New President**

Here's part of the official press release:

San Francisco, August 8, 2011 – Current TV, the Peabody and Emmy Award-winning television network, has appointed veteran broadcast and cable television executive David Bohrman as President. Bohrman, an award winning journalist and news executive who for three decades has helmed political and special event news coverage for major broadcast and cable networks, begins his new post immediately. Bohrman, known for his unique combination of news programming and technical acumen, will work closely with the network's co-founders, Current Chairman and former U.S. Vice President Al Gore and CEO Joel Hyatt.

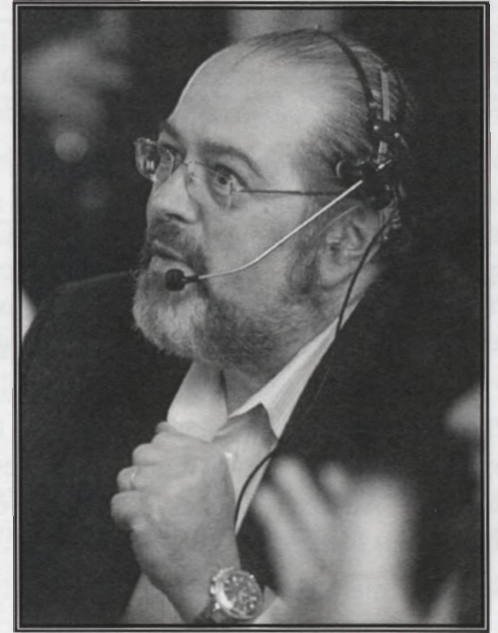
"Current's mission has always been to shine a light on important issues, to spark debate and to speak truth to power. Earlier this year, we advanced this mission when we brought Keith Olbermann to Current and clearly stated our intent to be a truly independent, conflict-free, progressive voice in the news and political commentary arena," said Mr. Gore.

For the past decade, Bohrman was CNN's senior vice president of programming and Washington, DC bureau chief, and in May of this year, he became CNN's SVP and Chief Innovation Officer Worldwide. As Current's President, he will be based in New York and San Francisco, and will oversee programming, production, broadcast operations, digital and technology. He will also work closely with Current's Chief News Officer Keith Olbermann, who is host of Current's centerpiece program, "Countdown with Keith Olbermann," as the network expands its primetime line-up and election coverage.

"During the three-decade span of his career, Bohrman has brought some of the world's most memorable events to television. He spent more than a dozen years at CNN, where he oversaw newsgathering, political coverage and Washington programming, including the network's 2008 "Election Night in America." He served as executive producer of CNN's Peabody Award-winning coverage of the Presidential primary campaigns and debates throughout the 2008 election season. He also oversaw several other CNN Washington-based programs including "The Situation Room with Wolf Blitzer," "John King, USA," and "State of the Union with Candy Crowley." He oversaw CNN's major political event coverage and is known for his innovative use of technology to help the network explain and expand on the issues of the day, ranging from CNN's New York based coverage of September 11 to political conventions and Presidential inaugural events. He came to CNN as executive in charge of the "Moneyline News Hour," and under his leadership, the show's ratings increased by 20 percent in six months. David is widely known for having created the "magic wall" for John King and the "situation room" for Wolf Blitzer.

Prior to CNN, Bohrman held a range of leadership roles, including as CEO of Pseudo, Inc, the world's first interactive Internet television network. He executive produced almost all of NBC News' special news events from 1993-1997 and was part of MSNBC's launch team, where he created two of that network's original programs, "The Site" and "Imus in the Morning." For 13 years before that, Bohrman was at ABC News, where in addition to being the principal creator and executive producer of its "World News Now" program and of ABC News Interactive, he was also a senior producer and part of the launch team for "Nightline."

Bohrman earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in French and a Bachelor of Science degree in Physical Science from Stanford University. He also earned a Master of Science degree in Journalism from Columbia University.



What's Now!

Single-camera Sitcom's Ascendancy Continues

Of the six Emmy nominees for comedy series this year, only one, "The Big Bang Theory," is a multicamera sitcom. The others -- "Modern Family," "The Office," "Parks and Recreation," "30 Rock" and "Glee" -- are shot single-camera. Showrunners past and present agree single-camera and multicamera have equal potential for laughs, but the Emmy nominees are symptomatic of a pendulum swing -- but it's unlikely the pendulum is going to swing back. The current single-camera trend is opening the door for ambitious yet mainstream TV comedy, creating new conventions future showrunners can later defy. [Ed. Note: "Modern Family" won as Best Comedy Series.]

Multicamera was initially popularized because it broke with tradition. "You look at the '60s, and most of your hit comedies are 'The Beverly Hillbillies,' 'Get Smart' and 'The Andy Griffith Show,'" says Ken Levine, who worked as a writer and director on "MASH," "Cheers," "Frasier," "The Simpsons" and many others. "The '70s (in response) became a very multicamera-focused decade." And the '80s. And the '90s. Soon, for every "Seinfeld" or "Cheers," there were, roughly, a bajillion multicamera sitcoms that didn't measure up. Networks were beginning to rely on the plug-and-play formula: Fat guy is to hot wife as meat is to potatoes.

"There's a rhythm you fall into with setup-punchline-laugh, setup-punchline-laugh -- it's inherent in the form," says "Modern Family" exec producer Steve Levitan, creator of "Just Shoot Me" and "Back to You." "You hit the jokes pretty hard. And I'm in a mode where even on a well-written multicam, I'm finding the laughtrack incredibly annoying. "Audiences -- maybe because of reality TV, maybe because of YouTube and the Internet -- are longing for things that feel more authentic and real," he adds.

Single-camera lends itself to authenticity. It's less like theater and more like film, employing closeups and sometimes documentary-style interviews to convey comedy at an intimate level. Actors play to the camera, not the studio audience. Jokes can work at a purely visual level, too. Edits and closeups can elicit laughs simply for how they're shot, and changes in locale are shown, not merely talked about.

"You can do a more subtle portrayal of human behavior," says "30 Rock" exec producer and star Tina Fey. "It's inherently a little more presentational than the multicamera format. You can get inside characters' heads." And because these shows have so many moving parts, "They've allowed executives to stop ruining things," said fellow "30 Rock"-er Robert Carlock during a panel at the Just for Laughs festival.

Execs were fearful of the form from the start. "If you ask a lot of network execs, they'll tell you that for a lot of years, single-camera meant not as funny," Levitan says. "It was a little more dry or clever, but it didn't necessarily mean big laughs. But at the end of the day, a show fails and succeeds based on its characters. If "Modern Family" were a multicam, I'd like to think it would still work." The subsequent groundswell of single-camera comedies carried with it an unexpected perk: film stars. Alec Baldwin, Rob Lowe and Elijah Wood have all found their way to single-camera comedies, and the talent pool keeps on growing. "You can get fancier actors in single-cam because it's more like movies," Fey says.

Television is becoming a place where actors and storytellers can practice their craft uninhibited. "The cream is rising to the top," Levine says -- it just so happens the cream nowadays is shot with one camera. Levine can't help but reflect on the past. " 'Everybody Loves Raymond' went out of its way to be absolutely old-fashioned, and that show will be in syndication for another 50 years," he says. "Whereas 'Community,' a show that's very hip, I wonder, when you look back in 10 years, if it's going to look like a timepiece."

So sure, there are great multicamera comedies and there are great single-camera comedies. But when Levine talks about the future, he discusses more experimentation: 15-minute joke-a-thons like "Childrens Hospital," bold comedic video-logues like "Louie." The camera itself becomes a vehicle for comedy in single-camera, and the industry seems reluctant to give back the keys.

—By Steve Heisler, Variety, Aug. 12, 2011

*What's Now!***Black News in New Focus at NBC News and Interactive One**

NBC News and Interactive One, a network of Web sites aimed at African-Americans, plan to announce a partnership on [July 11th] that will combine the editorial and sales resources of both properties. The partnership will focus on aligning NBC's African-American news site, TheGrio.com, and Interactive One's news Web site, NewsOne.com.

"Now, for the first time, you have a news-gathering and producing organization solely dedicated to African-Americans at scale, and that really has not happened for decades," said Tom Newman, the president of Interactive One, a digital subsidiary of Radio One.

While there are no staff changes imminent for either Web site — editorial staffs in the newsrooms of each site range from two to 10 people — reporters on both sites will be able to collaborate with one another on content.

The looming election season of 2012 and the increase in niche Web sites and advertising to African-Americans and other minority groups helped to propel the alliance. TheGrio will coordinate the sharing of content from one site to the next, and NewsOne will take the lead on advertising sales efforts, a critical part of the alliance.

"Election coverage is going to be our watershed moment," Mr. Newman said.

According to comScore, from May 2010 to May 2011, the total audience for TheGrio grew 300 percent, to 1.3 million viewers from 319,000. NewsOne also had significant growth in the same period, increasing its viewership to 881,000 from 356,000.

"They are basically offering a more robust sales proposition, bigger audiences and the opportunity to get ads in front of more eyeballs," said Steve Capus, the president of NBC News. "We instantly grew the business as a result of this partnership."

Some of the top advertisers for Interactive One include Ford, American Airlines, Home Depot and Hewlett-Packard.

—By TANZINA VEGA, The New York Times, July 10, 2011

We Get Letters and Pictures

Pop "Quiz"

Two Future Emmy® Winners



The Date: circa 1960

The Place: NBC's Ziegfeld Theatre control room

The People: TD Walter Miller and Director Gil Cates
working on game show "Haggis Baggis"

The Question: Who is the AD?

This photo appeared in the DGA magazine.

We Get Letters and Pictures

“Goodnight, Irene...er, Bambi!”



Howdy All,

Here's me not heeding the Hurricane Irene “mandatory evacuation” for all folks south of South Country Road in Bellport, L. I.! Ha! Ha!

And, our [boat] “Easy Street” made it through the storm except for her sad little sails!!! We've filed an insurance claim. We were so very lucky that we didn't have huge amounts of rain, never lost power and didn't lose any of our beautiful trees. On to the next disaster!

How did you guys make out???

Cheers,

Bambi (& Paul) Tascarella

*What's Now!***Correspondents On the Move**
Compiled from Bill Carter's New York Times Columns**Norah O'Donnell Leaves NBC for CBS**

CBS announced on June 16th that it had hired Norah O'Donnell, the long-time Washington-based correspondent for NBC News, as its new chief White House correspondent. Ms. O'Donnell has been a frequent reporter on the "Today" show and was the chief Washington reporter for NBC's cable news channel MSNBC. She was also a regular contributor on MSNBC's Sunday morning political discussion program, "The Chris Matthews Show." Beyond taking the top reporting job at the White House for CBS, Ms. O'Donnell will also serve as the primary substitute anchor for Bob Schieffer on the network's Sunday morning program, "Face the Nation." She is also expected to contribute on occasion to "60 Minutes." Ms. O'Donnell had worked at NBC News since 1999.

Harry Smith to Leave CBS for NBC News

One of CBS's most familiar on-camera news correspondents, Harry Smith, is moving on from that network, with his destination NBC News and the new prime-time hour to be anchored by Brian Williams. Mr. Smith had spent much of his career at CBS as an anchor of its variously titled morning news programs. He worked on "The Early Show" as anchor until late last year when CBS inserted a new team. In 25 years at CBS, Mr. Smith also frequently filled in as the evening news anchor. He reported on numerous national and international events, including the war in Iraq, the Oklahoma City bombing, and most recently, the tsunami in Japan.

**Ted Koppel Joins NBC's "Rock Center With Brian Williams"**

NBC has added one of TV news's biggest names of the past, Ted Koppel, to the roster of correspondents for its coming prime-time newsmagazine, "Rock Center With Brian Williams."

Mr. Koppel, who was regarded among the best interviewers in television news during his 25-year stint as the anchor of the ABC late-night program "Nightline," will be a special correspondent on the program, which is set to have its premiere on Monday, Oct. 31.

Mr. Koppel, who has won 41 Emmy Awards among a much longer list of journalism honors, most recently held the title of managing editor of the Discovery Channel, where he produced and hosted special programs on news topics. Mr. Koppel was at ABC News for 42 years.

Brian Williams, who has been recruiting correspondents for the program, compared the list to baseball's Cooperstown, calling Mr. Koppel "a consensus Hall of Famer." Among the other correspondents named to the program are Matt Lauer, Meredith Vieira, Harry Smith and Ann Curry.

What's Now!

I. T. Folks Go Korean (BBQ, that is!)
News from Bambi Tascarella



korean hot
sauce



mild

OR



k-illa



red
kimchi



spicy



Chris Furst, Senior VP is our Chief Information Officer (CIO)...*El Capitan* of all things computer. He has been very generous with luncheon/party events and allowing folks to enjoy "half days" on Fridays in Summer, where possible.

On October 6th he arranged an afternoon lunch for all IT and Digital Products & Services folks. The twist? He had the Korilla food truck parked on West 52nd Street. Everyone was treated to their choice of Korean BBQ. Did I say that "Hot" was the operative word?

The photos show a great turnout and the Bambi Seal of Approval.

What's Now!

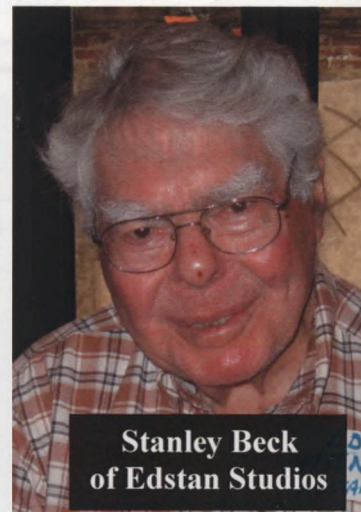
Net A&P Reunion

What a night - Monday, July 18th 2011! Mont Blanc Restaurant, New York City. The first one and only reunion of former NBC Network Advertising and Promotion Department VPs, directors, managers, graphic designers, writer-producers, secretaries, assistants, associate directors, etc.

This long-awaited event was so impromptu and so enjoyable that everyone expressed a desire to do it again next year.

Totally unexpected and very successful in more ways than one. Puerto Rico, Arkansas, Florida, New York and even New Jersey were represented by faces and names from 45 to 50 years ago.

It was a night of exchanging stories and office photos from back in the day as well as leafing through family photo albums on paper prints and electronic devices.



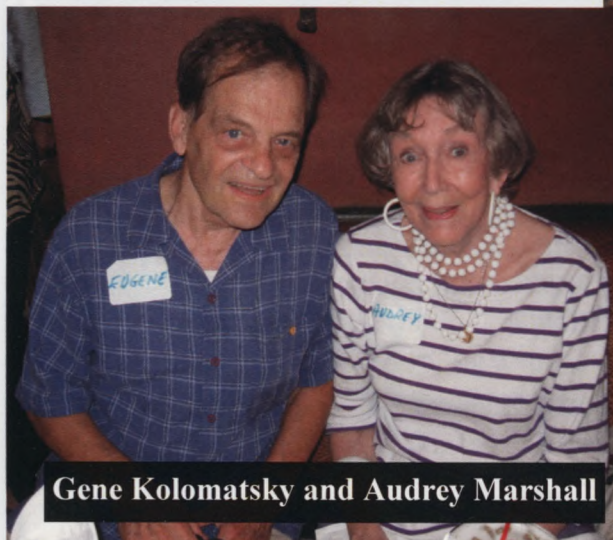
**Stanley Beck
of Edstan Studios**



**Mike Mohamad and Olga Rosario
leaf through family photos.**



Paula Mermelstein and Mike Mohamad



Gene Kolomatsky and Audrey Marshall



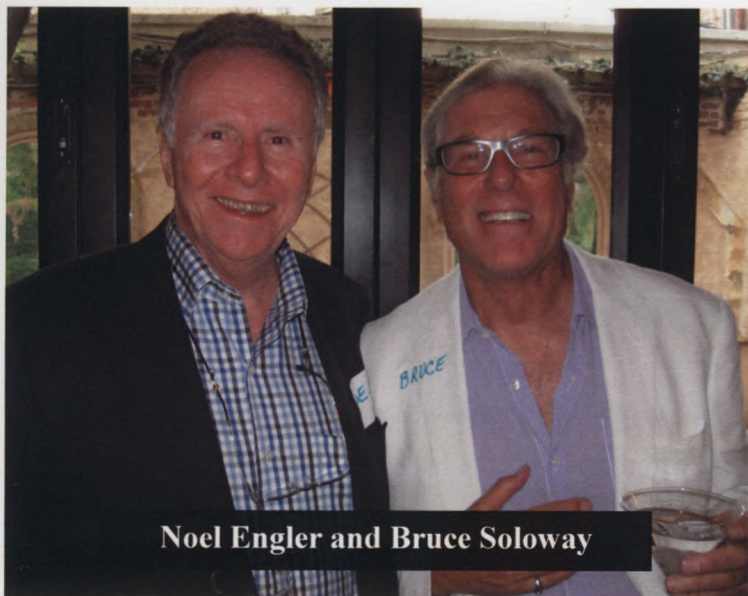
Gerry Rowe, Stephen Kyritsis, Jay James



Dora Lee Marshall and Olga Rosario



Paula Mermelstein and Linda Vitti



Noel Engler and Bruce Soloway



Dennis Lo



Bill McConnell and Frank Pintauro



Helena Bowens and Gene Kolomatsky go back to the future with a photo from the happy past.

We Get Letters and Pictures

Net A&P's Thaine Engle Remembered

Compiled by Noel Engler



G. Thaine Engle was born on December 11, 1915 in Abilene, Kansas. He graduated from Kansas State College in 1938 with a degree in industrial journalism. While attending college, Thaine developed a strong interest in radio broadcasting. He was a program director, writer and announcer with the campus radio station, as well as having commercial experience with station KFBI in Abilene. He was a member of Sigma Delta Chi honorary journalism fraternity, and was active in debating, dramatics, and a number of other activities.

Following graduation, Thaine worked as a radio announcer. With World War Two looming on the horizon, in 1941 he enlisted in the Army. By April, 1942, when he had attained the rank of Corporal, he was released from enlisted service to accept an appointment as a Second Lieutenant in the Signal Corps. Given his background and experience, he was trained as a Radar Intercept Officer. He spent two and-a-half years in the South Pacific with the 583rd Signal Aircraft Warning Battalion, serving in the Bismarck Archipelago, Papua New Guinea, and the Philippines. He was awarded the Philippine Liberation Medal, with star; the World War II Victory Medal; the American Theater Service Medal; and the Asiatic Pacific Service Medal with three campaign stars and Arrowhead, the latter signifying participation

in an initial assault landing. He was honorably discharged in March, 1946 with the rank of First Lieutenant, having served on active duty for close to five years.

Thaine's interests took him into radio and television broadcasting. He joined NBC in New York City in 1953, and enjoyed a long and rewarding career as Manager of Broadcast Promotion with the network. He was very involved with the Bedside Network, which brought radio scripts to disabled veterans in VA hospitals in the area, encouraging the patients to participate by assuming character roles in plays which were broadcast in the hospital. He was a member of Advertising Men's Post No. 209 of the American Legion, and served as Post Adjutant, Vice Commander, and Commander. While serving as Commander, he led the first "People to People Pilgrimage" of 74 participants on a three week goodwill tour to Europe. Thaine also was a member of the Morocco Chapter of the Shriners.

He was married to Margaret ("Marnie") Brady in 1946. Following their retirement, they lived in Gainesville, Florida. Marnie died a number of years ago, following which Thaine moved to Naples, Florida, where he died in July, 2009 at the age of 93.

The above was written and submitted by Jim Laughlin (Thaine's nephew by marriage to his niece Patricia).

Gerry Rowe, former Vice President writes: I remember Thaine Engle as a good-natured "gentleman of the old school," a calming presence in a pressured and sometimes chaotic department. Probably annoyed, but he never showed it when his carefully prepared promo schedules were monkeyed with at the last minute. Thaine never bad-mouthed anyone. He was an essential professional and a lovely guy to work with.

Jack Marshall, DGA Director and Writer-Producer remembers Thaine as a gentleman and “the most honest individual I have ever met.” On the first day he arrived at NBC on or around 1952 he was wearing a ten gallon hat. The hat came off but the good natured Texan remained.

Thaine's Secretary Helena Bowens (1969 through 1976):

Mr. Engle was caring, compassionate and supportive of me. Mr. E, as he was affectionately known, was also a straight forward, no-nonsense boss. Each morning one of my daily tasks was to fill his carafe with water and sharpen his pencils. At the time, this daily routine irritated me. As I think back today, I would gladly fill the carafe and sharpen pencils for this kind gentleman.

Bill McConnell, former A&P Writer-Producer:

A consummate professional, Thaine walked very fast in the office, especially when he hand delivered those half-sized seven collated endless memos that were always typed. There was never a dress-down day in his nine-to-five Net A&P workday...from those wonderful hats to those business shoes. Loafers? Forget it! Came time for lunch... he made sure of that important matter. Thaine was a perfectionist and coordination was the name of the game with Mr. E. He was extremely fond of his wife, church and the Bedside Network. A kind man dedicated to life, his wife, his job and to a host of other things. George Thaine Engle...No one will be able to match him. May he rest in peace.

Bruce Soloway, former A&P Associate Director:

Thaine was the first person I met when I came to Net A&P as a trainee from the mail room. My first assignment was to make copies on the Ditto machine with a manual crank – no electric then, I guess. That machine was Thaine's baby and he was always there to help out when it or I was in trouble with it. He was there for all of us...helping us to make decisions without giving us any answers at all. He just kind of agreed with our thinking and gave us confidence to move ahead. He was always dignified and he appeared much older than his actual years. I don't think any of us could imagine how old he actually was. He was a great administrator and handled the NI (Network Identification) schedule with ease. I always liked Thaine and his wife Margaret – they were so perfect together.

Ken Horton, former Writer-Producer and Director:

The summer I was bumped up to be a temporary writer, one of the first pieces of copy I wrote was a five-second spot for “The Andy Williams Show”...It read: “Gladys Knight and the Pips guest star with Andy, Saturday Night”. For some reason neither Noel Engler nor Dave Bellin were around, so I gave it to Thaine for approval. After a couple of minutes he buzzed me on the intercom and asked if I would come in to see him. He had that serious “Thaine” voice. I arrived to find Thaine behind his desk. He looked at the paper in his hand for a couple of seconds, then placed it neatly in front of him, never letting his eyes leave the eleven words I had put together with much pride of authorship, and hopefully my precursor to bigger and better things. Finally he looked straight at me and asked, “Ken, what in heavens' name is a PIP?” I laughed and then he laughed for quite awhile. Thaine was a very nice man, born of a different age, but a man who I respected greatly for his style and grace.

Dora Lee Marshall (no relation to Jack Marshall)

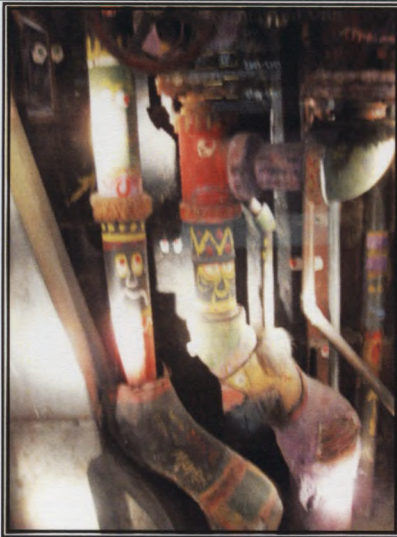
Thaine Engle was always a gentleman, soft spoken and respectful, but no-nonsense. And always had a quiet sense of humor. I enjoyed working with him.

Noel Engler closes with these remarks:

There are so many others who worked with and respected G. Thaine Engle and I assure you, all their memories would be fond ones. I retired in December of '97 and moved to Florida. Thaine lived about 80 miles south of us in Naples where he resided with his sister-in-law after his beloved wife Margaret had passed; “It was a pre-arranged agreement” as explained to me by Thaine on one of my visits with him. I was so fortunate to have known and worked with Thaine.

We Get Letters and Pictures

The NBC Studio Tour Welcomes the Muppet Pipes



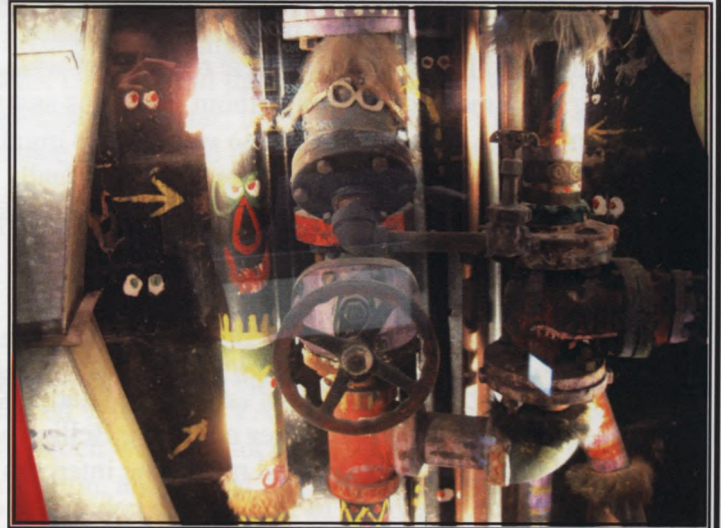
On June 8, 2010, a new stop was added to the NBC Studio Tour at 30 Rock when Jimmy Fallon and Frank Oz cut the ribbon for the pipes that eventually became some of our favorite Muppets. It all began back in 1964 when Jim Henson, Frank Oz, Don Sahlin, and Jerry Juhl were guests on *The Jack Paar Program* on NBC. During their visit, they discovered the pipes [in their dressing room closet] and decided to decorate them with various faces and forms. These figures eventually became the Muppets.

Decades later, the pipes resided in Max Weinberg's dressing room and would only be shown to various VIP guests. It wasn't until February 2009 that a project was green-lighted to share this piece of NBCU history. Titled "With Love from The Muppets," the project, pitched by Mary Beth Scalici, VP, East Coast Studio Operations, brought together an extensive creative team. Carlos El Asmar, Executive Creative Director, Artworks; Bevin McNamara, Senior Art Director, and Angela Dubois, Graphics Animator, began designing the look of the exhibit; Tom Popple, Director, Studio Operations, managed the construction surrounding the pipes; and Antoinette Machiaverna, Today show producer, provided contacts and worked on pulling all of the Jack Paar history.

In addition to the Muppet Pipes preservation, the project also included a Studio 6B timeline wall featuring all of the shows that were produced in 6B. Rick Ludwin, EVP, Late Night & Primetime Series, and Hillary Hunn, producer, Late Night With Jimmy Fallon, helped with the history of the timeline. Jimmy Fallon also rallied for the pipes to be included in the NBC Studio Tour, displaying the pipes during a satellite interview earlier this year. The collaboration also included the Henson Legacy Foundation, Disney's The Muppets Studio, Sesame Workshop, and the estate of Jack Paar.

It all came to fruition when Frank Oz, the last survivor of the group, joined Fallon at a special ribbon cutting ceremony to kick off the new Studio Tour stop. The first tour for the families of Jim Henson and Jack Paar, and some of their friends, took place shortly after the ribbon cutting.

—From NBCU Spotlights, June 10, 2010



*What's Now!***Burbank Rocks with "The Daddy-O's"**

Meet The Band: L-R it's Russ, Mike, Robbie, Rick, and Craig

Can't beat the good old classics of 50's and 60's Rock N' Roll!

We're The Daddy-O's and the band is comprised of all NBC Burbank employees.

The Daddy-O's have been in existence as a 50's and 60's classic rock band since 2003 and consist of:

Craig Wolf - Lead Guitar (recently retired NBC Net A&P editor)

Robbie Alves - Rhythm Guitar & Lead Singer & Backup Vocals (current staff NBC Net A&P editor)

Rick Noriega - Lead Singer & Backup Vocals (current NBC Daily Hire in Burbank Transmission)

Russ Stacey - Bass Guitar and backup vocals (current NBC Burbank Manager of Transmission & Skypath)
and myself, Mike LoCollo - Drums (current NBC Burbank, Director West Coast Systems).

Mike and Russ Stacy are originally from Radio City.

We have been playing at most of the NBC Christmas parties and other events since 2003.

Our biggest gig outside of NBC, besides birthday parties, was playing in front of approximately 10,000 people at the City of Moorpark, CA July 3rd Celebration in 2009.

The link below takes you to our NBC band playing at The Steel Pit in Tujunga, CA celebrating Robbie Alves' 60th birthday.

Robbie is a long time NBC employee in the A&P department as an editor.

Russ Stacey is playing bass guitar in the far right hand of the video and I'm playing drums.

This is the only video of the band on You Tube.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=atF20jqbsS0>

Mike LoCollo, Director, West Coast Systems
a/k/a Ham Radio Operator N2EW

We Get Letters and Pictures

**NBC News Update:
Steve Rosen's Girls -Abbi and Emma**



Abbi and Emma

Ed. Note: The girls' parents, Steve Rosen and Penny Fleming, both passed away several years ago. Steve's adult son, Scott, has been raising them ever since. As readers can see, they are thriving!

Hi Joel-

I'm delighted to send you an update.

I'm happy to hear my Dad had so many friends who still think about him.

The girls are great:

Abbi turned 20 in August, and is living in North Carolina. She's still thinking about college/careers.

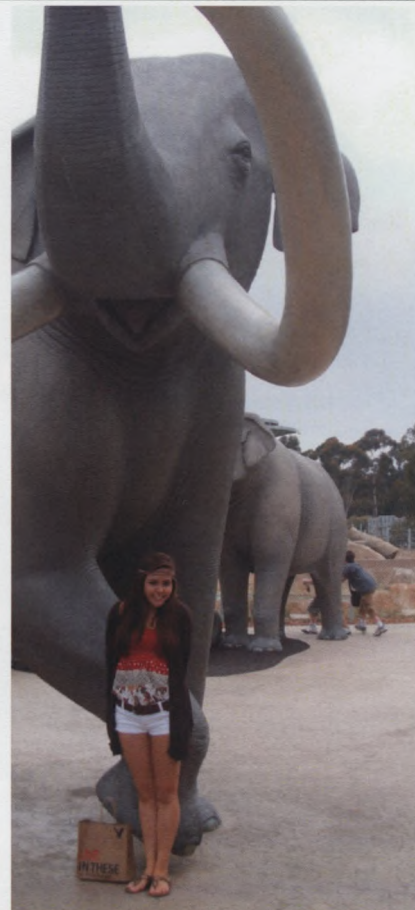
Emma turned 17 in July, and is whittling down her choices for college. She wants to major in Psychiatry.

Here are some photos from our trip to San Diego last April.

I hope everyone enjoys them!

Thanks,

Scott Rosen [zenrover@yahoo.com]



Tributes to Silent Microphones

On July 20, 2011, we lost a dynamic woman named Gloria Clyne.

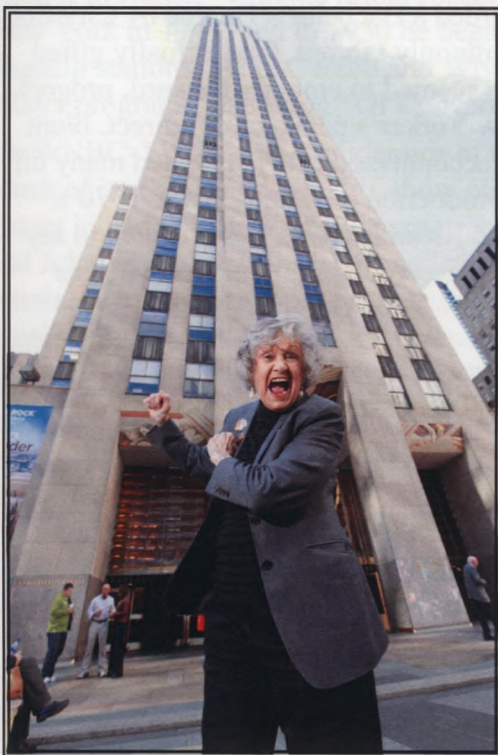
Gloria passed away in a hospital near her NJ lake home with complications from an infection.

She was 85. She will be greatly missed by her many friends, family and colleagues.

Her best friend for over fifty plus years, Joan Gifford offered this tribute:

"Our Gloria loved and lived life and did it to the very end."

Bambi Tascarella Remembers Gloria Clyne



I was so very proud to have the opportunity to speak at Gloria's service at the Riverside Memorial Chapel.

Gloria Clyne was a "piece of life." She brought so many people together and spread joy wherever she went- strangers on a bus, on a bench ... patients in a hospital...they all connected with Gloria to feel her "joie de vivre." She was a generous, glorious and gorgeous gal!

Gloria Clyne was a grand part of the history of NBC. She joined NBC - "Network of the Stars" - in 1944. The company was 18 years old and so was Gloria. With a wartime shortage of young males for the NBC Guided Tour staff, NBC decided to experiment by hiring three "girls" to fill the jobs as "Guidettes." Gloria was one of those "girls" during the days of "The Philco Television Playhouse" and "Your Hit Parade." Radio soap operas were the rage. Gloria rubbed shoulders with Milton Berle, Eddie Cantor, and, later, Johnny Carson and Huntley & Brinkley.

Our paths first crossed in 1969 when an opportunity opened up as an assistant to Gloria in the NBC Network newsroom during the height of the Viet Nam war. She had a boss, from the Herald Tribune, who she adored, named Mac Johnson, but we all knew that Gloria really ran the Newsroom during those years. She became quite a seasoned Newswoman. We had typewriters, rotary phones and a pneumatic tube to send messages up to the telex room; all of the current modern conveniences. She was my "TV Mom."

Our Gloria will be missed and remembered by sooo many people. I will miss our calls when I began the chat with: "Hi, it's me Bambala." She will live on in our hearts and be a greatly welcomed guardian angel.

Gloria was quite fond of a piece I keep in my purse that she wanted to be read at her service:

Life is not a journey to the grave with the intention of arriving safely in a pretty and well-preserved body, but rather to skid in broadside, thoroughly used up, totally worn out, and loudly proclaiming "WOW- what a ride!"

Following the service, Gloria's youngest nephew told me the night before she passed, she told him: "I want to say goodbye to all of my friends." Glo, no need to say "goodbye"- you are with us still!

Those wishing to send notes/cards to her family:

Steven and Saralee Schwartz

274 Franklin Turnpike

Mahwah, NJ 07430

NY Post photographer Angel Chevestt has approved use of his "favorite" photo (and Gloria's) for PN use. She DID love that shot!

*Tributes to Silent Microphones***Norma Rios Rydell
Remembered by her Husband, Peter**

Norma Rios Rydell, an Emmy®-winning television director, who was employed in numerous production capacities in her career of more than twenty-five years, passed from this life on Saturday, July 23, 2011, at home in Los Angeles, California from pancreatic cancer. She was 61.

A New York City native, Norma was awarded a Bachelor's Degree by City College of New York in 1973. She was uncommonly vibrant, intellectually gifted and artistically talented. To others, Norma seemed to embody forward, progressive thinking, combined with a native New Yorker's penchant for direct, blunt but humorous speech. A trailblazer by all accounts: Norma performed many different functions in the field of television production beginning in the 1970's. Being a woman lighting-engineer of Puerto Rican heritage was unusual, to say the least. It was her privilege to start her early career on productions such as "All in the Family", "Truth or Consequences", and "Good Times".

The scope of Norma's television career grew consistently during the 1980's at NBC. Through diligent personal application and remarkable aptitude, Norma was able to redirect her career from lighting-engineer to associate director. Career milestones included NFL Live broadcasts, as well as Super Bowl XVII,

and a long term commitment as AD on over 500 episodes of "Another World." Norma's involvement with soap opera production dovetailed increasingly with her work for NBC Sports in the mid-1980's.

Certainly, the centerpiece of her television career was NBC's production of the 1988 Summer Olympics. This single event represented 19 days of coverage, over a period of almost 180 hours of total broadcast time. Working from NBC's Broadcast Center in Seoul, she was responsible for event timing and also co-ordination with the network's New York studios. Norma was awarded an individual Emmy® that year.

Unfortunately, life had losses also for Norma; she was forever touched by the loss of her sister, Deborah Rios, on June 22, 1986, after a lengthy illness.

Since 1993, Norma lived comfortably and happily in Los Angeles with her husband of many years, Peter Rydell. They met at NBC New York while he was working there as a Tech Ops Manager for Stan Lee-Fatt and Ron Gnidziejko. She continued to work on related pursuits, completing a screenplay "Damaged Goods" in 1996, as well as an unpublished novel, "Twenty-Eleven", in 1998. Her interest in writing was long standing; during Norma's early television career, she frequently attended informal writers' salons, hosted by the then largely unknown writer, Jerzy Kosinski.

In the end, Norma was the consummate artist. She knew a great deal about life, and was pleased with how she had chosen to live. Most importantly, she was a very kind person. There are unknown numbers of people that Norma helped in countless ways to survive this life. In her passing, the world is truly lessened. Thank you always, Norma.

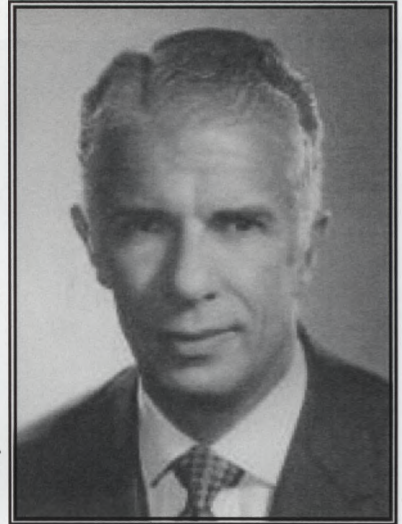
She requested cremation and ash dispersal at sea, off the coast of Zuma Beach, CA, where her sister Debbie also rests. A small ceremony with friends and family was held on the "Amazing Grace" yacht on September 25th, 2011.

Contact Peter Rydell at prydell@gmail.com.

*Tributes to Silent Microphones***Vic Roby**

Vic Roby, 93, of Framingham, MA, passed away on September 22, 2011 following a brief illness. Born on November 9, 1917, he was raised in Tylertown, MS and was a 1938 graduate of Millsaps College in Jackson, MS. Vic was a radio and television announcer for 40 years prior to his retirement in 1983. He began his broadcasting career in 1943 working as a newsreader and announcer at KOA radio in Denver. While a staff announcer there, he co-hosted an advice-to-the-lovelorn radio program, "Tell it to Nellie," with his bride, Josephine (Emerson) Roby. The couple moved to New York in 1949, and in 1950 he began his 33-year tenure at the NBC network's flagship stations, WNBC radio and WNBC-TV. He hosted several local radio public affairs programs, including "Of Concern" and "This Is My Answer."

On WNBC-TV, he was a moderator of the discussion/call-in show "Direct Line" for much of its 1959-73 run. This show pioneered the viewer call-in format. Noted guests included New York Governor Nelson Rockefeller and Mayors Robert Wagner and John Lindsay. After its cancellation he was one of the narrators of the long-running weekly documentary series, New York Illustrated. On WNBC (AM), he hosted another call-in series, In Contact.



Roby handled announcing for numerous radio and television programs during his career, including "Monitor", and working as sub-announcer on "Concentration" and "The Price Is Right" in the early 1960s. But his chief claim to fame was announcing on network promos, bumpers and program introductions, most notably a variation of the shortened 1968 version of the "Laramie Peacock" bumper on which he intoned, "Now, a special program in living color on NBC," which ran on television specials aired on the network through 1975. In addition, he handled local announcing duties for WNBC-TV. He was one of a core group of well-known voices for the NBC network which also included Don Pardo, Howard Reig, Mel Brandt, Bill Wendell, Roger Tuttle, Bill McCord, Arthur Gary, Bill Hanrahan, Wayne Howell and Jerry Damon, who handled not only introducing and closing programs, but also teasers and promotions for the network's shows.

Over the years, Roby did many commercials for various products and services on both radio and television; he was part of a group of New York announcers (also including his NBC colleague Howard Reig and WOR-TV's Phil Tonken) who did so. Roby made headlines in 1969 when he put an advertisement in Variety indicating that he would no longer be available for cigarette commercials, citing "evidence . . . that smoking could lead to cancer, heart attacks, strokes, emphysema and fires." He was one of a growing number of media personalities to do so, nearly two years before cigarette advertising on television was banned.

In his retirement, he enjoyed spending more time with his beloved family and improving his golf game. Residents of Scarsdale, NY for almost fifty years, Vic and Josephine moved to Framingham in 2008 in order to be closer to their family. Vic's life was filled with love, grace, integrity, humor and generosity of spirit. He will be deeply missed by the many whose hearts he touched including ours at Peacock North. He was a constant presence at our Spring Luncheons.

Vic is survived by his loving wife of 63 years, their daughter, Deborah (Roby) Boyce, and her husband, Joshua A. Boyce, of Sherborn, MA, two grandchildren, and several nieces and nephews. He was predeceased by his brother, Charlton S. Roby, of Jackson, MS.

Donations in Vic's memory may be sent to the
Millsaps College Harvey T. Newell Jr. and T. Earl Watkins Scholarship
1701 North State Street
Jackson, MS 39210

—Compiled from various sources by Joel Spector

*Tributes to Silent Microphones***Ed Planer****Ed on the air at WDSU-TV—1960's**

Ed Planer, the New Orleans television news pioneer who went on to success as an influential news executive in Chicago, NBC News vice president and head of the network's operations in Europe, died on October 8th in Atlanta. He was 82.

A native of New York, Mr. Planer's television career began at WDSU-TV in New Orleans at the dawn of the television era in the early 1950s. He rose through the ranks, after more than a decade as a reporter, to become the station's news director in 1966. As news director, Mr. Planer not only supervised news coverage during the tumultuous mid-1960s, but also wrote and delivered station editorials.

The man who preceded Mr. Planer as news director, John Corporon, remembered him as a "top-flight journalist." "He could get his arms around a story as fast as anyone in the newsroom," he said. "His talents helped viewers quickly grasp the heart of important issues. That's what good journalists do."

After six years as news director at WDSU, Mr. Planer departed for Chicago, then the nation's third-largest television market. He was news director at WMAQ, the NBC-owned and operated affiliate, from 1972 until 1976. Among his hires at WMAQ was a young anchor named Jane Pauley. In her 2004 autobiography, Pauley, who would later become co-anchor of NBC's "Today," wrote about Mr. Planer offering her a job after seeing her at work in her first TV job in Indianapolis. "A man on the phone said, 'I'm sorry, Miss Pauley, but I don't know your first name.' He identified himself as Ed Planer from WMAQ-TV in Chicago," Pauley wrote, describing how he asked her to send a sample of her work, then invited her to the station for an audition.

"Then Ed Planer came in person to Indianapolis 'with a bag full of money,' as he later liked to tell the story," Pauley wrote. Mr. Planer also hired sports anchors Greg Gumbel and Pat O'Brien and CBS News correspondent Martha Teichner for positions at WMAQ.

Mr. Planer himself would leave Chicago for a job with NBC News in 1976 as a producer at "Today," later becoming a network vice president. He later was in charge of all European news-gathering operations.

Planer authored a novel based on the often dramatic nature of the network TV news business, *Shattered Images*, published in 1988, the year he left NBC.

He later served as chairman of the journalism department at Chicago's Columbia College, before retiring and later moving to the Atlanta area. Planer is survived by his wife of 56 years, Marilyn Levy Planer; as well as three children and four grandchildren.

—By Dominic Massa, Eyewitness News, New Orleans, wwltv.com - October 9, 2011

For more information, contact

Marilyn Planer
5362 Brooke Ridge Dr
Atlanta, GA 30338-3186
(770) 395-6866

or

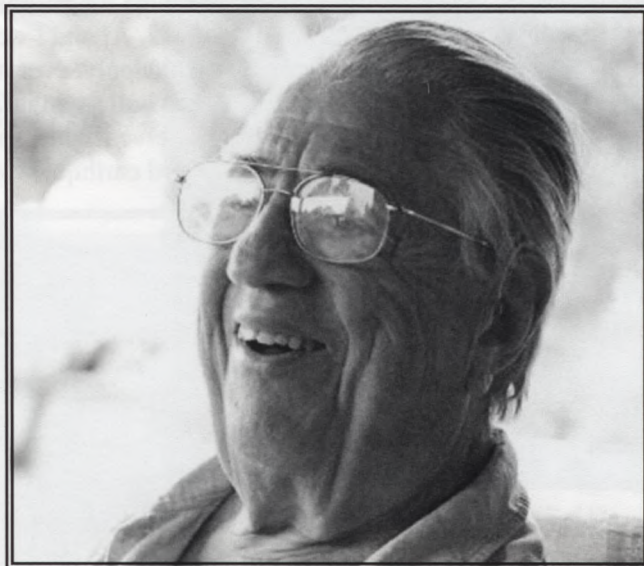
Matthew Planer
4907 Mill Brook Dr
Atlanta, GA 30338-4907
(770) 845-2105

*Tributes to Silent Microphones***Bernard Gavzer**

The family of Bernard Gavzer, a former Associated Press features writer and Emmy award-winning TV producer who died July 18th at age 90, plans to donate the late journalist's notebooks and papers to the AP's archives, Annemarie Colbin, the late newsman's wife, said on [July 22nd].

Gavzer worked for the AP in the 1960s and '70s. He then went on to become a producer for WNBC News 4 New York. He worked with anchor Chuck Scarborough on several Emmy®-award winning projects. Gavzer also was a columnist for Parade Magazine.

"He was a consummate reporter," Colbin said. "He had an under-stated style that encouraged his subjects to let their guard down and speak freely," she said.



His in-depth stories over the years covered the assassinations of John F. Kennedy, Lee Harvey Oswald and Martin Luther King, Jr., as well as topics ranging from medical marijuana to the trucking industry.

Gavzer was born in Chicago and served as a private in the U.S. Army in World War II, Colbin said. After the war, he joined the AP in Chicago in an entry-level position, she said.

"Little by little he worked his way up by doing reporting," she added.

Gavzer died at his home in New York City of neck cancer, Colbin said.

She said Gavzer donated his brain to New York University's Aging and Dementia Center, where he was part of a longtime study. His family is planning a memorial.

He is survived by his wife; three children; three grandchildren and two stepdaughters.

--New York Times/AP, July 22, 2011

*Tributes to Silent Microphones***Ken Donoghue Remembers Al Robbins**

I met Al Robbins when the New York City newspaper strike closed all seven (!) papers. Some of the best reporters, editors and rewrite men got "temporary" jobs with the networks. NBC News got the cream of the crop.

Al came from the Journal-American. I knew people at the J-A so we became friends immediately. I had the job of initiating the newcomers into the mystique of radio and TV news: Such esoterica as spots, cutaways, run-throughs, etc. All the guys, Al included, caught on quickly. So much so that when the strike ended most of them were asked to stay with NBC News.

Al went quickly from local news to Nightly News and later to Special Broadcasts, where I was working. Al was universally respected. Not just for his talents but also for his character and unflappable disposition.

Not so fast on that last adjective. In 1972, Al and I were sitting in his room on the 12th floor of a Tokyo hotel. We were about to go to the airport to return home. Suddenly, everything in the room started to shake. Frightened, Ken and not-so-unflappable, we asked each other "What the hell was that?" We ran out the door and found a maid who said "Earthquake!"

Al and I grabbed our bags, ran down twelve flights, somehow found a cab. When we were settled in our first-class Pan Am seats, sipping champagne, we exchanged earthquake stories with fellow survivors.



Nine years and dozens of stories later, Al and I were in London for the Royal Wedding. We were small potatoes but gawkers and tourists didn't know that. So we graciously agreed to pose for photos at the NBC anchor spot across from Buckingham Palace. Al even knew how to do the royal wave....

I could go on and on. After I retired I joined a dozen or so NBC folks at a bimonthly luncheon. Al used to come when he was free, and then frequently when he retired. The M.S. had struck by then but Al never lost his smile.

One of Al's Fordham classmates had become a big TV star. At a luncheon one day I showed Al a Daily News story which gave the classmate's age. I asked Al, "How come your classmate is four years younger than you?" Al replied, "I think he has a better press agent."

The New York Times obit ran as follows: Alfred T. Robbins of Riverdale, NY, passed away on August 31, 2011. Loving husband of the late Barbara H. Robbins. Dear father of Celine, Deirdre, Terrence and Courtney. Caring brother of Liz. Alfred was a producer at NBC news and was an award-winning Journalist.

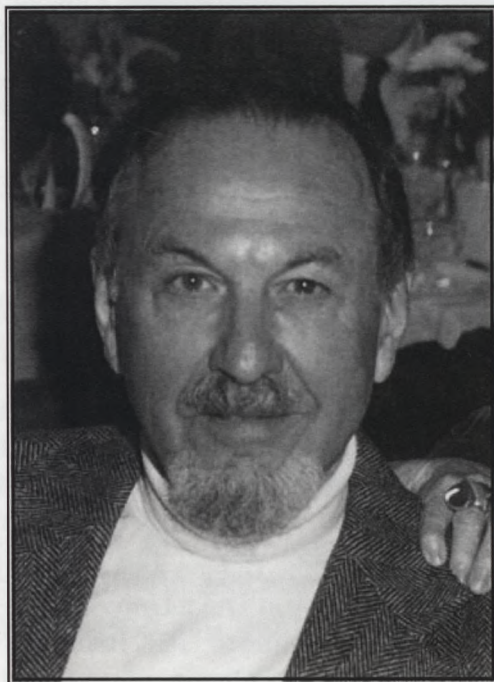
Condolences may be sent to
Celine Robbins Howard
2059 Huntington Avenue
Unit 206
Alexandria, VA 22303

*Tributes to Silent Microphones***Phil Minoff**

Keith Minoff recalls that, as a teenager, his friends always seemed to have a few extra minutes just to hang out with his dad at the family's Oceanside home. "They thought he was cool," Minoff said of his father, Philip Minoff, then a television executive at NBC, "and he always had great stories." Those stories might have been about huge television stars like Johnny Carson, Jack Benny, Dick Van Dyke or Danny Thomas. In the son's eyes, the father always seemed "pretty cool."

The elder Minoff, who lived for nearly 60 years in Oceanside, died Sept. 13 of heart illness at an eldercare community in Chestnut Ridge, NY. He was 92.

When Keith Minoff was about 7 or 8, his father introduced him to Milton Supman in an elevator at 30 Rockefeller Plaza. Supman was better known as Soupy Sales, NBC's immensely popular children's TV personality. "Soupy was my idol," said Keith Minoff, 53, now a Springfield, MA., attorney, "and here was my dad introducing him."



Philip Minoff also was among the country's first television critics, working for Cue magazine from 1950 to 1961. His articles and commentary also appeared in newspapers and other magazines, including Collier's and Town & Country.

He went to NBC in 1961 and worked there for 18 years as the network's chief advertising writer, promoting programming. One of Minoff's most personally satisfying moments at NBC, his son said, came the day after the network's infamous "Heidi Game." On Nov. 17, 1968, the New York Jets, headed for their only Super Bowl championship, were leading the Oakland Raiders by three points in the final minutes of an American Football League game. Outraged football viewers, NBC decided to break away from the game early so it could air the TV-movie special "Heidi" promptly at 7 p.m. The Raiders scored twice in the waning seconds, winning 43-32, after which irate callers flooded the NBC switchboard.

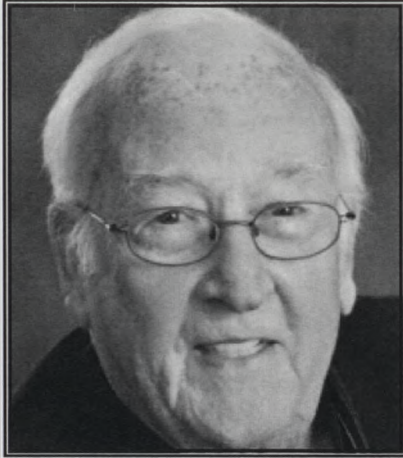
The next day, daily New York newspapers ran a full-page NBC ad, written by Minoff, splattered with positive reviews for "Heidi," including one from Joe Namath, the Jets' star quarterback. "I didn't get to see it but I heard it was great," Namath said in the ad.

Minoff also was an avid tennis player and loved to write. After his NBC career, he frequently wrote freelance stories for many publications. "He was just a lot of fun," his son said. "He instilled in family a love of movies, TV, Broadway musicals and sports, especially baseball and the Mets."

In addition to his son, Philip Minoff is survived by his wife of 66 years, Frances Minoff of Chestnut Ridge; son Iles Minoff of Arlington, VA.; daughter Jill Scherer of Airmont; 10 grandchildren and one great-grandchild.

A memorial service was held Sept. 15 in Chestnut Ridge. The body was cremated.

--By GARY DYMSKI, Newsday, September 20, 2011

Tributes to Silent Microphones
Jack O'Rourke


Veteran KYW Newsradio sports reporter Jack O'Rourke, 80, died after covering the Phillies-Cardinals game at Citizens Bank Park on September 16th. The station reported that O'Rourke collapsed, but it gave no apparent cause of death. O'Rourke was noted for "his grin and the twinkle in his eye," KYW newscaster John Ostakovich said on-air Saturday morning.

Jack was something like the "mayor" of the Carpenter complex at Clearwater, FL, where the Phillies held their spring training. "Everybody knew him," said Steve Butler, director of programming for KYW Newsradio. "The ushers knew him. When you visited him, he would take you around and introduce you to anybody you wanted to see - and get you a parking space." Jack O'Rourke was the man who sent Phillies' games to a listening fan base from the late '80s on, from the lean years through their current streak of successful playoff runs. David Montgomery, president of the Phillies, told the Inquirer that Jack was "a gracious guy who had a good

word for everybody." Jack, who was in his 15th year of covering the Phillies, was semi-retired and broadcast only weekend games. During his KYW career, he also covered the Eagles and the Flyers.

Jack grew up in the Boston area and graduated from Emerson College there. He later was awarded a Ford Foundation grant to study at Duke University. He joined KYW in 1966 and worked as an anchor and City Hall bureau chief. In 1969, he joined NBC Radio in New York, and remained there for 20 years. Jack was either a reporter or producer for several Olympic Games in the 1970s and '80s, as well as for Super Bowls and the Ali-Norton fight in 1976. He was NBC Radio's executive sports producer from 1983 to 1989. He won a George Foster Peabody Award for his work. Jack returned to Philadelphia in 1989 and worked briefly for all-sports WIP-AM before returning to KYW.

He is survived by two daughters, Robin Grant and Teresa Ecker; two sons, Kevin and Sean; and several grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Donations may be made to the Philadelphia Chapter of the American Heart Association, 1617 John F. Kennedy Blvd., Philadelphia, PA 19103.

—By Alan J. Heavens, INQUIRER STAFF WRITER, September 17, 2011

Walter Ryan Remembers Jack O'Rourke

Jack used to commute from Philadelphia every day by train. One time I was in a meeting in Maury Trumbull's office when Maury ran NBC Network Radio Sports. The meeting was to discuss the upcoming remote coverage of the Fiesta Bowl football game in Tempe, Arizona. At the meeting were Maury, sportscaster Bob Buck (Baseball legend Jack Buck's brother and present day FOX Sportscaster Joe Buck's uncle), Jack O'Rourke, Eric Bell who would produce the Fiesta Bowl, and myself doing audio. As the meeting was about to conclude, Jack stated that we had the right team in place. He mentioned everyone in the room by name and added a very nice little comment after each person's name. As soon as Jack finished Bob Buck looked at him and said "You've been on that train too long." The way Bob delivered this and the look on Jack's face sent us in to tears of laughter. When the laughter died down Jack said in a very low voice "I'll never give a rah rah speech again." Jack and I laughed about this for years. Jack was always a fun person to work with. He was a really class act. After Jack left NBC it was always nice to hear him on KYW 1060 AM News Radio which could be heard in New York at night. I last saw Jack when he dropped by to visit NBC in 2003. Jack's passing is very sad but I like to think he's having a great time upstairs catching up on all the news with his good friend and co-worker Bob Buck.

A Dickey Day on the Job By Dan Grabel

I was working as a reporter for WNBC-TV one Saturday back in the 1970s when the assignment desk sent me and my film crew off to a street rally sponsored by a group of home-grown Nazis -- I think it was the German-American Bund or an aligned group. The locale was Yorkville -- around Lexington Avenue and 84th street. That was a German community in those days. The area had a Germanic atmosphere -- wurst shops, nightclubs (I recall one named The Corso), and other shops catering to those tastes.

The event's organizers set up the usual little platform and hung a Nazi flag. The crowd was small, and across the avenue -- separated by the small police contingent -- was a group of Jewish American War Veterans ready to jeer and shout down the speakers.

As might be expected, the speaking didn't last long before the police moved in to preserve the peace. Well, we were there to get a story, so we had to speak with the organizers. They suggested a quieter venue would be their office on the West side at a brownstone in the 80s.

When we got there, the crew and I entered the building and were greeted by two beefy guys carrying baseball bats. We did the interview quickly as possible in a rather combative atmosphere and left without incident.

Little did the Aryan Nazis realize who had been in their midst. Three Jews and an Afro-American!!! The crew consisted of cameraman Sy Avnet, soundman Jerry Gold, myself, and an African-American electrician whose name -- unfortunately I cannot remember although I recall exactly what he looked like. Hey -- it happened 35 years ago!!

(Dan Grabel, a newsman, producer, writer, editor, reporter worked at NBC from 1955 to 1987 for "Today," The 11th hour News with John K. M. McCaffrey, and News Program Service (later Affiliate News Service).

Peacock North

If you haven't yet paid your 2011 dues - Or if you want to join us as a new member

Name _____ Spouse Name _____

Street _____ City _____

State _____ Zip _____ Phone _____

E-mail Address _____

At NBC from _____ 'til _____ Dept. _____

Dues: \$30 Per Year

Make check payable to Peacock North.

Mailing Address:

P. O. Box 112

Rowayton, CT 06853

Open to those who have been with NBC for 10 years or more.

Peacock North
P.O. Box 112
Rowayton, CT 06853

Presorted
Standard
U.S. Postage

PAID

Permit No. 26
Williamstown, WV



Dues were due—
January 1, 2011



New Peacock North Members

Your contacts:

Marilyn Altman

Jim Marshall

Lenny Stucker

Joel Spector

(Peacock North Editor)

Sharon Stucker, John Fider

(Membership Coordinators)

E-mail: peacocknorth@yahoo.com

Mailing Address:

PO Box 112

Rowayton, CT 06853

Peter Rydell was a Tech Ops Mgr for Stan Lee Fatt and Ron Gnidziejko
at NBC New York's BOC starting in 1984.

His colleagues included Dana Sherman and Elliot Ruga.

Jody Berliner Squires was on staff at NBC Sports in New York
from December 1982 to April 1996, starting as a Secretary in Sports Administration,
moving to Sports Operations and eventually to
Sports Commercial Traffic Administration.

Her colleagues have included Terry Ewert, Carla Engelman, Barbara Kline,
Ken Aagaard and Laura Klein.

Since 1996 she has worked as a part-timer in Olympics Commercial Traffic
for every NBC Olympics cycle to date.