



# **Bob Costas to be Spring Luncheon Speaker**

**Our annual luncheon will be held once again  
at O'Neals' Restaurant, located  
opposite Lincoln Center at 64th Street  
between Broadway and Central Park West.**

**The fun starts at noon on Sunday, May 23rd.**

**We're pleased to announce that Bob Costas,  
one of NBC Sports' most prominent person-  
alities, has agreed to be our Keynote Speaker.**

**The entire ground floor space will be ours  
if we can guarantee 150 guests.**

**We're counting on all of our members  
to fill in the reservation form on Page 27  
and mail it in today!**



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**Marilyn's Page****A Woman's Point of View**

In 1980, Eunice Diehl Smiley offered me the opportunity to become a Technical Director. Personally, I thought it a bit premature in my career, but did not consider denying anything to Eunice a good career move. So with much trepidation, excitement and humility I accepted the position and thus became the first female Technical Director at NBC. It was heady but a bit terrifying. I was 30 years old and felt the weight of having to be a leader amongst men, literally. After sizing up my "competition" I decided that "I could do this job" but I wanted and needed a role model. Enter Heino Ripp, the one man I could seriously relate to and comfortably model myself after.

Rippy, as he was called, was a leader of quiet strength. He led by example with gentle and steady dialogue. He was a real pro. He had the total admiration and respect of all those he worked with, from crewmembers, to production to management. Everyone trusted him. Who can forget his "call to arms" for "Saturday Night Live"? He would get on the SA with his melodious voice saying "OK Troops, man the gear." Ripp's work ethic was exemplary and it didn't hurt that his looks were those of an etched and weathered Norseman: handsome, with piercing but kind blue eyes. When I first met Ripp on the set of SNL, he was larger than life to me. But he did become my mentor, my role model. I looked to his "style" to find my own. He was my "image" of a fine Technical Director.

Years later, I spoke at Ripp's retirement party in Studio 8H. It was there that I mentioned to him what he had meant to me as a young woman trying to find my way in a very male-dominated career. He was very touched. Ripp was one of the kindest and most generous people I knew at NBC. He always made himself available for a chat. I will remember him always as a fine teacher and wonderful man. The kind of man who could be anyone's role model, gender aside.

On a different note, I hope I will see many of you at the Spring Luncheon. I was the Technical Director on numerous sports events with Bob Costas, so it gives me great pleasure to have him join us as our keynote speaker in May.

Finally, as we were going to press with this issue, word reached us of the passing of former Nightly News Director Norman Cook, as well as NBC technical maven Jack Keegan. As luck would have it, Jack had submitted his article for this issue just a few weeks ago, and he is also pictured with his pals at the most recent Long Island Lunch Bunch gathering.

More details about Norman and Jack in our next issue.

**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](mailto:peacocknorth@yahoo.com). This is a great way for us to help members keep in touch with each other.

### More About Bob Costas

Bob has been with NBC Sports since 1979. He has covered nearly every major sport, though he is perhaps most identified with the Olympics and baseball. He has anchored NBC's primetime coverage of the last five summer Olympics – Barcelona 1992, Atlanta 1996, Sydney 2000, Athens 2004, and Beijing 2008. He also hosted the winter games in Salt Lake City 2002, and the winter games in Torino 2006. As you are reading this, Bob is hosting NBC's coverage of the 2010 Vancouver Winter Games. He is also scheduled to host the 2012 London Summer Games for NBC.

From 1983 through 1989, Bob teamed with Tony Kubek on NBC's "Baseball Game of the Week" telecasts. In the mid 90's, Bob returned to baseball, handling play-by-play for NBC's All-Star, Playoff and World Series coverage. He first teamed with Bob Uecker and Joe Morgan, and then with Morgan alone. Bob's book, "Fair Ball, A Fan's Case for Baseball," published in 2000, earned excellent reviews and remained on the New York Times best seller list for several weeks. Bob has been involved in the coverage of ten League Championship Series and seven World Series for NBC.

In early 2009, Bob signed a long-term contract to join the new MLB Network. As part of his new deal, Bob has left HBO, where he hosted the critically acclaimed "Costas Now." He had previously hosted HBO's "Inside the NFL" for six seasons.



In the 80's and 90's Bob was a fixture of NBC's NBA and NFL coverage. He now hosts the network's "Football Night in America" program. With his recent hosting of Super Bowl XLIII, between Pittsburgh and Arizona, Bob has now anchored five Super Bowls for NBC. He has also hosted, or called play-by-play, on eight NBA Finals.

Bob has won twenty Emmy awards – sixteen for outstanding sports host or play-by-play, two for writing, one for his late night interview show, "*Later...with Bob Costas*" on NBC, and one for feature reporting. Uniquely, Bob has been nominated for Emmys in five different categories: play-by-play, hosting, writing, interviewing, and journalism.

Bob has also been named "National Sportscaster of the Year" an unprecedented eight times by his peers – in 1985, 1987, 1988, 1991, 1992, 1995, 1997, and 2000.

Bob is a native of Queens, New York, and grew up on Long Island. He attended Syracuse University, where he majored in communications. He began his professional career at WSYR-TV and radio in 1973 while studying at Syracuse before joining KMOX radio in St. Louis in 1974.

Bob, we at Peacock North are watching the Vancouver Games and look forward to sharing your experiences with us at our Spring Luncheon.

*We Get Letters*

This issue's letters are all in remembrance of our dear Heino Ripp. - Ed.

The timing of his passing is very ironic, as I was in Arizona beginning last Wednesday for 5 days. Robbe's dad was a man for the ages, who I greatly admired and respected.

**Dick Ebersol**

R I P Rippy

**Steve Jambeck**

What can I say? All the news we get is bad. I loved "Rippe." He was the sweetest guy and a pleasure to work with.

**Marilyn Jacobs Furey**

Heino was the finest TD and gentleman I knew at NBC

**Jack Marshall**

That is crushing news. I'm in and out of AZ all the time and wish I had known he was there...but I could have made more of an effort to find out where folks are I guess. They don't make them like him any more.

**Terry Skelton**

A true gentleman, TD and nice guy has left our presence. May he garner his very just rewards upstairs.

**Gene Richards**

Dear Robbe,

We haven't met but I worked with your Dad every week as the associate audio mixer on Saturday Night Live starting with episode #1 in 1975. He often spoke happily of his "Big Guy in Hawaii."

He was always the gentleman and consummate professional. There was always a solution to every problem.

Heino was one of the founders of Peacock North, and his absence once he moved out West was deeply felt.

As Dad would say, "Thank you and bless you."

**Joel Spector**

Aloha Joel,

thank you very very much for your email, it is awesome to hear from so many people who worked with or near Dad.

mahalo,

**robbe**

well, he was some guy... and as you may remember he helped this kid out bigtime with the kids show, Pink Panther remakes with paul and mary ritts... there was no way i knew how to direct a studio show, but good old george heinemann made me producer/director in his own nutty way of rearranging the television world... anyhow, Heino did the job with grace and talent and we all had a real good time!!!

**beryl pfizer**

May he rest in peace.

**Bob Dreier**

All those happy times with Dwight [Hemion], Neil [Smith] and [Bill] Klages. I'll drop Robbe a note.

**Enid Roth**

Mr. Ripp was a gentleman and a true professional.

**Bob Palladino**



## A LABOR OF LOVE

### A Follow-Up By Hank Huestis



A letter published in the last edition of Peacock North by an anonymous person praising Mort Aronoff and me motivated me to write here about how our program to help alcoholics (and others with drug and mental health problems) started and progressed. Perseverance and patience played a big role in its success.

It all started with an idea of Mort, Warren Winterhalter, and Cal Shadwell in 1971. As NABET members, they attended a seminar sponsored by the NY Central Labor Council on the disease concept of addiction to alcohol and other mood-altering chemicals. The use of intervention was stressed as a primary tool.



They approached Arthur Kent, president of Local 11, who gave approval to set up The Alcoholism Assistance Committee. Dave Gardham, Vice President of Personnel, gave the final go-ahead for this informal Occupational Alcoholism Program at NBC NY. Early on they accepted referrals from supervisors, shop stewards and coworkers. Freeport Hospital, used exclusively to detox and treat people with alcohol problems, was the treatment resource. The hospital had an excellent outpatient aftercare program to help keep our fellow employees clean and sober.

Cal went into management, and Warren passed away. Mort found out that I was a recovering alcoholic, and he sought me out to join the committee. At first I said no, I wanted to concentrate on my own recovery, but then agreed to join Mort, realizing that in helping others I would be helping myself. Arthur Kent, seeing that we were having some success, gave continuing support, and we gained support from NBC's Dr. Handler. Bob Hurford, VP Labor Relations, realized that we were helping him to resolve work performance issues involving substance abuse. He became our biggest advocate, and even referred management people to us, including a VP in RCA!

The committee functioned in the 70's as a volunteer program, and we doubled as engineers and Committee representatives. Upper management and the union executive board gave approval to attend courses and seminars devoted to substance abuse, splitting the cost, and the company gave us the time. With this education, Mort and I received certification as Credentialed Alcoholism Counselors (CAC) from NY State.

During the latter part of the 70's we lobbied Grant Tinker's predecessors to establish a company-wide formal EAP (Employee Assistance Program) without success, possibly because there were problem executives who feared such a program. When Grant was appointed NBC's CEO in late '81, he readily agreed to meet with us, and we wrote a proposal to create a formal NBC EAP. He was favorably impressed and said we would have to run it by Vice-Chairman Irwin Siegelstein and Gene McGuire, EVP of Labor Relations. The meeting with Irwin was interesting. As we sat before him, he read the proposal and then turned to Mort and asked if he was a union employee. Mort nodded yes. Then he asked Mort how long he worked as a union employee, and Mort answered "30 years". Then Mr. Sieglestein asked me the same questions and I answered the same way. He then stared at us and said "You guys are protected by union seniority, but if we accept this program you will have to give that all up and you will be in management. We could scrap the whole thing in six months and you could be out on your "you-know-what." Mort looked at him and said "We'll take that chance!" I poked Mort in the ribs and asked if we could consult with each other in the hall. It took a while for Mort to convince me to make the move. We went back in the room and Mort stated that we had full confidence and we would take the risk. Looking back, I think that Irwin was putting us to the test. The program was accepted and we set up shop in the back of the Health Office. This provided a confidential location. We then started to get referrals from the nurses as well. We insisted on making it a joint program and enlisted George Hug and Angelo Vigorito as our union counterparts. Any time we got a union referral, George and Angelo were informed and decisions were made jointly. It really worked!

Mort and I retired in 1987 with the internal EAP fully functioning. A person from outside NBC was hired to take over for us. I don't know how long this program lasted after that; I do know that this fine program was discarded and an outside consultant was used to take referrals. I am hopeful that this approach was and is successful. The "Hank and Mort" approach had ended. P.S.: I recently spoke with Grant and he will be joining Peacock North!

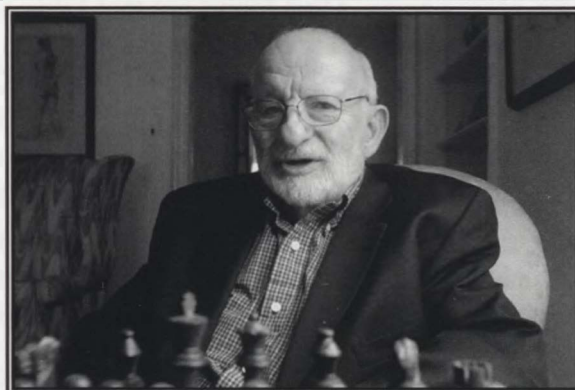
**Another Side of Broadcast History****Richard W. Sonnenfeldt  
Executive, Innovator, Humanist**

Armed with a BSEE (Cum Laude) from Johns Hopkins, Richard Sonnenfeldt joined RCA in 1949, where he was engaged in advanced development work on monochrome and color television receivers. He rose from student engineer to Manager of Engineering and Production of RCA's Industrial Computer Systems Department.

He was RCA's Staff Vice President, SelectaVision VideoDisc Operations from 1974 through 1978. He presided over the first demonstration of the CED System to the technology press on March 19, 1975. He was responsible for marketing and programming development. In January 1979, Mr. Sonnenfeldt was named Vice President, Special Corporate Projects.

He later became an Executive Vice President at NBC. It was in this capacity that he visited Studio 8H during the setup for the 1984 Election Night coverage.

--Information compiled from RCA Corporate Sources by PN Editor Joel Spector



My father, Richard W. Sonnenfeldt, who had been assigned to the Office of Strategic Services, was the chief interpreter at the Nuremberg trials and Hermann Göring's personal interpreter at the end of World War II, passed away on Oct. 9, 2009.

As we finished sitting shiva, our customary week of mourning, and took the traditional walk around the block, we concluded with a regular breakfast, at Barney Greengrass on the Upper West Side. Just after we sat down, Caroline Kennedy sat down at the adjacent table.

During the eulogy at his funeral, I shared my father's most admirable qualities but avoided dwelling on the others. Steely and courageous and disciplined, he was not a man of soft or visible emotion. The only time I had remembered him crying was during the taping of the biography I filmed on his early years through Nuremberg, when he wanted us to remember the few good people in Germany who had saved others' lives, like those of my grandparents, at the risk of their own.

But during the shiva, other members of my family remembered another time my father had cried: one Friday night in November 1963 when President John F. Kennedy had been assassinated. I had cried, too, they remembered, at the age of 8, wondering aloud what would happen to the president's young children.

John Jr. is gone now, too. But how odd that within minutes of ending the formal shiva for my father, I should find myself next to Caroline, who looked happy and radiant, even in casual clothes. I agonized over whether to invade her privacy with my story and decided against it, but I couldn't get it out of my mind.

Life goes on, and we should savor every coincidence that weaves the invisible fabric of life.

-- By Michael Sonnenfeldt in NY Times Metropolitan Diary, November 16, 2009



## Tech Talk

### The Birth of IFB By Jack Keegan

Sputnik started it all when the Soviets launched the first earth satellite. All America was shocked to learn that they were capable of launching a space probe. The United States formed NASA, our Space Organization, to equal the Russians or outrun them. The program caught the minds of all Americans, and the broadcasters attempted to keep us informed.

TV programs about NASA missions now featured broadcast talent located around the nation. TV Producers were unable to communicate directly with them. They needed a device that would put them in the ears of these reporters who were positioned at Cape Canaveral, Florida (later named the Kennedy Space Center) and the Manned Spacecraft Center in Houston, Texas (later called the Lyndon B. Johnson Space Center).

The audio people at NBC went to work on this problem. Henry Krochmal, our resident audio expert, explained how it could be solved with pads, switches, relays and audio amplifiers. The first device was engineered by John Deeg, and, with the workmanship of Harold McDermott, the prototype was built. It exceeded all expectations and was installed in Studio 8H.

Now, by pressing a button, the Producer or Director was able to talk with correspondents located at different venues. He thus had the capability of giving them, individually or collectively, instructions and updates on the changing aspects of each mission. Voila - another triumph for the NBC Audio Guys.

The latest version of this system now permits control room personnel to communicate with sixteen remote talent positions plus five more in the studio.

An aside about the naming of this system: The NBC audio people wanted to call the system "Interrupted Return Feed" or IRF. The powers-that-be decided that it would be called "Interrupted Feedback" or IFB. As the traditional squealing sound of unintended feedback was anathema to audio engineers, they protested, but to no avail. To this day the industry-standard term is still "IFB," though some equipment manufacturers define it as "Interrupted Fold back" which relates it more to the world of rock and roll on-stage performer speaker and earphone systems. At ABC it is known as "Selected Audio Return" and CBS calls it "Program Interrupt."

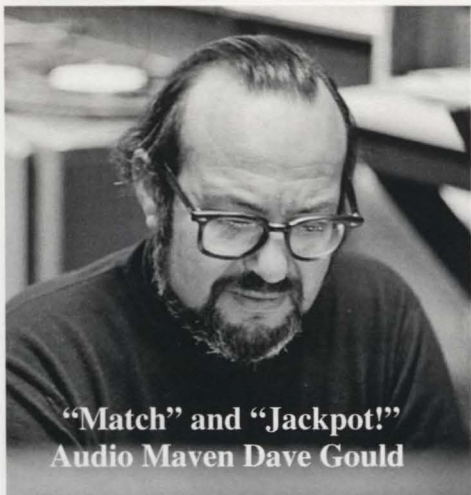
That's the story.

## IFB Today

Below is a typical contemporary IFB panel. Identical equipment is used at Radio City and on location, even inside mobile units. Users can have the panel layout arranged to mimic their "home" layout so they have no learning curve upon arrival. Panels contain a combination of IFBs (1-8 seen at upper left), "point-to-point" individual private conversations, and PL buses for group exchanges such as camera, audio tape playback and graphics. The panels are part of a computer-controlled matrix of nearly 30 NBC intercoms with perhaps 1 million ports worldwide. - Ed.







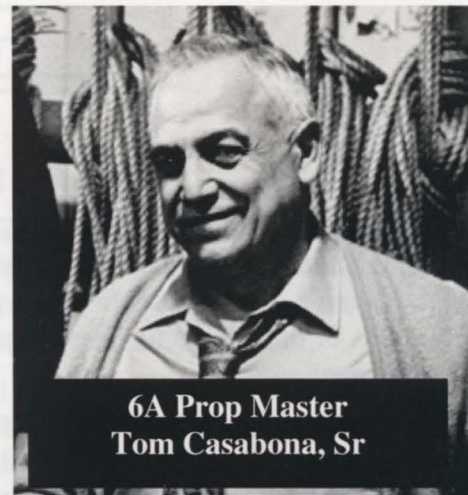
**"Match" and "Jackpot!"  
Audio Maven Dave Gould**

*We Get Pictures*

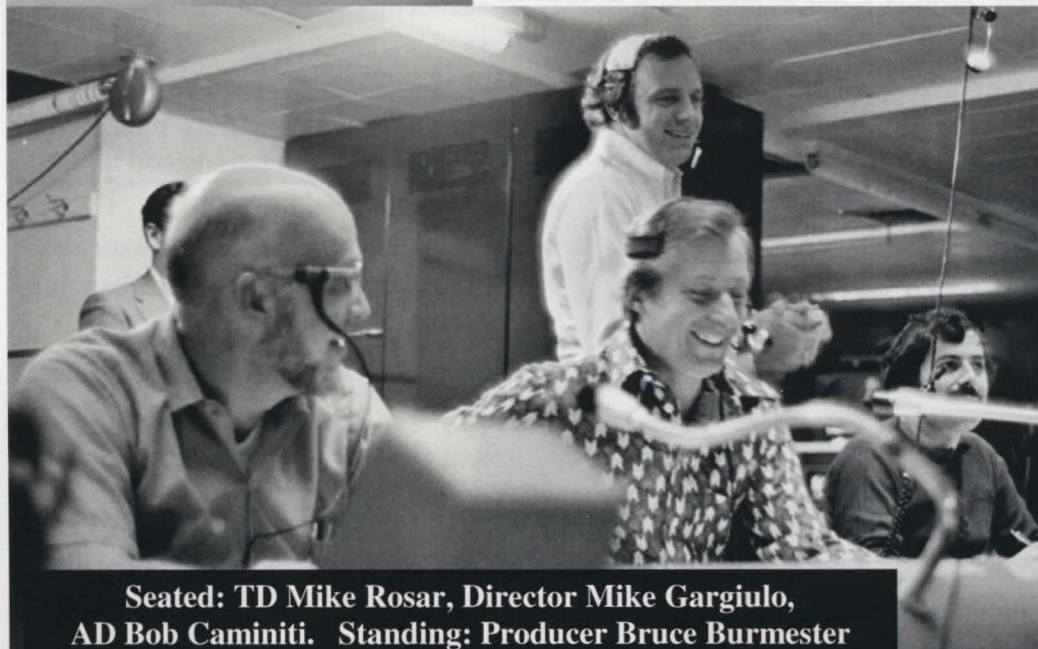
Peggy Chane, now a feature film and documentary producer/director, sent these pix to PN from her days on staff with Bob Stewart at NBC N.Y.

This page is mainly devoted to "Three on a Match" in 6A from 1973. Next page covers "Jackpot!" in 8H during July 1975.

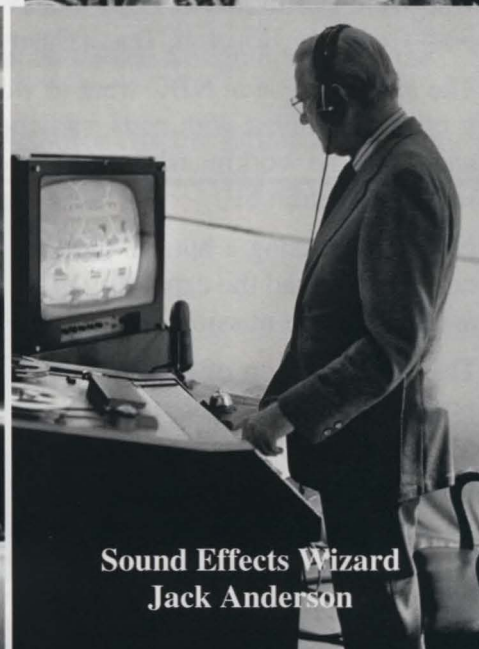
Two months later 8H saw the premiere of "NBC's Saturday Night."



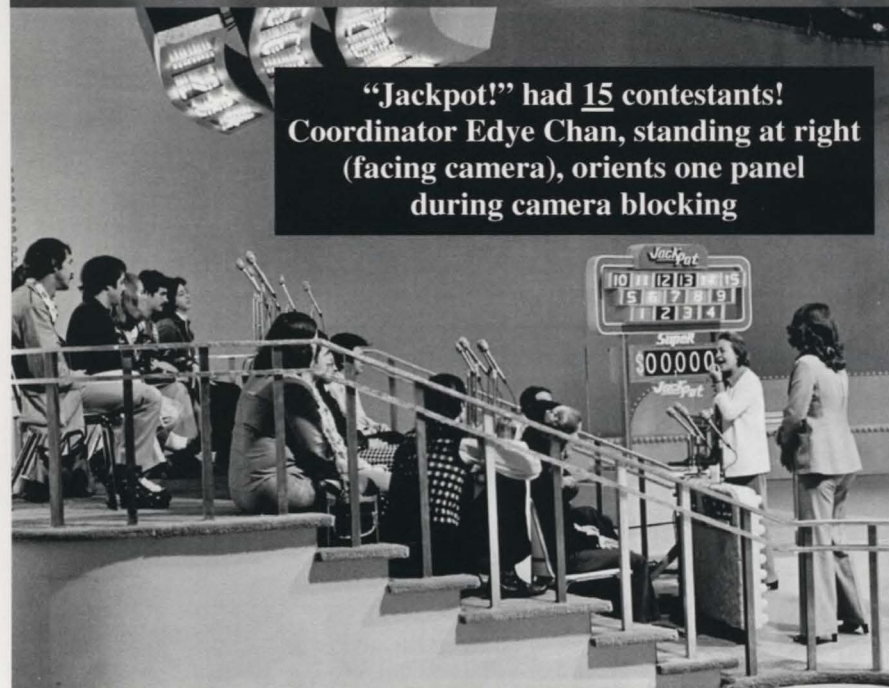
**6A Prop Master  
Tom Casabona, Sr**



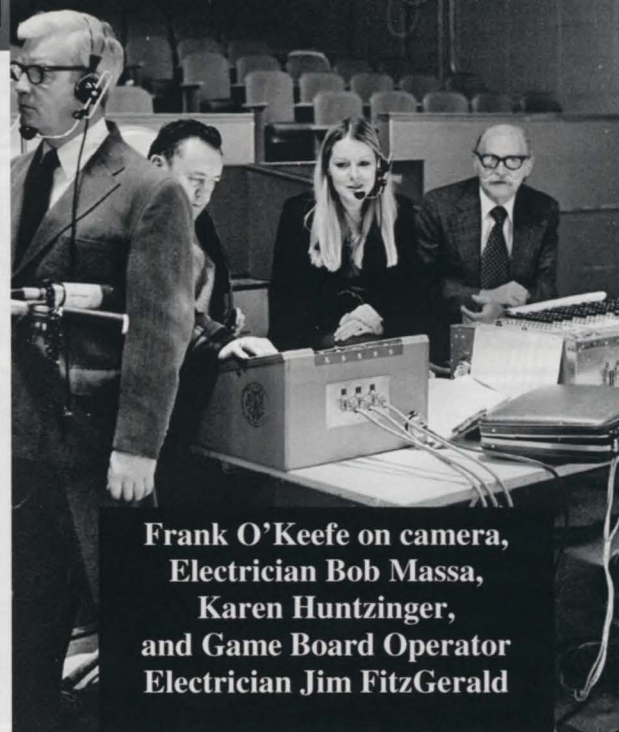
**Seated: TD Mike Rosar, Director Mike Gargiulo,  
AD Bob Caminiti. Standing: Producer Bruce Burmester**



**Sound Effects Wizard  
Jack Anderson**



**"Jackpot!" had 15 contestants!  
Coordinator Edge Chan, standing at right  
(facing camera), orients one panel  
during camera blocking**

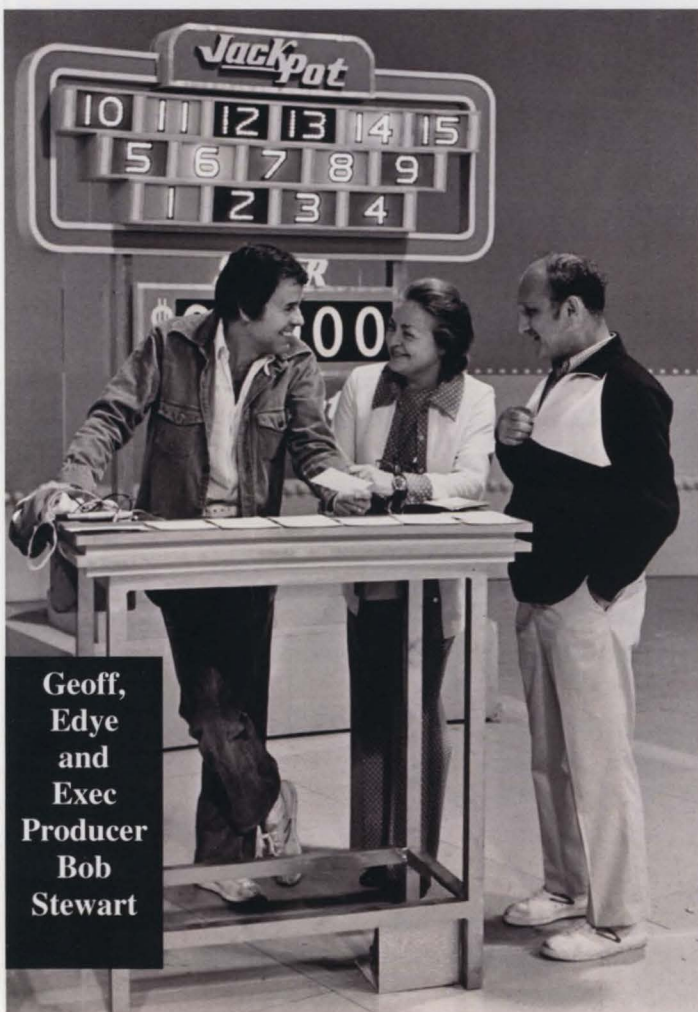


**Frank O'Keefe on camera,  
Electrician Bob Massa,  
Karen Huntzinger,  
and Game Board Operator  
Electrician Jim FitzGerald**

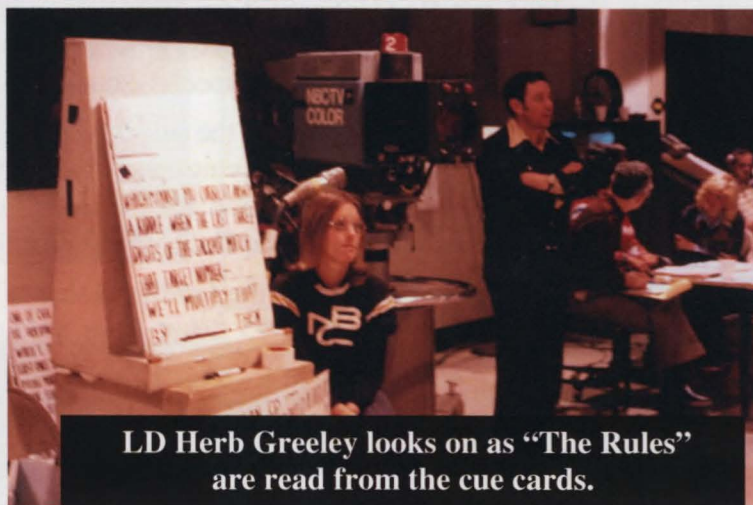




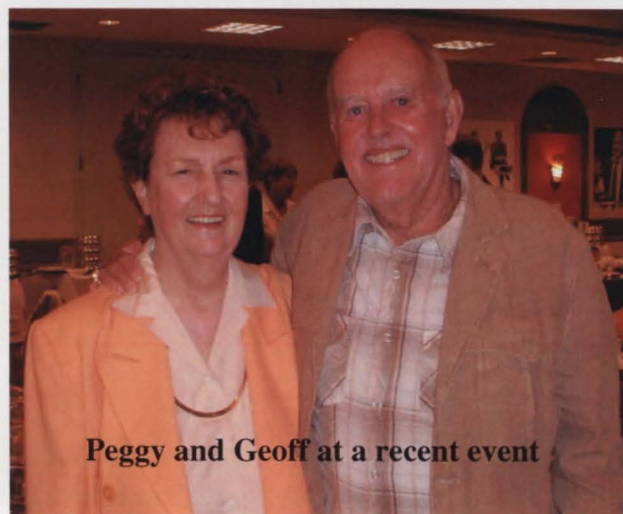
"Jackpot!" staff includes Peggy Chane (Top Center), Host Geoff Edwards and Director Mike Gargiulo (Top Right), Edye Chan, PA Frances Tevers and Producer Bruce Burmester (Bottom Center)



Geoff,  
Edye  
and  
Exec  
Producer  
Bob  
Stewart



LD Herb Greeley looks on as "The Rules" are read from the cue cards.

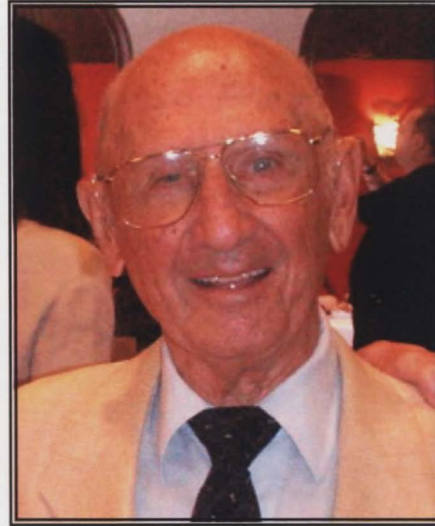
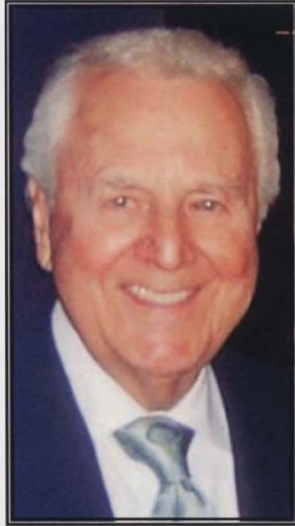


Peggy and Geoff at a recent event



## What's Now!

### Television Academy Hall of Fame to Induct Don Pardo, Bob Stewart and Others



The Academy of Television Arts & Sciences' Hall of Fame Committee has selected Candice Bergen, Charles Lisanby, Don Pardo, Gene Roddenberry, Tom and Dick Smothers and Bob Stewart to be the next inductees into the Television Academy's Hall of Fame, Television Academy Chairman-CEO John Shaffner announced recently. The new group of inductees was honored at a special ceremony on Wednesday, Jan. 20, at the Beverly Hills Hotel.

"Each year, the Television Academy has the privilege of honoring television greats that have contributed to the development and success of this ever-evolving medium," Shaffner said. "This year's inductees have challenged and shaped popular culture, changed television for the better and entertained us royally while doing so. We are very pleased to be able to induct them into the Hall of Fame for their many achievements."

The legendary announcer **Don Pardo**, the familiar voice of NBC's *Saturday Night Live*, has been closely identified with that television staple since its 1975 debut from Studio 8H at the network's 30 Rock headquarters. Officially retired, Pardo continues to provide the show's introductions. In the early 1950s, he served as announcer for many of RCA and NBC's closed-circuit color television demonstrations but eventually became one of the network's top game show announcers. He made his mark as the booming voice of the original *The Price Is Right*, from 1956 until it moved to ABC in 1963, then *Call My Bluff*. He would later move to NBC's *Jeopardy!*, from 1964-75. He also announced numerous other New York-based NBC game shows, including *Three on a Match*, *Winning Streak* and *Jackpot!*

And speaking of *Jackpot!* **Bob Stewart** is known for creating some of the most popular game shows for Mark Goodson-Bill Todman Productions, including *To Tell the Truth*, *Password* and the enduring daytime hit, *The Price Is Right*. After its seven-year run on NBC and two years on ABC, *The Price Is Right* debuted in September 1972 as *The New Price is Right* on CBS, with Bob Barker and Dennis James. Within a year, the title reverted back to *The Price Is Right*, and this version of the show remains on the air today, with Drew Carey as host. In 1961, Stewart created *Password*, the first game to pair celebrities and contestants. It became the top-rated program on daytime television. From 1966-91, Stewart created and executive produced 15 series, including *Chain Reaction*, *The Love Experts*, *Pass the Buck*, *Shoot for the Stars* and the *\$10,000 Pyramid* and its spin-offs. Stewart has won a total of nine Emmys as an executive producer.

Full historical video interviews with Don Pardo, Bob Stewart and other honorees are available online through the Academy of Television Arts & Sciences Foundation's Archive of American Television. For links to the interviews, visit <http://www.emmytvlegends.org>.



*We Get Pictures*

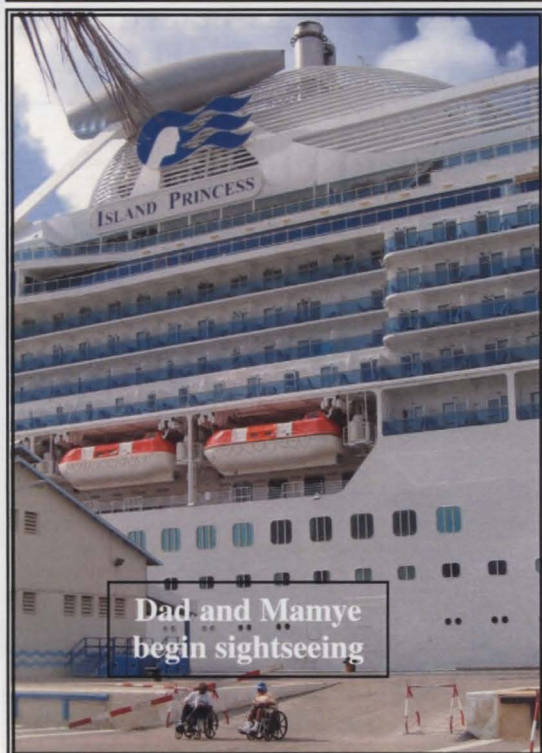
**Mamye Smith and Family Cruise to Panama Canal and Beyond**

What did you do for Thanksgiving? I went on a ten day cruise! My dad, George, 94, who is a contractor in the South, had always wanted to see how the Panama Canal works. So our family organized a mini family reunion so he could go see. Our ship stopped in Aruba (went shopping), Columbia (3 of the sisters bought emerald rings), Panama (saw the canal), Costa Rica (went through a rain forest) and Jamaica (had a margarita at Margaritaville). There were 12 of us for a very special Thanksgiving family cruise.



**Mamye and Bob at Margaritaville**

**A Smith Family Portrait:**  
**Standing:** Verlyne Moten, Bob Hickey,  
 Jean Dambreville, Carl Willis,  
 Cashuh Key II and III, Lymbra Key  
**Seated:** Carol, Mamye and George  
 Smith, Virginia Dambreville  
**In front of George is Crystal Key.**



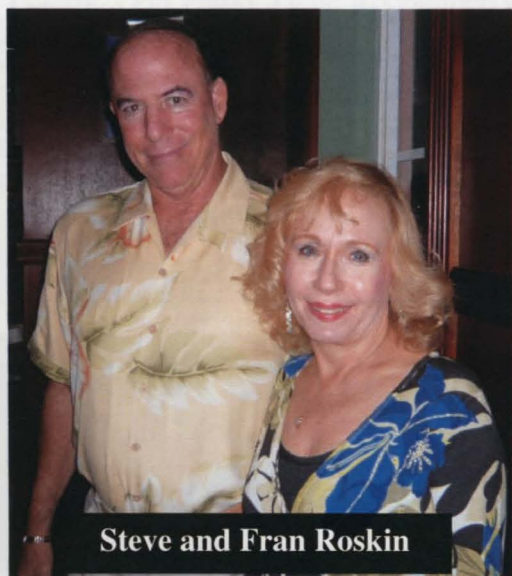
**Mamye checks out the Rain Forest**



*We Get Pictures*



**The Long Island Lunch Bunch does it one mo' time on Dec. 15, 2009!**  
**Standing: Gary Iorio, Bill Freeda, Joel Spector, Frank Gaeta, Hank Huestis**  
**Seated: Tony Romeo, Jack "The Organizer" Keegan, Tom Leonard, Leon Dobbins**



**Steve and Fran Roskin**

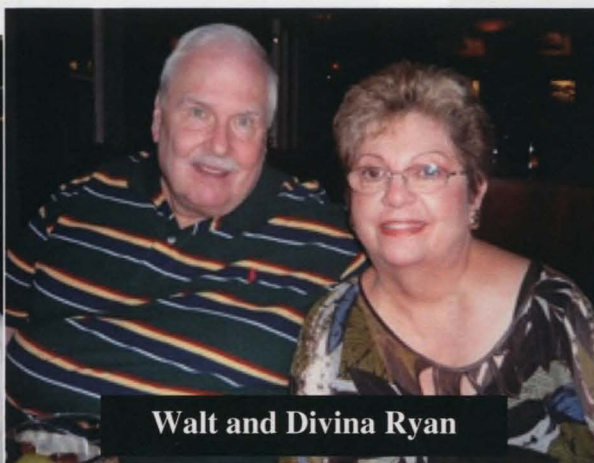


**Visitors Alice and Bob Batsche  
 are bookends for Sherri Freeman Feuer**

**An NBC get-together  
 Nov. 5, 2009  
 at Spoto's  
 Oyster Bar  
 in  
 Palm Beach Gardens,  
 FL**



**Julia and  
 Dick Sansevere**



**Walt and Divina Ryan**



**Jan Kasoff with  
 Julia Sansevere**

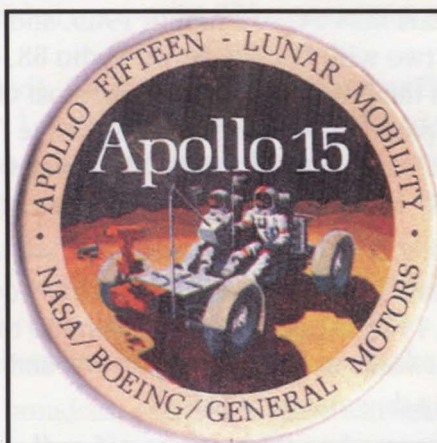
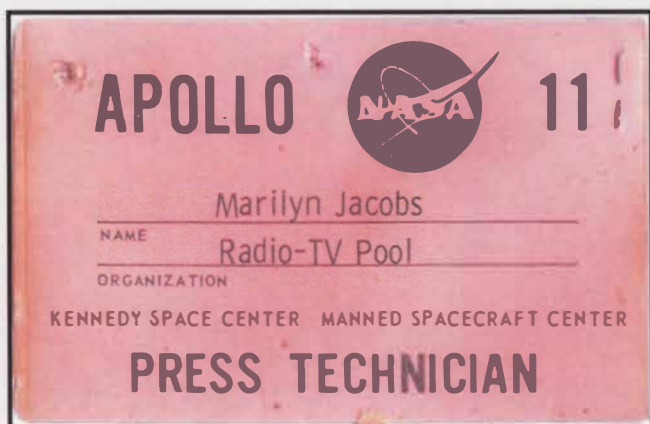


*We Get Letters and Pictures*

## Apollo Memories By Marilyn Jacobs Furey

I was at the Cape for Apollo 11. In fact we televised the last interview the astronauts gave before going to the moon. Walter Cronkite conducted the interview, but NBC supplied the truck and personnel. Ralph Douglas was the stage manager and he had a cold so I was trying to get him to change places with me as obviously I wanted to be in the room with the astronauts. My excuse was that the astronauts were quarantined which they were as they didn't know the effects of their sojourn to the moon so Ralph should not have been in the room with them with his cold. However, he declined to switch places. After the interview was over as the astronauts came out past our truck I said to the director, Jack Dillon, that I was the last woman they were going to see prior to going to the moon. His reply to me was "They think they're already on the moon!"

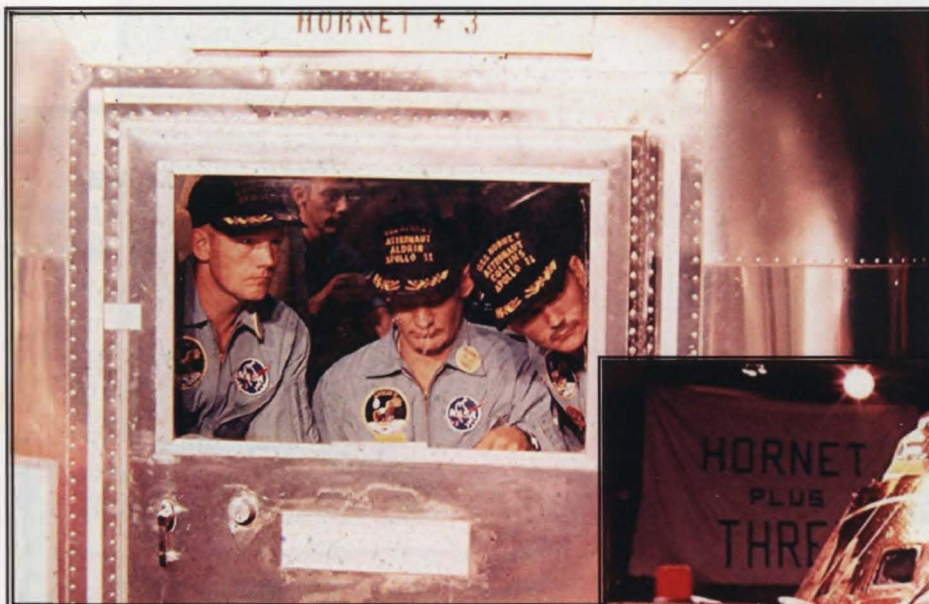
I had all kinds of memorabilia from this exciting time in my life including a reservation at the Lunar Hilton, a reservation on International Airlines and postcards and letters stamped at the Cape with the time of the rocket blastoff.



I don't remember who the director was in the booth when the rocket blasted off. I think it was Jim Kitchell, but whoever it was allowed me to run outside and see the takeoff with my naked eyes. It was a very emotional experience. To think that they were going to the moon for the first time in man's existence. Well, I don't know who wasn't crying. And the other thing is that the sound is held down for television and the actual sound adds so much to the thrill of the blast off - something never to be forgotten!

What an unforgettable experience!

## Apollo 11 Memories Story and Photos By Don Blair



**In Quarantine Trailer,  
Neil Armstrong,  
NASA's Dr. Bill Carpenter,  
Buzz Aldrin,  
Mike Collins**

**NBC TV's  
Ron Nessen  
in front of the trailer**



I spent 25 eventful and very memorable years in NYC, starting in 1965, and it was always radio...dear old radio. The first seven with Mutual, the next two with WCBS-News Radio 88, one year with ABC's Entertainment Radio Network and then 15 fine years with the NBC Radio Network, most of them at 30 Rock but the last few uptown at 1700 Broadway as Jack Welch prepared to sell us, given his dislike for any member of the GE family that was not number one or two in its field...and radio network news was never what you could call a cash cow. When we became a part of Westwood One in 1989 it was time to walk away and many of us did. That was my farewell to a business I loved every minute of.

Barely four months after my arrival at Mutual I was given the first of five "downrange" assignments for recovery carrier coverage of Gemini 9, 10 and 11 in 1966; Apollo 11 in the summer of 1969; and finally, for me anyway, Apollo 15 in 1972. Until Apollo 11 the networks usually sent two of us and on Gemini 9 the other guy was Bill Ryan, of New York's WNBC-TV, already a downrange veteran

When Apollo 11 loomed in 1969 those news directors deemed it of such overwhelming importance that they decided to send one correspondent from each network, so my roommate turned out to be NBC's Ron Nessen. CBS was represented by Dallas Townsend and ABC by Keith McBe.

On the day the first Moon trio returned to Earth (July 24, 1969) I was handed the assignment of a lifetime. The only radio voice to the entire world. We did what came close to a five-hour solo shot up on the 06 level of the USS Hornet's island, four flights above the deck. A Navy Lieutenant Commander kept me supplied with notes from NASA and Navy officials just a few feet away in the Operations Center right behind the bridge. My producer, Dick Dressel of ABC, would later say we probably had the largest radio audience of all time. I did not argue the point.



**Don's exclusive shot of  
Neil Armstrong  
inside the trailer**



**Don and Buzz Aldrin  
in 2004.  
The other fellow is unidentified.**

My three major network colleagues provided open-mike TV coverage in which they all participated based on their own observations.

The USS Hornet is now docked in Alameda, California across from San Francisco. She is a floating museum. I joined in the 35<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Apollo 11 on her decks back in 2004 and returned this past July for the 40<sup>th</sup> at which time former astronaut Buzz Aldrin was a very special guest and wow, did he put people in the seats...over 3,500 of them on July 25<sup>th</sup>.

During his brief stay, a small group of us had the chance to have lunch with Buzz down in the ship's Ward Room and that is where we exchanged books. I completed "Splashdown, NASA & The Navy" back in 2004 and Buzz finished his latest book only months before he came to the ship. Here is a nice shot of the two of us on that book exchange with a NASA guy (unnamed) between us. A priceless keepsake.

Now...flash back to July 24, 1969. My broadcast ended when the astronauts were safely inside that quarantine trailer. My TV pals continued and here is Ron Nessen on mike and camera in front of that trailer with the Command Module off to the left and Dallas Townsend at right foreground.

Next...with no further radio to do, I took this shot of the Apollo trio moments after President Nixon had stood there and talked with them. Finally...my pride and joy. One of a kind. Ten that evening...Neil Armstrong in the trailer, plunking on a ukulele. I took three quick shots, turned and walked away and moments later he was gone. He has a copy of that picture and it is also in our book. And come 2014 we'll be back on the carrier Hornet if we're still on the right side of the grass. I still write...second book coming along slowly, lecturing, etc. Can you ever really quit this incredible business?

**What's Now!****NABET-CWA President John Clark Retires**

NABET-CWA President John Clark (at right in photo) retired on January 31st, winding up 43 years in the union he joined while working at NBC Radio in New York City. Clark was working as a vacation relief engineer at the radio network when he joined NABET Local 11 in 1967 (now NABET-CWA Local 51011). He served as a steward, executive board member, grievance chair and vice president before being elected local president in 1987. He was elected an international vice president in 1986 and became international president in October 1993.

Clark says he's most proud of NABET's 1994 merger with CWA and the work he, former President James Nolan and CWA President Larry Cohen did to make it happen. "I'm proud to have played a leading role in bringing our small organization into a union with greater impact, visibility, influence and resources," Clark said. "The merger was a major step forward for our membership in every way, and expanded CWA's footprint into the media industry. It was a win-win for everyone."

Cohen praised Clark's wealth of knowledge and the mix of diplomacy and tenacity he brought to contract negotiations. "John's brilliance in bargaining, mastery of the subject matter as well as his near perfect ability to work with our national teams at Disney/ABC and General Electric/ NBC will be sorely missed," he said.

Jim Joyce, former NABET-CWA national vice president and past vice president of NABET-CWA Local 51016 was named the new president of NABET-CWA by the its board on Jan. 31. An election will be held this summer.

--CWA News



**What's Now!****Walter Miller Scores Two Aces**

Well known to many PNers, Walter C. Miller has been directing and producing some of the biggest TV specials for many years. Though it's early in 2010, he has already received two awards of merit for some of those efforts. Pictured at right, Walter gets an on-camera appearance at this year's Grammy Awards. Country music superstar Keith Urban announced that Walter, who had directed the Grammys for 29 years and is now Consulting Producer, is being given the Recording Academy's Trustees Award. "He is one of the most respected directors and producers in the history of live television," said Urban. [Reported by Joel Spector]

Earlier this season, the Country Music Association presented the Irving Waugh Award of Excellence to longtime and treasured former CMA Awards Executive Producer,

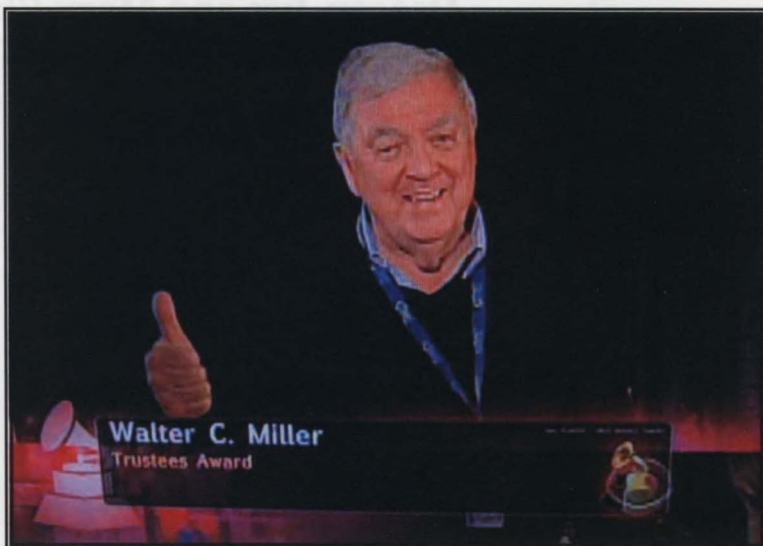
Walter C. Miller. He was recognized for his 40 years of working with the CMA Awards, as producer, executive producer, and now consulting producer, at a reception in Nashville attended by industry and CMA Board leaders on Nov. 6, 2009. Twelve-time host of the CMA Awards Vince Gill presented the Award, recalling, "Walter and I be-

came fast friends and quickly learned to trust each other."

"Country Music is my anthem," said Miller. "After all this time, I've become an honorary Nashvillian. This is my second home." "For nearly four decades, Walter has contributed immeasurably to the success and popularity of the CMA Awards," said CMA Chief Executive Officer Tammy Genovese. "His vision and passion for this program and our artists is an inspiration to those fortunate enough to have worked with him." Handed out at the CMA board's discretion, the award has only been given to four other recipients since it was first presented in 1983.

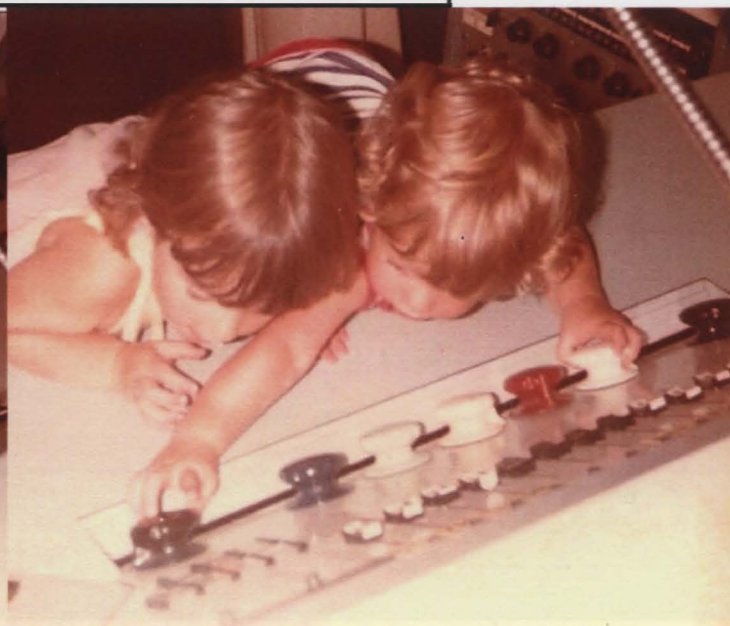
Pictured at left are CMA CEO Tammy Genovese; Walter & daughter Debbie; CMA Awards Exec. Producer Robert Deaton; Former CMA Awards host and Country Music Hall of Fame member Vince Gill; and Walter's son Paul, who is now Director of the CMA Awards Show.

[Story from musicrow.com]

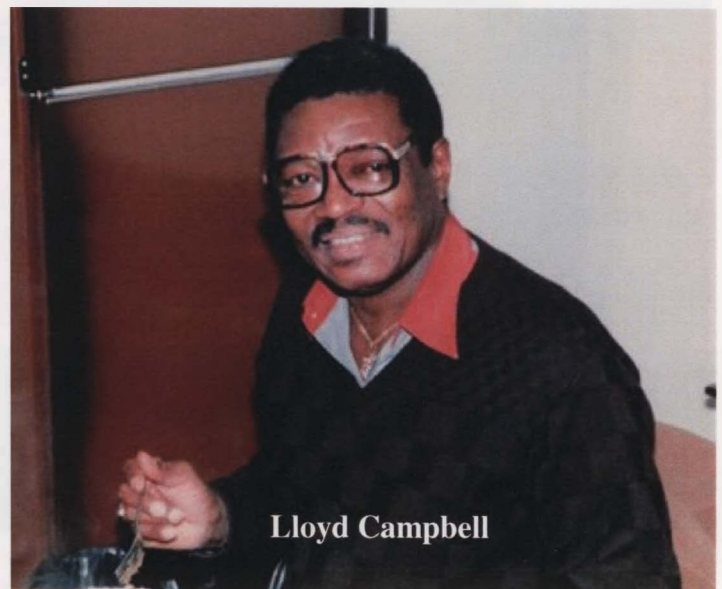
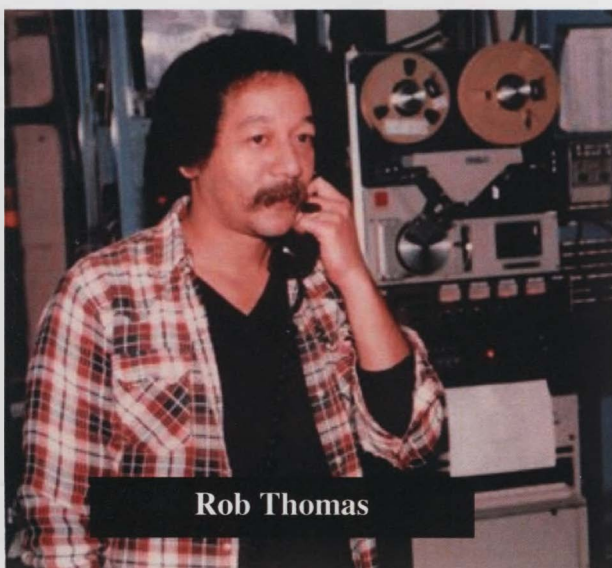
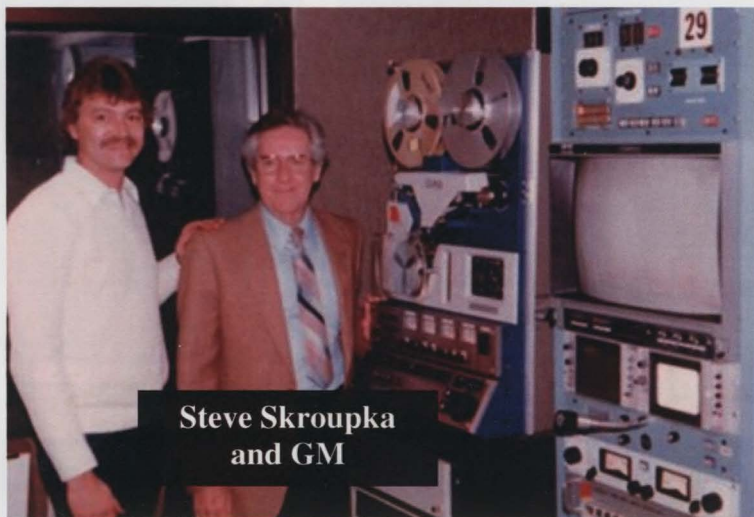
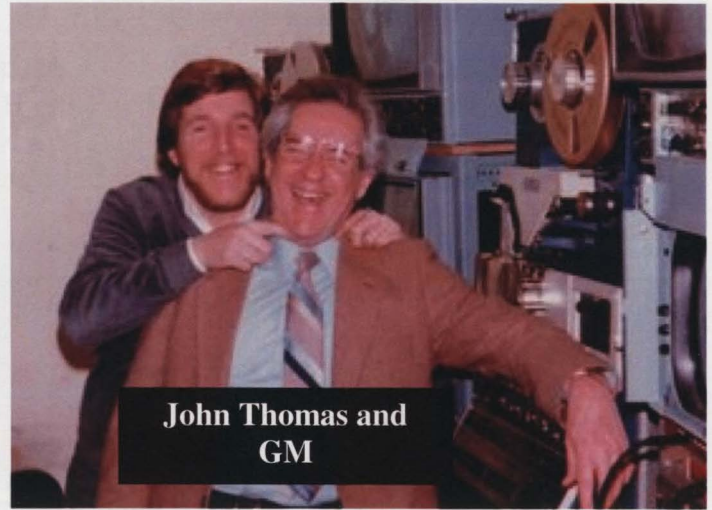
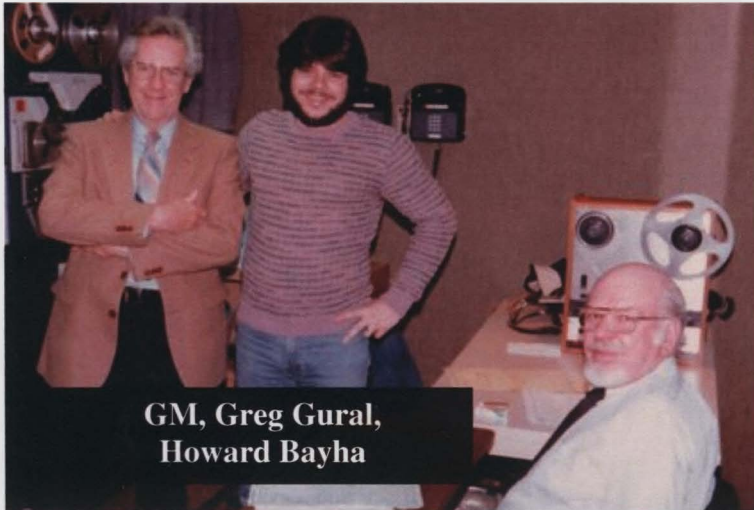


*We Get Pictures***Blaneys - Now and Then****Deacon Jim and Mary Blaney Receive Award**

The Blaneys received an award from the Diocese of St. Petersburg during evening prayer on Sunday, November 22nd. Established in 1999 by Most Reverend Robert N. Lynch, Fourth Bishop of St. Petersburg, the St. Jude the Apostle Medal is awarded to a lay member of a parish for distinguished and outstanding service. Fr John asked if he could have one of Jim's 4 Emmys in trade. Their Medallion is 4 inches wide and weighs over 2 pounds.

**Shannon and Colin Blaney at the 6B Audio Console in 1979.  
Both their father and grandfather operated this board!**



*We Get Pictures***More Goodies from  
The Rudick Files - March 1983 - George Morrow Retires**

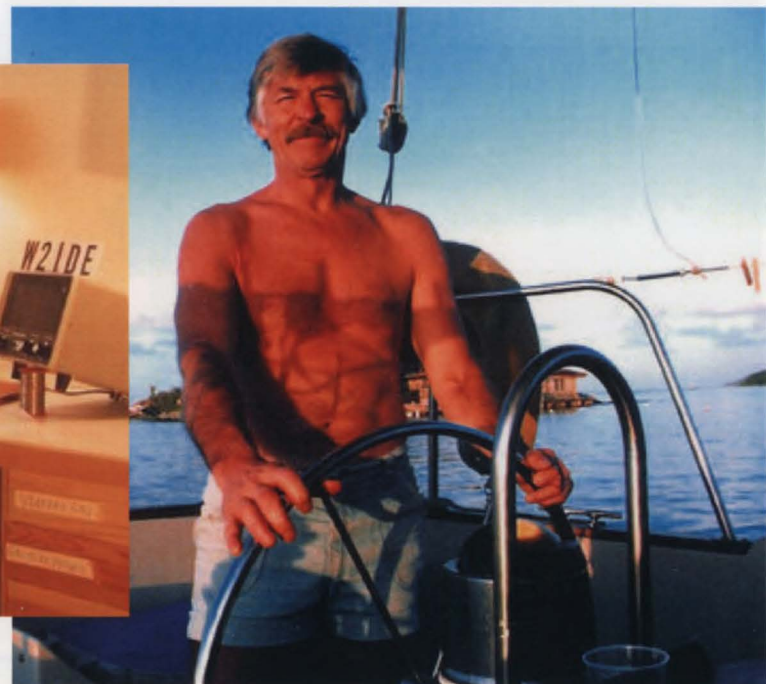


*Tributes to Silent Microphones***Heino Ripp**

This is to let you know that my father, Heino H. Ripp, a long time, Emmy Award-winning TD for NBC, died in hospice in Arizona on Wednesday, December 2, 2009. He was 84.



**Heino, Audrey Dickman, Scott Schachter, Dave Wilson  
in November 1981 during season seven of  
“Saturday Night Live.”**





*Tributes to Silent Microphones*

**Happy Days:  
Pete Peterson, Dan Grabel, Heino Ripp, Frank Vierling in 2001**

I know he started with NBC in World War II sitting at the top of the Empire State building underneath the transmitter tower. Near the end of that stint, he started working for the Research and Development Team doing projects for the military as well as future TV technology stuff.

I believe this is where he was immersed in television technology and helped develop the real nitty gritty forward-looking knowledge base that he used over the entire stretch of his career. He always encouraged me to never stop learning and to always ask "What if?"

And so the story goes, he let his FCC Engineering license lapse so that he could go full-time with the research unit. From there he started building studios and remote video vans. I think that it was there he started sharing with people how things were done, and embraced conversations with all sorts of people in the process. He continued to do this throughout his career.

We all have a story or two about my Dad, and we all knew the various sides of his life and skill sets. I particularly enjoy the picture of my Dad at the helm of the sailboat. It could've been taken in the Caribbean, the Mediterranean, Florida, California New England, the Gulf or some lake somewhere. It really doesn't matter. To me it shows my Dad steering through an unpredictable environment with two hands lightly, confidently on the helm, and the joy of life just bursting forth from within.

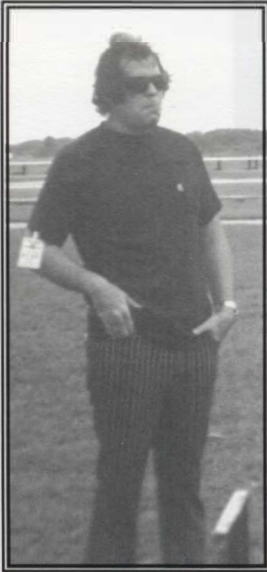
We are planning a memorial service in NYC this Spring and/or in the Summer at the annual Ripp Family Gathering.

sincerely,

**robbe**

**Robert F. Ripp**

rfripp@aloha.net

*Tributes to Silent Microphones*
**Mike Silver Remembered by Stanley Bernard**


Michael B. Silver, the kid from Ft. Pierce, Florida who grew to be a very large man physically and in spirit and generosity, who was also a savvy and courageous producer, died in early December. He once said, "Nothing ever happened in Ft. Pierce, and if something real big happened, it would barely make the third block of Nitely." And sure enough, months later, Brokaw did a reader on a Ft. Pierce story in the third section of the show.

So Michael left Ft. Pierce for the NBC affiliate in Miami ---and from there to New York and WNBC-TV, and to the network, and Saigon, Tokyo, Rome, Beirut, Amman, Frankfurt and back to New York and his home in Hoboken.

Mike had to call the New York business office and Charlie Kistner during the Israeli invasion of Lebanon to get approval of a payment to one of our Beirut drivers whose Mercedes had been run over by an Israeli tank. We heard it wasn't that expensive, a mere nine or ten thousand dollars, because the provenance of the vehicle was questionable. So, Charlie approved the payment; after all, this was war. And then the legend grew a week or so later -- another car was lost the same way. Michael became known as "Car-a-Week Silver". Did Charlie approve the second payment? No one would say -- not even Michael.

Bill Wheatley recently recalled that Mike was perhaps the only journalist arrested during an otherwise peaceful, glorious and successful Papal visit by John Paul II to his homeland. Brokaw was in southern Poland and intended to do a story about coal and coal miners -- so Michael, cameraman Brian Calvert and Soundman Peter Sansun went to a coal mine. While shooting they were informed the country was under martial law and the mine was therefore a military installation and the question was asked: "How did they evade the armed sentries? And by the way, they were under arrest." Some scrambling got them released, but Bill and Tom thought without pictures the story was dead. However as Michael headed for his hotel room to clean off the coal dust, he paused and slipped Bill the cassette he managed to hide from the arresting officers. The story made the show that night.

And that persistence was not unusual. He told me he waited two years for access to Regina Celli, the Roman prison not far from where the Silvers lived in Trastevere. Only Italians could create a jail in which Grandma, Mama and the children would visit almost daily loaded down with groceries for their imprisoned kin; where inmates, five to a cell, would cook for themselves in their cells, and dine at a table complete with wine. It became clear while doing the story why there has never been a food riot at Regina Celli. We had pictures of the inmates, some of whom wore track suits and carried tennis rackets in the exercise yard...and we even got pictures and sound of a woman who shouted to her lover across the prison yard from the Monte Gianicolo, which overlooks the prison... "Angelo, Angelo, your wife is sleeping with your brother." Clearly, Michael had a feel for the soft story that informed us of another aspect of the world we lived in. He felt those stories should also be told along with the blood, mayhem and terror that we spent most of our lives covering.

In recent years after most of us had left NBC News behind, and when Michael felt up to breaking his medical routine, he would come into Manhattan for lunch. Inquiries about how he felt were always answered with "I'm fine -- feeling good." At one of the lunches I told him, and I meant it, that he looked good -- better than the last time we saw him. He said, "I look like shit." His tolerance for what he called bullshit was always paper thin.

In the last year and a half, since the brain tumor operation in August of '08, Michael and Arlene lived a full life. They traveled, took a cruise, visited grandchildren in Florida and Massachusetts and spent the summer at the lake house in the Catskills. Arlene put it best: "Michael fought the good fight, successfully struggled to keep his dignity, his humor and strength"...and was only "very ill" for several days....the couple of days before he died. He passed peacefully at home with no signs of discomfort, his beloved family at his bedside. He was a young 73.

Those who knew him well affectionately called him "Lurch." We shall miss him.



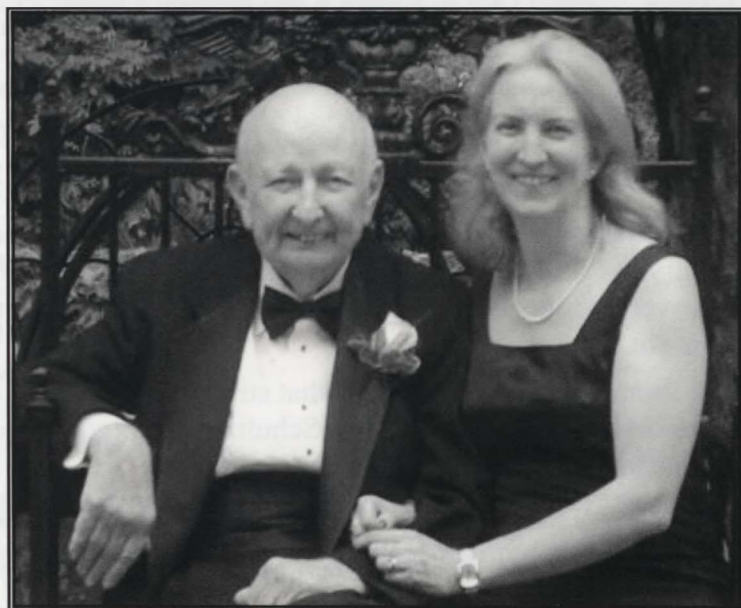
*Tributes to Silent Microphones***Bill Flood Remembered by His Daughter, Cindy**

My Dad, Bill Flood, passed away November 25<sup>th</sup>, 2009. He was 82 years old. Dad began his career at NBC in June of 1950. He was trained as a camera operator, and eventually specialized as a crane camera operator. He worked on many legendary shows, including Milton Berle, Mitch Miller, Perry Como, Howdy Doody and Your Show of Shows. His stories from those days were priceless. I'll share one: They were doing the Berle show out of the Century Theater. The director asked Dad to dolly upstage to check out a possible over-the-shoulder shot of the audience as Berle would deliver his monologue. Dad was concerned as they were very close to air, but moved his camera upstage. As soon as he did, the stagehands dropped the curtain, trapping him there! The director was screaming for him to get back out front so Dad started lifting the heavy, chain weighted curtain up and over his pedestal camera,

backing out. Meanwhile, Milton is doing his monologue. Just as Dad frees himself from the curtain, Berle walks over and, with his impeccable timing, says "Hey, kid, didn't they tell you I work alone?"

Dad moved from engineering to management in the mid 1960s. He began as a Unit Manager, and continued as Manager for Manpower Scheduling. Here he had the pleasure of hiring so many of NBC's best and brightest technical people. It has been an honor for me to work with so many over the years and to have them, unsolicited, tell me stories of how Dad believed in their abilities and rewarded their efforts. As Director of Technical Operations, he relished the challenges of getting a project on the air, from Apollo launches to Presidential Inaugurations. Helping SNL get on its feet, technically, in 1975 was especially fun for him as it brought him full circle back to his roots of live, weekly broadcasts. One of his favorite projects was always The Miss America Pageant. And he continued to work this event even after he retired from NBC in May of 1987. John Koushouris, the executive producer of the broadcast, had this to say about my Dad: "Bill was my one good buddy who helped me win our fights at NBC. I never had a better friend. He was a throwback to another wonderful civil generation where we cared for our friends as if they were an extension of our own family."

After retirement, Dad was still so interested in hearing what was going on and who was where. He was so proud of the people he had hired, many as "TOPS clerks," and how far they had come. He remembered everyone. It was wonderful to have a dad who truly understood what I do for a living - what we all do, to get a show on the air. Our last conversation touched on the Green Screen studio on the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor, and what a "technical challenge" (ok, he used another term) they are to light. I will miss him, and I'm so proud to continue to work in the industry he helped establish at NBC.



*Tributes to Silent Microphones*
**Marilyn Schultz**


Indiana University alumna Marilyn Schultz died January 10th in Austin, Texas, after a brief illness. She had been a faculty member at St. Edward's University. She was 64. A memorial service was held on January 16th in the Queen of Peace Chapel at St. Edward's University.

Marilyn Schultz was one-of-a-kind! She was a wonderful, energetic, fun, smart girl. It was the mid-sixties; life was simpler then. Marilyn ("Schultzie" - as we knew her forever), wore the same slightly shabby but very glamorous navy blue uniform of the NBC Studio Guidette staff as I did. Our mission was to take tourists through the studios at 30 Rock. and give them as much history, information and as many laughs as we could for their \$1.25 per ticket. We made \$40.00 a week and had so much fun we could have almost worked for nothing- had it not been for paying rent and buying groceries.

Then, Schultzie got her "big break"- a chance to work in the NBC Newsroom under the tutelage of Gloria Clyne, who WAS the Newsroom! There were typewriters, rotary phones and a pneumatic tube to send messages up to the telex room. As a production "gal", Marilyn wired money to overseas correspondents, tracked telexes from the News Bureaus around the globe and communicated with our brave colleagues in Viet Nam.

Next stop for "production girls" at NBC: production assistant on our flagship News program "The Huntley-Brinkley Report". Marilyn coordinated script pages and camera cues, checked the film commercials and timed the program in the control room with a stopwatch - not a computer!

**Bambi Tascarella**

I plucked Schultzie out of the chorus line and, damn, if she didn't make herself a star! She was an immediate hit in the NBC Network newsroom, and why not....she was charming and bubbly, bright and naive, as well as comical, quizzical, intelligent and basically someone who was a lot of fun to be with. So no one was too surprised when the Huntley-Brinkley "people" offered her a production job in their unit. It was at this time that Marilyn's mother phoned me from Indiana and pleaded with me not to let her go. She was convinced her daughter would "go bad" working with those fast men. Then I helped "our child" move down the hall to work on a news program that would become Number One in America and provide a stage upon which our Marilyn would shine.

It was while working on Huntley-Brinkley that she single-handedly initiated the Women's Movement at NBC, nay, the first to start the movement in the entire communications industry. It all began the day Drew Phillips asked her to get him a cup of coffee!... once too often!!!!

**Gloria Clyne**

When Marilyn Schultz walked into my office the first time to introduce herself, little did I know that a true revolutionary had joined the staff of Huntley-Brinkley. She was that, a true revolutionary, and it didn't take me long to discover that she didn't just talk about changing the culture of NBC News, she acted to bring change about. Here is what she did:

One morning about ten I heard what struck me as a slight disturbance outside my office. It went like this:

Producer (Drew Phillips): "Hey, Schultzie, we need coffee."

Schultzie: "I am not your waitress."

Producer: "Damn it Schultzie, I said we need coffee. Go get it."

Schultzie: "I am not a waitress."

Another voice from doorway: "Some one need coffee? I'll go get it."

The voice was that of Jerry Rosholt, a mild-mannered producer who saved the day!



The tension eased and the daily routine returned. Later in the day, Marilyn poked her head into my office and asked "Well?" I said: "You are not a waitress."

Finally, she came to me one day and said I would find something on my desk the next morning and she wanted my reaction to it. The paper declared that the women at NBC had a great reservoir of skills that was being ignored by NBC executives in filling job vacancies and unless something was done to redress the inequity, well then, the women would act. Schultzie, once again, poked her head into my office and asked, once again, "Well?" I told her I had discussed the paper with the two most important men of the news division, the president and the vice president for financial affairs and they fully supported what the newly-formed women's group asked for in its paper. Negotiations with the NBC executives started and failed. The women's group filed a complaint with the Equal Opportunities Commission, charging NBC with sexual discrimination. Seven years later, at an NBC board meeting the executive assigned the task to monitor the progress of the complaint told the board not to worry, he was confident EEOC would rule in the company's favor. At precisely that moment, his secretary walked in, and handed him a wire service story that reported the EEOC ruled in favor of the women's group at NBC that morning.

**Wallace Westfeldt**

First, there was the name – SCHULTZIE. If that didn't get your attention, her attitude did. Schultzie worked in the newsroom when it was an all white male den of machismo, cigar, pipe and cigarette smoke, bawdy manners and profane speech. What everyone quickly learned was that Schultzie didn't need any of those props to hold her own. She reminded the boys she was not there to be their bar-maid. She was a working professional, dedicated to the same goals they were – but she could laugh at herself more quickly than they could. Now our newsrooms are fully integrated but the first steps taken so long ago were Schultzie's – and she wasn't tip-toeing then or any time since.

God bless you, Schultzie.

**Tom Brokaw**

#### **Bambi's Wrapup:**

Schultzie left NBC New York in the early seventies to go on to great things: reporter for our Washington, DC station WRC-TV, producer for the 6PM News at WTHR in Indianapolis, a Masters in Telecommunications at Indiana University, PhD at their School of Journalism, leading broadcast journalism at the University of Texas and then on to St. Edward's University in Austin since 2002 as Assistant Professor of Communications. She said her favorite career was teaching students. Marilyn has been described by many colleagues and friends as: full of energy, knowledge, a good friend and mentor with burning enthusiasm, vibrant, dedicated, driven to excellence and a great story teller. I hope we have done some justice to your "story" Schultzie. Obviously God needed a good broadcast journalism teacher!! We will all miss you.

#### **Condolences may be sent to the family in care of**

Pam Vaught  
News Director  
KTBC-TV FOX 7  
119 E. 10th Street  
Austin, TX 78701

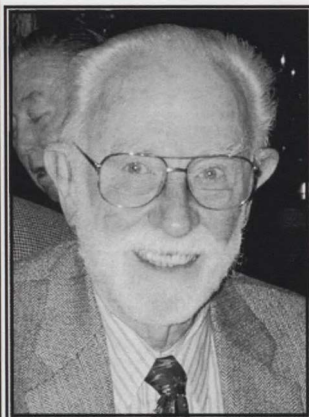
**Contributions may be sent to**  
Marilyn Schultz Memorial Fund  
St. Edward's University  
University Advancement  
3001 S. Congress Avenue  
Austin TX 78704

For a lighthearted video look at Marilyn, produced by one of her St. Edward's students, visit this site:

<http://www.hilltopviewsonline.com/communication-professor-former-news-correspondent-marilyn-schultz-dies-1.1008755>

*Tributes to Silent Microphones*

**Richard Swicker**



Richard "Swick" Kerwin Swicker of Westfield, N.J., died Thursday, Jan. 28, at Kindred Hospital, Rahway, after a long illness. Services were held on Feb. 6 at St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Westfield. He was born in West Chester, PA, in 1930, the son of Lester and Eileen Swicker, and grew up in Ridgewood and Bernardsville, N.J. He graduated from Bernards High, Bernardsville, N.J., in '48 and from Dartmouth College class of '52. Swick served in the Army from 1952 to 1954.

He started his long career in broadcast television, beginning with NBC as a unit manager in the news and entertainment division. Later, Swick worked as a freelance unit manager for all the major networks, as well as for PBS. His assignments took him all over the world, the most special of which found him in East Africa filming an ABC documentary called "Africa." It was televised in 1966, as a four-hour broadcast without interruption, a "first" at that time. Swick was a witness to history in the coverage of the "March on Selma," as well

as the funeral of President John F. Kennedy, and the Gemini space missions for NASA.

During his NBC years, he was proud to have been involved in the Kraft Theatre production of Walter Lord's "A Night to Remember," about the sinking of the Titanic. NBC had constructed a model of the main saloon and staircase in the Brooklyn studios, and the drama was broadcast live, there being no videotaping in those days. In his last years before retirement, after returning to NBC, he worked on the Cosby Show, where the kitchen set featured a mortar and pestle on the kitchen counter, which had been hand turned by him.

After retirement, Swick went to England to train in the art of woodturning, and later opened a workshop in Westfield, specializing in that art.

Swick is survived by his wife of 55 years, Laura Annesley Chase Swicker, four children, and two grandchildren. The family asks that, in lieu of flowers, contributions be made in his memory to St. Paul's Church or to the Salvation Army, Haiti Relief.

Condolences may be sent to the family at **454 Beechwood Place, Westfield, NJ 07090.**

--From nj.com

**Ed Leddy Remembered by His Daughter Linda Connery**

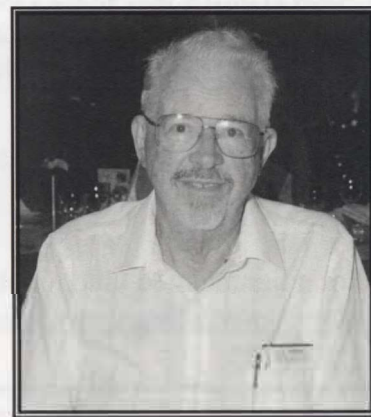
Edmund Leddy, Jr. passed away on November 14, 2009 at age 87 in Sarasota, Florida. He is survived by his wife, Ann, four children, eight grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

He was born and raised in Tenaflly, NJ, completed a two-year technical program at RCA Institutes in New York City and started working at NBC as a page in 1942. WWII intervened in 1943, and he served three years in the Army in Europe, including fighting in the Battle of the Bulge. After coming home in 1945, he returned to NBC, finally getting a job in Engineering. He covered broadcasts from the UN, engineered many of the big bands on location, and worked in the Radio Master Control Room. Near the end of his 15 years at NBC, he worked in the Development Lab.

He loved every minute of working for NBC but in 1960 decided to head to Pinellas County, on the west coast of Florida. There he worked for General Electric, which was under contract to the Atomic Energy Commission, building neutron generating devices. During that time he also established his own recording studio, *Sound Ideas*, and started a radio station, *WQXM*. He was also a HAM radio operator.

Then it was off to Brevard, NC for retirement where he and Ann spent 15 years enjoying the mountains and doing lots of volunteer work before returning to Florida.

Condolences may be sent to Linda Connery at **lconnery@msn.com**





**Peacock North**  
**Spring Luncheon Reservation Form**  
**Sunday, May 23, 2010**  
**12 noon to 4:00 pm**  
**O'Neals' Restaurant**  
**at Lincoln Center**

**49 West 64th Street Between Broadway and CPW**

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**Spouse/Guest Name**\_\_\_\_\_

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**Please mail this entire page—top and bottom!**

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**Your contacts:**

Marilyn Altman

Jim Marshall

Lenny Stucker

Joel Spector

(Peacock North Editor)

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## New Peacock North Members

Larry Cirillo was with NBC Radio and then NBC Sports as a Producer.  
He lives in Longwood, FL

John Dancy was an NBC News Correspondent from 1966 to 1996.  
He lives in Durham, NC.

Richard J. Hussey worked in NBC Sports and lives in Nantucket, MA.  
Frank Lazzaro has worked at NBC Real Estate and Facilities since 1974  
and lives in Totowa, NJ

Mike Trager started at WNBC and KNBC, then worked his way up  
to two VP spots, at NBC Sports and NBC Sports Sales.  
He left in 1980 and now lives in Greenwich, CT

Brian Wickham worked at NBC New York from 1975 until 2001,  
first in Radio and then Video Tape. He resides in New York City.