



# Robert Hager is Keynote Speaker at PN Spring Luncheon

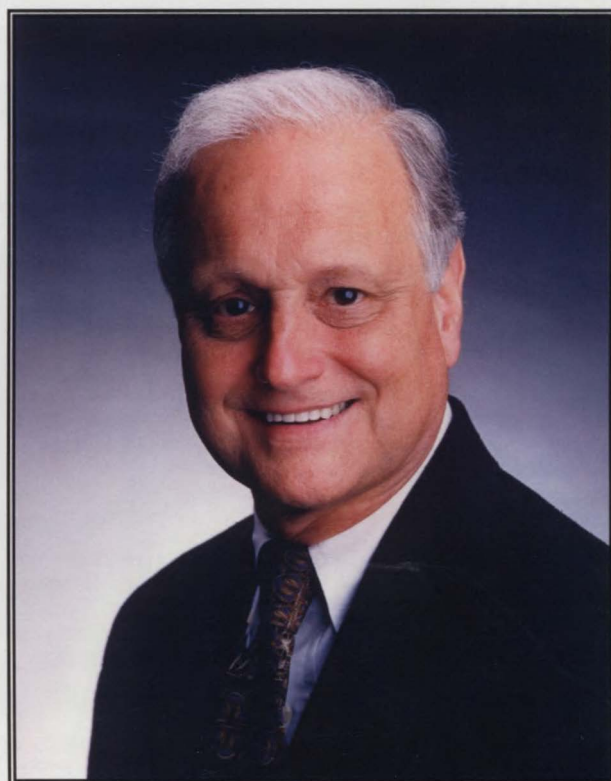
Our annual luncheon will be held once again  
at O'Neals' Restaurant, located  
opposite Lincoln Center at 64th Street  
between Broadway and Central Park West.

The fun starts at Noon on Sunday, May 18th.

We're pleased and proud as peacocks to  
announce that our dear friend and member  
Bob Hager of NBC News 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 coupon on Page 31  
and mail it in today!



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**Marilyn's Page**

Dear PNers,

Hope the winter months have left you all in good spirits and looking forward to our annual Spring Luncheon. In light of the sizzling political atmosphere, we thought someone from NEWS should be our keynote speaker. We are thrilled to have Bob Hager grace our dais as just that, and as an extra added attraction, Bob Asman has agreed to be his straight man and do the intro. Perfect.

Please join me at O'Neals' for our annual assemblage and be part of making a memory. Seeing those wonderful faces makes you walk on air. I will be looking for you on Sunday, May 18<sup>th</sup>. Please fill in the Luncheon Coupon on Page 31 of this issue and mail it back to us with your check for \$35 per person. It's important do so as soon as possible so that we can meet our promise to the restaurant to have at least 150 guests.

By this time, all members should have received their 2008 Dues Bill in their mailboxes. In the event that you did not get a bill, please fill in the Membership Form on Page 31 and mail the entire page back to us together with your check for \$30 per member. Everyone really stepped up to the plate last year and created a substantial financial base for our organization. I know we can do it again this year.

Lastly, here's a wonderful photo taken at Burbank's Smokehouse Restaurant in December 2007. I'm surrounded by nearly 85 years of television expertise as Tony Piwowar and Carl Schumacher begin their retirement in high style. The guys have major plans for fishing and living it up. *Bon chance* to you both from the entire PN membership!

Marilyn



**Remember 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.



## The Compleat Reporter: All About Luncheon Speaker Robert Hager



Robert Hager worked 39 years for NBC.

After an initial 4 years with O & O, WRC, in Washington, he joined the network in 1969 as a combat reporter in Vietnam.

From there, he moved-on to cover the cold war from NBC bureaus in West Berlin and Moscow, then worked out of the New York headquarters, and finally out of Washington, DC. Among stories he covered abroad were the war in Vietnam, sectarian strife in Northern Ireland, the revolution that led to the fundamentalist Islamic takeover in Iran, the massacre of Israeli athletes at the 1972 Munich Olympics, and the aftermath of the mass-suicides in which more than 900 American cultists following the Rev James Jones drank cyanide-laced punch at Jonestown in Guyana.

In the U.S. he was best known for covering aviation, space and hurricanes. He reported from the scene of the bombing of Pan Am 103 in Lockerbie, Scotland, the crash of the French supersonic Concorde, the loss of the shuttles Challenger and Columbia and broadcast "live" from the eye-walls of hurricanes Andrew, in Florida, and Hugo, in South Carolina.

He also reported from Oklahoma City on the bombing of the Federal Building there, and was a constant on-air presence through the long, searing day of the terrorist attacks of 9/11.

Over the course of his career he won two national Emmys, two Edward R. Murrow awards, and one National Headliner Award.

On retirement, at the end of 2004, he and his wife, Honey, moved back to their native Vermont, where they are visited frequently by their three daughters and eight grandchildren - although he still, occasionally, is called back to the Nightly News, Today Show or NBC for breaking news.



## **Edwin Wesley Paulsen—A Wonderful Life**

### **By Erik Paulsen**

Last August a man who touched many of our lives left the world as we know it.

On October 6th, 1919 Edwin Wesley Paulsen was born in Omaha to the descendants of German immigrants. He grew up in the small of Persia, Iowa, where his father, as a successful farmer, had amassed a small fortune. By the time Wes was born, his father had sold the farm and was the owner of a successful General Store which distributed goods to the entire region.

He was an incredibly intelligent child with an inquisitive mind and his parents had the money to introduce the world to the household. They were the first in their tiny town to own a radio, a phonograph, an automobile. In 1926 his father had co-founded an Iowa Bank and went into a semi retirement, driving the family across the wooden planked roads of the Mojave and Colorado Deserts, settling in Orange County, California, to sell real estate. Young Wesley attended the local grade school and life was good. About two years later, the bank had collapsed. His father's two partners had committed suicide. The country's entire economy collapsed. It was 1928.

And so, his father decided to start from the beginning and return to the farm life that had been so lucrative in the past. They returned to Iowa settling in Neola, outside Council Bluffs, but their dreams were confounded by the long-term drought which made a dust bowl of Oklahoma and the surrounding states. Wes would never forget the periodic cloak of red dust that would envelop their farm for days at a time, making it nearly impossible to see anything outside. Every year the crop would fail; the farm continued to lose money.

Despite these family problems, he excelled academically and athletically in high school. His high school instrument was the trumpet and he played basketball. He had become interested in the evolving new technology of electronics and subscribed to several correspondence courses. His grades were high enough within the state to allow him to apply to the U.S. Naval Academy, but, lacking any sponsorship, he was rejected. After graduating at age 16 Wes worked for two years at his uncle's construction company for sixteen hours a day. This was the primary income for his struggling family. He gained some radio training as a member of the Iowa National Guard. At eighteen Wes enlisted in the U. S. Navy and on February 2nd, 1938, entered basic training at the Great Lakes Naval Training Center in Michigan.

For two years he was stationed on the heavy cruiser USS Chicago out of Long Beach, California, and was then transferred to the USS Dorsey, an old World War One destroyer, joining the ranks of the Tin Can Sailors. In his Dorsey years, he had, on more than one occasion, been nearly swept into the sea. At night he slept on the top hammock of his quarters, and became quite talented at swatting off rats when rough seas caused them to fall from the pipes above.

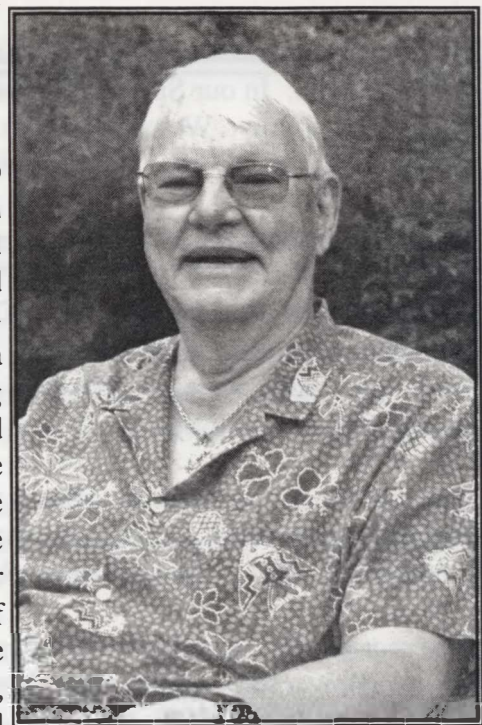
Within his first Navy years Wes was stuck in the typical maintenance drudgery of the enlisted man. On the Chicago, he let his superiors know that he was interested in becoming a Radioman, doing his best to associate with the Radiomen on board, and eventually he was able to trade his paintbrush and mop for a telegraph and typewriter. Immediately upon his transfer to the Dorsey, the entire West Coast Fleet was dispatched to Pearl Harbor and for two years, when not at sea, Wes lived on Ford Island in Honolulu. At that time only two hotels occupied the shoreline of Waikiki Beach and he had developed an intimate relationship with Hilo Hattie, photos of whom would later be destroyed by his jealous future wife.

On December 4th, 1941, his ship, the Dorsey, became part of a task force of about 12 ships, including four heavy cruisers, heading to the Marshall and Gilbert Islands. Naval Intelligence in Tokyo had lost track of the main Japanese battle fleet a month prior. Some days later while on watch in the radio shack a fellow radioman turned to Wes and said "Hey Paulsen, look what I just copied! 'Attack on Pearl Harbor, this is not a drill.'" The convoy returned to the smoldering wreckage of Pearl Harbor but not without experiencing a friendly-fire near mishap when confronting the USS Indianapolis in a late-night fog.



For months Wes had been leaning on his Captain to promote him to Chief Petty Officer and was refused for being too young. As they cruised past the flaming remains of the fleet his Captain saw him on deck. "Paulsen", he called down from the bridge, "today you are a Chief Petty Officer!"

Within weeks almost everyone stationed at Pearl Harbor was transferred to Norfolk and six months after setting foot in Virginia he received leave with two friends and took a nighttime train ride up to New York City. They arrived at dawn and, of course, they were stunned by the incredible skyscrapers... and on the streets, every woman appeared as if right from a fashion magazine. After freshening up at their hotel, they took in the sights of the city, snapping a photo on the Empire State Building. Later that day while transferring through Pennsylvania Station, Wes was approached by a woman who offered him free tickets to a live radio show, "Hit Parade" at NBC's Studio 8H. The show was in the evening. In the meantime he and his buddies went to the USO Headquarters and were smitten by the many beautiful women who were entering the building. Apparently they were participating in a "New York for War" parade that afternoon and the USO representatives asked the sailors if they'd like to be on a parade float with the lovely ladies. They agreed. On the same parade float was a young lady of just 18 years, who, only months before, had her tea leaves read by a fortune teller who told her she would marry a tall handsome man from the Midwest. It was on this float that Wes and Elena would meet. Within a year they would be married and Wes would transfer to New York and eventually teach electronics for the Navy in the Whitehall Building at Battery Park.



Their first son Edwin Wesley Jr. was born in 1945.

After 11 years of service, he would retire from the Navy and took a job working for RCA Service Corporation in 1949 installing and repairing television sets. His most notable TV installation was in Woodbury, NY, where he was surprised by caged live tigers in the homeowner's backyard. Soon they would leave their apartment in Flushing for a Levitt house in the Long Island suburb of Hicksville. He eventually secured a job as a maintenance engineer with NBC in 1951 in the RCA Building. It was the Golden Age of Television and the corporation at this time was a nurturing environment for its employees. He spoke fondly of David Sarnoff, saying he treated his employees like family members. It was his dream job. He often said of those days that he loved every day he went to work. He worked in maintenance in all areas, studio, field on the trucks, video tape etc.

Wes was laid off in 1961 shortly after the birth of their second son Erik John. He worked for Radio Receptors on Long Island for several years, learning systems engineering, and returned to NBC in 1965 using his new-found experience to score a job as a Systems Engineer.

This farm boy who had seen plows pulled by horses was involved with the coverage of the first American in Space when Alan Shepard rounded the earth. He was involved in NBC's coverage of the 1966 Winter Olympics. He designed the first Master Grid routing system in the seventies and its expansion in the eighties. In 1975 he was integral to the redesigning of the entire Studio 8H in preparation for the debut of the new comedy-variety show, "Saturday Night Live." He designed NBC's first helicopter package in the 60s. He was co-designer with Donald Lueng of the "Van-Go" Remote truck and countless other projects. He left NABET and entered management for the last year and a half of his career.

He retired in 1983 and for more than twenty years enjoyed the fruits of his lifetime of labor. He and his wife Elena had a great many athletic pursuits: Skating, cycling, and bowling in the years before his retirement, and adding golf and tennis to this list thereafter. He took an active role in the life of his Grandson Derek.

In the past year he would always say he was blessed with a wonderful life and family. He died with dignity and without regret.

*We Get Letters and Pictures*

[Editor's note: In our Spring 2007 edition we saluted our late British colleague Roz Storey. We received this note from her husband, Harry, whom we had the great pleasure of seeing at our 2007 Luncheon.]

Dear Friends of Roz,

Roz passed away on October 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2006. Our daughter Nicki has put together a small tribute to her mum, which has brought tears to the eyes of many who have viewed it. We hope it will rekindle happy memories for you of "The Lovely Roz."

You can see it on Nicki's blogsite at [www.nikinpos.blogspot.com](http://www.nikinpos.blogspot.com). Navigate to "Labels" – Click on "mum" and then scroll down to Tuesday, October 23, 2007, "Remembering Roz."

The music "You Give Me Something" is sung by James Morrison. Please allow a few moments for downloading.

Kindest regards,  
**Harry Storey**



**Nicki and Roz**

Dec. 15, 2007

Hey PN,

Grace has been after me to write a few words. We were able to drive to New Orleans in October for the twelfth reunion of my World War II Bomb Group. There were 29 of us present. I would imagine a few more survivors were unable to attend for health reasons. Parts of New Orleans have not been touched since the hurricane in 2005.

As usual the last issue of Peacock North was great. The only thing I regret is to see the "Silent Microphone" section. It is disheartening to see the passing of so many of my friends and coworkers. But life goes on.

Have a great Holiday and Best Regards to all of you.

Keep up the good work,

**Carmine Picioccio**

January 9, 2008

Joel,

How can I thank you? What a surprise to see my retirement party in Peacock North, and I made the cover!!

Buddy, I thank you again and again.

All of the very best in 2008,

**Donald Washington**

January 31, 2008

To Peacock North:

I'm still back at NBC – it's been one year already – doing the NBC News archival research for I-CUE, NBC's educational initiative project. I'm still having fun doing it, so my [actual] retirement will have to wait for a bit longer.

**Carol Aerenson**



*We Get Letters*

Dear PN,

Now that you've stopped giving octogenarians honorary membership I'm going to stop growing older immediately!

**Enid Roth**

January 15, 2008

Dear Peacock North Leaders (You know who you are),

Thanks for the reminder about the dues. You've all contributed so much of your time and turned out the best "Peacock North" ever. Why not? (as Dayton Allen once said.) You are all so talented, and to think I knew you all "when."

Ruth and I are in good health and just celebrated 20 years in Floridah – a dream come true.

One piece of advice to you all: keep a diary of your NBC experiences as Frank Vierling has done. You may want to write a book some day.

Thank you, thank you, thank you, thank you...

**Herb Greeley**

February 18, 2008

Hi Folks,

Dad is getting much better. He recently returned to the Altar on Sundays, which lifted his spirits. He has stopped using his cane. He goes to dialysis three times a week, which puts an end to traveling north anymore. He is treated as royalty at the dialysis center since the head nurse is a member of his parish. He gets his own TV and watches the History Channel religiously.

Dad has had a turn around in his outlook on life and is functioning once again. He has shrunk a little due to his posture. Mom has stopped doing all the driving (Thank God) because dad can drive again. Mom suffered a viral infection in her eye last year and lost sight in the one eye. A former mannequin artist turned eye specialist has made a new eye for her and I can't tell the difference.

Dad enjoys hearing from everyone in the Peacock North network. He very much enjoyed hearing from Bob Rooney and Bob Palladino. He is forever watching credits and retells stories about such and such getting him his hot dog and coffee when he did NFL LIVE!

Write or come visit us here in Florida. They now live in a condo about a mile from my house.

Thanks,

**Jim Blaney jr**

Contact Deacon Jim and Mary Blaney at  
4943 New England Boulevard  
New Port Richey, FL 34652-4508  
(727) 848-4207  
[deakjib@verizon.net](mailto:deakjib@verizon.net)

P.S.:

Turns out the father of a friend of mine here in Florida worked at the MacDonald Avenue, Brooklyn, scenic shop. His name was Billy Porter. I found out about him when his daughter, Helen, showed me the blueprint she has for the building of the set for "Jack and The Beanstalk" back in the 50's or 60's. Deacon Blaney doesn't recall him but I was hoping one of our IATSE members might remember him and send his daughter an email, via me, if they remember him. My email is [jtblaney@gmail.com](mailto:jtblaney@gmail.com).

*We Get Letters*

November 30, 2007

Dear Peacock North,

A strange thing happened to me yesterday! In my mail were two letters from fellows I had known at NBC. I thought to myself: That's strange, what the heck is going on? The letters were from Gene Garnes and Bob Van Ry, and as I read them it turned out that they were both written as a result of them seeing an item by Frank Vierling in the latest issue of Peacock North! All of this is leading up to the fact that I received Peacock North for many years, but in the last few years I have moved twice – each time down-sizing—and with my 93-year-old erratic memory, I have gotten off the list. So, if you can get me back on the list of subscribers, I would be happy to send you a check for whatever the tab is these days, and I'd like to start with the current issue. I want to find out what kind of nasty rumors Vierling has been spreading.

Incidentally, the difference in my address is a result of being moved down the road from independent living to assisted living at Falmouth House –still a part of the Retirement Community "Ocean View."

I understand you've done a great job with Peacock North, and I look forward to reading my first copy.

Best,

**Ross Martindale**

32 Blueberry Lane, Apt. 105  
Falmouth, ME 04105  
(207) 781-8934

My dearest Marilyn, Jim, Len & Joel,

I haven't told you lately how much I appreciate what you guys are doing to keep "Peacock North" alive. While the membership may be dying off, the organization appears to be strong - thanks to your combined efforts. I just hope you all know how much you are loved and appreciated. I'm proud that you are NBC colleagues.

Warmly,

**Gloria Clyne**

January 14, 2008

Please continue your wonderful work in publishing Peacock North. I always look forward to reading all your great articles from years gone by.

**Bill Wolff**

December 2007

Wow!! You gave me a full page in the last issue. That excited me. I was happy just to have my letter printed. Thanks to you guys.

**Gary Iorio**



*We Get Letters*

December 4, 2007

To: The Peacock North Gang or at least those who were at NBC in the New York area until 1981, when I checked out after 30 years of wonderful adventures.

(1) The Society of Professional Journalists (both professionals and students, thousands of each group), announced its annual gathering would be conducted for four days and nights in the first week of August, in Washington DC, and that on the first day, NBC News facilities in northwest Washington would be pleased to arrange a two-hour tour there in the two hours before the initial session began on Capitol Hill in DC for SPJ.

(2) I phoned NBC to say I'd be there on that midday.

(3) After three days, with some others who knew about the NBC tour, I decided to call the lady running the tour, and I explained that I had been there when the first permanent buildings there, I was among those who moved from downtown Washington (4 blocks from the White House) and I could describe for the tourists how it was, back then. She immediately accepted, and I was booked for five minutes at the end of the walking tour. There, I talked about "those good old days (first ones were 1951) ..." but mainly focused on David Brinkley, who was considered, back then, the most popular news broadcaster in the days of black and white screens. We were very close friends. After the speech, my hostess asked if I'd accompany here to another room where there were cameras and said she'd like me to repeat the key comments for the camera. I went, and did. I learned three days later that the in-house video was fed to every single NBC O&O and Affiliate in the country. Not for broadcast, except for the Washington DC station, but for informational purposes there. It was fun to do the take and a pleasure to hear it went around the country.

In 1981, when I retired, after a long vacation for the first time, I accepted the offer to become the Executive Officer of The Society of Professional Journalists. I held that post in Chicago for six years before setting up a small company which trained top executives of major corporations on how to answer questions of any local or network television operation, telling the truth, but also getting across why their company is doing so well. This ran for many years until I wanted to slow down...and take my wife to those foreign countries that NBC had taken me to over the many "foreign trips" with camera crews. All in all, I visited -- including the working and the personal tours -- a total of 42 countries.

So, just two memories that I sometimes toss at my neighbors here in Evanston IL.

Thanks for listening,

**Russ Tornabene**

626 Sheridan Square

Evanston IL 60202

847-328-1528

Russ is still involved in public affairs groups and/or speaking to classes.

Dear PN,

I want you to know what a GREAT issue this last PN Mag is. Maybe because we identified with so many folks...do you know I hired Don Washington for his first job at NBC Radio as an AD in 1968? If he'd hung in another year he'd made 40 years, as I did. And we've known Ross Martindale forever...Laura worked with him in sound effects...we'll make a trip and go see him in Falmouth. Not far up the road from us.

And loved the David Letterman shot with Elmer Gorry...and the Huntley piece...Boy, that brought back memories...I used to visit him in the office with the roll-top desk, etc. He was such a nice, nice man. I have a note when he retired, responding to mine wishing him well...He always said "think about Big Sky!".

Well, I could meander on...but won't. Really enjoy your efforts. Keep it up!

**Peter Flynn**

*We Get Letters*

Dear Friends and Colleagues,

After nearly 30 years of working under the shelter of the peacock, I will be leaving NBC News.

On March 9, 1978, I was less than one year out of college. I came to 30 Rock for a job interview with NBC News. The position was called Duty Operations Supervisor. It was a highly inflated title for "dispatcher." The salary was not nearly as inflated as the job title, but it was an opportunity to work in one of the greatest news organizations in the world. I called my wife, Miki, in Boston with the great news that NBC had offered me a job. Miki replied, "Guess what! Dino De Laurentiis's office just called. They want to hire you to be a production assistant on a movie called the Brinks Robbery, with Peter Falk." It was a huge fork in the road, but I know with certainty that I chose the right path.

Where else would I have received the opportunity to be in the most privileged position of being a first-hand witness to history for nearly 30 years? I have traveled the world for NBC News: from the Berlin Wall to the break up of the Soviet Union, from the Gulf War to Afghanistan to the American intervention in Haiti. I was dispatched to cover Presidential campaigns, conventions and elections, more wars and revolutions, hard news, feature news, magazine pieces and documentaries. Presidents and Popes, Senators and Stars, criminals and warlords, farmers and steel workers have all been subjects in the stories that I have been fortunate enough to be able to bring to our audience. I have had the honor to work with the great anchors: David Brinkley, John Chancellor, Tom Brokaw, Tim Russert and Brian Williams.

Tom Wolzein gave me my first shot at what will always be the best job in this business: field producer. There is no substitute for "being there," out in the field, seeing and smelling a story up close. There is no substitute for the rush that comes after receiving a phone call in the middle of the night and scrambling to make a plane to cover a huge breaking news story. I was lucky enough to spend 15 years as a field producer and I always savored the partnership between producer and some of the best correspondents in the business: Garrick Utley, Douglas Kiker, Arthur Kent, Rick Davis, Stan Bernard, Andrea Mitchell, Faith Daniels, Keith Miller, Jim Maceda, Rehema Ellis and far too many others to name in this brief note. I had three glorious years as the NBC Bureau Chief in Rome and ten fantastic years working with all of my very dear friends in Specials; especially my gumba, Phil Alongi.

None of what I've been given the opportunity to produce would have become "television" without the dedication and hard work of Stacy Brady and our staff of Tech Managers, our engineers and our camera crews worldwide. I will always be grateful for their selflessness and courage, often under very dangerous circumstances. There is a journalistic standard of excellence at NBC News that must never be compromised. That is the foundation of who we are and what we do. I learned these lessons from a few giants of integrity: Gordon Manning, Bill Wheatley and Bill Chesleigh. I will always be thankful for having them as mentors.

At times like this it is often said that NBC News is a family and I believe that to be true. NBC News has been my second family for a very long time. It has been a very good long run and like in any family, the times may not always be "la dolce vita" (the sweet life). Pat Conroy wrote in the Prince of Tides: "There are no sins in the family beyond forgiveness." I've always thought that was good advice. It is certainly a better solution than the Sicilian expression: "Una vendetta e un piatto che serve freddo." (A vendetta is a plate which you serve cold!)



(Continued on next page)



These are challenging times for NBC News; we are in a period of transition, however, we remain number one at the Today Show, Nightly News and Meet the Press. In addition, our friends at MSNBC have joined us here at 30 Rock and I know there are terrific opportunities ahead for all of you.

When David Brinkley left NBC News I saved his final script. He told the story of how he started out writing for a small town newspaper in North Carolina. He went on to say: "The story was about white lines painted down Main Street. Two sentences...probably should have been one." I never did learn to be as brief as Brinkley!

I leave NBC proud as a Peacock and look forward to my own challenges ahead. Most of all I look forward to spending time with Miki and without my pager! For the moment, my sole employer will be a jazz quartet. Not bad, but the difference between a jazz musician and a pizza is that a pizza can actually feed a family. After a brief break, I hope to see you out there covering the news and perhaps, for the first time, meet you as a competitor. If so, I know that I will be competing with the very best.

I want to thank each and every one of you for your friendship and all that you have given me over these many years. Be well, and I look forward to seeing you further on down the road.

Arrivederci,  
**Joe Alicastro**

I can be found at a new e-mail address. Please stay in touch.  
[joealicaastro@optonline.net](mailto:joealicaastro@optonline.net)



### Did You Know?

#### Learn Digital Journalism

NBC News has teamed up with the New York Film Academy's Broadcast & Digital Production Program to train the next generation of digital journalists. Through study and hands-on practice, students are trained in the fundamental principles, techniques, and craft of digital journalism. Some NBC News current and retired staff will be among the instructors. During the one-year program, each student produces a series of prerecorded news projects, shot both single and multi-camera and edited on Final-Cut Pro. 8-Week and 4-Week workshops are also available.

#### Tom Brokaw Receives Navy SEAL Patriot Award

The Navy SEAL Patriot Award was established by Navy SEAL Warrior Fund and is presented annually to an individual who has contributed greatly to our country and/or who upholds the values that epitomize the SEAL community.

On March 8, 2007, Navy SEAL Warrior Fund presented the 2nd annual Navy SEAL Patriot Award to former NBC News anchor and internationally renowned television journalist, Tom Brokaw. Mr. Brokaw's informed and captivating coverage of military conflicts around the globe made him one of the most sought-after and respected journalists in his field. Moreover, Mr. Brokaw's love and support for U.S. troops made him a favorite among top military leaders and a friend of the Naval Special Warfare Community, making him a fitting recipient for this year's award.

In 2006, Navy SEAL Warrior Fund presented its inaugural Navy SEAL Patriot Award to film and television producer, Jerry Bruckheimer. Mr. Bruckheimer has produced films, such as Top Gun and Black Hawk Down, that have brought honor and recognition to those who have served and sacrificed in the defense of our country. The honor and event were so inspiring that Mr. Bruckheimer has remained involved with the Fund and its mission.



## We Get Mystery Pictures



### **OOTIE RAY A ZOOTIE KAY!**

Maurice  
Verschoore  
sent us at least  
two  
familiar faces  
here...  
But who are the  
two  
Humans seen  
with  
Rootie  
Kazaootie  
and  
Galapoochie  
Pup?

Tim Gorry sent in  
this high-key moment  
from late-night  
television's early  
days. Who are the  
two men at center  
frame?





## It's Never Too Late By Herb Oxman

Eighty-four years of age; yes, I said 84! Is that old? It depends: What do they say: "You are old as you feel" or act. Maybe it is in the genes. It always grieves me to read Silent Microphones.

I guess I am fortunate. Basically, I am reasonably healthy: no fatal diseases-knock wood. Some of my friends call me the "bionic man" considering all the surgeries.

Two knee replacements, simultaneously  
Inoperable brain tumor that calcified  
Prostate cancer, that 37 sessions of radiation cured  
Severed Achilles tendon, repaired and good as new  
Right and left shoulder rotator cuff, torn, one repaired.  
Left side hernia.

This medical history is not to sound morbid or have anyone feel sorry for me. On the contrary, I wish to prove a point: As someone said, "It is not over until the fat lady sings". Note: This fat lady was Kate Smith; and I was her #1 dolly cameraman.

My philosophy is *never stop doing what you like to do!* Not just physically, but mentally. That is why I still play golf and tennis, pilot an aircraft, ski, go swimming, bike riding and walking.

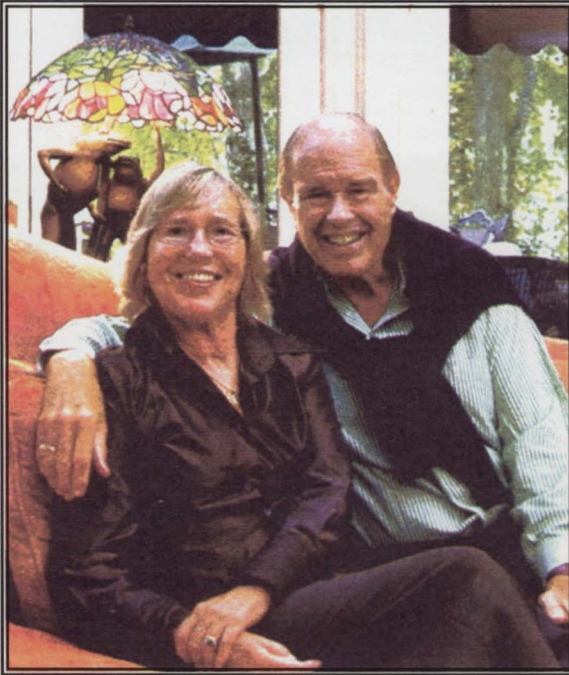


For the mental side, I'm computer literate, read a lot, love music and art. I hope I am not coming across as a braggart. I just want to tell you folk: *never become a couch potato!* Medical research stated that being active mentally and physically can prevent the onset of Alzheimer's and Parkinson's.

Enough preaching, go out there and have a good time. Don't put off what you can do now. When our lives are finally over, we can rest with the knowledge that we've done everything in our lifetime that we wanted to do, and that we will leave this world with no regrets. Isn't that the best way to go?

## Pier Mapes "Redirected"

### A FORMER TV EXECUTIVE LEARNS NEW SKILLS ON THE HOME FRONT



People born to affluence often give to good causes, and so do those who have accomplished big things. Philanthropist Pierson Godwin Mapes, 70, is both: His family has had major Rockland County land holdings since before the Civil War, and he is a former president of the NBC television network. But on August 23, 2004, Mapes' giving-and his life-found a sharp new focus.

That was the day his wife, Pat, suffered an aneurysm. She was picking flowers outside their Sterlington home around noon, he recalls, when she declared, "I've got a terrible headache." A moment later she collapsed, and an ambulance soon took her to the emergency room of Good Samaritan Hospital in Suffern.

"The hospital saved my wife's life," says Mapes, "and we're both very grateful."

To show his gratitude and help the hospital meet its growing community's needs, Mapes donated \$100,000 for a renovation and expansion of the ER that is now planned. Also, in a challenge to other potential donors, he and Pat have promised to match from their estate any gift of \$10,000 or more that others give for that purpose.

He is also meeting challenges of his own. While Pat has full awareness, the aneurysm left her with limited mobility and aphasia-trouble communicating. So Mapes took over her role on the hospital foundation's board, and he's had to take over tasks at home too-like cooking and keeping the books. For the onetime executive, these practical duties bring a new dimension of achievement.

"I always had very competent secretaries at work, and Pat was wonderfully efficient at home," he says. "I never had to write a check before. The day-to-day accounting of a household, I find, is no small task."

Fortunately, Mapes has never backed away from opportunities to prove himself - starting in kindergarten, when the unusual moniker "Pier" prompted boys with names like Bob and Frank to try to make him "eat grass," as he recalls. Growing up in Sloatsburg, he and his pals trapped muskrats, raccoons and minks and sold the pelts to Sears Roebuck. He I also went with his advertising-executive dad into New York to see him work on early live TV shows such as the Philco Television Playhouse. "In those days the ad agencies produced the shows," Mapes recalls. "TV looked like a fun way to make a living."

So, after graduating from Norwich University in Northfield, Vt., and completing a four-year Army stint in Hawaii, Mapes started at NBC selling commercial time. He became head of affiliate relations and then served from 1982 to 1994 - the longest stretch in recent memory - as the network's president, responsible for "sales, affiliate relations, standards and practices, research and pricing."

Mapes spent half his time jetting around the nation There was power and money and excitement, but what I he liked most was the people. "I always enjoyed making people laugh," he says. He retired at just 56. TV was changing, and new competition from cable required letting many employees go. "That wasn't much fun," he says. Today he's thankful he quit when he did and "took time to smell the roses." He's become a skilled chef (boiled tongue, brains and sweetbreads are favorite creations) and he and Pat don't let her disabilities cramp their style. They take in Yankees games and Broadway shows and have lately enjoyed two cruises, one on the Mediterranean and another "across the pond" in the Queen Mary II.

For Mapes, responsibility inspires exuberance, in the boardroom or in the kitchen. He points to lines teacher wrote under his name in his high school yearbook: "Full of fun and fancy free, that's the way he'll always be."

"How did she know?" he says with a laugh.



**We Get Pictures**

**Over 100 Years of Service  
Now Available for FUN!**

**John Russo, Vince Bailey, Tom Masucci and Mike Greenidge  
celebrate the start of the next happy phase of their lives  
at their Big Green Dot party held at Pig 'n Whistle on November 9th, 2007**

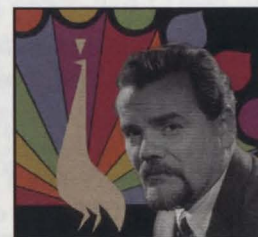
**A  
Rare  
Bird**

This photo of an extremely rare Albino Peacock was sent to us by Noel Engler, who worked in the Network Advertising Department with the REAL Peacock.



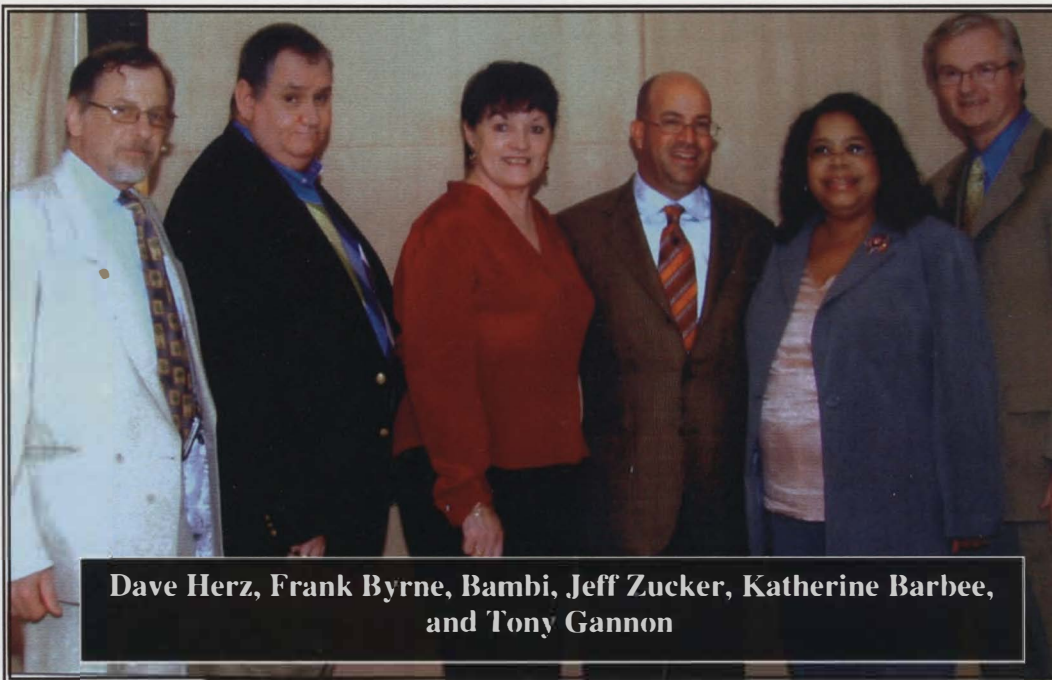
A fascinating history of the full-color version, designed by John J. Graham, can be found on the web at

[www.big13.net/  
NBC%20Peacock/  
NBCPeacock1.html](http://www.big13.net/NBC%20Peacock/NBCPeacock1.html)





## Life Begins at 40 By Bambi Tascarella



**Dave Herz, Frank Byrne, Bambi, Jeff Zucker, Katherine Barbee, and Tony Gannon**

It was like a mini Oscar night sans the red carpet and "Oscar"! Flashbacks of me in my 1960's Guidette uniform danced in my head. I was about to be honored for four decades of service at the ole "Peacock."

Guests poured into the "Sea Grill" on the rink at 30 Rock on September 26th: the NBC Universal 25-year Club annual service award reception hosted by President and CEO Jeff Zucker for 25-to-55-year veterans.

At the check-in table we picked up our names tags and for ten of us, a "40 NBC Universal" pin in the shape of a TV screen

(very cool!). All were encouraged to participate in a photo op standing next to a large NBC Universal placard on an easel. I looked like the weather girl at KNSD-TV.

We munched on shrimp and other tasty cocktail morsels; executives and even our NBC doctor were in attendance. For two and a half hours we toasted the good old days, shared war stories and guessed which NBC shows led the Fall of '67 prime time schedule (I actually got one: "Saturday Night at the Movies").

Zucker graciously welcomed us: "... This company is only as good as its people...and we are very fortunate to have some of the best...we celebrate the careers of twelve of NBC Universal's most seasoned veterans, ten of who are marking their 40th anniversary with the company, one their 45th and one more who has been with us an incredible 55 years." (Joe Konopka, a scenic artist on "Conan O'Brien" who started as a "paint boy" on "Kraft Music Hall" and "Milton Berle's Texaco Star Theatre"). "... We've come a long way.. and our 40-year honorees have been here for an amazing ride."

Five of us were introduced and thanked for our many years of devoted service (our "News" pals Cliff Kappler and Janet Pearce were unable to attend).

Katherine Barbee: Studio technician for 30+ years; teleprompter expert for "Nightly News" for most of those decades.

Frank Byrne: Holds the distinction of trafficking over 1000 network commercials a year "Error-Free".

Tony Gannon: "Today" veteran; currently Director of Production Finance for the program.

Dave Herz: Proudly displaying his original 1967 ID card; from Guest Relations ticket clerk to WNBC stage manager telling Chuck and Sue what to do.

My turn! I had goose bumps and sort of remember hearing the words "Guidette" and "Tom Brokaw" but, I thought I heard: "And the Oscar goes to.. .!!" I thanked everyone and told them I loved them. After a champagne toast and some petit fours we picked up our engraved silver trays and picture frames. It was a grand evening!

PS: That night I received a note from the Michael C. Fina Company: "Congratulations on reaching a milestone anniversary with your company. Unfortunately, the gift you ordered is no longer available."



## Breaking News! MSNBC Moves From Secaucus to 30 Rock!

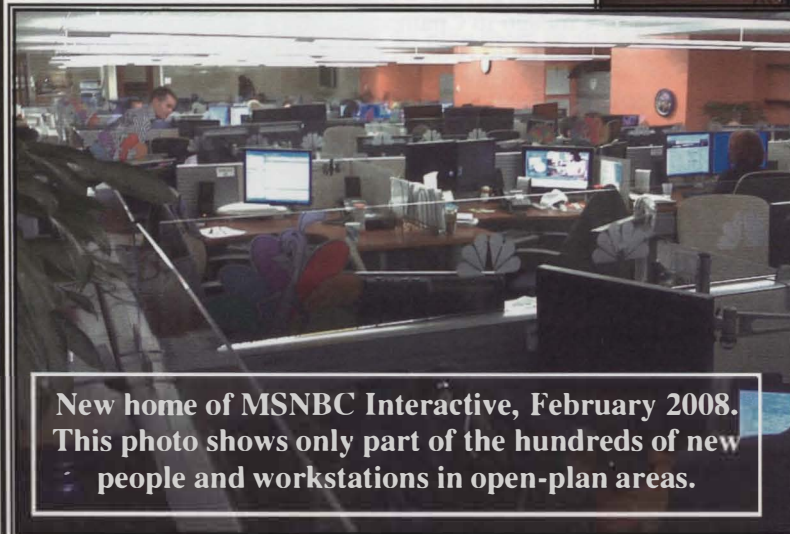
In case you're one Peacock whose head has not been glued to your TV lately, we thought you might appreciate this update from John Eck, President, Media Works, and Chief Information Officer, NBC Universal. You'll probably notice numerous references to components of NBC which are unknown to you. These represent the ever-expanding organization which deals with over-the-air broadcasting as just one facet of NBC Universal's daily activities. Suffice to say the seventy-four-year-old 30 Rock continues to be on top of the technology. - Your Editor.

As many of you know, on Monday, October 22nd, 2007, MSNBC successfully re-launched from its new studios here in 30 Rockefeller Plaza. Moving MSNBC from Secaucus to New York was a massive accomplishment, and it is a testament to the strength of Media Works and the people that make up our organization. Over the course of only 6 months, cross-functional teams from Media Works, including Production, Distribution, Real Estate, Facilities, Sourcing, Engineering, IT, EHS, Finance, and HR, collaborated to design, build and execute a seamless move of over 400 employees and a 24x7 cable network, creating what is now NBC News' World Headquarters.

This project included significant construction efforts on the 3rd, 4th, 5th and 6th floors of 30 Rock, to include creating swing space, decommissioning, and building new open office space for NBC News and MSNBC employees. Our digital production services space on the 5th floor [former NBC Main Equipment Room] was expanded by 13,000 square feet to accommodate 24 new edit bays as well as open area desktop edit stations. Studios 3A, 3C, and 3K were rebuilt, including deployment of virtual set technology and Control Rooms 2K [that's right!] and 3A [in the former 3G Studio space] were rebuilt to serve as the new MSNBC control rooms. Additionally, this undertaking included the migration of the MSNBC & CNBC master controls from Secaucus to Englewood Cliffs, the relocation and rebuild of our antenna farm in Washington, new graphics packages, deployment of hundreds of PCs and phones, the industry's first innovative use of IPTV technology for remote monitoring, weeks of rehearsals, and physically moving the MSNBC employees.

John Eck, November 20, 2007

**Two views of the fourth floor  
Studio Building**



**New home of MSNBC Interactive, February 2008.  
This photo shows only part of the hundreds of new  
people and workstations in open-plan areas.**



**Above, originally the upper part of  
Radio Studio 3G. Later home to 8 color film chains  
and 4G Film Control. In the 1970's it was reborn  
as the main EJ Editing and Supervisory Area.  
Here seen under construction in  
August 2007 to become the area in the photo at left.  
The original Studio 3G space below it  
continues to be the Control Room for Studio 3A,  
now dedicated to MSNBC.**



# Looking BACK

By Frank Vierling

I joined NBC in January 1950 and after several months in studio operations I was transferred to TV Field. Ed Wilber was department head.

The mobile units were garaged in Long Island City, a short subway hop from the studios. Field had three sets of gear, coded Yellow, Blue, and Green; each color consisted of three cameras and associate electronics. And there were three mobile units, 1A (Yellow), 1B (Blue) and utility truck 1C. The "Green Gear" was stored in Radio City and moved to different radio studios as TV programming dictated; at times it even left the building. In 1950 there were only two TV studios in Radio City — 3H was the first one. When it was upgraded to color it was renamed 3K (K for kolor, since there was a 3C). The other was 8G where the "big" shows, like Philco Playhouse, Chevrolet Theater, Lanny Ross, etc., originated. And there was the Columbus Circle's International Theater which did the Saturday and Sunday variety shows, but had no permanent equipment.

Unit 1B originated a Friday night show from "The Village Barn," a rustic nightclub in Greenwich Village. Following that show the equipment was stripped out of the truck and set up in the International Theater for the weekend shows.

Also on Friday night 1A was covering Gillette boxing from Madison Square Garden. During the horse racing season 1A covered horse racing on Saturday afternoons from Aqueduct and Belmont and night trotters from Roosevelt Raceway; and each year the World Series. In the mix was covering the UN at Lake Success and "The Tavern on the Green" among many others. We were busy, busy. In fact, Field produced 80% of the "live" programming aired on NBC in those early days.

And we covered football. The first games I worked were from West Point. Every other week we alternated with Yale games from New Haven.

West Point was a pleasant assignment. On Friday, I could drive to the Point from my Jersey home. Two crew members would drive the mobile unit up from Long Island City and we met at Michie stadium. The Stadium was cut into the side of a hill with its press box roof, where we set the cameras and announcer, was level with the road. The necessary cables were installed in late summer, water-proofed and left all season. Our Friday work was to set up two cameras, check them out, and solve any problems.

We also checked our audio and



*Michie Stadium as it appears today. The upper stands and press box on the right and end zone building have been added since the 1950s.*

video lines to Master Control via the Telephone Company. Video fed through "Crow's Nest," a mountain peak with microwave line-of-sight to New York and audio via Telco land lines.

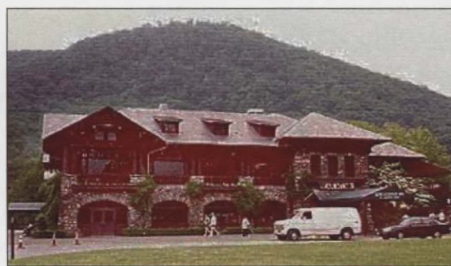
Assured all was working for Saturday's game we retired to the Bear Mountain Inn for dinner and a night's lodging.

Saturday morning we'd meet the rest of our crew arriving by company station wagon. We only used two cameras (yes, only two).

Announcer Bill Stern provided the play by play. He

sometimes forgot he was on television, instead of radio. His descriptions didn't always follow the action viewers saw at home.

At Yale we did not use the Telephone Company to get our pictures back to New York. We



*The Bear Mountain Inn.*

used a special high-power microwave transmitter, built by NBC's Lab, to beam our picture across the Long Island Sound to a receiver on a water tower at Hempstead, NY.

Before one Yale weekend, the operator assigned to Hempstead was cautioned to make sure the microwave power was turned off after the game. Apparently it had been left on for a two-week interval, which might have been disastrous for this one-of-a-kind equipment. Following that weekend, Ed Wilber received an early Sunday morning call from Hempstead — "**We have no water!**" Our man, who remains nameless, had also turned off the water tower's pump and the Saturday night baths drained the tower.

When NBC won the NCAA contract, in the 1950s, we ventured west. One fall I spent a month based at the Webster Hotel in Chicago, covering Notre Dame, Northwestern, University of Chicago in Champaign, and a 4th game from Chicago's Soldier Field (I don't remember who).

For too many years CBS had exclusive rights to professional football on Sunday afternoons until the AFL and the Jets gave NBC the opportunity for Sunday competition.

## THE NEW YORK JETS

In 1960 Lamar Hunt and 7 other team owners formed the American Football League to rival the NFL. It included the New York Titans, coached by Sammy Baugh; they played their home games at the Polo Grounds. The AFL was loaded with NFL castoffs, and college players considered not good enough for the 40-year old NFL. Don Maynard, passed up by the NFL, was the first Titan signer. Maynard went on to a 13-year career and into the Hall of Fame.

In 1961 the Titans took the field for the first time on a rain soaked Polo Grounds against the Buffalo Bills and 10,200



watched them win 27-3. Through the year, attendance never improved. They ended the season in 2nd place with a 7-7 record.

The Titans struggled for notice and posted a second 7-7 season. That year the Giants won the NFL Championship Game for the 4th time in 6 years.

In 1962 attendance was so bad, owner Harry Wismer had fans move close to the field to give the TV impression there were full stands. Wismer was unable to make payroll so the league took over the team's finances. The Titans finished in last place with a 5-9 record.

The AFL needed a New York team to survive. Eventually the team was sold to a group headed by Sonny Werblin for \$1 Million.

Things were looking up and a new Shea Stadium was ready for the team in 1964. Located next to LaGuardia Airport; the team's name was changed from Titans to Jets. Weeb Ewbank was hired as head coach — he had led the Baltimore Colts to 2 consecutive NFL Championships in 1958 and 1959.

The Jets struggled with a 5-8-1 record, but attendance improved.

1964, in their new Shea Stadium, the Jets got off to a flying start by trouncing the Denver Broncos 30-7, but struggled to finish the season, 5-8-1. But there was reason for hope, RB Matt Snell gained 948 yards, and was named AFL Rookie of the Year.

Through the AFL's first 5 seasons the Jets were not considered a serious challenge for the NFL. It was still a last resort for players who could not make an NFL team. But, the outlook was changing.

On January 2, 1965, just one day after playing for National Championship Alabama University in the Orange Bowl, Joe Namath was signed for the then unheard of \$427,000 contract to play for the Jets.

Namath, considered one of the top pro prospects, had spurned the NFL to play in what was considered to be a lesser league.

Early in his first season Namath took over, winning the AFL Rookie of the Year. He passed for 2,220 yards, and 18 TDs. They finished 5-8-1 for the 3rd season in a row.

Namath didn't bring the Jets immediate success, but he brought about a change in pro-football. NFL owners, worried that college prospects would be offered big deals in the rival league, wanted a common draft.

The draft discussions gave the AFL the legitimacy they needed as the NFL agreed to play them in an annual Championship game, which became the Super Bowl.

In Namath's second season, 1966, his talent began to show its potential. He passed for 3,379 yards and 19 touchdowns. He also threw 27 interceptions and they finished 3rd with a 6-6-2 record.

In 1967, in his 3rd year, Joe guided the team to their first winning season. He also began making his mark in pro-football's record book. He became the first QB ever in

either league to pass for over 4,000 yards in a season. Broadway Joe's exciting play helped the Jets set an AFL attendance record, selling out every Shea Stadium game.

After a successful 8-5-1 season the 1968 Jets hoped they could finally win their division, and play for the AFL Championship. They got off to a flying start winning their first game over the Kansas City Chiefs, and two weeks later in their home opener they beat the San Diego Chargers in front of an AFL Shea Stadium record crowd of 63,786. With the Jets cruising towards the AFL Championship game, their November game with the Oakland Raiders set itself up as a possible AFL Championship preview.



October 1965 Shea Stadium. NBC televised Jet football using WOR's cameras and stadium control room.

In a back and forth affair the Jets scored a TD with 1:05 left in the game and were up 32-29. The game was taking a long while to play, and NBC executives began to sweat it out as the game was going to go past the 7 PM start of the children's movie, *Heidi*. Programmers decided the game was as

good as over, and elected to run Heidi "on time" for the east coast. Thousands of irate football fans began calling NBC. Meanwhile, unseen by millions of fans, the Raiders stormed back and scored 2 touchdowns in 42 seconds to win the game 43-32. East coast fans were left in the dark, and assumed the Jets had won; the outrage forced NBC to apologize, and sent a message to Television Programmers that pro-football was a force on Television. The game would forever be known as "The Heidi Game." With an 11-3 record the Jets won the Eastern Division and found themselves in a Heidi Game rematch with the Raiders for the AFL Championship at Shea Stadium.

In the 4th quarter the Raiders took a 23-20 lead, but Namath drove the Jets down the field and threw a 6-yard pass to Don Maynard for his 3rd TD pass of the game giving the Jets a 27-23 win. That win earned the Jets a trip to the AFL-NFL Championship game, which for the first time was officially called the Super Bowl.

Going into Super Bowl III the Jets were 18-point underdogs to the powerhouse Baltimore Colts

Joe Namath's guarantee that the Jets would win was thought of as a joke. Many old school traditional football fans still had not accepted the presence of the AFL, and were pulling for the Colts to shut the brash young Quarterback's mouth. But it was no joke. In the 4th quarter the Jets were ahead 16-0 until Unitas got the Colts on the board with 7 points. But the Colts could not capitalize on an on-side-kick and lost 16-7 to the Jets. Super Bowl MVP Joe Namath ran off the field and into the locker room holding up his finger saying "Were Number One."

*AFL/NFL data from the Jet History Website.*

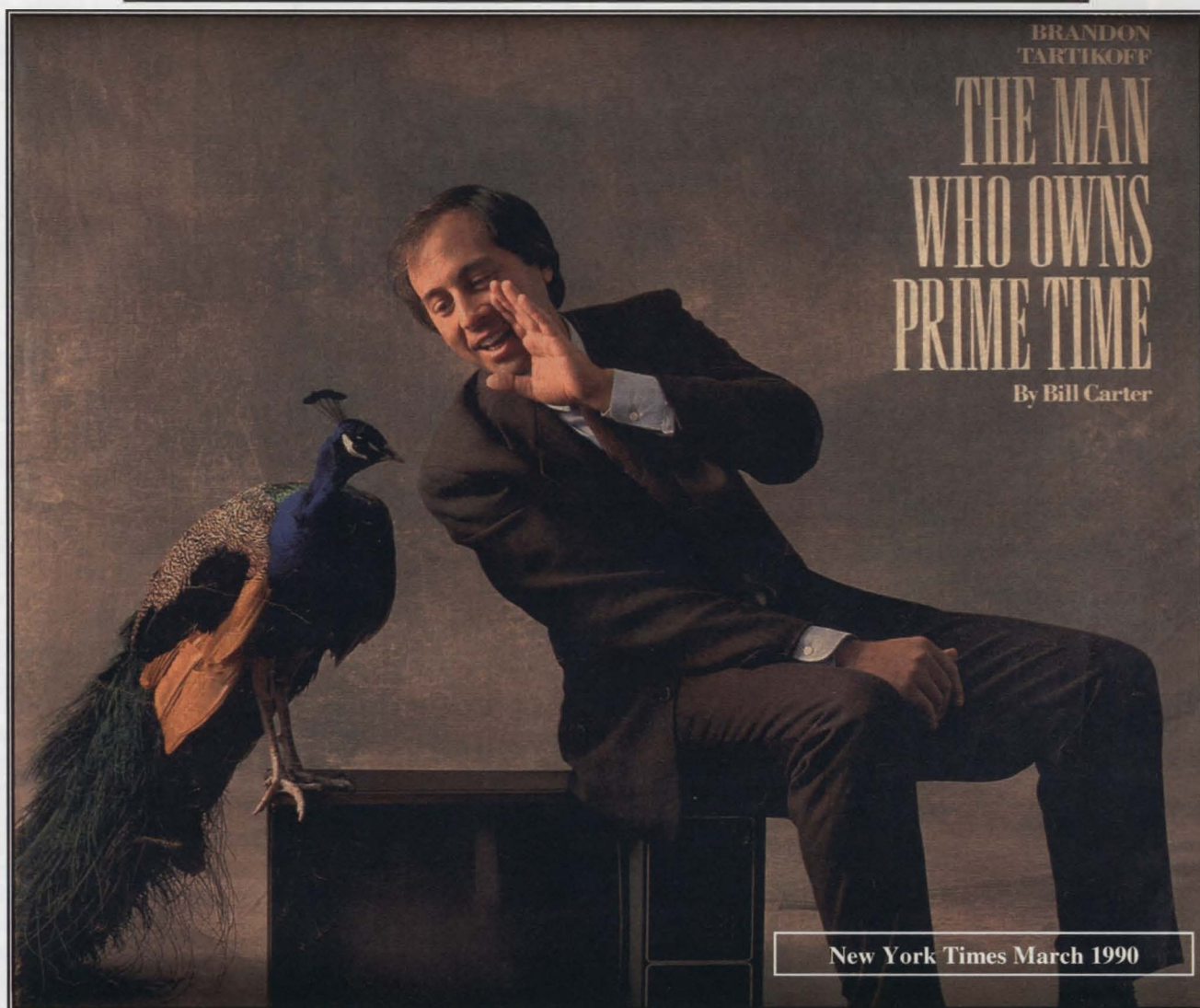
Ed. Note: Also from the Jets website... Harry Wismer played college football at both the University of Florida and Michigan State University. In 1934 he began a nearly 20-year career as a PA and broadcast announcer for the Detroit Lions and then the Washington Redskins.



Broadway Joe.



**Bob Wright's Remarks as a NATPE 2008  
"Brandon Tartikoff Legacy Award Winner"**



*How is Brandon Tartikoff's legacy embodied in your work today?*

I think Brandon helped me very early. I met him on my first day on the job (at NBC) and Brandon became my partner, connecting me to the entertainment side of the business. And I found him to be an extra-honest, forthright partner. He helped me a great deal.

I learned through him how to conduct myself in a way that I was comfortable with and worked well for me. That was the greatest gift he gave me. In those early years, he was getting pounded by a lot of people for different things. The way he handled himself in his job in the entertainment division, which is the most important job in Hollywood, it rubbed off on me.

It was always straightforward; he was never a politician. He was more critical about his favorite shows than any of his other shows. He could speak very freely about things and was very straightforward with people.

He was not afraid to tell people what he thought, and he nurtured people very effectively. I think he was extremely helpful to me. I'm sure I could have been paired with a dozen other executives and not come out feeling that way.

**Robert C. Wright, vice chairman of the board and executive officer, General Electric Co.; past chairman and CEO of NBC.**

--Reprinted from Variety



**SSN: Seniors' Sports Network**

Christmas 2007

Dear Peacock North,

I am very pleased to report that none of my close relatives are currently in prison. Some of you may recall that my cousin, Dimbulb Phinster, was incarcerated following a bungled attempt to steal his own identity. In turn his niece and nephew, Lubricia and Mewkus Phinster, were jailed after they tried to bust him out of the slammer two weeks after his release. All's well that ends well since they now earn vast money as contract intelligence specialists to the Bush Administration.

It has been a very busy year for me because a number of ex-NBC Sports people have gotten together to found SSN: Seniors' Sports Network. Events we plan to cover include: Tag team Shuffleboard, Synchronized Walking, Canasta Smackdown, Par Seventeen Golf, Archery-With-Really-Big-Targets-That-Are-Not-That-Far-Away and an unarmed endurance competition in which teams of seniors find out how long they can stand around before someone has to pee.

I was privileged, once again, to visit with friends in Scotland this past summer. In the interest of complete truth, I am required to confess that my career in Animal Husbandry suffered a setback when I was demoted to Apprentice Trainee Chicken Wrangler Fourth Class - the sorry result of my allowing myself to be convinced by my youthful mentors that speckled eggs were "underage" and that it was my responsibility to stuff them back in the hens. And speaking of poultry, I think Fred D. Thompson was wise to take on Dan Quayle as Campaign Manager. Proof? Their snappy new rallying cry, "A chicken in every garage!!" looks to me like a winner.

This year's self-improvement project was launched by a classified ad I noted on page 623 in the mail-order education section of the September issue of Spam Connoisseur Magazine, "LEARN TO BE A FULL BISHOP IN ONLY FIVE WEEKS!". The course is very expensive and time consuming but I expect to be able to fulfill all your spiritual needs by the seventeenth of January at the latest. On the social front, I plan to revive my friendship with Florence Henderson with the hope that she will want to share her lifetime supply of dental adhesive.

peace, love, joy...

**Bill Potts**

**NEW EVENTS ADDED TO SSN SCHEDULE:**

Senior SSN Vice President for Programming, George Smith, announced today that the following events have been added to the broadcast schedule:

**RACE TO THE DOCTOR**

Senior citizens compete on Wednesday mornings to see who can drive the slowest to visit their health care practitioners.

**WHERE'S ANYTHING I OWN?**

We hide, in plain sight, various objects the elderly need.

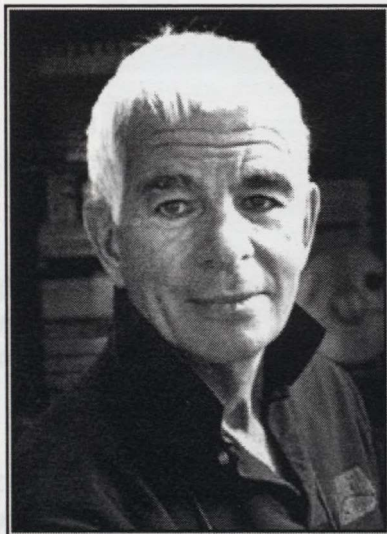
**WHO'S THAT?**

We find out how long it will take contestants to recognize and name family members.

**MY PILL**

Seniors will select their meds from an huge pile of pills - take two - and, upon returning one minute later, will try to remember which two they swallowed.



*Tributes to Silent Microphones***Kirk Browning**

Kirk Browning, whose unusual career path took him from chicken farmer to television director of "Live From Lincoln Center," died on Sunday in Manhattan. He was 86. The cause was a heart attack, his son, David, said.

From inside a trailer on West 65th Street in Manhattan and facing a bank of 79 screens, Mr. Browning — somewhat like the maestros he so often focused on — directed 185 telecasts from Lincoln Center's opera, orchestra, dance and theater halls since "Live From Lincoln Center" first appeared on public television in 1976. When he died, he was preparing a production of Puccini's "Madama Butterfly," to be broadcast on March 20.

Directing a crew of 45, Mr. Browning would signal every shift of the dozen or so cameras carefully placed throughout the hall, following a precise script he had prepared with the series producer, John Goberman.

"Dissolve and tighten," Mr. Browning would say to get cameras to focus on Itzhak Perlman's fingers. "Widen center group dancers," he would say as the New York City Ballet performed "Swan Lake."

"Kirk contained the entire history of cultural television in our country," Mr. Goberman said on Monday. "He started in 1948 with the NBC Symphony, and here he was at 86, still turning out fabulous performance television."

Although he was an accomplished pianist who brought his ability to read a score to his camera choreography, Mr. Browning owned a chicken farm in Ridgefield, Conn., in 1947 when he happened into television. He befriended a customer on his egg route, Samuel Chotzinoff, the director of NBC's music division. Mr. Chotzinoff got him a job filing scores in NBC's music library. Later, after working as a stage manager, Mr. Browning was chosen to direct telecasts of the NBC Symphony Orchestra, led by Arturo Toscanini.

In addition to his "Live From Lincoln Center" programs, 10 of which won Emmy Awards, Mr. Browning eventually directed, among other productions the premiere of the first opera written expressly for television, Gian Carlo Menotti's "Amahl and the Night Visitors" (1951); the first TV show with Frank Sinatra as host (1957); and "Hallmark Hall of Fame" music and drama specials (1951 to 1958).

For PBS he also directed many "Great Performances" and "Live From the Met" programs; "Pavarotti in Concert at Madison Square Garden"; and telecasts of numerous Broadway productions. He won two outstanding individual achievement Emmys for PBS programs: one in 1987 for "Goya With Plácido Domingo," and one in 1988 for "Turandot" from the Met.

Born in Manhattan on March 28, 1921, Mr. Browning was a son of William and Elizabeth Miner Browning. His father owned a company that made military uniforms, and his mother owned a dress shop.

After attending Cornell for a month, Mr. Browning found his way to Waco, Tex., where he worked as a newspaper reporter. He tried to enlist in the Army during World War II, but was rejected because of a childhood injury. So he went to Europe and worked as an ambulance driver in England and France. After the war, he bought the chicken farm in Connecticut.

In addition to David, of Somers, N.Y., Mr. Browning is survived by his wife, the former Barbara Gum; and another son, Sean, of Nantucket, Mass.

Mr. Browning was known for his probing, restless camera. He and Mr. Goberman came up with the idea of placing "lipstick cameras" — tiny devices usually used for sports close-ups — directly in the orchestra. One of Mr. Browning's camera effects, Mr. Goberman said, became a favorite moment for the conductor Kurt Masur, even though it did not focus on the maestro.

"There's a long horn solo in the slow movement of Tchaikovsky's Fifth," Mr. Goberman said. "We started with a very wide shot of the orchestra and slowly pushed in to an extremely tight close-up of the horn player, Philip Myers. It lasted two, three minutes, and you couldn't not know where it was going."

--Reprinted from The New York Times, February 13, 2008 - By Dennis Hevesi



*Tributes to Silent Microphones***Dwight Hemion**

Dwight Hemion, a director and producer who worked with stars including Frank Sinatra, Barbra Streisand, Elvis Presley, Luciano Pavarotti, and Chewbacca, died of renal failure Jan. 28 at his home in Rectortown, Va. He was 81.

"He defined what the network spectacular was in the 1960s and 1970s," said Ron Simon, a curator at the Paley Center for Media, a New York-based museum of radio and television history. "He was the go-to guy for any established performer to create a special with."

Born in New Haven, Conn., the son of an undertaker, he served as an Air Force belly-gunner on bombers in the Pacific during WWII. He started his career as a go-fer at ABC and eventually became director of NBC's "Tonight" show with Steve Allen, and also Steve's Primetime comedy-variety program. He also directed the "Perry Como" series for 11 years.

Starting in the late 1960s, Hemion "defined the music spectacular," Simon said. In 1965, two of Mr. Hemion's specials were nominated for Emmys: "Frank Sinatra: A Man and His Music" and "My Name Is Barbra," with Streisand memorably singing "Second Hand Rose" as she cavorted through the Bergdorf Goodman department store. In television specials starring Frank Sinatra, Mikhail Baryshnikov and many other world-class performers, Hemion and his partner, producer Gary Smith, captured popular and critical acclaim.

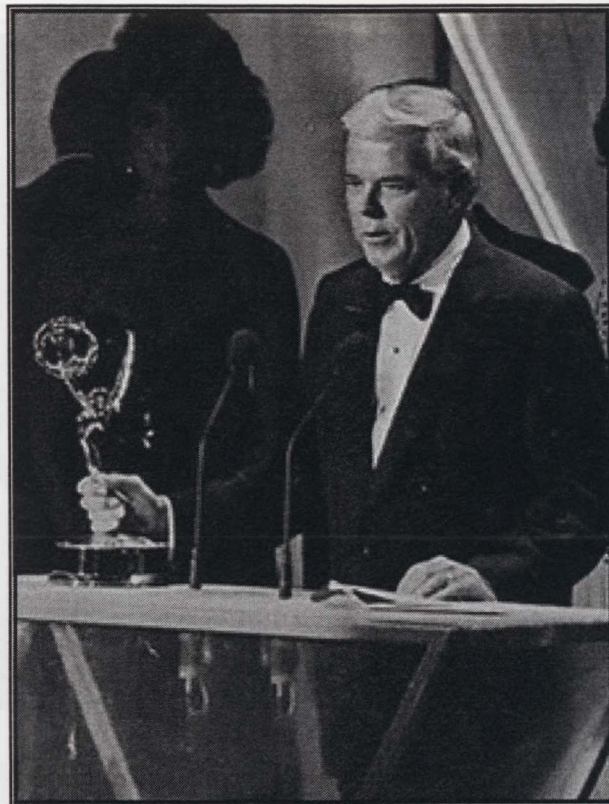
Shows that Hemion directed were made in a comparatively simple style without elaborate editing or special effects. "The artist was the star," Smith said in an interview this week.

Although Hemion was best known for his work with entertainers, he also directed televised coverage of the inaugural galas of President Reagan in 1985 and President Clinton in 1993 and 1997. He directed TV coverage of several Democratic National Conventions, a number of annual "Christmas in Washington" TV specials and several Kennedy Center Honors programs.

In the 1970s, Hemion and Smith worked in London, after British media mogul Lew Grade invited them to create programs there. They directed and produced television specials with composer Burt Bacharach, former Beatle Paul McCartney and singer-actress Julie Andrews, among other major talents. They also worked on several televised "Royal Command Performance" evenings of entertainment. They relocated to Los Angeles in the mid-'70s. Hemion's marriage to Joyce Hogue Hemion ended in divorce in 1970. He married Kit Lusk in 1973. He is survived by his second wife, two children and three step-children, as well as six grandchildren.

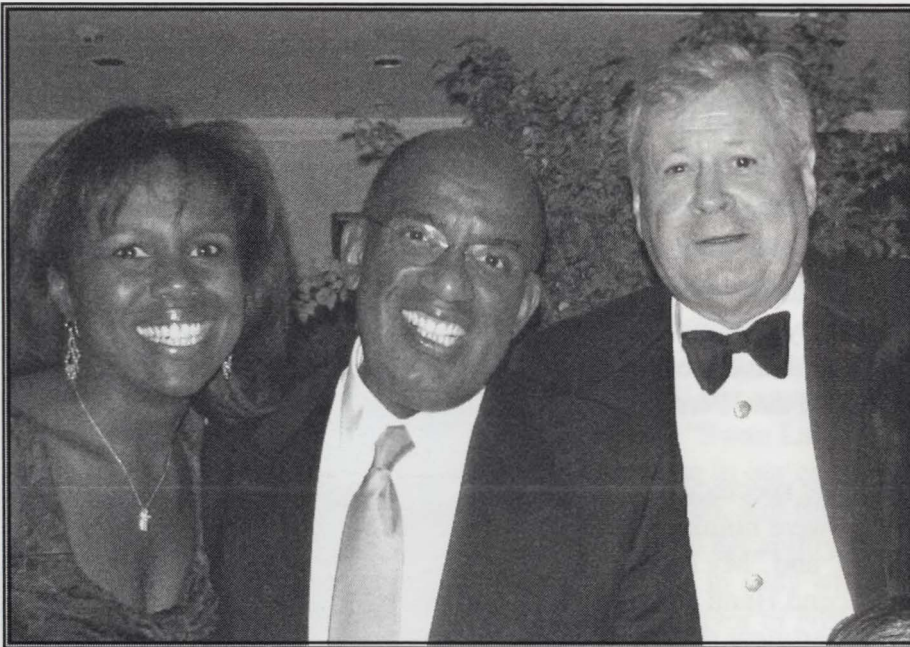
**Contributions in Hemion's name may be made to the Young Musicians Foundation, 195 S. Beverly Drive, Suite 414, Beverly Hills, CA 90212.**

--Combined from obits published in Variety, LA Times, Washington Post and BroadwayWorld.com



**Ed. Note:** You can see and hear hours of interviews with Dwight, Kirk Browning, and many other TV pioneers, at the website of the American Archive of Television. Visit <http://www.tvinterviewsarchive.blogspot.com>. The Television Academy recorded several such interviews at the 2007 PN Spring Luncheon, and we'll let you know if they will return in 2008.



*Tributes to Silent Microphones***Carl Killingsworth  
Remembered by Al Roker**

My life changed forever, for the better, on December 5<sup>th</sup>, 1983. That was the day I started my job as the new weekend weathercaster at WNBC.

On that day, Carl Killingsworth walked up to my desk in the newsroom, stuck out his hand and said. "Hello, Ah'm Carl Killingsworth and Ah'm your new best friend!"

I thought, "This guy's crazy. I don't even know him." But his words were prophetic and were to ring so very true. When I met Carl, he was in charge of Press and Publicity for WNBC. True, Linda Lippman was the head of Press for the station, but everyone knew Carl ran things. Even Linda knew that. Best to just get out of the way and let the force of nature that was Carl take its inexorable path.

Over the next twenty four years, Carl's life was intertwined with mine and my family's. At every occasion, whether it happy or sad, momentous or monotonous, it would seem Carl was there. My promotion to the weekday weather slot. My first date with my future wife, Deborah. Our wedding. The birth of our children. The death of my father.

When I look back at all these events, whether in my mind's eye or photographically, Carl is there. Sometimes he's close to the center, other times on the periphery but always there.

He was the source of much laughter. Some of it pure humor, some of it dead-on commentary. I remember following Richard Jewell's arrest after the Atlanta bombing of Centennial Park during the 1996 Olympics, Carl said, "You mark my words, they're framin' that fat, little white boy" And he was right.

He was so proud of his North Carolina farming roots. I remember him regaling us with stories from the farm. One in particular involved him straddling a pig while his Daddy castrated the porker. Carl's comment? "Boy can they squeal! And believe me, I've straddled a few pigs in my day!"

All during his illness, Carl never really complained. I was lucky enough to join Carl and his bevy of beauties for a post-chemotherapy lunch a few times. Watching the king regale the crowd, even in his weakened state was a joy to behold.

While his time here seemed short, it was so very special. Anyone who was touched by Carl, figuratively and literally, came away a better person for it. It is not an exaggeration when I say that life seems a little less joyous, a little less well-lived, a little smaller without Carl in it.

I know my children were a little more subdued this Christmas without Uncle Carl sitting there watching them open their presents. I know his death greatly affected my Mother with whom Carl shared a special relationship. Four days after his funeral, she took ill, entered the hospital and joined Carl and my Dad this past fall.

I miss him, but I celebrate him. We all should.



*Tributes to Silent Microphones***Jim Cummins  
Remembered by Steve Capus**

The NBC News family has lost a gentle giant of a man. Veteran NBC correspondent and bureau chief, Jim Cummins died this evening. His beloved wife Connie and their six children were with him as he passed away at the all-too-young age of 62.

It's fitting that Jim had a big family. After all, he spent decades making Americans feel right at home, with his down-to-earth, warm reporting style, delivery and presence. During a distinguished career with NBC News, Jim covered all kinds of breaking news assignments and memorable features. As Brian Williams recently put it, Jim was the definition of a field correspondent... who seemingly covered every story more than once.

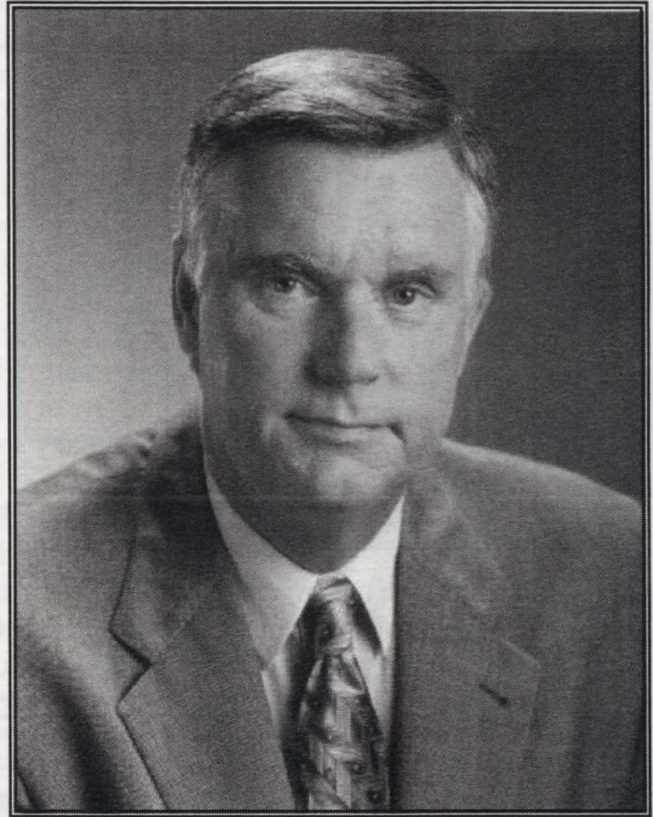
Jim was a child of Midwest America, with roots that stretched back to his birthplace in Cedar Rapids, Iowa. He loved sports, and made a name for himself on the basketball court at Northwestern University. He earned his B.A. and Master's degrees at Northwestern's Medill School of Journalism.

Jim began his broadcast career in 1969 at KGLO-TV in Mason City, Iowa. He moved to WOTV in Grand Rapids, Michigan as an anchor and reporter in 1970. Three years later, he joined the NBC station in Milwaukee, WTMJ. Jim's next leap was to WMAQ-TV in Chicago. That move led to Jim's hiring in 1978 as a Chicago-based correspondent for NBC News. In 1989, Jim became our Southwest bureau chief and correspondent, based in Dallas.

What a run Jim had with NBC News... From U.S. political coverage, to plane crashes; from the civil war in El Salvador to countless hurricanes, floods and tornadoes. His reporting led our broadcasts day after day from places like Waco; Killeen; Oklahoma City and Galveston. He earned an Emmy in 1993 for his reporting on the Midwest floods.

I thought of Jim often this week, as so many of our people showcased their brilliant talents covering the California wildfires. This was the kind of coverage that Jim poured himself into for decades.

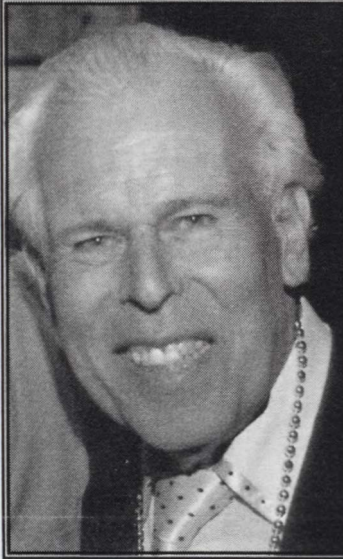
Jim and Connie had a vision for life after NBC. A damnable cancer diagnosis came a short time after he left the job, and those plans took a backseat to a courageous battle. Tonight, he's at peace. Jim Cummins was a good man.





*Tributes to Silent Microphones*

**Ralph Dichter  
Remembered By His Wife Sandra**



Ralph started his career at NBC in September of 1948 in Kinescope Recording. After eighteen years, Ralph transferred into videotape recording. Ralph spent the rest of his career there until his retirement in 1986. I met Ralph in August of 1955 and we were married in June of 1956. Ralph was very proud to work for NBC. I never knew what time he would come home because NBC would come first. I remember him going to Washington DC when President Johnson was inaugurated. I could just envision him with a tuxedo and a walkie-talkie in hand. I was very proud to be his wife.

He would also work many hours overtime whenever a space launch was scheduled to take place from Cape Canaveral. He would come home and tell me the important people that he met. He was always very proud to be part of NBC.

When we retired to Florida he still kept up his love with lighting and getting things done right. Here at our community in Boynton Beach, Ralph would handle the spotlights for the many shows that were produced at the clubhouse.

Ralph had two loves in his life; NBC and his family. Together Ralph and I raised three children, a daughter Sherri, and two sons, Mark and Bradley. Ralph always told me that he was proud of my accomplishments. His confidence in me encouraged me to do

all the things that I have enjoyed in the field of art, such as painting, sculpting, and needlepoint etc. When Ralph retired he learned to play tennis and he became active in the many clubs and activities that were afforded to him in our Florida community. Ralph died of a heart attack on August 20th, 2007, at the age of 81.

**Liz Callan  
Remembered By Gene Waldstein**

Anyone who worked on George Heinemann's GO SHOW in the middle '70s will fondly remember Liz Callan. She was the sweetest, brightest and hardest working P.A. you could wish for. She died on August 17, 2007 at age 57 of burns from a kitchen fire. One of the first shows that we did took place at the Bakery Restaurant in Chicago, owned and operated by Chef Louie Szathmarie, who at the time was also doing commercials for General Foods. Now Chef Louie was impressive, and I mean in every way. He was 6 feet tall and weighed 300 pounds, with a handlebar moustache and a roaring laugh you could hear in Gary, Indiana.

So we pull up to the back door with our station wagons full of people and equipment and start to unload. Chef Louie is out there to meet us, a vision in sparkling white, and he spots Liz in slacks and a bare midriff blouse. He immediately grabs her in a bear hug and bellows "When I see a pretty girl like you I got to kiss her belly button." Which he did. Liz was stunned - we were all stunned - but she took it with great aplomb and good humor. At the end of that long and busy day Chef Louie insisted we all sit down, and he cooked us a magnificent dinner. We went on to do many fun shows in many fun locations, but the look on Liz Callan's face I can still see even if I can't remember what I had for breakfast this morning.

**Ed. Note:** Liz went on to a distinguished career as an award-winning producer for PBS's "The NewsHour with Jim Lehrer" for more than 20 years. As a producer, she was known for being fearless and passionate. At the height of the U.S.-backed contra war against the Sandinista government of Nicaragua in the 1980s, she produced a series of "NewsHour" reports from El Salvador, Honduras, Chile and Nicaragua under life-threatening conditions.





*Tributes to Silent Microphones***Bob McEwan  
Remembered by Cathy Worster**

It is with deep regret that we report the passing of our friend and colleague, Bob McEwan, on December 23rd, 2007. He was 83 years old.

Before joining NBC in 1951, Bob served in the Pacific Theater during World War II with the U.S. Army's Aviation Engineers. After his service, he took a job as an usher at the Stadium Theater in Tottenville, NY, where he learned to be a projectionist. From there, he went on to work as a projectionist at the old Staten Island Theater in New Dorp and the Strand Theater in Great Kills. He was recruited by NBC from a tech school in Manhattan.

Bob was with NBC for thirty years before he retired. He worked as a Lighting Director spending much of his time on the road for News and Sports while driving the mobile units between many of these events. Among some of the events he worked on were presidential inaugurations, NASA space missions and President Nixon's visit to Red China where Bob spent two months supporting NBC's coverage of the historic trip.

In his leisure hours, he loved spending time on his boat, the Edna Mae, a 32 foot Welcraft. He would cruise the waters around Staten Island, the Jersey Shore and the Hudson River. He also enjoyed working on the house that he and his wife Edna built on the street they both grew up on. They were married for 57 years.

He was deeply loved by his family, his community and his co-workers. Although he traveled extensively, he found time to be very active in his community. He was a founder and past president of the South Shore Swimming Club and a founder of the Lake of the Pines Community Association. He was also a member of the Stolzenhaler Knights of Columbus and the Beauvais-Hudson American Legion Post. Those of us who worked with Bob remember him as a lovable, cantankerous Irishman that put his heart and soul into everything that he did.

He is survived by his wife Edna, his son Ed, his daughters Robette and Stacy, a brother James, three sisters, Mary, Margaret and Eleanor, 10 grandchildren and two great-grandsons. His son Ed is the current President of NABET Local 11 and also worked at NBC as a Lighting Director and Audio Engineer.

In this field that we have chosen for our careers, we've often had to spend many days, weeks and months away from our families. The people we lived with on the job became our families. We've had many losses of late, and that brings great sadness, but it also reminds us of what we all had together and to be glad for the memories that we are left with. Bob will always be remembered fondly in our hearts.



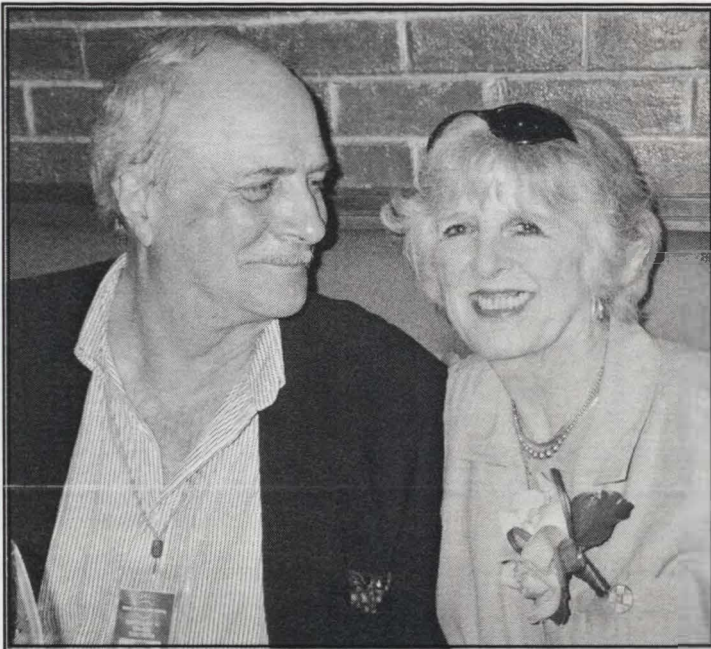
From Bob Davis:

I did many news shows including conventions with Bob McEwan and had the greatest respect for him and his work. He had a wonderful sense of humor and was tops in his area of expertise. He will be sorely missed.

[This photo was taken at the 2006 Spring Luncheon]





*Tributes to Silent Microphones***Joan Wands  
Remembered By John Libretto**

Randy Wands' wife, Joan, passed away after a recurrence of cancer. She was 74. The service was held on January 14th in Briarcliff Manor, NY.

Randy met Joan in England during the 1960's, and they were married in 1970. She accompanied Randy on many NBC events, in particular the 1988 Republican Convention coverage in New Orleans, and Randy's annual trip to Rome to produce the Christmas Eve Papal Mass at St. Peter's Basilica.

In addition to his years with the News Division, Randy was a lead Associate Director for NBC Sports.

Randy's address is:  
15 Liberty Street  
Ossining, NY 10562

**Dick Schneider**

Richard N. "Dick" Schneider, an 11 time Emmy-Winning Television Director worked on shows such as "Jeopardy", "The Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade" and "The Rose Bowl Parade" died on October 16, 2007 after suffering complications from Alzheimer's Disease, said his life partner James Maher.

While working for NBC he also directed, "The Eleanor Roosevelt Special", "Princess Margaret's Wedding" and "The Pope's Mass" at Yankee Stadium in 1964, to name a few.

Mr. Schneider was President of The National Academy of Television Arts and Sciences for several years in the early 1980s.

A Mass celebrating his life was held on Saturday, October 20, 2007 at St. Peter's Church in Great Barrington.

Donations in his memory can be made to the Alzheimer's Association New York City Chapter, through Finnerty and Steven's Funeral Home, 426 Main Street, Great Barrington, MA 01230.

Remembrances, memories and reflections may be sent to [finnertyandstevens.com](http://finnertyandstevens.com).



--from the New York Times



*Tributes to Silent Microphones***Perry Smith  
Remembered By His Friends**

I just had a phone call from Bonnie Smith, Perry Smith's daughter. Perry died in his sleep yesterday. He was the main producer at NBC Sports in the 50's and early 60's then he left to work with the New York Yankees and later CBS Sports. He gave me my start in the sports coverage at NBC in the mid 50's. A class act if there ever was one. When they are thinking Hall of Fame in TV sports he was there in the early times when it was all starting.

**Don Ellis** (November 5, 2007)

I am saddened to hear about Perry Smith. As Don Ellis explained, Perry gave Don and me a start as sports AD/SMs in the early 50s. Don stayed with it but I decided to go the Operations Management route ( I tried hard a number of times to get Don to come to Broadcast Ops, but failed). Perry was a terrific leader and a solid/creative production man. Perry was the #2 man in NBC Sports under Tom gallery. Harry Coyle, Jack Dillon and Bill Garden and were the lead Directors. Charlie Sieg and Jim Kitchell were in the picture too. Joan Putz, Perry's assistant, (sorry Joan, I don't remember your new name) was also an important member of the team. Someone mentioned Perry as a pipe smoker - he sure was. I have often said that out of all of the pipe smokers in NBC Management over the years, the only two I really trusted were Perry and Steve Flynn of Network Sales Traffic. The likes of Perry Smith come along very rarely. He will be missed by everyone who knew him.

**Jack Weir**

I want to express some thoughts as he and my dad were great friends and were close to the very end....In fact Perry was one of Dad's friends who got extra close as Dad was sick and made sure that my father had company. He would drive down to Palm Desert from Santa Barbra to visit and they would regale each other with stories from the good old days.....Then watch what ever sporting event was on and cover the game right out of the living room... The best I could understand was that Dad and Perry worked together at NBC in the 50's and then again in the 60's... Perry signed Dad's first DGA card and what ever the precursor guild/union was....they were in it together.... The stories of barnstorming the country covering college football and basketball were quite colorful --both in and out of the truck..... These guys had all been in World War II and were bonded by a higher experience..... Perry was in the Navy and I believe in the Submarine Service....which was a volunteer thing.....He saw his share and like Dad (who was a ambulance driver in the European and Africa theater of operations) was shaped by these experiences and the early days on the road was just another extension of combat....fortunately there was no death but what took place on the playing fields and arenas around the country and the rest of the world....

Life will not be the same with out Perry Smith...

Let's all be thankful that we knew him and be grateful for having been touched him are lives are better off!

**Michael Nathanson**

I also am saddened by the death of Perry Smith. As Michael Nathanson said, Perry was a class act - his tweed jackets, pipe and always his calm demeanor even when Tom G. was going on one of his "Monday Morning, after a game rampages" Perry never ever lost his cool!!! If Perry was your friend there was nothing he would not do for you!!! As Jack Weir mentioned Perry was a solid production man and a terrific leader. I had the pleasure of working with Perry and know first hand how much he loved the sports world and the great folks that worked with him. He taught me so much about the sports world and what it took to produce a game.

Perry was a wonderful family man, his lovely wife, Alice, who left this world way too soon and his daughter Bonnie and his two sons were the joy of his life!

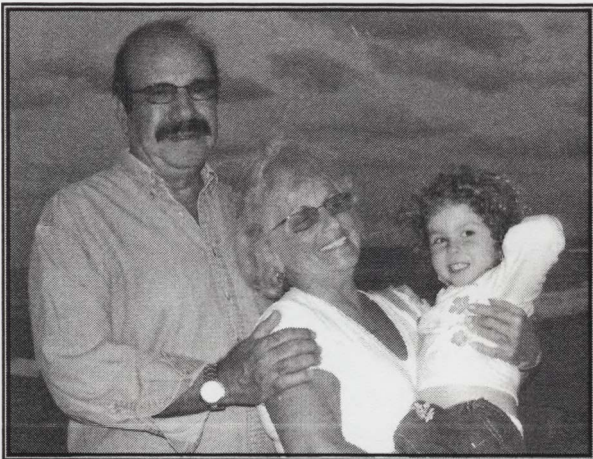
Perry also had a very dry sense of humor and was always playing practical jokes on all of us in the office - especially me. I will always cherish the years that I worked with Perry Smith. He will always be a tough act for anyone to follow. Without a doubt he belongs in the Hall of Fame for sports!!!! Definitely he will be missed by all who knew him.

**Joni Mackay (Putz)**



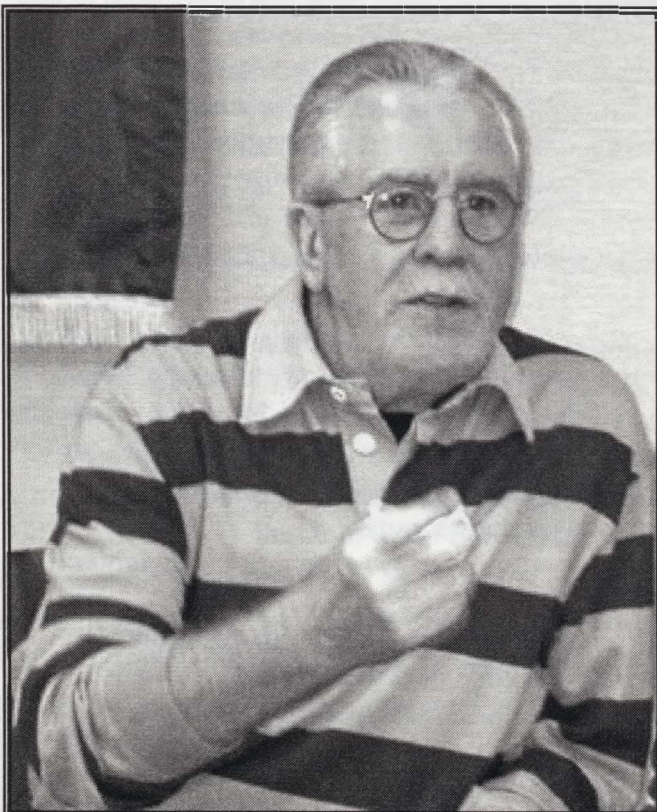
*Tributes to Silent Microphones***Sid Friedman  
Remembered By Bill Freeda and Dave Schmerler**

It is with great sadness that we announce the passing of Sid Friedman, 72, a 31 year member of the NBC family and the recipient of 4 Emmys. Sid passed away suddenly on September 22, 2007.



During his long career at NBC, Sid worked in Local and Network Television and Radio as a producer and manager, winning four Emmys. Sid also sometimes worked weekends as on-air talent at a small radio station in New Jersey, where he lived, and for a while was a part-owner of another radio station near the Jersey Shore.

After leaving NBC, Sid owned and operated a videotape preservation company in Englewood, NJ, until he retired and moved from Wayne, NJ to North Palm Beach, Florida with his wife, Judi. Sid is also survived by his children Laurie and Brian, Gregg and Chilea, Glenn and Liz, and the love of his life, granddaughter Skye.

**Kevin Mulreany  
Remembered By His Wife Marge**

Kevin Mulreany, an NBC employee for 34 years before his retirement in 2000, died on October 22, 2007 of a heart attack. He was 62. Kevin joined NBC in 1966. He first worked in the Film Exchange in New Jersey, before moving to 30 Rock in 1968 where for the next 12 years he worked alongside the late Alan Smiler in Film Editing. When Film went the way of the horse and buggy, Kevin moved into Videotape where he toiled until taking early retirement.

Kevin was born in Donegal, Ireland in 1945. After completing his education there, he moved to the US in 1966 when he was 21. He was already an American citizen, his mother having been born and raised in Macon, Georgia before moving with her parents to Ireland in the 1930s.

Kevin was married to the former Marjorie Bonner, who survives him, for 36 years. They lived in Manhattan. Since taking early retirement, Kevin & Marge traveled extensively. They also enjoyed long walks on the beach at their Summer home in Ortley Beach, New Jersey. Kevin's great loves were Marge, Manhattan, music (he attended the original Woodstock in 1969) and his cat Peewee, who died in 2000 at the age of 22 just weeks after his retirement.

Kevin's generosity, kindness and wit will be sorely missed by all those who knew and loved him.



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## New Peacock North Members

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Jim Marshall

Lenny Stucker

Joel Spector

(Peacock North Editor)

**E-mail:** peacocknorth@yahoo.com

### **Mailing Address:**

PO Box 112

Rowayton, CT 06853

**Rita Sultana** hails originally from Malta. She has been an important part of News Finance and a familiar face for many years.

**Jack Breslin** was part of the Press Department in both New York and Burbank. Lives now in New Rochelle, NY.

**Peter Gilmore** worked in News Film and EJ from 1956 - 1999. He always had a smile on his face. He and wife, Joan live in Manasquan, NJ.

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