



# Why Are These People Smiling?

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**Marilyn's Page**

This issue could not have been better timed, coming on the heels of the Yankees' 27<sup>th</sup> win of The World Series.

It perfectly coincides with our recap of the Tony Kubek Hall of Fame induction and the celebratory trip to Cooperstown made by 20 of us from the old Sports group to lend support and cheer him on. It was memorable.

On a completely different note, I am interested in conducting an in-depth interview of a PN member for each magazine. This group has a particularly rich history and I think it would be of great interest to document the variety of personalities and respective accomplishments which comprise our membership. I am looking for a volunteer to write the first interview. Please feel free to contact me via email at: [marilynaltman@optonline.net](mailto:marilynaltman@optonline.net) or by phone, 347.601.5530.

Now on to the magazine...

**PN Editor Requests Your Stories**

Dear Readers,

As we've said before in these pages, this magazine is what you contribute to it. We want to bring you more news of what our readers are doing right now. We have several articles in that vein in the current issue, but would like to have many more for future issues.

Please take a little time right now to consider your recent activities, both family- and work-related, and create a short article describing one which will interest your colleagues. I think you'll find that, once you start writing, it will soon be a question of what to leave out! We've all had very full lives, so there will be plenty of detail available.

One or two color photos, provided as full-resolution jpg files, should be attached to your MS Word ".doc" file and e-mailed to [peacocknorth@yahoo.com](mailto:peacocknorth@yahoo.com).

The more material we collect from our audience, the higher we reach on the "reader satisfaction meter."

I would be happy to discuss this with anyone, either via PN's e-mail or by phone, at 212-371-6962.

Good writing!

Joel Spector  
PN Editor

**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.



**What's Now!****Broadcast Shows Reach Audiences Online****Oct. 16, 2009****By ERIC KOHN, *Variety***

The major TV networks still rely on broadcast as their primary venue, even as the Internet lures away a growing portion of the audience that want social interaction, not just passive viewing.

Even the remaining viewers are likely to be multitasking on the couch. Network data shows that more than half its audience interacts with their computers while watching television.

So instead of treating the Internet as the enemy, networks have turned online content and social networking into an important tool for keeping their audience engaged.

"Our viewers happen to be using all these different things in tandem with the broadcast," explains Bill Bradford, Fox's senior vice president of content strategy. "We want to harness that activity and turn our viewers into marketers."

For example, when Fox researchers noticed a high activity of discussion about "Fringe" on Twitter while the show aired, the network decided to involve the talent. In September, it began airing "tweet-peat" episodes during the show (along with airings of "Glee"), where cast and crew members of the shows interacted with fans while the show aired.

Broadcasters also are offering online video feeds to be streamed with their telecasts. A live stream of behind-the-scenes footage for the MTV Video Music Awards, for example, garnered more than 1.7 million unique visitors. By putting that stream on the Web, MTV was able to get their show onto two screens in the living room, not just one. "Every network is looking for ways to reach their audience on the Web and monetize them," says Philip Nelson, senior VP of strategic development for NewTek, which provides technology for live video content. "Fans want to feel like they're in the inner circle."

Newtek's TriCaster live production system allows for a camera to be set up backstage or on the set of a program and stream additional content to its website. The company did the MTV feed and supplied similar content for VH1 and NBC's Miss Universe pageant. It also worked with "The Hills" to provide live online content from the show's producers that stream during its commercials.

"We're getting a lot of calls from celebrities (who) want to directly reach their fans, and from networks that want to do third-screen content," Nelson says. "It's all across the board."

## Two NBC Radio Pioneers By Jack Keegan

I thought that this would resonate with some of you NABET Engineering Types. While browsing the internet, I came across two articles concerning former NBC NABET engineers: Max Jacobson, who became the supervisor of field operations for NBC, and Peter Prinz, who continued his career as an engineer for NBC. Their stories unfold below.

WDBX, dubbed "New York's Smallest Radio Station," went on the air June 14, 1924, with a mere 5 watts. It was located in the back room of the Dyckman Radio Shop at 138 Dyckman Street in Inwood, near the northern tip of Manhattan. WDBX was the project of Edward C. Wilbur and Max Jacobson, both former shipboard operators and ham radio enthusiasts. Their friend, Eugene Delmar, was the announcer. The station was on the air Monday, Tuesday and Saturday nights and, despite its flea-sized power, was picked up as far away as Chicago. WDBX used a portable transmitter with the call letters WOKO, and, in 1925, Wilbur and Jacobson sold WOKO to radio-shop owner Otto Baur and subsequently shut down WDBX's operation. Wilbur and Jacobson later joined the WJZ engineering staff, with Jacobson eventually becoming the supervisor of field operations for NBC.

WMRJ - "Merrick Radio, Jamaica" - went on the air July 9, 1926, and was built by owner Peter J. Prinz in his Merrick Radio Store at 12 New York Blvd. The station was originally at 1320 AM. It had a 10-watt transmitter with a six-wire "inverted-L" antenna on the roof, and, in 1927, started to split its airtime with other small stations at 1450 AM. Garry Howard was studio manager and chief announcer. WMRJ had a strong tie-in with the Queens newspaper, The Long Island Daily Press, and it joined with the paper during the 1927 Christmas season to present a series of fund-raising marathons on behalf of holiday aid to the needy. WMRJ occasionally stayed on the air into the wee hours with "The Gloom Chasers" or a "Midnight Frolic" from the Merrick Theatre, and a 2 a.m. aid to insomniacs called "The Coffee Chasers." There were frequent request programs, and Prinz even arranged with record stores and companies to play records before their official public release.

When it appeared that the FRC (Federal Radio Commission) might revoke WMRJ's license in 1928, Queens Borough President Bernard Patten personally intervened on its behalf, citing frequent community service programs, and Congressman Robert Bacon called the station "indispensable" to Queens. The license was renewed, but the station was still squeezed in too closely to other local stations. In May 1930, it was authorized to move to 1210 AM, but had to keep its power down to 10 watts. The station moved its studios and transmitter to 146-10 Jamaica Avenue in July 1930, because the New York Avenue site was to be torn down.

In February 1931, Prinz moved WMRJ to 162-14 Jamaica Avenue, and, in April of that year, was finally able to increase its power to 100 watts. The station then found its license under challenge from a rival 100 miles away. Peter Goelet, scion of a wealthy banking family, was establishing a station on his Orange County estate and wanted WMRJ moved off the 1210 shared frequency. Goelet and the FRC examiner alleged violations of radio regulations, which Prinz denied at a Washington hearing.

It was around this time that WMRJ initiated its most memorable and influential program. In April 1932, John J. Anthony, the professional name of Lester Kroll - a prankster who once served a jail term for not keeping up his alimony payments - began a series "dedicated to helping the sufferers from an antiquated and outmoded domestic relations code." Troubled listeners in Queens could "Ask Mister Anthony," a self-styled expert on human relations. It was one of radio's first, and frankest, advice programs.

Unfortunately, Mr. Anthony couldn't solve Mr. Prinz's problems. The challenge from Peter Goelet was successful, and, in September 1932, Goelet bought WMRJ and took it off the air. John J. Anthony went on to national fame on the Mutual Network and Peter Prinz continued his career as an engineer for NBC.



## 1993 - Ah, We Remember It Well

### By Dan Grabel

PN has always been a vehicle for nostalgia, so talking with Peg Peterson recently, I asked if that old string saver, her late spouse Pete, had kept the early issues of PN which the Grabels had foolishly (but necessarily) tossed out when we down-sized from 12 rooms to six. A search of the Peterson attic provided half a dozen issues and, from them, we will be refurbishing your memories with names and deeds once familiar to all.

Your NBC "first generation" (Ripp/Peterson/Grabel) put out two issues in 1993. The later one will indeed stir recollections. Page one of the December issue featured photos of Walter Miller, who had won an Emmy for directing the Tony Awards show. There, too, two announcing staff stalwarts, Dick Dudley and Gino Hamilton. Dick had hosted a memorial for the recently departed Wayne Howell, the loquacious "Silver Fox," who had worked on "Broadway Open House." What a lineup of "brand" names at that memorial, which Dudley said was more like a Friar's club "roast" -- Mel Brandt, Arthur Gary, Vic Roby, Bill Hanrahan, Harry Fleetwood, Roger Tuttle, etc. Also, NBC News' longest-service woman employee -- Gloria Clyne.

Roger Tuttle -- we cannot go without further recollections. Roger, an aviation buff, built a lightweight airplane in his New Jersey garage, and, as I recall, he had to break down a wall to get the finished plane out!! Roger was big in trotting racing and had his own stable.

That year Garrick Utley departed NBC News to become ABC-tv's chief foreign correspondent, headquartered in London....Tom Brokaw, age 53, completed 10 years as host of "Nightly News" and announced that, at the end of his new three-year contract, he wanted to do something else. He didn't....Roger Ailes, who had been a political consultant to Nixon and George Bush #one, was named president of CNBC. Ailes had very solid credentials in tv -- the Mike Douglas show in the '60s, Tom Snyder in the '70s and an Emmy winner in '84....local newsman Henrik Krogus left NBC to edit a newspaper in Brooklyn Heights....and would you believe? The "Today Show" moved to a store-front studio on 49th Street. T'was a few yards East of the spot where Dave Garroway reigned in the original days of "Today," (1952) and we were one of the news-writing crew along with, lemme see -- Dave Teitelbaum, Eliot Frankel, Denny Dalton, Mort Hochstein and a few others. I can see them in my mind's eye but cannot recall the names. Gerry Green was exec producer. "Major" served the coffee and buns to "Green Room" guests. A pair of animal trainers made J. Fred Muggs, the chimp, a household name. Jac Hein directed and Paul Ransom was the AD. Steve Madrick and Cal Brodhead were among the engineers. Frank Blair, a WWII U.S. Navy fighter pilot, was the newscaster. Lee Meriwether was the weather girl. Earlier weather girls included Florence Henderson, Helen O'Connell and Muriel McPherson. One day, a retired Harry Truman, perambulating midtown, stopped for a look.

NBC engineers had a very active ham radio network going in 1993, and I was, perhaps, the only non-engineer who tuned in from N2FLR, which I still use occasionally as my FCC call sign. Those "hams" included Heino Ripp (who was PN's publisher until he turned the reins over to Frank Vierling), Ken Arber, Bud Shadel, Joe Kolb, Rick Berman, John Ward, Bill Miller and Hank Folkerts, who acted as net control. Also, Arthur Anderson, Walter Dibbins, Teddy Seiter, Peter Peterson, John Lough, John Rice, Hank Gerling, Harold Mofsen, Mike Madigan, Lee Carlton, Jim Kneeland, Walter Vetter. West Coast stations included Ed Wackernagle and Bob Juncosa.

We had "Silent Mikes" in 1993. Director Walter Kravetz, 63. Director Charlie Seig, 69. Director/producer Ray Lockhart, 65. Newsman Bill Corley, 76. Engineer Nick Bruno, LD Bill Raker, and TM Alan Henderson.

The NBC 25-Year Club was a big deal in that era. (Today, who's still on staff after 25 years? Not many.) CEO Bob Wright inducted 50 veteran employees into the club in '93. A special 50-year kudo to announcer Howard Reig, who died in '09. As far as we can ascertain, Laura Skidmore is NBC's longevity queen -- having worked for the company for 55 years in 1993 -- and was still employed. So she was five years ahead of Reig. Howard's recorded voice was heard on the "Nightly News" opening billboard until around 2007, but he was no longer a day-to-day employee. Actor Michael Douglas' is now recording billboards for NN. That was 1993; ah, we remember it well. (with notes, that is).

Finally, remember these sign-offs? "So long until tomorrow." "Glad we could get together!" and "Good Night David. Good Night, Chet."



*We Get Pictures*

**Orlando Golf Crew - 1980 - Courtesy of Rodger Harbaugh**



Top row: Al Camoin, Guy in mask?, Chuck Riesner, Rubin Quinones, Cory Leible,  
Don Ohlmeyer, Jerry Hockman, Brian Sheriff, Mike Stramisky, Horace Ruiz Stan Bosill.  
Bottom row: Dana Martain, Rodger Harbaugh, Tom Forletta, Mike Dodds



*We Get Letters and Pictures*



**Hank, NBC Chairman and CEO Grant Tinker, Mort**

Dear Folks,

I wonder if Peacock North would consider paying tribute to a couple of unsung heroes?

Hank Huestis and Mort Aronoff, acting unofficially and out of the kindness of their hearts, saved a lot of us way back when. We were drunks.

Friends or enlightened managers sought out Hank and Mort. They got us started in AA, connected us with a wonderful therapist (after rehab, in some cases) and then went on to the next fallen colleague. I wonder if Hank and Mort realized how many NBC people kept their jobs, their marriages, their health - even their lives - because of their interventions?

In time, management woke up and I understand Hank and Mort were given quasi-official status. I think they should have gotten the NBC Medal of Honor.

In lieu of that, do you think you can persuade Hank to take a bow at the next luncheon? I know some people who will lead the cheering. Anonymously, of course.

Joel,

I read the note with a smile on my face, and a tear in my eye. There isn't a day goes by when I don't think of Mort and the EAP [Employee Assistance] program. We enjoyed immensely the work that we were privileged to do. Mostly there were successes and a few that had sad endings. Unfortunately Mort did not get to live long after retirement and needless to say I miss the guy! Trying to help our fellow employees at NBC was truly a labor of love and I thank the writer of this note for his kind remarks.

Hank

## What's Now!

### Interviews With Legends of Television Hit the Web



Milton Berle, Bob Hope, Walter Cronkite and other notable alumni from television's golden age are now telling their life stories on YouTube.

On September 14, 2009, the Academy of Television Arts & Sciences Foundation will introduce EmmyTVLegends.org, a Web site that organizes its voluminous collection of interviews with TV industry legends. Its oral histories of one medium, television, are being made available to the public via another medium, the Internet.

The academy founded its preservation arm, called the Archive of American Television, more than a decade ago. Its goal was to record interviews with stars, producers, writers and executives "to create a digital encyclopedia of TV history," said Karen Herman, the director of the archive.

Until the archive embarked on a digitization process, its stacks of videotapes languished in a temperature-controlled vault, accessible only to the researchers who visited the academy's office.

Terri Clark, the executive director of the television academy's foundation, said the archive included 630 long-form interviews to date, including four and a half hours with Mr. Cronkite, the CBS anchorman who died in July.

Some of the interviews were uploaded to YouTube previously but were difficult to navigate there. The new site allows visitors to browse by people, shows, professions and topics, and flags highlights within the videos.

The developers have added about 100 more hours of video in preparation for the new site. "It is such a treasure trove," Ms. Herman said. Still, only half of the collection is online; Ms. Clark said more would be added.

The archive conducts about 50 interviews a year. Ms. Herman said most individuals who are approached by the archive are happy to talk about their experiences, but a few prominent names — she mentioned Mel Brooks, Bill Cosby and Jerry Seinfeld — had been hard to book.

**--BRIAN STELTER, New York Times, September 14, 2009**

**[PN Editor's Note: Several of our members, including Heino Ripp, are included in this collection.]**



## What's Now!

### NBC Legend and his Legendary House



Former NBC Tech Manager Tony Piwowar said that the "Station Fire" burned near his home near Tujunga Canyon, but he can no longer see the flames. He says the charred hill behind his house in the Seven Hills neighborhood now looks like "the surface of the moon." He evacuated his wife and pets, but he stayed behind with his son to fight the flames. It appears their perseverance has paid off. Piwowar and the firefighters pushed the blaze back and saved his home. Tony says he's lived in the house located on a cul-de-sac since 1987. "[The fire] crested over the top of the mountain tops, and once that happened it started coming down, it really got an inferno here," said Tony. His wife, Carol, had already left with a carload of items and their two dogs, Piwowar said, and he would be joining her in Silver Lake where they will be staying with a relative. As the flames closed to within a quarter-mile of his house, Piwowar couldn't help but look wistfully at the home where he has lived the last 22 years, even as he watched firefighting crews assemble on his street. "I feel kind of numb, but the firefighters say my house is defensible," he said. "They feel good about being able to fight off a fire."



It also is a house that Piwowar said has other special connections. "This is the house where 'E. T.' was filmed," referring to the 1982 Steven Spielberg classic. It was the house in which Elliot and his family lived. "It's scary when you see the flames lapping that close." The home, where Drew Barrymore's character and her brothers hid an alien in Steven Spielberg's movie, is no longer in immediate danger. The fire has burned through an area the size of Chicago, IL.

--From combined print and broadcast reports, September - and thanks to PNER Walt Ryan for the heads up on this story!



*We Get Letters and Pictures*

Dear Peacock Editors:

I always enjoy reading and looking at the pictures in your great publication. I especially enjoy the section WE GET PICTURES. I worked with NBC for 29 years from 1952 until 1981. Most of my work was done at 30 Rockefeller Plaza in New York City.

Several years ago I moved to California to be with my family. I am enclosing a picture and hope that you find it suitable for publication in your next edition. I am now 89 years old and will turn 90 on December 15, 2009.

The people in this picture are:

Top row left to right: Mackenzie Buchta (16), Nick Buchta (23), Carly Steffensen (21), Ben Buchta (19), and Zachary Buchta (21).

Bottom row left to right: my wife Beatrice and myself.

Again I enjoy your publication and look forward to reading it for many years to come. If you find that this picture is suitable for publication, I want to thank you in advance for your thoughtfulness. If you would like any further information, please telephone me at the number below:

Alfred H. Buchta, Sr.  
2816 Tice Creek Dr, Apt 7  
Walnut Creek, CA 94595-3216  
Telephone: (925) 934-2188

Thank you.

Al Buchta.



*We Get Pictures***A 44-Year Audio Connection Continues**

Left to Right: Ed Greene, Harvey Geminder, Ed Moskowitz, Joel Spector, Larry Estrin.

The newcomer at this recent luncheon at Art's Deli in Studio City, CA, was **Harvey**. He and Joel had worked together for NBC Radio in New York in the 1960s.

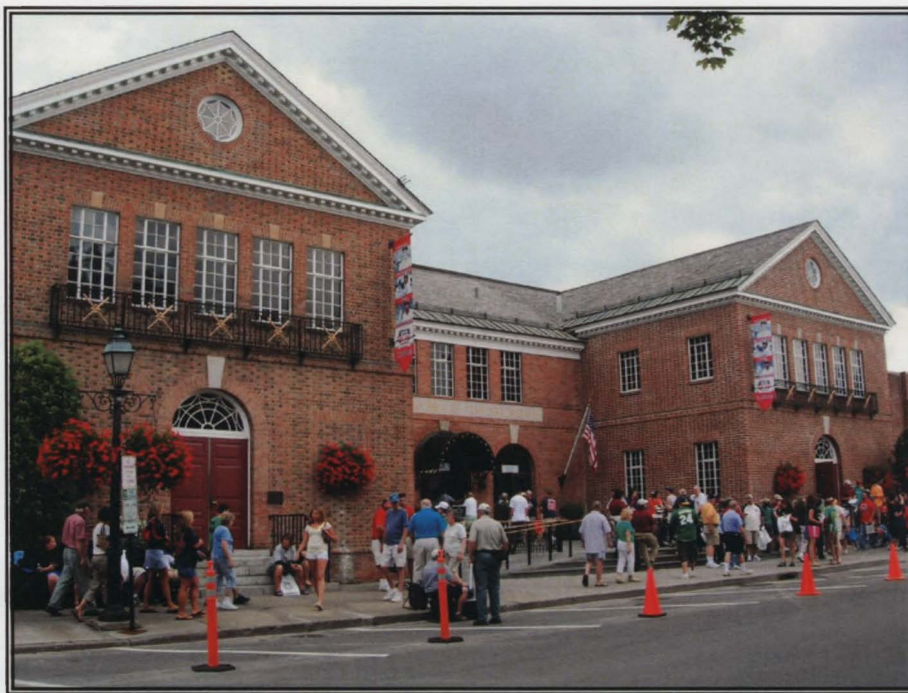
**Larry Estrin** was president of Hollywood Sound Systems in 1975 when the company rented a full package of audio equipment to NBC for the startup of "Saturday Night Live." HSS audio engineer **Ed Moskowitz** came to New York in 1976 to service that account, and he and Joel became friends. When Joel visited Ed in Los Angeles six months later, he discovered that Harvey had moved to the L.A. area and become good friends with Ed. What brought Harvey to California? Choosing a new career in aerospace engineering!

To complete the group, veteran free-lance audio engineer **Ed Greene**, whom Joel had met during a training class at NBC, came to NBC New York to mix two SNL shows in 1988. He and Joel soon began to work together several times each year on the Grammy and Tony Awards shows, as well as the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade, and they continue this association to the present day.

## A Weekend in Cooperstown

By Ken Fouts

Photos by Bob Van Ry



Using an old phrase - "a good time was had by all" - absolutely describes the weekend of July 24<sup>th</sup>, 25<sup>th</sup>, and 26<sup>th</sup> for a small group of us NBC Sports alumni attending the National Baseball Hall of Fame induction in Cooperstown, NY. The reason for our gathering was to witness our former colleague and good friend, Tony Kubek, receive the Ford C. Frick award by the Hall of Fame, and to have his picture forever placed in the broadcasting section of the Museum. He will be alongside the likes of Mel Allen, Red Barber, Vin Sculley, and Tony's former partners on the NBC Saturday Game of the Week, Curt Gowdy and Joe Garagiola, along with 26 other baseball broadcasters. The award was first given in 1978, honoring old-time baseball writer and former baseball commissioner (from 1951 to 1965) Ford C. Frick.

Cooperstown is the perfect setting for such an historic Museum and Hall of Fame. The picturesque town is nestled in the rolling landscape of upstate New York, with pristine lakes and green valleys adding to the serenity of the location. George Smith, Joe Gianquinto, Bob Van Ry, Larry Cirillo, Bill Potts, Mike Hadley, myself and my wife Meta, arrived on Friday and checked into our motel. We spent the next two days reminiscing over drinks and dinners and touring the Hall of Fame and Museum.

Sunday, the day of the ceremony, Tom Merritt and wife Dana, and Marilyn Altman with husband John, arrived in time to catch a special shuttle to the site. 20,000 people were expected at the induction, so that the special shuttle, and the tickets to the reserved section right behind Tony's family, turned out to be very important. Our thanks go to Becky Ashe of the Hall of Fame. She arranged our motel, the ride on the shuttle, the tickets to the Hall and the reserved seating at the ceremony.

The new inductees into the players Hall of Fame included Jim Rice, Ricky Henderson and Joe Gordon. Seated on the stage behind them were current living members of the Hall such as Bob Feller, Monte Irvin, Hank Aaron, Rollie Fingers, Sandy Koufax (who also worked with us at NBC), Joe Morgan, Tony Perez, John Bench, Sparky Anderson and on and on. As I watched them each being introduced, I realized that most of them had appeared on the NBC Saturday Game of the Week many years ago. Even though that relationship between NBC and Major League Baseball ended in 1989, after more than 40 years of nationally broadcasting games, it all seemed like just yesterday. Each player brought back great memories for me and I am sure for all the others seated beside me.

(Continued)





**At the reception...**

**(Left to Right) Joe Gianquinto , Larry Cirillo, Mike Hadley, Marilyn Altman, Tony Kubek, George Smith, Ken Fouts, Bob Costas, Bob Van Ry, Tom Merritt, Bill Potts**

Even though the weather threatened rain and we were not under any shelter, the clouds parted, the sun came out, and, finally, it was time for the award to Tony. The president of the Hall, Jeff Idelson; the chairwoman of the Board of Directors of the Hall, Jane Forbes Clark; and former pitcher and Hall of Famer Don Sutton, surrounded Kubek as he was introduced and presented his award. Tony spoke in glowing terms of his many years with NBC and his gratitude to Chet Simmons, then vice president of Sports, for hiring him when his baseball career as a Yankee shortstop was cut short by an injury. All too soon the presentation was over, and we headed back to our motel. We had something special waiting there for Tony and his family.

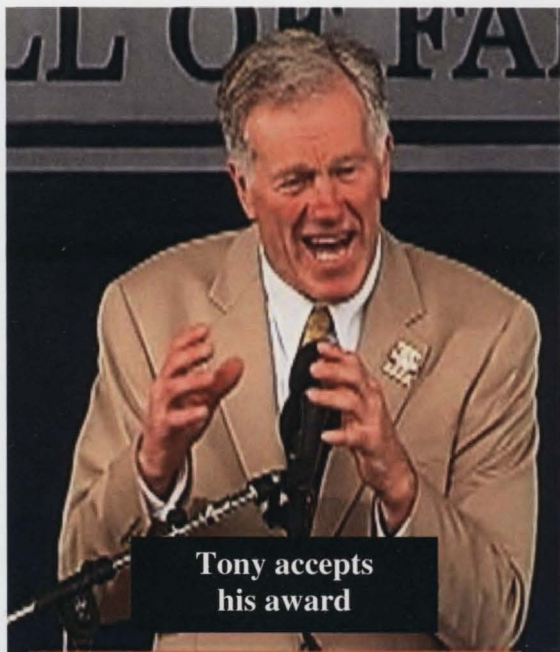
Thanks to George Smith and Bill Potts and all who had contributed, a reception was held honoring Kubek. The food and drinks were secondary to the renewing of old friendships and listening to old "war" stories. Tony's wife, Margaret, with their four adult married children and many grandchildren, made the party a huge success. Bob Costas and his wife; Moose Skowron (a former Yankee player and Tony's first roommate in the majors); and Keith Olberman of MSNBC, were among guests enjoying the time with the Kubek family.

Bill Potts had assembled a memory book for Tony, which included many letters and notes from his colleagues at NBC, old tickets to some of his World Series and other games, an old NBC patch that was used on the announcers' blazers, and many, many pictures of Tony at work during those wonderful years. The pictures included some of those in our group who are no longer with us: Harry, Scotty, Carl, Teddy, Dick and, most recently, Arnie Reif. We all held our glasses high to toast them all.

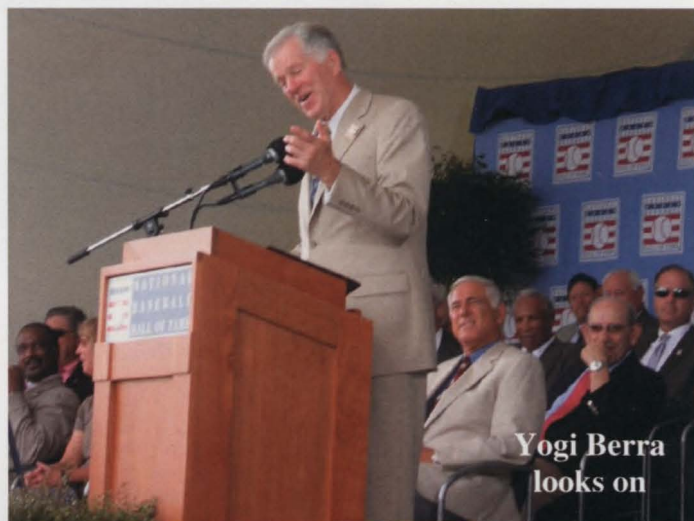
It was a great weekend, and we tried to represent all who wanted to attend, but couldn't be there. Tony was grateful, and very pleased that all his old NBC cronies felt that he deserved this reception and the book. It was hard to see it all end, but the drive away from Cooperstown, with all its natural beauty and picturesque setting, left wonderful memories of a great weekend. "A good time was had by all."



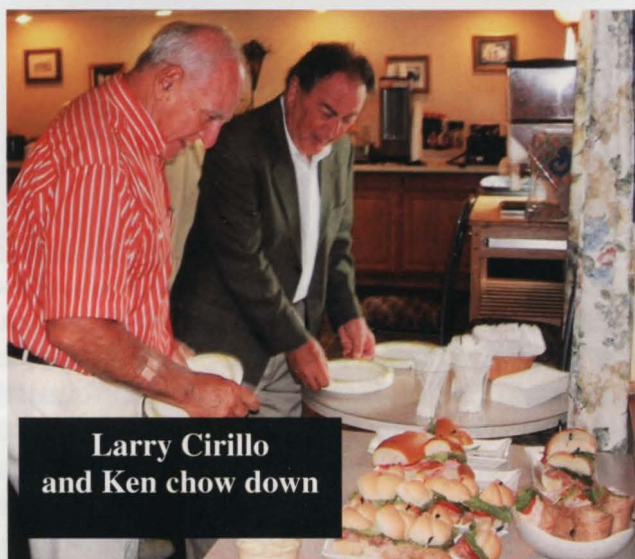
## Tony Kubek at Baseball Hall of Fame



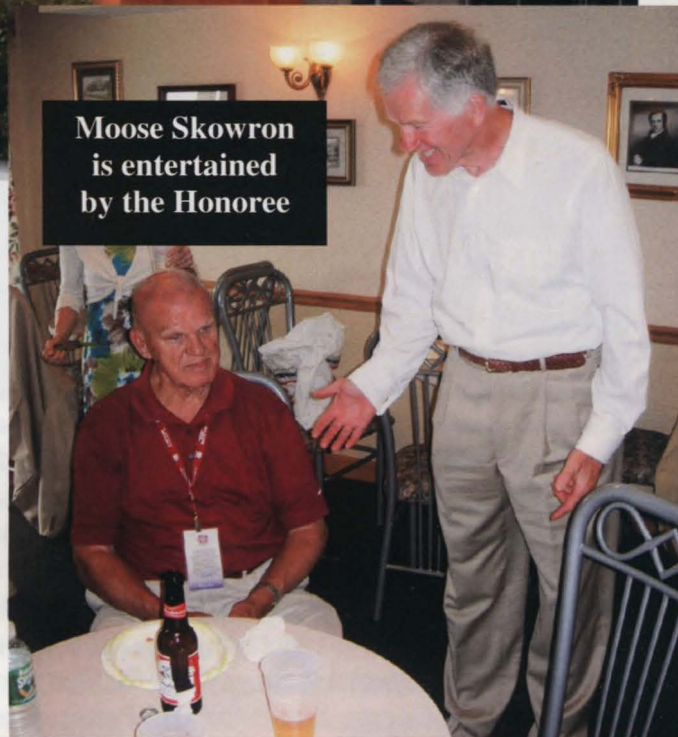
Tony accepts his award



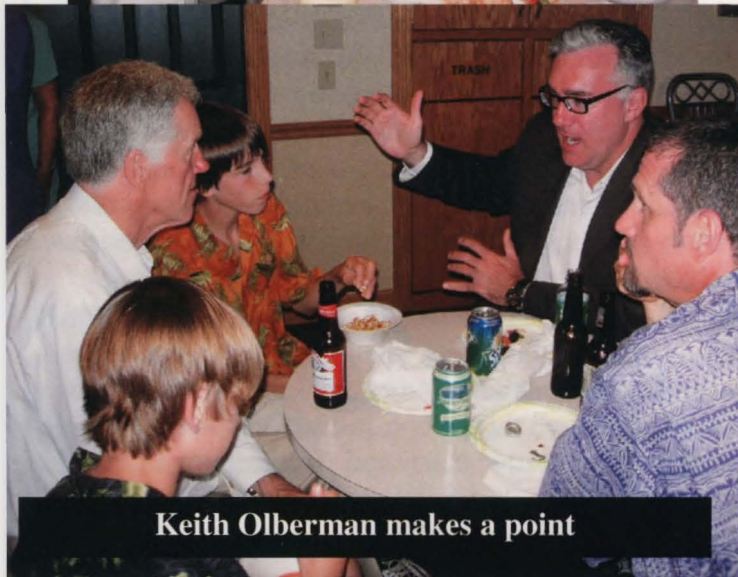
Yogi Berra looks on



Larry Cirillo and Ken chow down



Moose Skowron is entertained by the Honoree



Keith Olberman makes a point

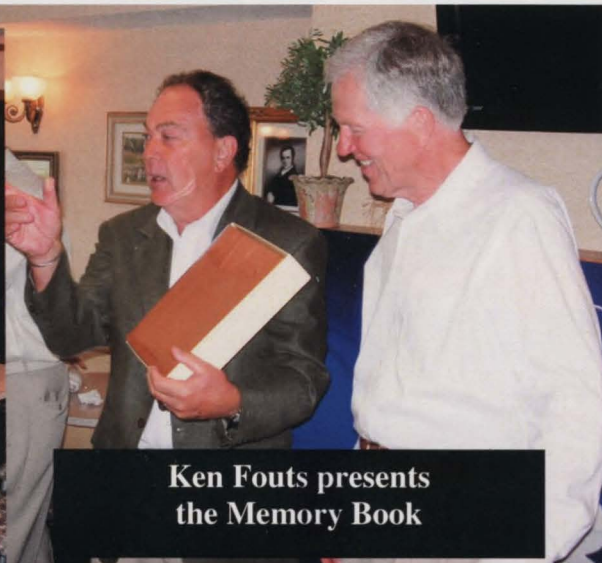


Bob Costas soaks up the details

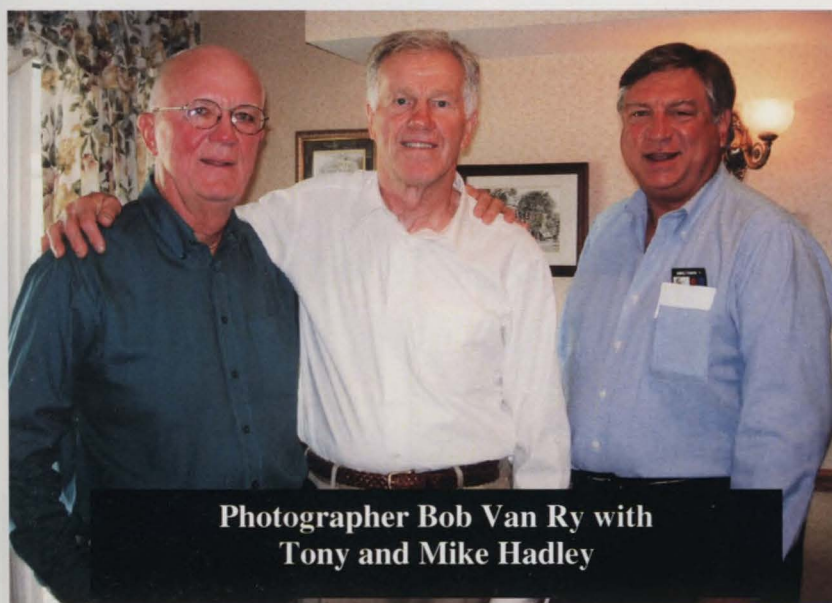


**Tony Kubek at Baseball Hall of Fame**

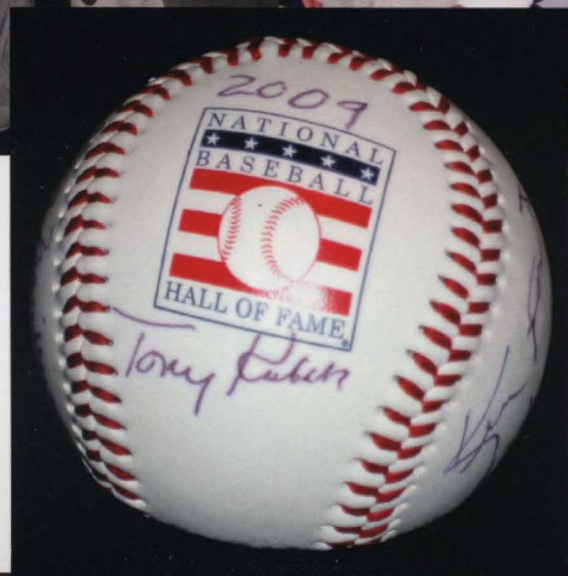
A packed house enjoys good food  
and a great schmoose



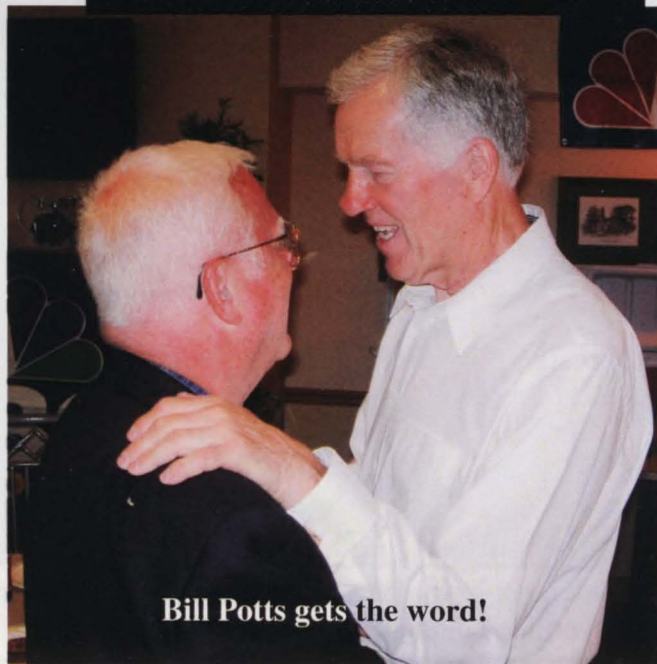
Ken Fouts presents  
the Memory Book



Photographer Bob Van Ry with  
Tony and Mike Hadley



Tony's wife Margaret



Bill Potts gets the word!



*We Get Letters and Pictures*

**Live From The Moon - and Studio 8H  
Apollo 11 Landing  
July 1969**

**From the photo files of Peter Flynn, Manager, Program Operations, NBC Radio Network,  
from 1968 - 1972**



**Frank McGee at the anchor desk**



**Crane crew at the ready**

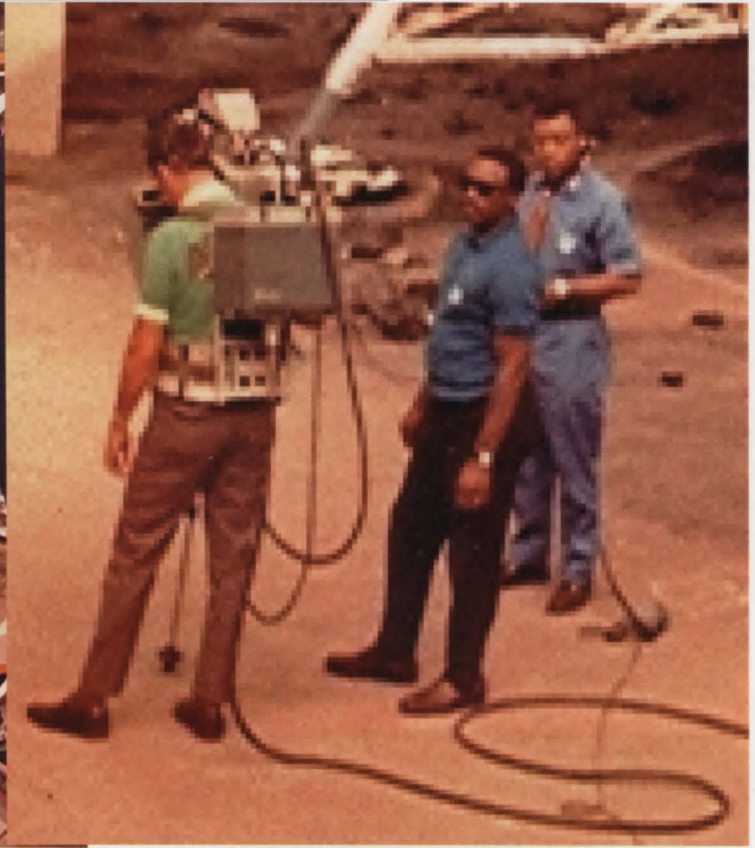
Hi Joel...attached are my shots of 8H and the Apollo 11 set-up. Taken with my trusty "Primo Jr"... All the wide shots were taken from the balcony where network radio was originating our coverage. The landing was covered on radio from MONITOR's Radio Central on the fifth floor. I'll never forget it. I was in the control room of 5B (Radio Central) on two phones - one to Kennedy Space Center and the other to the Johnson Space Center in Houston. Al Reyes was the AD down in Houston. He called me just before the landing and said "I've got someone who wants to say hello..." and he put my brother Michael on - who lives in Houston. I was so flustered I told him to get the !@#\$ off the phone and put Al back on (not a very charitable thing to do). I think Bob Sosman was the AD in New York. We had a TV monitor in the studio for the on-air people. When Armstrong started descending the ladder to the surface of the moon, a hush fell over all of us. This was a seminal moment for me because, in all the pressure and rush to get everything in place for the coverage, it was being treated like any coverage of any event. Suddenly I realized what the heck was happening, and said "Holy s - - t. This is what it's all about!!" An incredible, memorable moment.

Buzz Aldrin graduated with Laura [the eventual Mrs. Flynn] from Montclair High in New Jersey, and he attended a reunion not long after. And we had a "Buzz Aldrin Day" which I have pictures of, with him riding on the back of a convertible in the parade, etc.



*We Get Letters and Pictures*

**LEM - Lunar Excursion Module  
dwarfs camera crew  
and Dr. Field (on platform at left)**



**At right, Stage Manager  
Fred Lights works with  
an early minicam crew**



**Command Module  
with suited Astronaut and Scenic Artist**



**Weather and Science Reporter  
Dr. Frank Field gets made up**

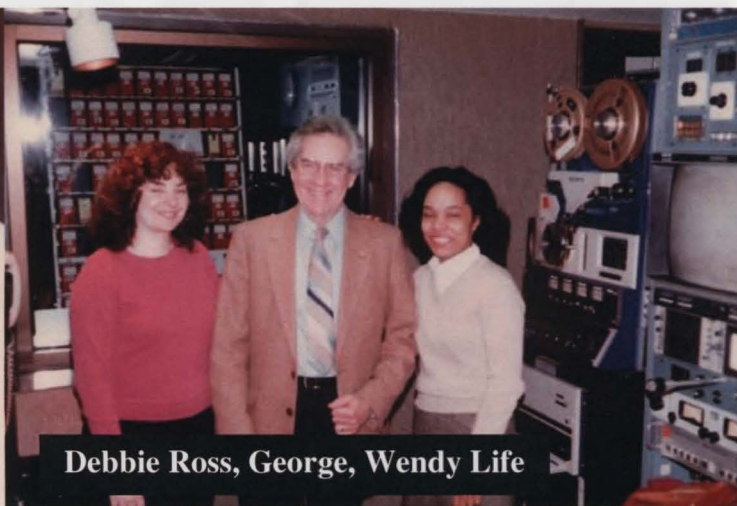


*We Get Photos*

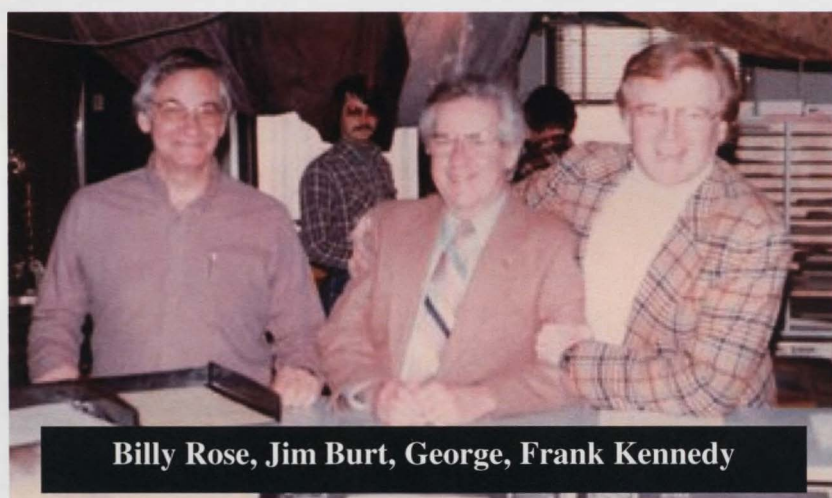
**More Goodies from  
The Rudick Files - March 1983 - George Morrow Retires**



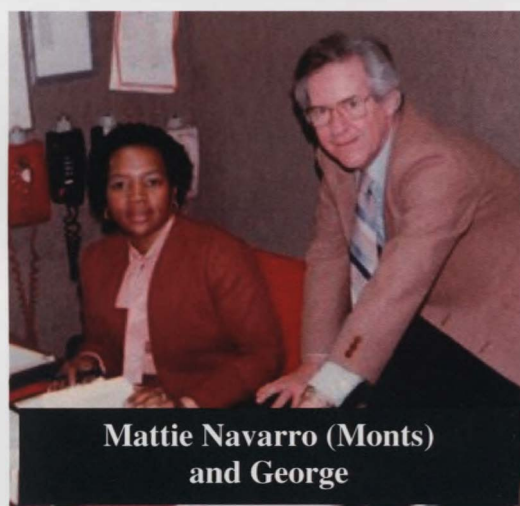
**Miles Owens, Roy Denny, George, Tim Gorry**



**Debbie Ross, George, Wendy Life**



**Billy Rose, Jim Burt, George, Frank Kennedy**



**Mattie Navarro (Monts)  
and George**



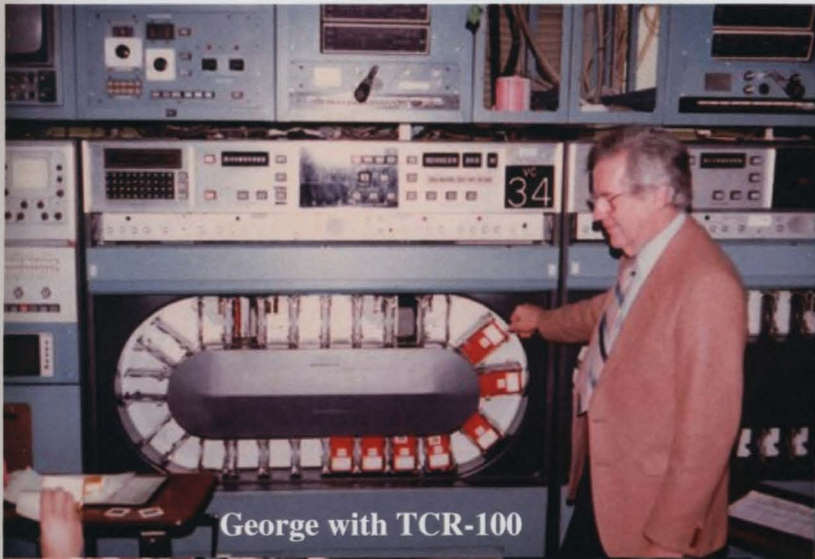
**George with Marge McGlynn**



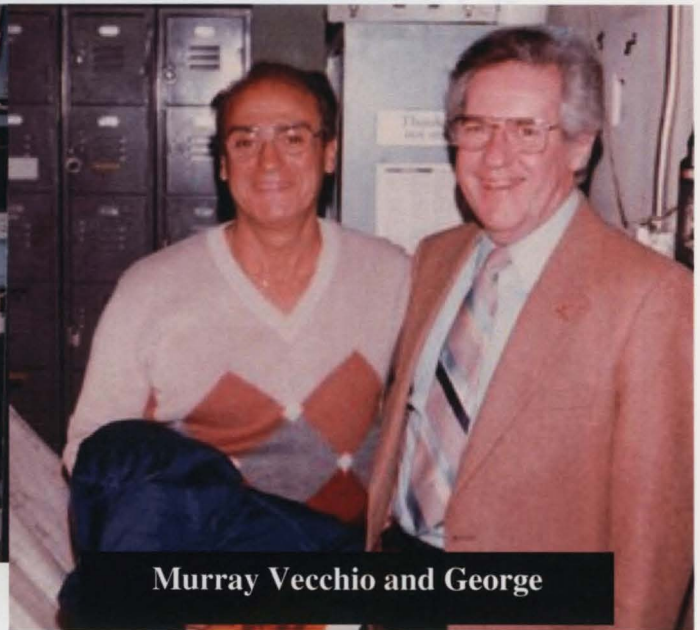
**Dorene Hyman, Vern Nugent, Ivan Karson**



*We Get Photos*



George with TCR-100



Murray Vecchio and George



Bruce Schachat



Harvey Telmar



The one and only Bob Rudick



**Dept. of Restored Omissions**

**Pictured above are three long-time supporters of Peacock North:**

**Vic Roby, Audrey Marshall and Bill McConnell.**

**The veteran staff announcer and his colleagues from Network Advertising & Promotion were omitted from last issue's Spring Luncheon photo spread due to an unfortunate editorial error.**

**"It won't happen again!" vowed their friend of 44 years, PN Editor Joel Spector.**



**Live From Studio 8H - It's Ed Wynn, the Texaco Fire Chief.  
The year is 1934 and "Don Voorhees" leads the NBC Studio Orchestra.  
As "Donald Voorhees" he would become the Musical Director of "The Bell Telephone Hour."**





*We Get Letters and Pictures*



**Ski Patrolman - ca. 1960**



*We Get Letters and Pictures*

## TO SKI By Herb Oxman

Or not to ski? That was the question 60 years ago. It was the second Winter of my employment at NBC. In those days of live television, we worked weekends and holidays.

A fellow engineer, Art Graham, invited me to go skiing midweek. Owning no equipment, including winter underwear, I was able to borrow a pair of leather ski boots. We set out for Belleayre Ski area in the Catskills, NY.

The next two days changed my life. The first morning I rented the skis & poles. Do you have any idea what skis were like in those days? Wooden slats, with 4 or 5 pieces of steel edges per side held by a minimum of 20 screws per piece. The bindings were aptly named "bear traps" - once in, you do not get out!

I signed up for a morning lesson, which consisted of learning how to execute a snowplow, turn and stop. Simply put, you placed your skis in an inverted "V" and pushed your knees inward.

Lunch time - and then, the moment of truth! Both my friends said, "Let's go up to the top." There was a single chair lift. I watched them get on, which seemed simple enough. I shuffled into place; as I sat down, the momentum of the chair knocked me forward. My skis dipped down into the snow, and, as the chair continued to move forward, the skis dug in deeper. I was about to fall off the chair, but making a last-minute Herculean effort, I popped them out of the snow.

My next concern? I shouted up ahead, "How the hell do I get off?" They yelled back, "Just stand up and skate off to the right." Apprehensively, I watched them get off as I approached the top and it became my turn. I stood up, attempted to "skate" to the right. Nothing happened except the chair hit me in the ass and I was on my way up, when (fortunately) the lift attendant stopped the chair in enough time to lift me off - to my embarrassment.

In two days I broke a ski each day. Cost: \$5.00 each. After many falls, skiing as fast as I could without killing myself, was I deterred? Never gave it another thought. Non-skiers do not know what they are missing. The beauty of the mountains under a blanket of snow, especially if the limbs of the trees are full of snow; the invigorating air; the thrill of conquering the challenge of the hill; and the friendship of fellow skiers.

In the past 60 years, I've skied in over 100 different areas (many times over), all over the world. I have a wind-breaker with a ski patch for each location. My son and daughter have skied since two years of age. My son's two sons were ski racers of renown and are presently "extreme" skiers. If you don't know what they are, I recommend a DVD entitled STEEP.

With today's sophisticated equipment, anyone can learn to ski safely and remain in control.

So, "To Ski or Not to Ski?" - that is not the question.

SKI!

# Looking BACK

By Frank Vierling

*Over the years I have picked my memory dry, so I am reaching back into my computer's memory to repeat two columns from yesteryear.*

*I started my career at NBC in January 1949, so this reprise seems appropriate, a mere 60 years ago, almost the birth of commercial TV and certainly early pioneering days when everything done was a first.*

New York Times, February 3, 1949

## Radio and Television

### 4-Hour Ground-and-Air Video Program on Sunday Over NBC to Offer Nation's Sights

A four-hour ground-and-air television program giving viewers aerial sights of New York, Washington, Cleveland and Chicago will be presented next Sunday at 1 P.M. by NBC in cooperation with the Air Force. Two Air Force transport planes, one flying over the two western cities and the other over New York and Washington, will carry NBC cameras and announcers aloft. Ben Grauer will be aboard a C-47 taking off from Washington's Bolling Field and Roy Michaels will report from the C-54 giving air views of Chicago and Cleveland. Air Force officers in NBC's New York studios will explain the significance of the program.

Special receiving antennas have been installed at NBC buildings in the four cities to receive the signals transmitted from the planes.

William Garden, director of NBC Television field programs, will be in charge of the telecast. Edwin C. Wilbur, NBC television field supervisor, is in charge of engineering preparations. *(Having only been hired in January and not yet assigned to the TV Field group, I had no part in this ground-breaking live TV event. It was the precursor of another ground-breaker, "Wide, Wide World.")*

Grace and Paul Hartman will enter their first regular series for television on Sunday, February 27, from 7:30 to 8 P.M., opening a weekly situation comedy, "The Hartmans," on NBC's East Coast network. An "at home" atmosphere will be the setting for the program, sponsored by Textron, Inc.

The pair will not be newcomers before the television cameras, having earlier recreated their roles in "Angel In The Wings" over NBC's facilities. They are now appearing in another Broadway musical, "All For Love."

"Mary Kay and Johnny," the husband and wife television comedy featuring the Stearns, will vacate the

WNBT stand on Sunday from 7 to 7:30 P.M., in favor of the wider circulation over five Eastern CBS stations, starting Wednesday, Feb. 23, from 9 to 9:30 P.M.

Scanning the TV schedule for early February 1949 we note that WABD, the DuMont network, was the only station with morning programming. At noon WJZ did a news spot, then on the hour through 6 P.M.

WNBT started its day at 2:30 with Bess Johnson's "Women's Club" and at 3:00 Gordon B. Halstead took us Traveling. The "Three Flames" had a 15 minute stint following "Travel." At 3:30 "We're On" aired with Virginia Gilmore and Yul Brynner, with guests William Eythe and Carol Channing.

"Figure Magic" hosted by Claire Mann filled 15 minutes until Edward McGinley gave piano lessons at 4:15, followed by Story Teller Marie Cimino, which took us up to 5 P.M. and the *first* soap, "These Are My Children."

"What time is it?" – "It's Howdy Doody time," chimed in the peanut gallery at 5:30 with Bob Smith. At 6 "Easy Does It" featured Adele Girard and Johnny Andrews. *(He was a good friend of PN.)* Their 15 minutes came before Tex Antoine caught us up on the weather. At 6:30 there was the "Ed Herlihy Show" followed at 7 by "Kukla, Fran and Ollie." *(No 7 o'clock news.) (By that time I was with the Field Group. Field often made up the Howdy crew when the studio crews were busy on the "Big Shows." I did the audio from the Johnny Victor Theater when Kukla came to town. Gene Martin was the boom operator.)*

While Douglas Edwards was reporting news on CBS at 7:30, NBC aired a 50-minute film, "The Eyes Have It" and filled out that hour with "News Reel Theater." The "Phil Silvers Show" aired at 8, featuring Joey Faye, Jack Gilford, Jack Diamond, the Harry Salter Orchestra and the Mack Triplets. (Phil Silvers was aired from 3B with the Green Field equipment.)

Lanny Ross and the Harry Simeone Orchestra took the stage for an hour at 8:30 and at 9:30 Dunninger, with Paul Winchell, mystified the TV audience with his mind reading act. *(Dunninger's famous rehearsal line to the director, "Where do you want me to stand, do you think I'm a mind reader?")*

*(One of the early Lanny Ross shows, from 8G, had a Dutch motif. The set featured an ice rink. But the ice was not freezing. Scheduled for an early evening hour, it had to be delayed, and delayed, with apologies to the viewing audience. TD was Frank Burns, Lighting by Hank Frisch, assisted by Herb Greeley and this writer.)*

At 10, Dr. Roy Marshall brought us fifteen minutes of the "Nature of Things" followed by "NBC Presents," ending NBC's day.





## ***Jumping ahead to Spring 1950 with Excerpts from the New York Times.***

Households with TVs were treated to Bob Hope's network television debut. Bob hosted a ninety-minute "Star Spangled Review" on NBC starting at 5:30 in the afternoon. His guest was Beatrice Lillie.

*"The cost of Bob Hope's holiday show on NBC television this afternoon (April 9) is expected to run to about \$135,000, including fees for talent, rehearsal expenses and payment for the hour and a half time on the air. By comparison, the cost of bringing the musical "South Pacific" to Broadway was about \$180,000."*

Other TV fare included CBS covering Easter Morning Worship from Central Park, and later WPIX and all the networks covered the Easter Parade on 5th Avenue with Gene Lockhart as MC. His radio-mike antenna got detached resulting in the loss of Gene's opening greeting until a regular mike was supplied. *(This writer was there).*

On the radio dial CBS aired an adaptation of the Kaufman-Ferber play, "Dinner at Eight" with a cast including Charles Boyer, John Garfield, Deborah Kerr, Dorothy McGuire, Otto Kruger and Jan Sterling. NBC broadcast the Sistine Chapel Choir from Rome, WQXR presented "Parsifal" and WOR offered "Triumphant Hour" with Bing Crosby, Fibber McGee and Molly, Jimmy Durante and others.

Baseball was on the TV screens – WOR-TV was covering the Dodgers with Red Barber, WABD covered the Yanks with Dizzy Dean, Mel Allen and Curt Gowdy, and WPIX aired the Giants from the Polo Grounds.

Under the headline "Let's Slow Down – TV 'Clean-up' Threatens to get out of hand" TV critic Jack Gould wrote, "In the wake of inexcusable actions by a single comedian, television is embarking on a 'clean-up campaign' that rapidly is getting out of hand...TV has marched further down the road toward censorship by outside pressure groups and 'purity' codes than it ever did in the past...It is time that everyone cooled off a little and thought more of television's long-range artistic freedom and less of its short-term indiscretions." *What would Jack be writing today?*

**At the movies:** "The Reformer and the Redhead" with June Allison and Dick Powell was at the Capitol – on the stage: Sammy Kaye and his orchestra and added attraction, Nancy Walker. Alan Ladd was starring in "Captain Carey, USA," Walt Disney's "Cinderella" was playing at the Mayfair, and the Strand had "Barricade" with Ruth Roman, Dane Clark and Raymond Massey, and in person – Billie Holiday and Count Basie and his orchestra. The World theater had the "Bicycle Thief." Kirk Douglas, Lauren Bacall and Doris Day with Hoagy Carmichael were at the Brooklyn Fox in

"Young Man with a Horn" with a co-feature "Tarnished." At the Music Hall, Ray Milland and Rosalind Russell could be seen in "A Woman of Distinction." DeMille's "Sampson and Delilah" was on the Rivoli screen and Red Skelton was at the Capitol in "Yellow Cab Man."

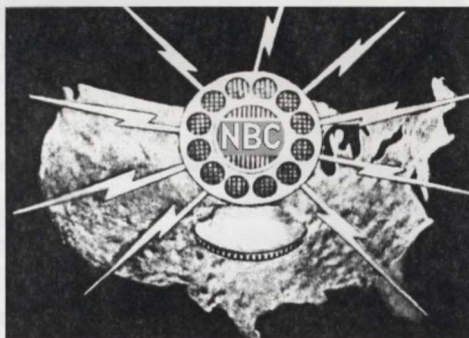
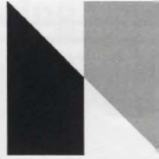
**In the theaters:** "South Pacific" with Martin and Pinza was at the Majestic while Dorothy Gish starred in "The Man" at the Fulton. Nanette Fabray, George Guetary and Pearl Bailey were on stage at the 46th Street Theater in "Arms and the Girl" and Kate Hepburn played Rosalind in "As You Like It." Cedric Hardwicke and Lilli Palmer were in a limited engagement of "Caesar and Cleopatra" while Shirley Booth starred in "Come Back, Little Sheba." Other shows on Broadway included "Death of a Salesman" with Gene Lockhart; Ralph Bellamy in "Detective Story;" and "Gentlemen Prefer Blondes." Henry Fonda was Mr. Roberts in "Mister Roberts;" Irving Berlin's "Miss Liberty" was on stage; *(For opening night TV Field was on the roof of the Downtown Athletic Club supplying a live picture of Miss Liberty's statue. It was night, about a mile away and fuzzy. I don't know if it was used on air.)* Ethel Waters in "The Member of the Wedding" and Helen Hayes starred in "The Wisteria Trees," a new play by Joshua Logan.

**Books:** According to the New York Times "Best Sellers" list for April 9, 1950 — America was reading: "The Wall" by John Hersey, Mika Waltari's "The Egyptian," and "The Parasites" by du Maurier. In non-fiction: Louise Hall Tharp's "The Peabody Sisters of Salem" and Eleanor Roosevelt's "This I Remember." *(TV Field televised a show from Mrs. Roosevelt's New York City apartment where she presented each crew member with a signed copy of "This I Remember." I've started my copy several times.)*

**News Headlines:** NYTimes for April 2, 1950 included: **DRAFT-DEWEY MOVE GAINING MOMENTUM IN UPSTATE AREAS ... Madison County Republicans Hope He Will Run Again 'So State Can Benefit' — E. C. A. REPORT SEES 'VERY GREAT' GAINS IN DEFEATING REDS — Increased Output and financial Strides in Europe Are Laid to U.S. Aid Program and Treason Law for 'Cold War' Urged in Report to Congress — LATTIMORE CALLS M'CARTHY 'MADMAN'**

**DAMAGING NATION — Professor, Denying He is Red Molding China Policy – Assails Senator for 'Wild Charges'; CALLS FOR PROSECUTION — Soviet Said to Build Centers In West Germany for Coup in an attempt to bring the whole country under their control.**

*Frank Vierling retired from the Engineering Department in 1983. He lives in Oradell, NJ and summers on a lake in the woods of Maine.*





**What's Now!****NBC U Expands at Universal City**

NBC Universal is banking on the addition of \$100 million in transportation and housing funds to help Universal City's neighbors warm up to the conglomerate's \$3 billion plan to upgrade its lot over the next two decades.

Initially introduced in late 2006, NBC U's Vision Plan, now dubbed the "Evolution Plan," still aims to revamp the 391-acre property with new production and post-production facilities, an additional 500-room hotel at CityWalk, and the expansion of the Universal Studios Hollywood theme park for new attractions. But after the initial plan drew opposition from homeowners, the new version now also includes a \$100 million transit package designed to improve roads and freeways in the area. Proposal is considered the largest private sector investment in transportation in the San Fernando Valley in the last 25 years.

It also calls for the construction of additional housing next to a transit station "where we can promote a new way to live, work and travel in Los Angeles," NBC U said. The development would include 2,900 residential units and 35 acres of open space for parks. A new administration building and a child-care center for staffers that is 50% larger than the current structure are also part of the new plan. All projects are designed to be environmentally friendly. NBC U said it had met with 60 community, homeowner and business orgs and neighborhood councils; distributed more than 300,000 copies of informational materials; and conducted door-to-door visits with more than 9,500 locals to pitch its plan.

"We must look ahead and plan for our future in a way that strengthens Universal Studios' role as the world's largest working studio, secures quality entertainment jobs and ensures that Los Angeles remains the hub of both motion picture and television production," said Ron Meyer, prexy and chief operating officer of Universal Studios. Project should create 31,000 jobs during the construction period and 12,000 new full- and part-time jobs. Once completed, it should generate \$26 million in new annual revenues for the city and county of Los Angeles, NBC U said.

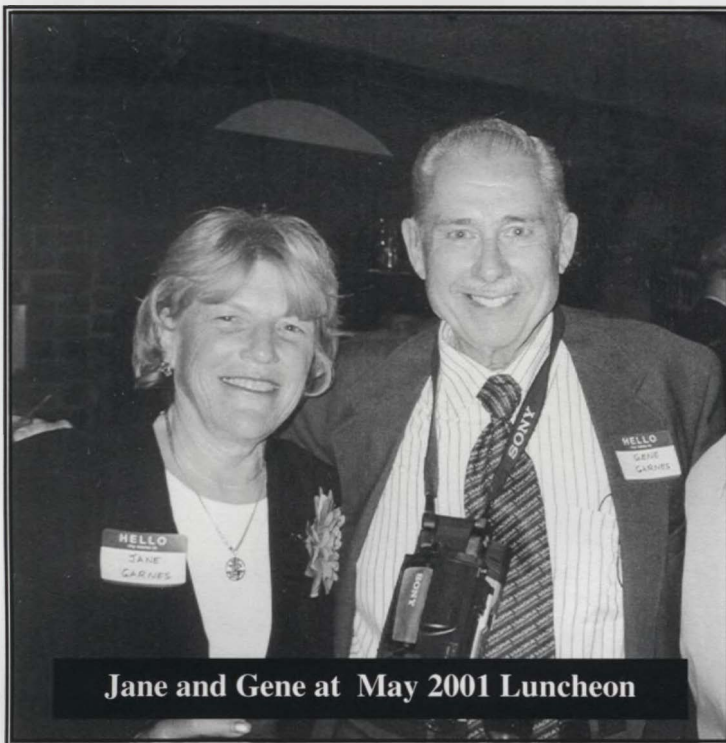
Locals have objected to the plan in the past, believing the expansion of the studio would disrupt the lives of those who reside around the property that's home to Universal Studios, NBC, the Universal Studios Hollywood theme park and Universal CityWalk and create even more congestion in the area. Proposal must still undergo an environmental public review and hearing process. An environmental impact report will be released by the city of L.A. this winter.

--From Variety, Oct. 1, 2009 By Marc Graser



*We Get Letters*

## Remembering Gene Garnes By His Son, Gene Jr



Jane and Gene at May 2001 Luncheon

Sorry its taken me so long to respond to your email expressing condolences for my father. We all miss him so much, tho' he did tell me shortly before his passing, in his words, "My man, don't be too upset when I cork off, because I've had a good life; I've traveled the world, loved my work, made a lot of friends, so I don't have much to whine about."

He really enjoyed his co-workers in Radio Recording. I know for him those were special times. For my father, working at NBC was the pinnacle of his radio/television career; those were exciting days when he first came to work in NY. He loved his work and loved a challenge when it was presented to him and he also valued his friendship with all of the people he interfaced with throughout his career. Towards the end of his broadcast career he joined Peacock North, an organization he swore he'd never join because he said it was a "bunch of old people" sitting around, talking about the old times. Finally he joined and I asked him how his first meeting was and he replied "It was great! I sat with a lot of my old buddies talking about the old times." Sauce for the goose. Not one for any fanfare, upon retirement he requested no retirement party; rather he wanted to fade away as radio waves dissipate once they hit the ionosphere. One day he was an employee and the next he was a retiree mapping out the next stage of his life.

He loved his family, his friends, his [radio-controlled model] airplanes and his work. We hope that, as opposed to mourning, people remember him as someone always willing to help and give friendly advice.

Take good care and we'll see you around the building or perhaps at the next Peacock North Meeting; its high time I step in and take his place.

Gene, Jr.



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## New Peacock North Members

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Lenny Stucker

Joel Spector

(Peacock North Editor)

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**Ron Lynah was a Technical Manager with NBC in New York and MSNBC in New Jersey**

**Joe Raznik is a Technical Manager for News Technical Services, based in Long Island City**

**Steve Skroupka is a Video Tape Editor with NBC in New York**