



## This Summer = Happy Trails Time For PNers

Frank Kennedy, Carol Aerenson and Randy Wands  
were each fêted by friends and family.  
See our coverage starting on Page 16.



**Save the Date**  
**Next Spring Luncheon**  
**Sunday**  
**May 21st, 2006**

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## Marilyn's Page

### New Orleans



The first time I was in N.O. was in 1988, for a political convention. I drove the back streets to the convention center...the streets which were not beautified for the conventioners. I noticed the poverty, the shabby houses seemingly made out of paper with no windows or doors, people of various ages milling inside and out. No one had to remind me that Louisiana was one of the poorest states in the Union; I could see that for myself. I am from NYC and we had nothing to quite compare with that.

I arrived in Louisiana 6 days after Katrina hit. I flew into Baton Rouge and immediately called the bureau chief on site, Heather Allan, who I fondly refer to as the Queen of Disaster. She is one of a few people at NBC who arrive on site at a big story and begin setting up a presence and an infrastructure. I

wanted to know if she needed anything. She requested pillows, more water, soda, snacks and a straw hat - she was burning up under the unforgiving Louisiana sun. And so before heading into N.O. I stopped at a K-MART and did some shopping.

As I drew near to N.O. it was comforting for me to see the skyline intact; the city was still standing. I really didn't know what to expect. I went through several check points of police and military and it wasn't until I crossed the bridge leading into N.O. that I saw a city in devastation and totally devoid of people except for rescue personnel. My car found its way to the NBC compound which was a camp of RV's, located in the two parking lots at our local station, WDSU. This was near an overpass which led to I-10, currently unusable as it was partially under water.

I was there for NBC News, specifically to help "Dateline" which would be anchoring live from New Orleans that Monday and perhaps the rest of the week. I met with the producer a cameraman and a security guard (everyone had security guards with them and they were all carrying weapons). We went to survey the location at Charles Street & Napoleon. Nightly News was coming from there that evening. When we arrived the three other people hopped out of the SUV and started to briskly walk to the site just a few hundred feet away. I had been forewarned about snakes and rats, not to mention that all the people there were armed. I decided to walk a bit slower, keeping my eyes on everything below and around me. "No sudden moves" I thought would be the way to go. The area looked like it was under siege or occupied. At this location there was an island which divided the avenue; it ran for blocks. The streets on either side became part of the horizon as they were submerged under water. Our satellite truck sat in several inches of it. There were downed trees and debris everywhere. The island where we were going to set up was filled with a fetid, mud-like, lunar scape of a substance which you could easily start to sink into if you weren't completely careful. It smelled. It was just a really toxic, odorous site. This is where "Dateline" would anchor from the following day.

We discussed some details and then returned to our RV camp where we ate and slept. The sleeping arrangements were very casual. Every bed, chair, couch and most floor space was utilized by somebody; showers and bathroom facilities were at a premium. That night I noticed a car fire burning in the distance which lit up the sky in this totally blacked-out city.

The next day after numerous phone calls and discussions concerning the logistics of pumping sewage and re-watering the now 22 RV's, as well as filling gas cans, bringing in more potable water and food, the day began. Me and a few others, including armed guards, moved one of the RV's and a satellite truck into place at the site we had surveyed the previous day. This area had become one of the many points of rescue for both humans and animals. It was impressive as well as heart-warming to watch the rescue personnel in full force.



**Marilyn's Page**

I had a discussion with various local police officials and military as to where our vehicles could be placed without interfering with their operation. Our two vehicles would be separated by a couple of hundred feet. We would have to cable from the Satellite truck to the RV which was to be our workspace complete with phones, internet, cooler and air conditioning. We began setting up when suddenly boats began to off-load people right in our midst. They looked like the walking dead in slow motion. Mostly older people and children. There was a woman, maybe 5'9" in her 60's or 70's. She must have weighed all of 100 lbs, brittle and worn. I took her arm on the right side, while a Red Cross volunteer had her left side. She stopped and bent her head and took a breath. I thought she was going to pass out. I gave her some water and asked her to lean against a car while I found a place for her to sit. She said she couldn't, she had to keep up with her "grandbabies". And so we (the red cross volunteer, our security guards and several of the crew) led her and her grandchildren to the ambulances.

There was an elderly man being carried in an army blanket by four men plus one in front holding his IV. Every time a boat approached and off-loaded some people we took turns in helping assist them to ambulances. Water, Gatorade and snacks flew out of our RV to people and their children as well as to stray animals.

Dateline anchored that evening from a 3 x 3 piece of driftwood precariously balanced just above the toxic muck. A stray dog had parked itself on one of the corners and lay there as Stone Phillips spoke into the camera. The camera crews were on a larger piece of driftwood a few feet away. I imagine this was a part of a dock which had been relocated by the force of the storm from who knows where.

There will be enough finger-pointing to go around as to what failed, but what worked were the people on site. All the rescue personnel, police, military, volunteers, Red Cross and dare I say even journalists were all trying to help these poor people who had tried to ride out the storm. It did my heart good to see so many people wanting to lend a helping hand, a human hand. I kept going back and forth in my head referencing my own life against what I was witnessing. The contrast was humbling. It was awful to see people in such dire need and extreme circumstances.

I left on Thursday. In the airport as I was waiting to go through the X-Ray machine the security guard told me a story of a man and a woman on line the other day. The man looked at the woman and said "You look familiar to me." The woman acknowledged him and then said "You pulled me out of my second-storey window and saved my life." The man was a fireman. I immediately burst into tears. At the other side of the X-ray machine another guard handed me tissues; I didn't stop crying for half an hour.

To the crews and correspondents who follow stories like this all the time, you are my heroes. To the rescue personnel whose lives are all about disasters, you are all our heroes.

Photos By Mike Simon,  
NBC Freelance Photo-Journalist

Previous Page: Waterborne rescuers and relief workers.

This Page: New Orleans boarded-up store front.

A testament to the human spirit.

**Current E-mail Addresses**

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



*We Get Letters and Pictures*

Marilyn,

Hello, my name is John Dickerson, and I am the son of the late NBC News Correspondent Nancy Dickerson. I am currently writing a book for Simon and Schuster about her life. Nancy Cole suggested I talk to you as I look for mom's old colleagues. I have a few specific names friends at the network have given me but also wonder whether the NBC alumni network might include people out there who knew her but whose names I've never heard.

I'm looking for the following people:

1. George Burlbaugh, retired Nightly News producer, Bowie, MD
2. Betty Dukert, retired Meet The Press producer, DC
3. Bobby Mole, retired film and tape editor, Annapolis
4. Carl Stern, retired correspondent, teaches at GW, we think
5. Vic Vissari, editor at NBC
6. Frank Slingland, retired director, Lusby, MD
7. Bill Benedict, retired film and tape editor, Falls Church
8. Arthur Redfield, retired technical director, MD suburbs
9. Herb Kaplow, retired correspondent, DC area
10. Paul Kirrkamm, retired tech manager, MD suburbs
11. Sheldon Fielman, cameraman at NBC
12. Chuck Fekete, retired cameraman, somewhere in Florida
13. Ray Farkas, documentary producer and former NBC producer, DC
14. Julian Goodman. Former president NBC.



Might you be able to help me?

Many thanks.

John Dickerson  
Chief Political  
Correspondent  
Slate Magazine  
202-261-1350  
202-744-3035 (cell)

**supersisters™** 2

**NANCY DICKERSON**

**NANCY DICKERSON**

Birthday: January 19  
Birthplace: Wauwatosa, Wisconsin  
Home: McClean, Virginia

Nancy Dickerson's career as a TV news correspondent includes many "firsts". She was the first woman news correspondent for CBS News; the first NBC woman news correspondent to anchor a daily network news show; the first woman to report on television from a political convention floor; and a member of the first woman-man anchor team at NBC.

In her book, *Among Those Present*, Nancy Dickerson tells of her work during the administrations of Presidents Kennedy, Johnson, Nixon, and Ford.

Nancy Dickerson is married and has five children, three girls and two boys.

"You can do it too, whatever it is you want to do. I say at this time, it's dynamic to be young and female."  
Nancy Dickerson, 4/19/78

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## **Nancy Dickerson Whitehead**

### **Pioneering News Person & Military Wife**

Nancy Dickerson, 70, a noted radio and television correspondent who became an independent producer of documentaries on topics ranging from the status of women in the Arab world to Watergate, died October 18, 1997 at a hospital in New York. Her death was attributed to complications of a stroke. Ms. Dickerson, a Midwesterner by birth and a former schoolteacher, came to Washington in the early 1950s. After a brief period working for Georgetown University, she took a job as a researcher with the Senate Foreign Relations Committee. The result was a passion for the inner workings of the national government in general and the interplay between politics and journalism in particular that led to a career of more than four decades.

In "Among Those Present," a memoir she published in 1976 covering the Kennedy, Johnson, Nixon and Ford administrations, Ms. Dickerson recalled that the old Washington Daily News once offered her a job as women's editor but that she turned it down because "it seemed outlandish to try to change the world" by writing "shopping and food columns." She wanted to cover politics and world affairs, a field almost entirely dominated by men at that time. In 1954, she got her break when she was hired by the CBS News bureau in Washington to produce a radio show called "The Leading Question." She also was an associate producer of "Meet the Press." In 1960, CBS made her its first female correspondent. From 1963 to 1970, she reported for NBC News.

In those jobs, she covered political conventions, election campaigns, inaugurations, Capitol Hill, the White House and Congress -- the whole range of Washington news. She traveled the world with various presidents and reported from Europe, the Middle East and the Far East. In 1963, she covered the March on Washington, in which the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. gave his "I Have a Dream" speech. In 1970, she represented the Public Broadcasting System in an interview with President Richard M. Nixon in which all the major networks took part.

In 1971, Ms. Dickerson launched herself as an independent broadcaster and producer whose work was syndicated. From 1971 to 1974, she was the first woman to have a daily news program on network television, "Inside Washington." In 1980, she founded the Television Corporation of America, through which she produced documentaries for PBS and other clients. From 1986 to 1991, Ms. Dickerson was a commentator on Fox TV News. In 1996, she helped anchor PBS's coverage of the presidential election returns. The documentaries she reported and produced included "Nancy Dickerson, Special Assignment: The Middle East," in which she interviewed President Anwar Sadat of Egypt and Prime Minister Menachem Begin of Israel; "Islam: The Veil and the Future," about women in the Arab world; "Nancy Dickerson and the New Woman," an examination of the women's movement in the United States; "A House Divided," about the U.S. House of Representatives; and "Being with John F. Kennedy," on the personality of the late president. In 1982, Ms. Dickerson produced "784 Days That Changed America -- From Watergate to Resignation," an account of the scandal that forced Nixon from office. For that, she received a George Foster Peabody Award from the University of Georgia and the Silver Gavel award from the American Bar Association.

Born Nancy Connors Hanschman in Wauwatosa, Wisconsin, a Milwaukee suburb, Ms. Dickerson attended Clarke College in Dubuque, Iowa, and then the University of Wisconsin, where she graduated with an education degree in 1948. She was a teacher in Milwaukee until moving to Washington in 1951. She spent one summer taking graduate courses at Harvard University, and she took courses in speech and drama at Catholic University to better her skills as a broadcaster.

Ms. Dickerson was a recipient of honorary degrees from American International College and Pine Manor College. She was a past vice president of the Washington Press Club. She lived in McLean, VA, until moving to New York in 1989. Her marriage to C. Wyatt Dickerson ended in divorce. Her second husband was John C. Whitehead, who participated in the invasions of Normandy, Southern France, Iwo Jima and Okinawa. He remained in the Naval Reserves for nearly 20 years, which qualified him, and his spouse, for burial at Arlington National Cemetery. A prominent financier later in life, in 1985 he became Deputy Secretary of State to George Schultz, and at the conclusion of his four years of service, he was awarded the Presidential Citizens Medal by President Reagan.



*We Get Letters*

Greetings All!

Re: Summer '05 edition of P.N. magazine - and it is once again a magazine- thanks to everyone's efforts to make it so! I think the color pix of the luncheon gatherers help to shed a few years - keep it up!

The Eye Guess pic: (a) That's George Mathews (stage crew) standing next to Jack Clark  
(b) The fellow next to Gene "the Director" is Ed Taffee.

I AD'd the show for about twelve weeks, and as I recall, was in a constant state of perspiring during the tapings. The experiment didn't take, however, and I spent the next 32 years as a Stage Manager.

Again regards to all!

**Bob Van Ry**

Class of 2000

It is more than 20 years since I traveled the halls of 30 Rock but I remember the years at NBC as happy and interesting. Thank you for Peacock North - - very enjoyable. Thank you for the "Senior Discount" but permit a stamp donation.

Sincerely,

**Blanche Campbell**

Joel:

I had the good fortune to receive the Peacock North issue yesterday. Without a doubt it has to be the Best Issue ever. If they ever handed out Emmies to Editors--I hereby nominate you.

I could not believe what age has done to many of my wonderful friends that I spent a third or half of our lives together. Would you believe I was unable to recognize many. I worked with Reig way back when we used 5HN for news with Huntley-Brinkley and Howard was in the announce booth losing his breath. Eventually he was sent to the St. Albans Naval Hospital in Queens where they operated on him to close a hole in his heart--and he has been announcing since. Of course you looked great--and Jan as a young guy was very handsome but I did not recognize him along with many others. I am embarrassed to admit it--Freddie Collins - Wow he was a Lulu but recognizable.

Any way thank you for a very wonderful Issue. Kudos to Marilyn, Marshall and to all who participated. Matter of fact in closing you probably know that Gary Iorio was present at our last luncheon here on L.I. I haven't seen him in years...still dapper...enough.

Best to you always,

**Tony Romeo**

**Ms Sunny Carmell**, cousin of Budd Schulberg, is writing a book about former NBC Pages who have become famous. If anyone has information on such people, please contact Sunny at  
445 East 80th Street,  
New York, NY 10021.

[Ed. Note: We have made the necessary corrections to this item which originally appeared in the Summer issue.]



*We Get Letters*

Hi folks,

Surprised you haven't heard from Jack Perkins... .ex-NBC-er living nearby, never at a loss for words and hosting a very good "Gulf Coast Journal" appearing regularly on PBS down here and other local access channels. Meanwhile you might check out an article I wrote for Television Quarterly ([www.tvquarterly.com](http://www.tvquarterly.com)).. .the spring edition from the National Academy of TV Arts & Sciences. ...about our mega scoop on the release of the American hostages in Iran back in January of '81. "Nightly News" hit the roof. . . we beat them by about five hours. Fred Kennedy and I probably should have been fired but we weren't and I would do it again in a heartbeat. Always the rebel. Go with that website. Time is running out for so many of us. Just wish it were possible to get up and attend more of those annual luncheons.

Good to see Grabel and Peterson still navigating. . Enjoyed Peter Flynn's article in your latest issue. He came to me and led the way to a regular well-paid weekly feature on the radio network back in the mid 70's. It was called "Inflation Watch" and Len Probst was our producer.

Peter also played a key role in lining up the talents for the wonderful series "NBC Radio's First Fabulous Fifty Years." He signed up some guys named Hope and Crosby, Ben Grauer, John Chancellor and Arlene Francis as narrators. Bud Drake produced. . . Charley Garment wrote. Hundreds of LP sets were produced of the program which ran for an hour on five consecutive Sundays on the full radio net. Garment gave me a mint condition tape set and just a few years ago, with Pete Flynn's comment that I would have no problem reproducing and selling it non-profit I had it committed to CD's and sold about 150 to friends, fellow broadcast retirees and even a number of retired NBC execs like Russ Tornabene. I just wanted to insure that it's existence would continue and that others could enjoy not just the history, but the extraordinary work that our friends put into it in over a year of plowing through the archives. Pete and Bud agreed... the toughest job was what to use... and what not to use. At least they preserved some of it. I keep a few copies on hand and would be glad to send a set (3CD's) to you if you have never heard it. Just let me know via e-mail anytime.

Our book, based on our space reporting during my days at Mutual, is in it's second printing and being slightly tweaked for a third go-round later this year. Our second book is very slowly underway but Turner wants it as soon as I finish it.

Enough already. Didn't know you would print my note re: Dave Rush and Mel Brandt but glad you did.

Anyway. . . .march on. . . .PN just keeps getting better.

**Don Blair**

[donwblair@comcast.net](mailto:donwblair@comcast.net)

Dear Editor,

After reading the latest edition of Peacock North and seeing the pictures of some of the fellows I worked with, I decided, through this letter, to let them know I'm still with them. **On June 21<sup>st</sup> of this year I became 100 years old.** I'm walking with a cane, and I'm in fair health. I'm still driving, only to the food market and doctors' offices. I'm still operating my Ham radio when I can, not too often and only CW. Believe it or not, I got my first license in 1922 as 2AEH, now W2GRR.

I'm living in Toms River, the town that I think has become the largest community of retirees in New Jersey.

Well fellows, I hope you all keep well as you looked, and also, I hope some of the other fellows that read Peacock North will write in and let us know about them.

73's and God Bless,

**Vincent Genzardi**

254 Barbados Drive North  
Toms River, NJ 08757



*We Get Letters*

My dues have finally been sent, better late than never.

I was sorry to see the deaths of Don Mulvaney and Sen Louie. Both of them were not only professionals but also a pleasure to work with. My best to Maureen, though she probably doesn't remember me. She wrote a wonderful article on her dad.

**Phil Cantrell**

June 27, 2005

Dear PN,

I think my membership may be on the verge of lapsing as I have moved several times in the last few years due to several medical happenings.

Not too long ago I managed to read an article by Herb Oxman which brought back tons of memories of my 25 years with NBC. His TV crew was my first baptism into the world (at that time) of "live TV." My first assignment was with him and his crew on the Kate Smith evening show at the Hudson Theatre on 44<sup>th</sup> Street. I remember Vic, his dolly man, who took me under his wing during that time, as well as some future occasions to, as he said, "teach me the ropes."

It is great knowing there are still vintage tech ops people around who were there in the 50s and 60s, as I had seen so many of those I knew join the ever-growing ranks of "silent microphones."

Enclosed please find a check that hopefully will cover the past few years. If I owe any more, please let me know. I really want to keep in touch with that portion of my life that was the most enjoyable event covering my past 75 years. --- and who knows, I might even find time to send PN some of my recollections going "way back when."

Regards,

**John Aram**

1240 Hillside Avenue #1  
Honesdale, PA 18431-2214

Joel -

Please spread the word. The last issue of our PEACOCK NORTH mag was just great. All of the new innovations - no matter how small - seem to work. I know the work that goes into such a challenge and all of you have met that challenge to the nth degree.

**Jack Marshall**

From Marilyn Altman

To Peacock North Members who are Retired Members of NABET/CWA Local 11:

**Bill Freeda**, a Peacock North Member, has started a **Retired Members Club for NABET/CWA Local 11**.

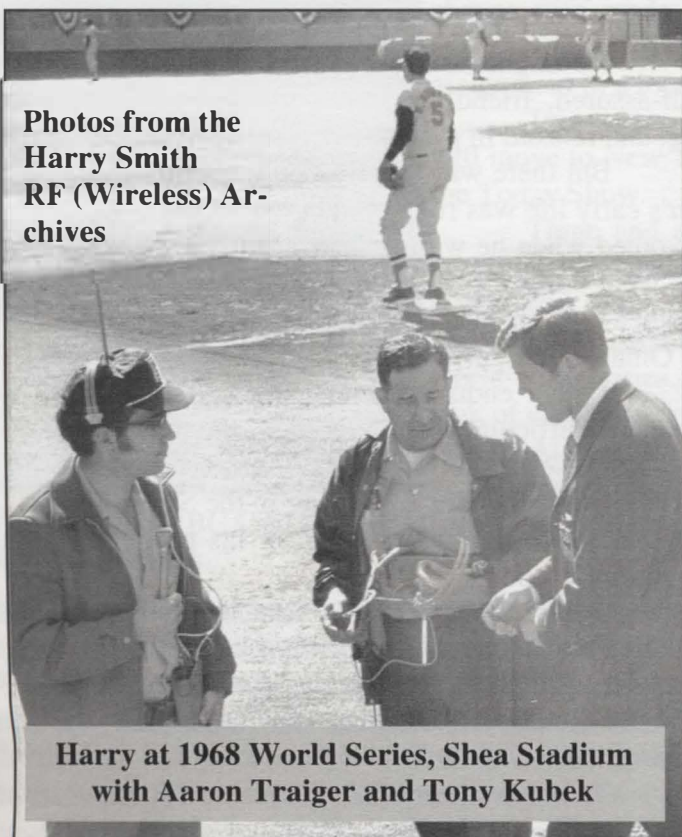
In an attempt to assemble the most complete mailing list possible of Local 11 retirees Bill has asked that I share with him the names and addresses of Peacock North Members, who were also retired members of NABET.

**I will not do this unless I have your approval, so please let me hear from you.** Bill wanted me to let you know that his club differs from Peacock North in that in addition to the social and nostalgic aspect of Peacock North, his club's goal is to bind retirees together for legislative and political purposes. Bill is also the NABET-CWA National Retiree Coordinator, so if you need any help with any retiree problem feel free to contact him at 800-928-5279, or e-mail him at **bfreedanabetcwa@optonline.net**.

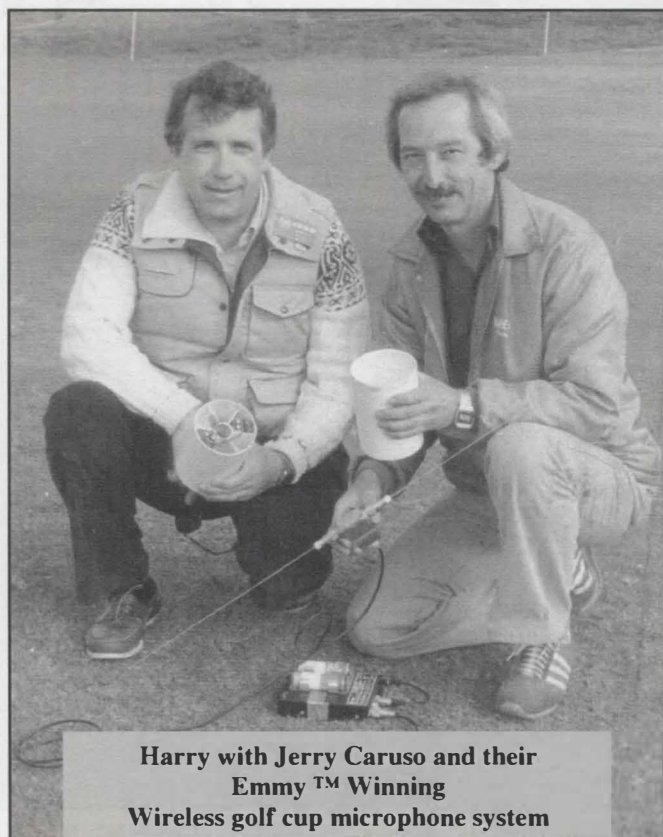


*We Get Letters*

Photos from the  
Harry Smith  
RF (Wireless) Ar-  
chives

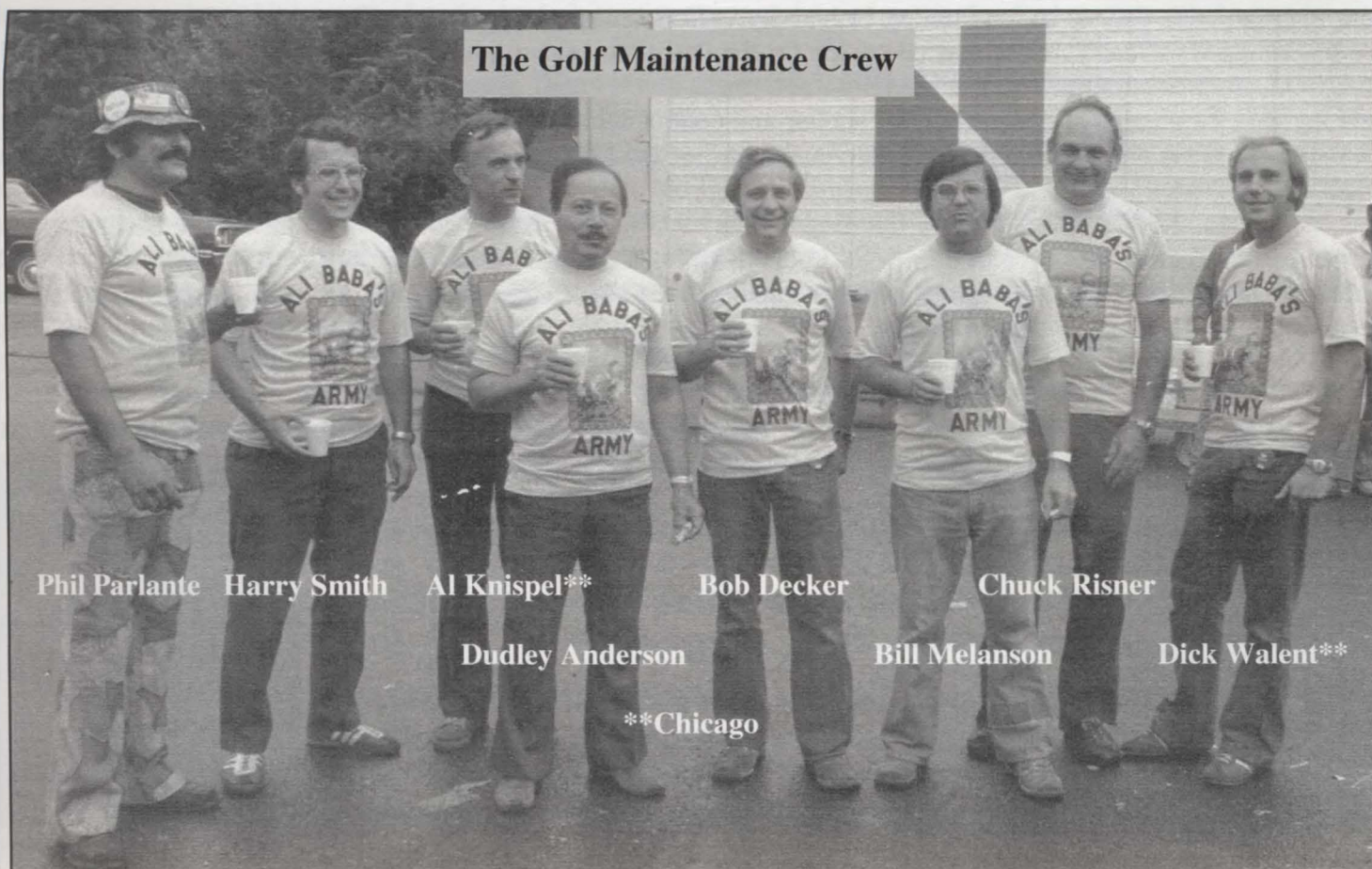


Harry at 1968 World Series, Shea Stadium  
with Aaron Traiger and Tony Kubek



Harry with Jerry Caruso and their  
Emmy™ Winning  
Wireless golf cup microphone system

**The Golf Maintenance Crew**



Phil Parlante

Harry Smith

Al Knispel\*\*

Bob Decker

Chuck Risner

Dudley Anderson

Bill Melanson

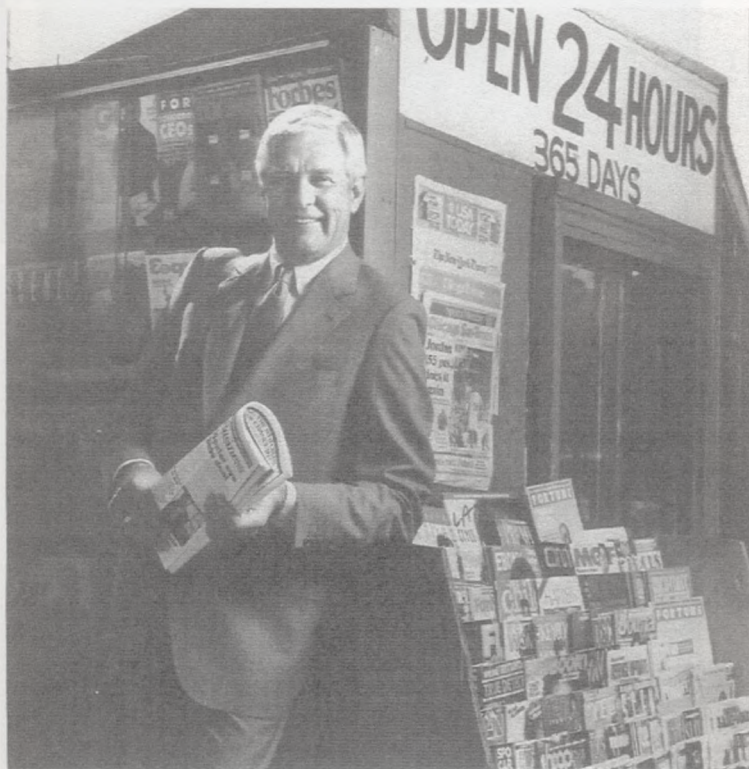
Dick Walent\*\*

\*\*Chicago



## And Finally....Floyd Kalber

### By Russ Tornabene



He might have been a movie actor -- handsome, self-assured, friendly, smart without being condescending, and relaxed in public situations.

But there was no prep for the movies. Floyd Kalber's early life was rugged in his youth: his parents were divorced when he was a child, and he and his two brothers were obliged to live in an orphanage, until his grandmother took them to live in her farmland house, outside of Omaha, their birthplaces.

Kalber endured through childhood knowing only financial difficulties, even after his mother remarried. A new life rose before him, as he volunteered for US Naval service in World War II, serving in the South Pacific. As the war ended, he had no plan for his progressing adulthood, in Omaha.

Not knowing what he needed, or wanted, Kalber enrolled at Creighton U., to study journalism, but dropped out after a semester there to work at radio station KGFW radio in Kearney, Nebraska. His future path was being established.

Two years later, Kalber became a sportscaster at a new radio station in Peoria, IL. In 1949, he luckily was

sent to New York City to cover Bradley University's effort in that year's National Invitational Tournament. There, his life changed radically, for he saw television for the first time. He quit his Peoria job, and moved back to Omaha at age 26, to become KMTV's first television newsman, a news staff of one. Years later, he was pleased to report that, in time, he alternated between on-air anchor and control room director. There, he saw another studio presenter, from nearby Iowa. Off-camera, they talked a lot about the "world of television." That other man was Johnny Carson, in his first TV employment.

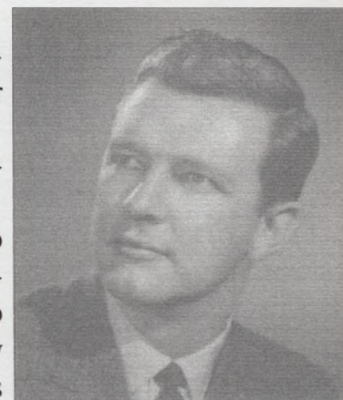
In 1951, Kalber covered heavy flooding in Kansas City. The station had no film cameras so he acquired one from a local detective agency, and flew to St. Louis (hooking a ride with a Strategic Air Command jet upon which he had begged previous trips). On return, with unedited film, Kalber persuaded a friend, while the photographer was gone, to go to the rival TV station in town, WOWT, to develop the film for him. "It was sort of a surreptitious spy drop. In our newscast that evening, we put on the first and only film Omaha saw of the Kansas City flood. It was quite a coup. It did great things to warm our hearts."

Floyd Kalber's future life would be, as he later described, "dedicated to television reporting, and its fantastic potential .. to serve a community, to serve viewers, to educate and to inform."

A powerful boost to his career was provided by Kalber's attention-getting coverage of the mass-murders committed in that part of the country by Charles Starkweather and his girlfriend, Caril Ann Fugate, as Floyd reported for the first time for NBC News.

Two years later, 1960, now with a staff of "several" reporters, he hired and became mentor for a young man starting his own TV career: Tom Brokaw.

Kalber's career zoomed as he worked for NBC News (with lots of stories sent to Omaha for local consumption there) at that year's National Political Nominating Convention in Chicago. Two years later, he was hired by WNBQ (later to change to WMAQ-TV), initially as the Midwest reporter for NBC Nightly News (then anchored by Huntley-Brinkley) but within three months, he succeeded Alex Dreier as the station's







principal news anchor. His ratings were #1 for a long time. But, eventually, the ratings weakened, and a major change was made in 1975: Kalber would be teamed with a young lady from Indianapolis, in her own first assignment in a local TV station: Jane Pauley.

Two years later, NBC announced that Kalber will move to New York to become the "newsreader" for the Today Show.

Three and a half years later, after what Kalber described as "horrendous...I had to get up at 3 AM every work day" he moved to NBC Special Projects. He anchored instant specials or planned examinations of world-wide stories. In 1981, not satisfied with the lack of creativity on his part in those "network shows," Floyd Kalber retired from NBC. At that time, he and his wife Betty lived in nearby Connecticut. Three years later, he was lured to return to Chicago, not to work at WMAQ-TV, but at



WLS-TV, the ABC O&O. He enjoyed being influential, in the 6 PM newscast, with the news coverage, but he also enjoyed the hours.

He retired from daily anchoring in 1998. That prompted the farewell party! It was conducted in the Tavern Club, high above a tall building on Michigan Avenue in downtown Chicago. Friends from the Omaha TV station days, the WMAQ-TV gang, WLS-TV fellow workers and even some colleagues from Washington DC and New York City came to praise him. These included Joe Angotti, Les Crystal, Pat Dean, Bob Eaton, Dick Fischer, columnist Irv Kupcinet, Mary McAndrew, Bob Mulholland, John Palmer, Ed Planer, Dennis Swanson, Tony Verdi, and myself, and many, many others from the local stations and newspapers.

Jane Pauley wrote from New York, "Floyd Kalber...carried me on his shoulders..." and "...thank you for setting our standards so high -- all of us in the industry owe you a debt of gratitude. And you're still the handsomest man on TV!"

Julian Goodman wrote from Florida, "Thinking as a newsman, it was always: whom can we trust? And Floyd was at the top of those ratings, too." "With admiration...JG."

Reuven Frank wrote from New Jersey, referring to Kalber's unique and original network feeds from Omaha, in that almost-every-day coverage of the Starkweather and Fugate rampage killers, "He and his film would get on the May Company plane and fly to Omaha and process and cut and script the film, and Huntley would switch and they were always there!" I raise my hat to Kalber, who never compromised."

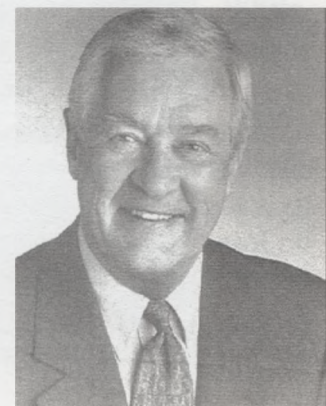
Floyd passed away last year at age 79. On June 9th, 2005, there was one helluva party celebrating Kalber, in Chicago, provided by his widow, Betty, and their two children, Mick, and Kathy Kinsella, including Joe Angotti, who accepted a \$10,000 check from Betty, for use by the Medill School of Journalism's television department -- and 70 other special guests from Omaha, Washington and New York. The gathering was at a first-class restaurant on "the near North Side" at no cost to any guests, hosted by Betty Kalber.

Floyd Kalber once wrote "I can take little credit for my success...it was a team effort. It was the result of hard work of all the dedicated people I worked with and the kindness of the television audience that allowed us into their homes. I am very, very grateful for all they gave me."

I am pleased to announce that anyone who writes to Floyd's son, Mick, will receive a dvd of the video that Mick has produced at no cost to receivers, by sending a letter (no postcards, please) to:

Mick Kalber, Tropical Visions Video, 62 Halaulani Place, Hilo, Hawaii 96720.

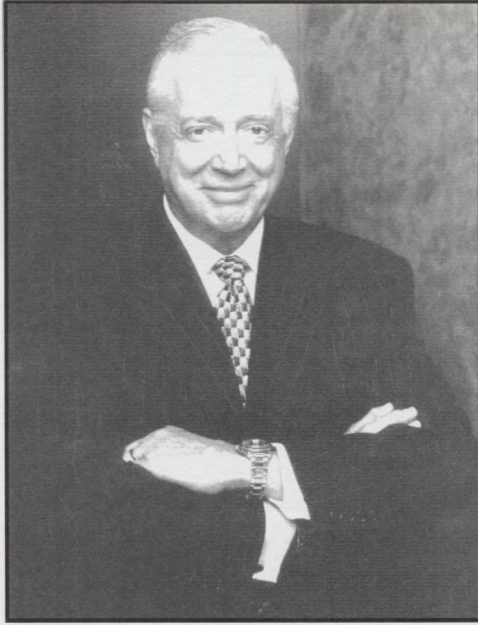
N.B.: Deep thanks to Rich Samuels, TV producer, who worked with Floyd at WMAQ-TV "in the early days" and his notes which I lifted profusely. I met Floyd when he was in Chicago in 1960 reporting on the Political Nominating Convention, and we were close friends since that summer. Russ Tornabene.





*We Get Letters*

[Hugh Downs, long associated with NBC, recently sent this note to PN's Russ Tornabene. With Hugh's permission, We share it with you. —Ed.]



Russ-- Good to hear from you. During your NY years I went from TONIGHT with Jack Paar to TODAY (62 to 71), a short retirement, and then starting 20/20 (78). I remember you over those years and since. When the Old Chimers asked me for reminiscences, I realized later I submitted some that were before TV, but my Chicago years were good ones, and I was there till 54. Ruth and I moved from an apartment on Farwell Ave., Chicago, to Wilmette, on Lake Avenue, where we lived until I left for NY.

Since you were kind enough to ask, our history in a nutshell is: After a second retirement, my secretary said to me "I wish you'd go back to work—you'd have more free time." She was right. Whenever I had a contract with a network I had safeguarded vacations, and a track to run on; but every time I retired I got busier than I had been, and I consider myself a failure at retirement.

I finally left regular broadcasting in 1999. I enjoy writing, lecturing, (Arizona State named a school after me—The Hugh Downs School of Human Commu-

nication—which is enormously flattering, and I enjoy activities there.) My wife and I gave a joint lecture in a series called "The President's Community Enrichment Program" on marital longevity, and it went over so well they made a book out of it. Since the university published this, we are considered faculty! Our credential on the subject is mainly having been married for 61 years now.

We have two children, two grandchildren, two great grandchildren, and within another month we will have a third great.

We live in Paradise Valley Arizona, a valley we've claimed as legal and voting residence for 36 years, believe it or not. (A lot of commuting on airplanes.) I do have time for some leisure activities: I have a glider at a port west of us—a Grob Acro, in which I enjoy doing aerobatics, and I get on a horse occasionally and go into the wilderness. We swim every morning year round, travel in this country and abroad—we'll be in Libya in part of October and November (lecturing on a cruise ship)—and we consider our existence at present a sort of honeymoon vacation.

I'll share a theory with you I used in a speech recently: (I felt this profound observation should garner a Nobel for me). I have been fond of running footraces with descendants of mine. When my son was a little boy I would run a race with him, and let him think he was winning until at the last I'd sprint ahead and beat him. This went on until just short of his 16<sup>th</sup> birthday, I ran a race with him, let him think he was winning, sprinted ahead, and he sprinted faster. I gave it my flat-out best and he sprinted again and beat me. And I knew I would never beat him again. When my grandson was little I did the same thing. And shortly after his 12<sup>th</sup> birthday, he overtook me in my final sprint and beat me. Now my first great grandson is going on three, and my prediction is that he will beat me in a footrace when he is about six.

So from these ages and events I have deduced that American children are getting faster! Doesn't that warrant a Nobel?

Do you ever get out this way? If you know you are going to be within striking distance, send up a flare and maybe we could meet.

Best, Hugh



Barbara Walters and Hugh at work on "Today"



*We Get Pictures*

Rick Berman sends us this 1953 crew shot.



Nick Rawluk—

Don Mulvaney

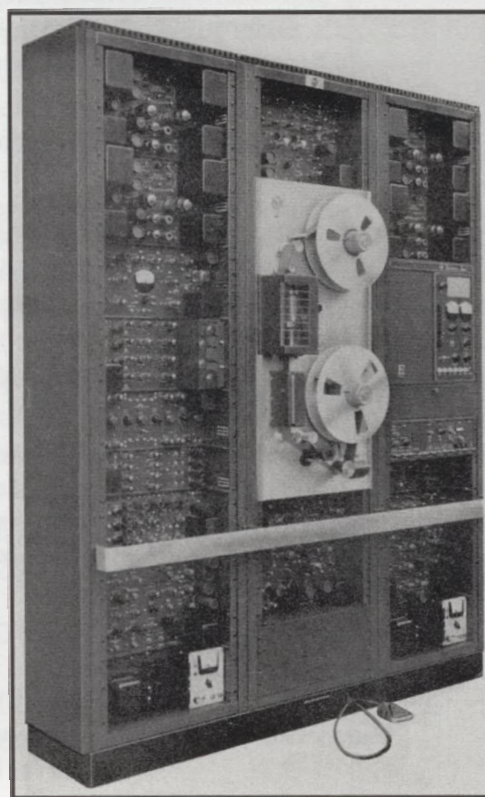
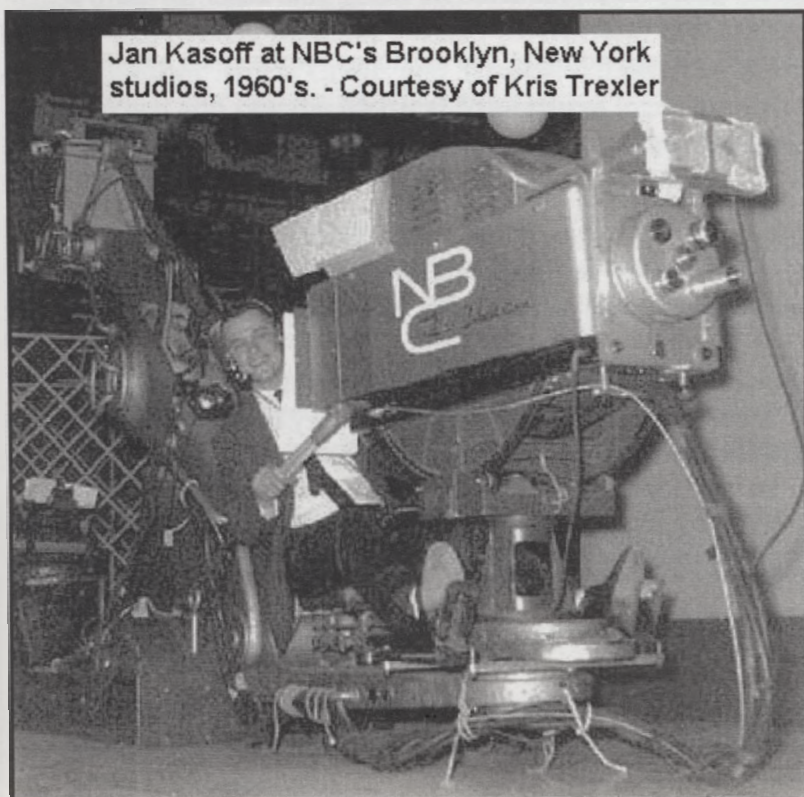
Frank O'Keefe

Carmine Picioccio

Jerry Weiss

Marv Sheiness

Jan Kasoff at NBC's Brooklyn, New York studios, 1960's. - Courtesy of Kris Trexler



RCA  
TRT-1  
2-inch  
VTR  
(Black  
And  
White  
Only!)

1956  
vintage



## Whatever Became Of.....

By Dan Grabel

Remembering bygone times, habits, folkways is something seniors can always do, without waiting for the next millennium. Memories. Were the "good old days" that good?

**Whatever became of** gentility? Men who removed their hats in the elevator when ladies were present...Men who wore straw boaters in summer...Or Panama hats which really came from Ecuador...Bow ties, barely preserved by broadcaster Charles Osgood and Senator Paul Simon...Bootblacks with those home made boxes and the 25 cent shoe shine...White flannel pants, and Moe Levy, Crawford and Howard clothes shops...Poodle skirts for the ladies' "New Look" in the 1940s, and dirndls, and saddle shoes...Bobbed hair, and those barber shop identity poles with the rotating red and white stripes....Chemists shops with the red and bluish glass balls hanging in the window.

**Whatever became of** hula hoops, and Duncan yo-yos, hop-scotch, knock-knock phrases and Little Audrey nonsense? Roller skating on Union Hardware ball bearings and the all-important skate key...Flexible flyer sleds for belly-whopping down steep and snowy hills. And the kids' street games: Johnny ride-a-pony, Three steps to Germany, "Salugi," "Ring-alee-vio," boxball and stickball with the heavy hitter who, broomstick in hand, could hit the Spaulding rubber ball the length of two city sewers.

**Whatever became of** Adam hats, Thom McAn shoes, and Buster Brown. Macy's Red Star electric delivery vans.... Home delivery by the Dugan bakery man, and milk from the Borden and Sheffield Farms horse-drawn wagons. The ice man did cometh in our day, and he wore a reddish-orange rubber cloth on his shoulder to keep it dry after he hoisted a 50 cent block of ice onto it. And remember, it got to your apartment via the dumb-waiter. And those roll-your-own cigarette machines.

**Whatever became of** New Yorkers reading newspapers? The Journal-American, The Herald-Tribune, The Sun, The Mirror, The Graphic, PM, The Bronx Home News and The Brooklyn Eagle. And the columnists who were the tv anchormen/women of their day. The sporting life with Dan Parker, Jimmy Powers, Red Smith and Jimmy Cannon. The heavier stuff with Heywood Broun, Westbrook Pegler and Eleanor Roosevelt with "My Day." The light fare with Walter Winchell, Leonard Lyons and Ed Sullivan. Every rag had its cartoonists, editorial and sport -- creators and caricaturists like Willard Mullin, Burris Jenkins and Bill Gallo. And the original Hurley's, with the stale aroma, and the NBC phone extension where people like Buck Prince, Frank Blair and Jack Lescoulie, and a lot of other staffers, could be reached if not at their desks inside 30 Rock. And the bistros on 49th Street where you got a 3-course lunch for \$1.50 (in 1955). And Sager's. And Walgreen's. And Bickford's. Older still the Exchange Buffet, where they used the honor system and you walked up to the cashier after the meal and told her what you had eaten and they charged you accordingly! The nickname for the chain outlets was "Eat-um and Beat-um!"

We were all closer to the true culture leaders of those days because we saw them in person...Monsignor Fulton J. Sheen and his mesmerizing eyes, Father Devine and his Harlem Angels, and street-corner orators, the equivalent of today's Sunday morning discussion tv shows. On the radio we listened to Martin Block and The Make-Believe Ball Room, Barry Gray and Walter Winchell. America stopped everything at 9PM Sunday nights to tune in to Winchell. The troubled got advice from Bernard Meltzer (sometimes called "Mr. Agony") and then there was Mr. Anthony, another adviser for the forlorn.. For entertainment there was The Horn & Hardart Children's Hour, Amateur Night at the Apollo, Major Bowes' Original Amateur Hour, and The Lucky Strike Hit Parade.

**Whatever became of** our entertainment? Six day bike races at Madison Square Garden or races along the perpendicular walls of the Coney Island Velodrome, the annual walking race from Manhattan's City Hall to Coney Island and when you got there, Steeplechase, the Funny Place...Banko, Screeno and Dish night at the movies during the Depression days...Broadway's Roseland dance hall, the Palladium where one Killer Joe Piro held forth, Arthur Murray's dance studios, Dime-a-Dance parlors and marathon dances where the participants stayed on their feet for days on end... Vaudeville, where you saw live entertainers, and burlesque, the most risqué performance in town, intermingled with the slapstick comics who went on to perform in the early days of tv and in the movies.

Well, the Rockettes are still dancing, and Charles Osgood is still wearing his bowtie on Sunday mornings.

**But for the rest, whatever became of them?**

Peacocks: Did we leave out your favorite? Send it to me and I'll try to do a follow-up of

"Whatever Became Of." ([dangrabel@aol.com](mailto:dangrabel@aol.com))



## PN Website Poll—Few Replies to Opinion Survey

By Lenny Stucker

In our Summer issue I called for all PN members to participate in a survey to determine the wishes of the membership regarding a website. Among the ingredients of such a site would be the conversion of this publication to a web-based service, with more frequent new or updated material, ability to include one or more forums or chat rooms for real-time conversations, picture galleries, a membership e-mail address list, links to other organizations with which we might have advantageous tie-ins, and a large archive of previously-published material. **Options include having both a website and the printed magazine.** We must serve the needs of our members.

To date we have received only a few replies, and most of these are favorable to establishing a site. However, a much larger number of responses is needed before we could proceed further. Keep in mind that an ongoing website would necessitate a small increase in our yearly dues, on the order of \$5.00. This would offset the cost of equipment required to operate and maintain the site.

We have included a survey form on Page 31 of this issue. Please fill it in, especially with comments or suggestions regarding content or services you would like to see in the site. Mail it back to PN at our Stamford address.

**I'd like to see several hundred replies,** so that we have a fair sampling of opinions. Make your voice heard!

Thanks very much, and have a very Happy Holiday season.

## Author Seeks Information on TV Pioneer Lorenzo "Larry" Fuller

My Name is Angela Logan. I would like to talk with anyone who knew Lorenzo Dow "Larry" Fuller, Jr. or someone who can talk to me about Early Television, putting Fuller's work into context.

Mr. Fuller is a pioneer in radio and television whose musical and other creative genius helped to shape entertainment programming in manifold ways heretofore unknown to the world. His African-American heritage only adds to the great scope of his accomplishments: At NBC in 1947-52, under the regime of Warren Wade and William "Bill" I. Kaufman, Fuller, armed with a piano and in charge of 3 small orchestras, worked as Musical Director and Special Material's Writer for **Musical Miniatures**, **Young Broadway**, **TV Screen**, **Author Meets Critic**, and **Musical Almanac**, some of NBC's first TV programs. When you saw the **Musical Miniatures** logo spinning you heard music in the background. That was Lorenzo Fuller. He had his own show known as **Lorenzo Fuller Almanac**, and wrote music for new shows like **Look at Us**.



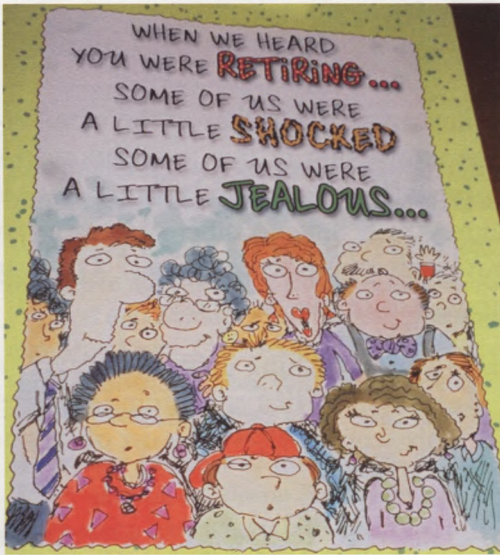
In 1950, after Fuller's fame from singing "Too Darn Hot" in the hit Broadway Musical **Kiss Me Kate**, Bill Kaufman and TV salesman Seymour "Sy" Kaplan, costumer Guy Kent, and other NBC staff went to WPIX where he and Sy Oliver and others helped produce the show **Van and the Genie** in which Fuller played a Genie who granted the wishes to Rosamond Vance Kaufman (Bill's wife). The children's show was a one-season hit and the two co-stars were in the **Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade**. 13 children won Scottish Terriers donated by a Macy's Pet Store, in a contest staged by the shows sponsors, Scotty Pops Lolly Pops. Other NBC shows included: **The Kate Smith Hour**, **Robert Montgomery Presents**, **Kiss Me Kate** (1958), **American Musical Comedy Hour** (Theatre), and the **Today Show**.

Fuller did musical effects for Screen Gems' color testing and for dramas like **The Goldbergs** and **Crime Photographer**. In 1950 he won the **Arthur Godfrey Talent Scouts** (March 22). He did musical direction on camera for the **Jerry Lester Show** on ABC.

I would appreciate your help. Thank you,

**Angela Logan**, 677 Ramapo Road, Teaneck, NJ 07666 Phone: 201-692-9538 Cell: 201-921-3833  
producer; Lorenzo Fuller: African American TV and Radio Broadcast Pioneer.  
**mplogan2@hotmail.com**

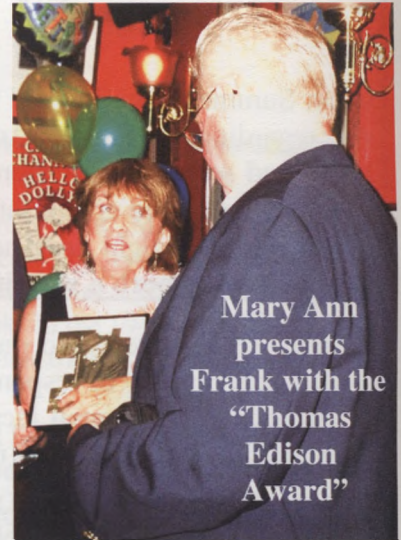




# Frank Kennedy Roasted at Pig & Whistle July 28th, 2005



Ron Bruno Dave King Lauren Fairbanks Arturo Sharpe



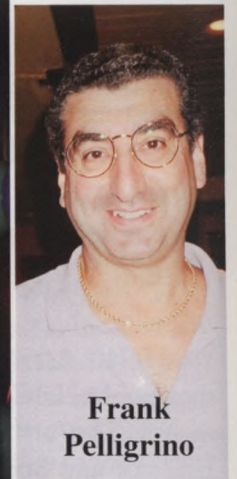
Mary Ann presents Frank with the "Thomas Edison Award"



Frank's Bro, Jerry



Frank and Mary Lou with Tara and Husband Jeff Fishman



Frank Pelligrino

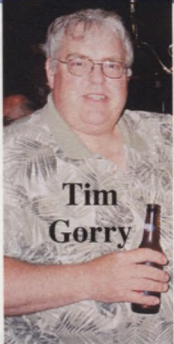


Vinnie Walsh

Mary Ann Martin



Charlie Riggs



Tim Gorry



John Marelli



Steve Skroupka



Kathy Salvio Marilyn Altman



Donna McCarthy Melanie Rock



June 24th, 2005  
At  
Pasta Lovers  
Trattoria

## Randy Wands Segues to The Next Big Event



Carol and  
Mike Weisman



Kevin Loweree, Ian Robinson, Stu, Ginny,  
Susan Kramer and Denise Baker

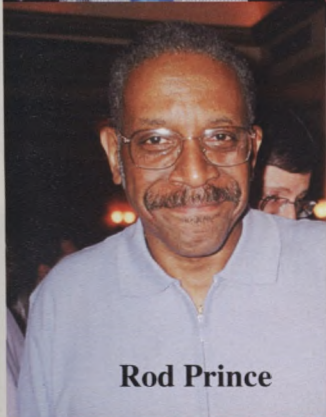


Randy

Joan



Stu Wolther  
and Ginny Harris



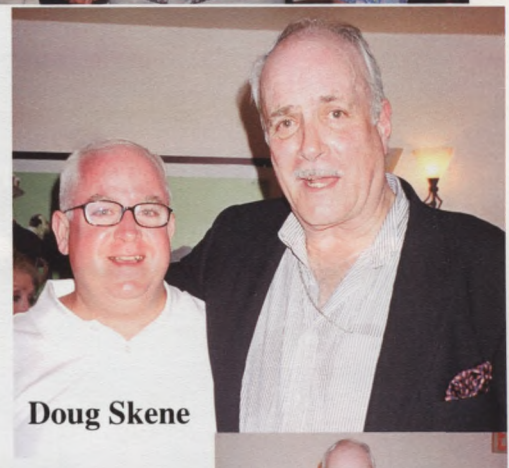
Rod Prince



Anne  
Binford

Brett  
Holey

Judy Farinet  
Lauren Fairbanks



Doug Skene



Nicole  
Sanderson

Doug  
Skene

Tom  
Launer

Joyce  
Hurley

Charles  
Moore

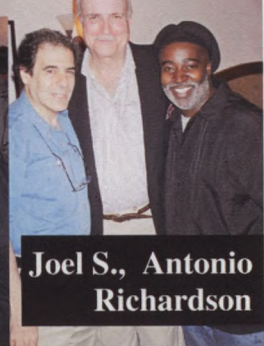


Susann  
Thomas

Joyce  
Hurley

Denise  
Baker

Roberta  
Spring



Joel S., Antonio  
Richardson



## Carol Aerenson Rocks Out

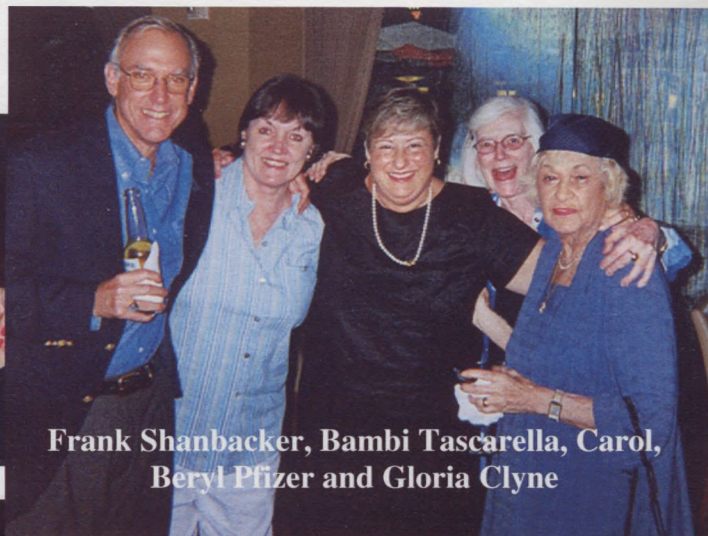
Dear Peacock North,

My retirement party celebrating 34-1/2 years at NBC was held on June 29th at the Rock Center Café. I was especially thrilled that some Peacock Northerners stopped by to wish me well as I start my new life as a retiree. Here are some photos from that special evening.

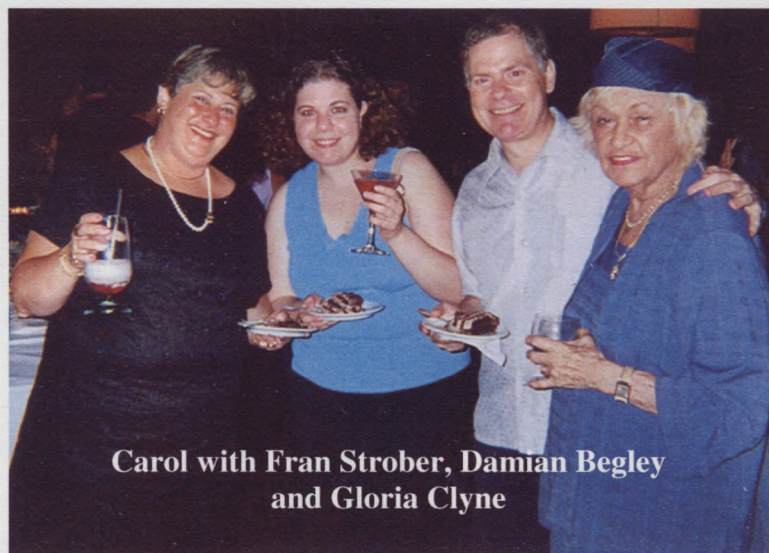


Kathy Field

Beth Skobel



Frank Shanbacker, Bambi Tascarella, Carol, Beryl Pfizer and Gloria Clyne



Carol with Fran Strober, Damian Begley and Gloria Clyne



Joan Gifford



Tom Dunphy, Bambi Tascarella, Carol and Rich Pruefer



Lauren Fairbanks



## Retired, Retarded and Driving My Wife Nuts

By Stu Rudick

I just finished looking through the summer issue of Peacock North and I must say it has left me depressed. Pages and pages of old gray heads I did not recognize. Who were these over the hill people? Well, with a little prompting from the captions, I finally recognize most of the crowd. My wife insisted I go into the bathroom and look into the mirror. There was this old fart letting his ear hairs grow long enough to comb over the top of his head. Shit! I was one of them. What happened to us? Are we moving to the head of the line? I quickly turned to the obits in back to see if I was there. What a relief. I made the cut.

I am very sorry to hear about some of the people I spent lots of time with. Sen Louie was a real gentleman and a fun person to be with. I remember Phil Parlante sending Sen out to find a place for dinner in Boston. He took us down a narrow alley to a spot downstairs from a coat warehouse where the only English spoken was when the manager asked us if we were really hungry. Boy did we pig out. Being on the road was so tough.

Vinnie Jachetta, Ivar Normae and I used to work for Lewron Television when they had studios in NY. Ivar took care of the TK43 remote truck we inherited from the West Coast operation. It had an electric hoist to get the TK43 cameras out of the belly of the truck. Ivar spent most of his time moving the Ampex 2000 VTRs in and out of the truck. We used the same machines in the studio.

Vinnie and I shot a bunch of Sara Lee Commercials one Monday and Tuesday. The ad agency left behind a freezer full of Butter Streusel Coffee Cake. Only the top three boxes had labels, the rest were plain white. The girls from the office found the cakes and started shifting them, one at a time, to the morning coffee table. On Friday, Vinnie and I were shutting down the studio for the weekend and suddenly realized we were cutting power to the Sara Lee Freezer. So Vinnie and I decided to divvy up the remaining cakes and load them into Vinnie's sports car. We used to carpool from Long Island. There were twenty one cakes left and Vinnie argued who should get the odd numbered cake, all the way home. We solved the problem by eating the odd cake, in the car.

Monday came and there was an emergency meeting of all Lewron employees. Boss Ron Spangler announced that these were the only Butter Streusel Coffee Cakes in existence and they needed the boxes with the hand painted covers for a photography session. Vinnie and I hid in the back. For years Vinnie referred to me as the Sara Lee Man. No matter what went wrong, with anything, he would blame it on the "Sara Lee Man." Vinnie, I wish you only the best. Enjoy what time you have and stay away from schedule changes.

It's difficult not to live in the past, but retirement is about doing all the things I never had time for when TOPS ruled my life. My wife, Donna and I live in San Diego and enjoy every bit of our days. We moved to San Diego after several years in Tucson, Arizona, but the heat, oh the heat. But it's a dry heat. If you believe that lie let me tell you about fun pulling cables in Brooklyn.

Please get the retiree Email list together.

Stuart Rudick  
[SRudick@san.rr.com](mailto:SRudick@san.rr.com)

Still kicking and alive, I think



## A MAKEUP ARTIST'S ESCAPADES AND MEMORIES OF NBC. BY ROSEMARIE GARDNER



I FIRST ARRIVED AT NBC NEW YORK FROM CHICAGO IN 1963 AND WAS RELUCTANTLY ACCEPTED AS AN APPRENTICE. I WAS VERY WELL ESTABLISHED IN CHICAGO, BUT MY HUSBAND WAS A NABET ENGINEER WHO WAS TRANSFERRED TO NEW YORK AFTER ABC DECIDED TO MAKE CHICAGO A "PUSH-BUTTON STATION".

### JOHNNY CARSON SHOW

MY FIRST CARSON SHOW HAD 10 CHANGES. MY NERVES WERE AT HIGH PITCH. ONLY ONE GLITCH THOUGH: THE FALSE MUSTACHE, QUICKLY APPLIED WHILE HIS HEAD WAS PROTRUDING THROUGH THE CURTAIN, DIDN'T STICK AND KEPT FLOATING IN THE BREEZE. HE KEPT BLOWING AT IT, AND I DIED. HE WAS VERY GRACIOUS, SAYING "NOT TO WORRY, IT MADE THE AUDIENCE LAUGH MORE."

### STAGE MANAGERS. MY BUDDIES.

KING FAROUK WAS TO BE A GUEST ON ONE OF THE SHOWS, AND A BULLETIN WAS SENT OUT TO ALL THAT WE WERE TO BE GRACIOUS AND GIVE HIM HIS DUE AS A KING, SUCH AS "YES AND NO YOUR MAJESTY". OK, KING IS IN THE GREEN ROOM AND ALL ARE ACQUIESCING TO HIM WHEN SHELLY SCHWARTZ COMES FLYING INTO THE ROOM AND SHOUTS OUT "HEY KING, YOU'RE ON. FOLLOW ME." THE LITTLE KING FOLLOWED THAT BIG WONDERFUL WRESTLER-SIZED GUY TO THE STAGE, AND ALL WERE AGHAST THINKING HE MIGHT BE LET GO. SHELLY'S REACTION TO THE FUSS: "HE AND I HAVE DAILY RITUALS OF BODILY FUNCTIONS, SO WE ARE THE SAME."

### KRAFT MUSIC HALL

I COVERED THE KRAFT SHOW FOR SEVEN YEARS WITH MANY MAJOR GUEST STARS. ONE WARMLY REMEMBERED SHOW WAS MITZI GAYNOR'S CHRISTMAS SHOW. OVER FIVE DAYS OF SHOOTING SHE PLAYED MANY DIFFERENT CHARACTERS FROM FAVORITE CHRISTMAS THEMES. IT WAS WELL INTO THE WEE SMALL HOURS WHEN SHE PLAYED A YOUNG BOY FACING A LONELY BROKEN-FAMILY CHRISTMAS. HER RENDITION OF HIS WISHES AND PRAYERS FOR UNIFICATION OF THE FAMILY WERE SO HEART-RENDING THAT AFTER SHE WAS THROUGH THERE WAS A LONG SILENCE WITH MUCH NOSE-BLOWING AND GRIPS AND ENGINEERS RUBBING THE TEARS ONTO THEIR SHIRTS. THEN A LOUD SPONTANEOUS APPLAUSE ERUPTED FROM ALL OVER THE STUDIO. A TOUCHING TRIBUTE TO HER ACTING. MANY PEOPLE ONLY KNEW HER FROM "SOUTH PACIFIC" SHE WAS ALSO ONE OF THE FEW WOMEN EVER TO BE CONSISTENTLY USED AS A "HEADLINER" IN LAS VEGAS. GREAT MULTIFACETED LADY. TO MY MIND DWIGHT HEMION AND GARY SMITH WERE GENIUSES AT STAGING THE MOST DRAMATIC LONG PULLBACK FROM A TIGHT CLOSE-UP TO A HUGE PANORAMA SHOT. THIS SHOW HAD THE GREATEST ENGINEERS BOTH IN THE STUDIO AND IN THE CONTROL ROOM.

### HALLMARK HALL OF FAME

ONE THAT COMES TO MIND WAS "THE LITTLEST ANGEL". IT WAS THE FIRST FULL-LENGTH CHROMA-KEYED SHOW. FLYING ANGELS WHO GROANED WHEN HOISTED, LITTLE ONES THAT TOLD EVERYONE WHAT THEIR LINES WERE...UGH! ONE PROBLEM THAT BADGERED US FOR DAYS ON END WAS THAT THE PICTURE WOULD CONSTANTLY BREAK UP. HOURS SPENT WHILE EXPERTS TRIED TO FATHOM THE PROBLEM. THE PROBLEM TURNED OUT TO BE THE ROUGH EDGE ON THE VEILING ON THE COSTUMES WOULD SMEAR WHEN THEY WERE FLOWN OR THEY RAN. THE SOLUTION WAS TO TAPE THE EDGING WITH A RIBBON. BRAVO! NO MORE STREAKS!



**DAVID SUSSKIND SPECIALS**

THE LONG HOURS THAT WE SPENT RECORDING SHOWS IN THE 60'S AND 70'S NEVER CEASE TO AMAZE ME. ALONG WITH "THE LITTLEST ANGEL", DAVID SUSSKIND'S "OF MICE AND MEN" AND "DESPERATE HOURS" WERE THE LONGEST SHOOTS IN MY TIME WITH NBC. MANY OF THE GRIPS CAUGHT CATNAPS ON THE COILED CABLES OR ROPES. A DOCTOR WAS BROUGHT IN TO GIVE ALL OF US B-12 SHOTS TO TRY TO ALLEVIATE THE FATIGUE WE WERE SUFFERING. SUSSKIND WAS A TASKMASTER BUT IT WAS WORTH IT AS THEY WERE GREAT SHOWS.

I WAS TEAR-GASSED TWICE WHILE COVERING **POLITICAL CONVENTIONS**. ONCE IN CHICAGO AND THEN IN FLORIDA. NOT A NICE THING TO TALK ABOUT BUT WE WERE COVERING MAJOR EVENTS, AND THEREFORE THE HARDSHIPS WERE TOLERATED AS WELL AS POSSIBLE.

ONE REMARKABLE EVENT THAT MADE THE FRONT PAGES OF ALL THE PAPERS AND THE MEDIA WAS THE SCENE OF ELEPHANTS WALKING IN THE SNOW-COVERED STREETS OF BROOKLYN ON THEIR WAY TO THE NBC STUDIOS. A **CIRCUS SHOW** WAS BEING TAPED FOR CBS AND WE HAD THE ONLY STUDIO TALL ENOUGH FOR THE HIGH-WIRE ACTS AND ALSO BIG ENOUGH FOR LARGE-RING PERFORMANCES.

**SATURDAY NIGHT LIVE**

JANE CURTIN HAD ONE OF THE MOST COMPLEX CHANGES IN THE SHORT COMMERCIAL BREAKS BETWEEN THE CONEHEADS AND WEEKEND UPDATE. SHE WAS CHANGED IN SECONDS, REMOVING THE CONE HEAD, CURLING HER HAIR, CLEANING THE MAKEUP AND GLUE OFF AND THEN APPLYING NEW MAKEUP, AT THE SAME TIME HER WARDROBE WAS BEING CHANGED. SHE HATED THIS AND CALLED ALL OF US "OCTOPIES" ...ARMS EVERYWHERE. VERY TOUGH ON ALL..

**...AND BEYOND NBC...**

I LEFT STAFF AND FREELANCED FOR ABC AND CBS, WHERE I COVERED NFL TODAY SHOWS AND OTHER SPORTS FOR SEVEN YEARS. WENT TO RUSSIA WITH DIANE SAWYER AND SAM DONALDSON. ALSO WENT WITH PAULA ZAHN TO CUBA WHILE SHE WAS STILL AT ABC AND THEN WENT WITH HER FOR THE NEXT FOUR YEARS COVERING THE "CBS MORNING SHOW."

I TRIED TO RETIRE BUT WAS OFFERED THE CHARLES GRODIN SHOW AT CNBC. WHEN HE LEFT I WAS REQUESTED BY THE GERALDO RIVERA SHOW. WHEN HE WENT TO AFGHANASTAN, THE SHOW WAS CANCELLED AND I FINALLY RETIRED AT 75. I'VE MOVED TO FLORIDA AND HAVE BEEN FIGHTING THREE HURRICAINES AND MAY NEED TO GO BACK TO WORK TO COVER THE COSTS OF REPEATED REMODELING. NEVER FEAR. I ENJOYED EVERY MOMENT AND I WAS GLAD TO HAVE BEEN THERE FOR THE "BEST OF TV."

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## **Honorary Memberships**

Please note that **members who are 80 years young or older are exempt from paying annual dues**. Our records are missing information for many members. We ask that those who fall into this category complete and return the membership form below so that we can update our records. These members are not required to pay dues.

If you so wish, you may email your information to us at

**peacocknorth@yahoo.com.**



# Looking BACK

By Frank Vierling

Scanning the January 1965 *The New York Times*

## TV: A Football Marathon Four Bowl Games Saturate the Airways And Give a Portent of Things to Come

By Jack Gould — The American household was not home yesterday: it was a parlor gymnasium. From 1:45 in the afternoon, which coincided with the first coherent awareness of 1965, until the end of the civilized TV evening there was a continuing serial on the home screens. It was football, football, football.

For mothers, fiancées, blind dates and playmates it was a New Year's Day passed in an isolated society... The women of the country yesterday were waitresses who were always in the kitchen on third down...

The NCAA is not to kill football, just the football spectator. Sitting in a chair or divan for practically nine straight hours of television football has no connection whatsoever with amateur sport. It is meant only for the ophthalmological osteopath.

Yesterday's symptoms were unforgettable. The eyes sank away under the weight of fatigue... The ears throbbed with the staccato emphasis on the obvious by Lindsay Nelson and Jim Simpson

Yet the tireless little box went on and on. It enabled untold millions to see, in whole or in part, a grand total of 88 men lining up opposite each other so that they could fall down together. When day was done, who played whom?

Remember boxing? Female wrestling? The roller derby? A set owner last night had visions of football similarly prospering to the point of extinction. The human mind does have a saturation point, even to the back who is in motion on the same side as the spread end, who is running a hook pattern for the quarterback who is dropping back from the linebacker who is a junior, with another year to play. Every other viewer isn't a coach.

It was the National Broadcasting Company, in conspiratorial liaison with the Orange Bowl officials and the city fathers of Miami, that made yesterday the longest New Year's in the history of football. Instead of letting players from Alabama and Texas meet in the afternoon and get to bed at a decent hour, the promoters made the teams wait for prime evening time. The studio lights were turned on and the color cameras worked beautifully. With no sun in the sky, there were no bothersome shadows.

The handwriting is on the wall. More sports now will be done in the evening hours when sponsors can be charged higher rates and larger audiences can be assured...



"You're so strong and masterful — we'll make a lovely couple."

Herblock in *The Washington Post*



**STERN'S  
&  
MACY'S**  
were advertising  
NATIONALLY  
FAMOUS MEN'S  
DRESS SHIRTS  
3 for \$10.00

*And those  
bowl games  
were:*

- Orange Bowl: Texas 21 – Alabama 17
- Sugar Bowl: LSU 13 – Syracuse 10
- Cotton Bowl: Arkansas 10 – Nebraska 7
- Rose Bowl: Michigan 34 – Oregon State 7



January 3, 1965 headline:

## BLACKWELL'S ISLAND RENAMED WELFARE

Washington, Jan. 2 (AP) The Government has redesignated Blackwell's Island in New York's East River as Welfare Island.

*Historical note: This change brought the Federal maps into conformity with the name change adopted by New York City in 1921.*

*The Indians called the 147-acres island Long Island. In 1637, under Dutch rule, it was called "Varckens Eylandt" (Hog Island) and in 1667, by the British, Perkins Island. Captain Manning gained ownership in 1668 and named it for himself. He became known for having surrendered New York's Fort James to the Dutch in 1673 without firing a shot. For this he was found guilty of dereliction of duty and sentenced to death. On the day of his execution, his sentence was commuted and he was banished. His daughter inherited the island in 1686 and named it for her husband Robert Blackwell.*

*In 1828 New York City purchased the narrow island for prisons, poor houses and nursing homes. In 1921, to reflect its use, its name was changed to Welfare Island. With the opening of Rikers Island in 1935, the city's institutions were moved off the island.*

*Mayor Lindsay organized a committee in 1968 to explore options for the island. The New York State Urban Development Corporation entered into a 99-year lease to develop the island for a mixed-income community. They changed the name to Roosevelt Island in 1973. †*

### In 1965 we were reading:

#### FICTION

- 1 *Herzog*. Bellow
- 2 *The Rector of Justice*. Auchincloss
- 3 *This Rough Magic*. Stewart
- 4 *The Man*. Wallace
- 5 *The Horse Knows the Way*. O'Hara
- 6 *Candy*. Southern & Hoffenberg
- 7 *The Spy Who Came In From the Cold*. Le Carre
- 8 *Armageddon*. Uris
- 9 *You Only Live Twice*. Fleming
- 10 Julian. Vidal

#### General

- 1 *Markings*. Hammarskjöld
- 2 *Reminiscences*. MacArthur
- 3 *My Autobiography*. Chaplin
- 4 *The Italians*. Barzini
- 5 *The Kennedy Wit*. Adler
- 6 *The Kennedy Years*. Faber
- 7 *The Words*. Sartre
- 8 *My Favorite Things*. Rodgers
- 9 *Life With Picasso*. Gilot & Lake
- 10 *Sixpence in Her Shoe*. McGinley

## Playbill

IAN  
CARMICHAEL  
In

**BOEING  
BOEING**

International  
Laugh Hit  
At  
The  
CORT  
THEATER  
Opens  
February 4th



### Also On Broadway:

Terence Stamp in *Alfie*  
Sandy Dennis in *Any Wednesday*  
A musical Holmes adventure, *Baker Street*  
Barbara Streisand in *Funny Girl*  
Sammy Davis in *Golden Boy*  
Carol Channing in *Hello Dolly*  
Jason Robards in *Hughie*  
Julie Harris in *Ready When You Are C.B.!*  
Diana Sands in *The Owl and the Pussycat*  
*The Knack* directed by Mike Nichols

# At The Movies

At Loew's New Capitol, JOHN FORD'S

## CHEYENNE AUTUMN

Starring RICHARD WIDMARK • CARROLL BAKER • KARL MALDEN • SAL MINEO • RICARDO MONTALBAN • DOLORES DEL RIO • GILBERT ROLAND and ARTHUR KENNEDY and JAMES STEWART as Wyatt Earp • EDWARD G. ROBINSON as the Secretary of the Interior.

- ◆ "ZORBA THE GREEK" with Anthony Quinn, Alan Bates and Irene Papas at the SUTTON.
- ◆ "DISORDERLY ORDERLY" stars Jerry Lewis at Brandt's SHORE.
- ◆ "TOPKAPI" with Mercouri, Ustinov & Schell at Brandt's BEACON.

- ◆ "THE AMERICANIZATION OF EMILY" stars James Garner, Julie Andrews & Melvyn Douglas at the FORUM.
- ◆ "CONTEMPT!" Bardot & Palance.
- ◆ "FAIL SAFE" Henry Fonda at KIPS BAY.

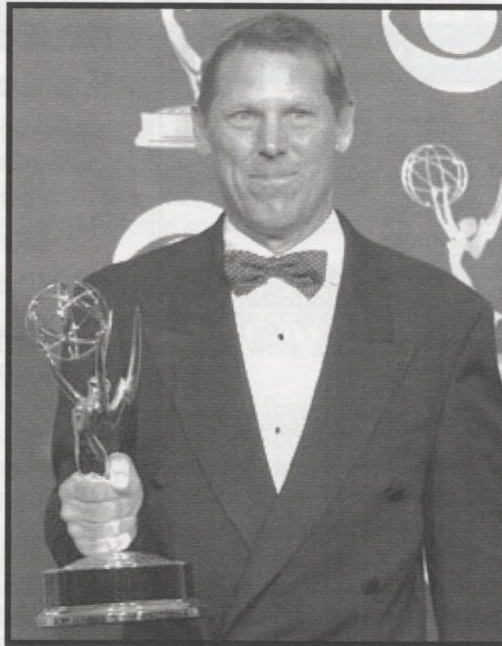
- ◆ "IT'S A MAD, MAD, MAD, MAD World" Starring Hollywood and a cast of thousands.
- ◆ "LORD JIM" with Peter O'Toole as Lord Jim, James Mason, Curt Jurgens, Eli Wallach, Jack Hawkins, Paul Lucas, Akim Tamiroff & Daliah Lavi

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



**What's Happening Now...**

**NBC Sports' Bucky Gunts Wins Emmy Award  
OUTSTANDING DIRECTING  
FOR A VARIETY, MUSIC OR COMEDY PROGRAM  
The Games of the XXVIII Olympiad – Opening Ceremony**



**Here's a transcript of Bucky's acceptance speech as broadcast on CBS Television  
on Sunday, September 18th**

I'd like to thank first my wife, Denise, and my kids, B.J. [and] Kate, for their support and their love. For the three thousand people that work on the Olympics for NBC, especially my Technical Director Steve Laxton, my Senior Audio guy Dave Levens, Senior Video Jerry Hochman, the two Producers of the Opening Ceremony David Neal and Jim Bell, and especially my friend and my boss, Dick Ebersol, who is the heart of NBC Olympics... thank you.

Marilyn Altman adds: "Well deserved congratulations to all....There'll be no living with Jerry Hochman now!"

October 18<sup>th</sup>, 2005

Hi All,

Just talked to **Dick Auerbach**. He has finished his Chemo treatments and has been given an A-OK by his doctor. No radiation, and his health and attitude are great. I am sure I speak for all us when I say we wish him continued good health.

**Ken Fouts**

*We Get Pictures*

Please send us original photos or .jpg scans with only ONE photo in each scan. This greatly simplifies our publishing process. Thanks. Joel [The Editor.]

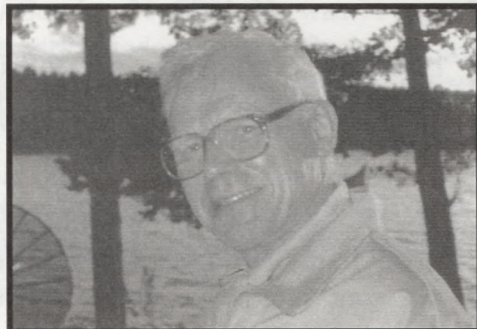


## Tributes to Silent Microphones

### ROGER MUIR REMEMBERS ROBERT "RIP" RIPPEN 1919-2005

I knew Bob Rippen for 64 years. We met in 1941 when we both were serving in the Editorial Unit of the Army Photographic Center at Fort Monmouth. Our commanding officer was Warren Wade, whose peacetime job was Director of the fledgling NBC television network. It was through Warren that I started work at NBC and later, in 1948 Rip joined the network to work with me on THE HOWDY DOODY SHOW.

I produced the show and Rip directed. When we went from 2 hours a week to a 5 a week half hour strip, we had to add staff; I became the Executive Producer and Rip became the Producer.



We worked together for 10 years and had one of the smoothest production operations in the NBC Television Department. Rip was a calm center in what was often a hectic situation. At that time we went on the air live every day. When we started to lose audience and went to once a week, Rip moved to the NBC Public Affairs Department where he produced and directed CONTINENTAL CLASSROOM, an early morning educational series for adults. The series won a Peabody Award in 1959.

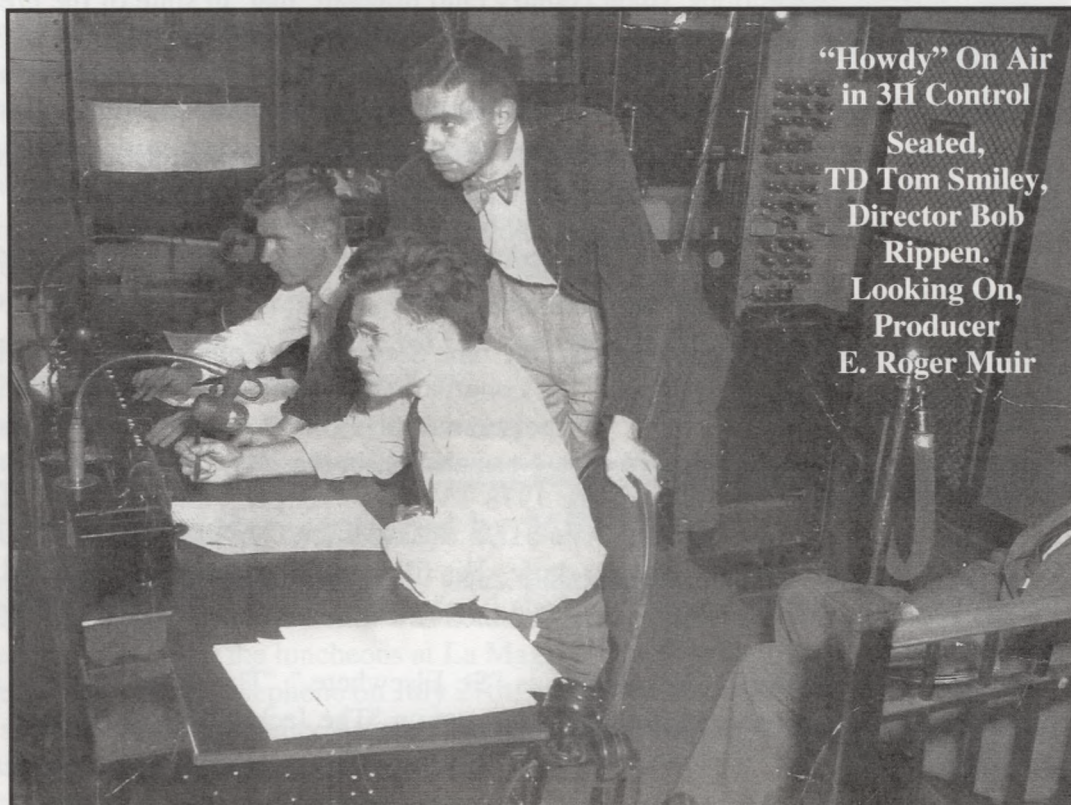
In 1960 Rip joined the Ford Foundation as Director of Production for Airborne Television Instruction in the Midwest. And for a short time he was Production Manager for "Subscription TV" during its brief life.

In 1964 Rip went to Rutgers University as the senior Producer/Director of "Instructional Television at Rutgers". In 1974 he was appointed Division Director of "The Instructional TV Program at Rutgers", a position he held until his retirement in 1984.

It's not necessary to tell those of you who knew or worked with Rip what a special person he was. He was a true gentleman in every sense of the word and his attention to detail was enviable -- I don't believe I ever saw him lose his temper, even when working with a sometimes-unruly cast of performers.

After we both left NBC we kept in touch by visits to each other's homes, Peacock North luncheons, the Howdy Doody Historical Society Conventions, and in recent years when we didn't travel as much, by phone each weekend.

Rip was a good and true friend --I miss him very much.



**"Howdy" On Air  
in 3H Control  
Seated,  
TD Tom Smiley,  
Director Bob  
Rippen.  
Looking On,  
Producer  
E. Roger Muir**



## Tributes to Silent Microphones

### Louis Nye, 92, Comic Actor and Sidekick to Steve Allen

Louis Nye, a ubiquitous comedian who became a fixture on early television for playing an unctuous advertising executive in a Steve Allen sendup of Madison Avenue, died on Sunday October 9th at his home in Los Angeles. He was 92. The cause was lung cancer, said his son, Peter.

Mr. Nye appeared on everything from "The Beverly Hillbillies" and "The Love Boat" to the HBO series "Curb Your Enthusiasm." But he was best known for his work with Steve Allen, whom he met in an elevator and apparently never expected to hear from once he got off.

The call came, though, and soon Mr. Nye was playing Gordon Hathaway, an exuberantly boastful man in a suit and tie who always seemed to be standing on his toes, smiling so brightly that his teeth sparkled as if he were in a toothpaste commercial. Mr. Nye's salutation - "Heigh-ho, Steverino" - became something of a national catchphrase in the 1950's. Mr. Nye appeared in what were billed as man-in-the-street interviews that Mr. Allen conducted with him and other regulars on the program, including Don Knotts, Bill Dana and Tom Poston.

Mr. Nye was so closely identified with his signature phrase that he recorded an album called "Heigh-Ho, Madison Avenue," which skewered advertising agencies, market research and the post-World War II society made famous by Sloan Wilson's novel "The Man in the Gray Flannel Suit." On the album, Mr. Nye appeared with a group called the Status Seekers in such songs as "The Gray Flannel Blues," "The Ten Commandments of Madison Avenue (Plus Big Bonus Commandments)" and "The Conspicuous Consumption Cantata." "He was the suave, pretentious, smug country club braggart, that, in spite of the pretentiousness, you had to like because democratic nations like America need people like that to make fun of," said Robert J. Thompson, a professor of media and popular culture at Syracuse University. "Gordon Hathaway was to Steve Allen as Frasier was to Frasier's dad. Frasier was always this guy we liked to dislike for looking down his nose at us."

Mr. Nye was born in Hartford on May 1, 1913, and had, he recalled in a 1995 interview, a mediocre career in school. "I couldn't make the Dramatic Club because my algebra was so bad," he said. After a stint with a troupe called the Hartford Players, he moved to New York, where he was cast in Moss Hart's revue "Winged Victory" during World War II. He also appeared in such shows as "Flahooley" in 1951 and a revival of "Charley's Aunt" that ran for a week in July 1970.

He teamed with Allen again in 1967, on "The Steve Allen Comedy Hour," a CBS variety show in which he also portrayed Gordon Hathaway. His cohorts that time included Allen's wife, Jayne Meadows, Ruth Buzzi and John Byner, among others. In the summer of 1970 he hosted the variety show "Happy Days" on CBS and three years later co-starred with Norman Fell in the New York garment industry sitcom "Needles and Pins." He played Kirby Baker in the 1978 TV show "Harper Valley P.T.A." He was a celebrity panelist on the late '70s syndicated comedy "The \$1.98 Beauty Show." In the 1980s and '90s he provided various voices for the "Inspector Gadget" cartoon show. His film credits included "Cannonball Run II," "Won Ton Ton, the Dog Who Saved Hollywood," "A Guide for the Married Man," "Good Neighbor, Sam" and "Sex Kittens Go to College."

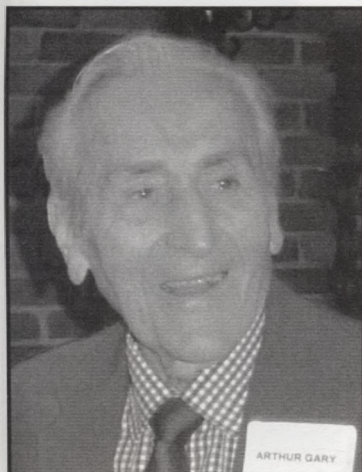
He also guest starred in such shows as "St. Elsewhere," "The Love Boat," "Laverne & Shirley" and "The Munsters" and appeared frequently as a guest on "The Jackie Gleason Show," "The Tonight Show Starring Johnny Carson" and "The Andy Williams Show."





## Tributes to Silent Microphones

### Arthur Gary



Arthur Gary, a former NBC broadcaster and long-time Peacock North luncheon attendee, died at his home in New York City Monday October 31, 2005. He was 91 years old. The cause was leukemia, said his wife, Rosemary Chodorov Gary. During the glorious days of radio, and on into the television era, the sonorous voice of Arthur Gary could be heard broadcasting everything from news to weekly dramas. His work spanned from 1936 to 1984.

Born in New York in 1914, he graduated from New York University and became part of the growth of the communications industry under the leadership of David Sarnoff.

A private memorial will be announced at a later date.

[Ed. Note: PNers Joyce Hurley and Joel Spector spent a wonderful winter evening with Rosemary and Arthur earlier this year. He was in top form, discussing everything from music and art to politics and just plain jokes. They had made a special effort to come out on a very snowy evening.]

### Joan Voukides

Joan Voukides died on September 13th after a long illness. PNers will remember her from her days at NBC. From 1980-1988 she was Director, Advertising & Promotion, for all four components of the NBC Radio Networks, New York: the NBC Radio Network (news); The Source (rock); Talknet (nighttime talk programming); NBC Radio Entertainment (music.) Prior to this, she worked in the NBC News division as researcher, production assistant and associate producer for NBC Television documentaries, instant specials and the "Today Show."



Joan was a partner in Creative Access to Communication Services. She was a marketing professional with over 15 years experience in all areas of electronic media - broadcast television, radio, cable television and on-line. Her expertise included brand marketing; creative services; advertising/media planning; direct-mail campaigns; image advertising; event planning; and public relations. She held senior positions at such enterprises as NJN Public Television & Radio, CBS Cable, Cablevision, and the Radio Advertising Bureau. Joan's most recent position was Director of Marketing for Continuing Education at University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey, a post she held until December 2004.

Joan was a past president of PROMAX and was on the board of directors of the New York chapter of Women in Cable and Telecommunications. She had an M.A. from the NYU Graduate School of Journalism, and a B.A. in Communications from Marymount Manhattan College, New York.

[Thanks to Joan's daughter Maria for providing this information—Ed.]

### Randy Stiles Remembered by Milt Wyatt

I am so sad to announce that my dear friend of more than thirty years, Randy Stiles, died on September 13th, 2005 after a long struggle with emphysema. Her memorial was held on October 2nd. She was a member of Peacock North, and I had taken her to many of the luncheons at La Maganette before her illness made it impossible for her to attend. I last spoke to her on the telephone on July 27th, which was her 81st birthday.

She produced Public Service spots for our Community Affairs Department at WNBC-TV. They were on subjects of interest to the New York audience. Her children are in New York.

A lovely lady who leaves very wonderful memories for me.



## Tributes to Silent Microphones

### Gene Frisch Remembered by Rick Berman

Gene passed away on September 6th, 2005 after a prolonged illness. He was 78. He had Leukemia and was on his third session of Chemotherapy when he died. He was a longtime employee of NBC-TV, finishing as a computer graphics artist. He worked on many shows including "Saturday Night Live" before he retired. He was preceded in death by his wife Shelly 12 years ago and moved to Charlottesville in 1995, where he built a beautiful home and brought his sister, who was widowed and ill, to live with him. He was very active in a local theater group, The Four County Players, where he was chairman of the board of directors, fund raiser, producer, director and did any other job that needed doing. He dedicated part of his home as a rehearsal hall for them and he will be sorely missed.



### Frank Kopcienski Remembered by his son, Paul

Frank was born on January 1<sup>st</sup> 1920 in Miller Place, N.Y. the son of Polish immigrants. Frank was raised on a potato farm with 11 brothers and sisters. He married Helen Wanat in 1940 and then began his career with RCA. Two years later during World War II he entered the Army and was assigned to an artillery division in the South Pacific. Luckily, three days before their division was to head for Japan, the first atomic bomb was dropped and the war ended.

Frank returned home and resumed his career with RCA and relocated to the Voice of America transmitter facility in Bound Brook NJ. I remember going to work with him as a kid to this tremendous site, no trees anywhere and nothing but giant towers with wires running between them. There was just one building, and inside were rows of big rack mounted reel to reel audio tape machines with labels on them that read "Russia" "Ukraine"

"Yugoslavia" and all the other countries that were being broadcast to behind the "Iron Curtain." Dad worked as a rigger and general purpose, whatever needed fixing or fabricating, maintenance engineer. It was a fun place to visit because they had a bulldozer that we would ride around on. When he got an overnight shift on the weekends I'd go along and we'd watch TV and eat snacks all night. (Sound familiar?).

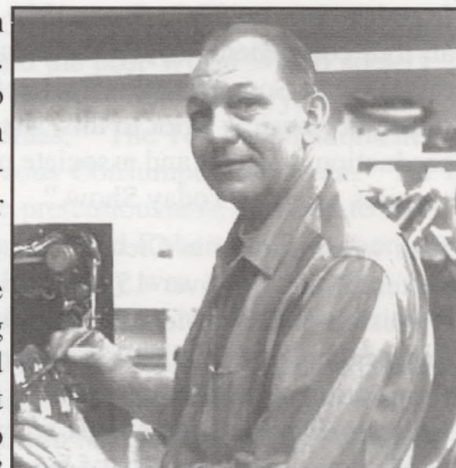
I'm not sure what year it was but Voice of America closed and Frank transferred to NBC in NY. He worked in 233, Rudy Gephardt's Model Shop, again customizing and fabricating all the special studio and control room equipment and consoles that were necessary in the days when control rooms and mobile units were not built with off the shelf equipment.

Frank retired in 1982 and bought a motor home in which he and Helen traveled North America off and on for the next 20 years, visiting their kids and grand kids and catching up with friends. Frank spent his last few years at his house in Middlesex, NJ in pretty good health. He passed away at home in his own bed on September 3<sup>rd</sup>

Frank was wonderful husband and a terrific father.

We'll miss you Dad.

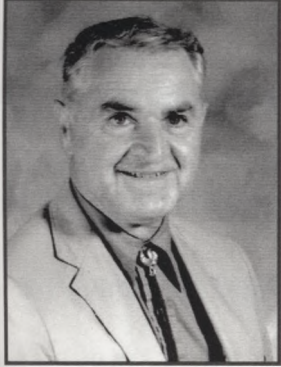
Love, Paul.





## Tributes to Silent Microphones

### Bob Mausler Remembered by Herb Polak



I'm sorry to inform you that Bob Mausler became a Silent Microphone and also a Silent Key - because he was a radio amateur - in June 2005. He was my roommate in the Broadcast Systems Engineering department after Mike Madigan moved to Florida. Bob's widow is Vivian. Their sons are Craig and Christopher.

Mike Madigan became a Silent Microphone a couple of years ago. Both guys were wonderful company and I miss them very much. Even my former boss, Steve Paganuzzi, became a silent mike and I should like to send a note to his family.

### Scott McCartney Remembered by his daughter Kathy

Scott loved working at NBC Sports and often came home to share stories of events he had covered and people he met. We all loved to listen. I remember as a little girl my dad would bring me to the studios when he worked on soap operas and special events. I remember seeing my dad's name on the credits of many spaceflight coverages, golf events and, most exciting, the Olympics. We all were so proud of him.

My birth was announced on "NBC Nightly News" on May 5, 1955.

My dad was a charismatic, handsome man and was a friend to many. He loved life and especially enjoyed his retirement in California. He is survived by three children, Geoff, Kathy and Pat, four grandchildren, Justin, Danny, Kyle and Devon and one great-grandchild, Dylan James. We will miss his presence but always have his spirit with us. Thank you for joining us in remembering him.



Hello All,

I was looking at the Space Crew picture in the Spring edition and came up with these guesses:

Vinnie Kane    Scotty McCartney    Bob Juncosa    Arnie Rand

Just a wild guess on my part. Thank you for allowing me to pay tribute to my dad, "Tippy." I know I will miss him a whole lot and maybe others will too.

Thanks, Maureen Mulvaney Stamm

Former president of NBC Entertainment **Mike Weinblatt**, died Thursday Aug. 25 in New York after a long battle with Alzheimer's disease. He was 76. Weinblatt's career at NBC started in 1957, and over the years he held positions including exec V.P. of the NBC Television Network, President of NBC Entertainment, and the first president of NBC Enterprises. During his presidency, NBC aired shows such as "Saturday Night Live" and miniseries such as "Holocaust." He left NBC to become president of Showtime Entertainment, and later became president of Multimedia Entertainment, which produced the talk shows for Phil Donahue and Sally Jessy Raphael.

He served as executive V.P. of the board for the non-profit League for the Hard of Hearing in New York. A graduate of Syracuse U., Weinblatt served in the U.S Army in counter-intelligence in Japan during the Korean War.



## Tributes to Silent Microphones

### Skitch Henderson



During a musical career that brought him into the nation's living rooms each night as the first "Tonight Show" bandleader, Skitch Henderson got to know his audience. "I watch the public like a hawk. If I see boredom, I worry," Henderson told The Associated Press in May. "You can tell by the applause: There's perfunctory applause, there's light applause, and then there's real applause. When it's right, applause sounds like vanilla ice cream with chocolate sauce."

The Grammy-winning conductor who founded the New York Pops died November 1st at his home in New Milford, CT of natural causes. He was 87.

Even in his late 80s, Henderson maintained a tireless work schedule as music director for the Pops, where he regularly served as conductor. He also was a frequent guest conductor at a number of orchestras around the world.

Born in England, Lyle Russell Cedric Henderson moved to the United States in the 1930s, eking out a living as a pianist, playing vaudeville and movie music in Minnesota and Montana roadhouses. He got his big break in 1937, when he filled in for a sick pianist touring with Judy Garland and Mickey Rooney. When the tour wrapped up in Chicago, he used the original pianist's ticket and went to Hollywood. There he joined the music department at MGM and played piano for Bob Hope's "The Pepsodent Show." His friendship with Hope put him in touch with other stars of the day, including Bing Crosby, who became a mentor. He studied with the noted composer Arnold Schoenberg, and Henderson's talented ear brought him renown from some of the era's most successful musicians. "I could sketch out a score in different keys, a new way each time," Henderson recalled. That quicksilver ability earned him the nickname "the sketch kid," which Crosby urged him to adapt to "Skitch." It stuck.

After World War II, Henderson toured as Frank Sinatra's musical director and toured the country with various bands. He served as musical director for the "Lucky Strike" radio show and "The Philco Hour" with Crosby. And when NBC moved to television, the studio brought Henderson along as musical director.

In 1954, NBC hired him as the bandleader for Steve Allen's "Tonight Show." Even as the hosts changed from Allen to Jack Paar to Johnny Carson, Henderson was a constant. He founded the New York Pops in 1983, using popular tunes to make orchestral music exciting. "People come to hear music that's accessible to them -- old songs that are powerful and don't go away," he said.

He is survived by his wife, Ruth, and children Heidi Maria and Hans Christian.

### PNers Remember Skitch

#### Walter Ryan

I met Skitch on 6th Avenue one day when John Rice and I were returning from lunch. What a nice guy. Skitch had worked with John and was thrilled to see him again. For the next thirty minutes I listened with fascination as Skitch and John conversed. Skitch was able to get in about one story for every four of John's... but every tale told was a winner. John and I may have been a little late returning from lunch.

#### Russ Tornabene

Though I labored in the news department, I used to sneak up to 8H and watch him rehearse his band and talk with the players and generally portray a bandleader. He was not a guy who was overly tight-lipped, or who shouted at his band or did anything but try to mold that music on paper into sounds that the listeners would enjoy. I used to brag to my news-hound buddies and buddies that I had just sneaked into the practice sessions where Skitch Henderson was getting ready for "tonight's" show. Thanks, Skitch....

#### Bob Dreier

I knew him well. We worked together for several years at NBC - a sweetheart of a person. Rest well Skitch!



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Name \_\_\_\_\_ Spouse Name \_\_\_\_\_

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**You've read Lenny Stucker's article on Page 15.**

**Please mail us your vote and thoughts on our proposed website!**

**Let's do it [ ]**

**Let's not do it [ ]**

**Include Picture Galleries [ ] News Bulletins [ ] Membership e-mail address list [ ]**

**Comments**

**Your Name \_\_\_\_\_**





**Your contacts:**

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Lenny Stucker

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(Peacock North Editor)

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**Mailing Address:**

PO Box 16755

Stamford, CT 06905

## New Peacock North Members

Frank Kennedy began working at NBC in 1965 and just retired from Digital Production Services and News. He and wife Mary Lou live in Yonkers, NY.

Jan Switkes-Thornley and husband Joe Thornley have both worked as NBC Television Engineers since 1979. They live in Huntington Station, NY.

Colette Baptiste-Mambo, a former NBC Technical Director, has been a Technical Manager for ABC Television since 1998.

### YOUR OPINION COUNTS!

**Please be sure to read Lenny Stucker's Website article on Page 15  
and then fill in and return the survey form on Page 31.**

Peacock North  
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