

Peacock North

The Second Generation



SUMMER, 2002

Volume 2 Edition 2

Well we made it through the first year of Peacock North under "new management" and what a triumph it was! It culminated with the annual Spring Luncheon attended by approximately 150 people, and was (in my humble opinion) a grand success. Keeping PN alive has been truly a labor of love. My hat's off to the men and women who preceded us. It is in their footsteps that we are following and trying to keep up the tradition. Also, a special thanks to Enid Roth who was dogged in helping to organize the luncheon and Mary Marshall who has donated hours upon hours of editing and computer time to the newspaper as well as the luncheon. We couldn't have done it without you two!

It has been a "helluva" year. As broadcasters we have watched our own coverage of some incredible news events which have affected our lives as individuals as well as a nation and we have been sobered



Enid Roth and Bob Rippen, director of Howdy Doody, winner of Oldest Stopwatch Contest at Spring Luncheon 2002.

by our participating roles. Television continues to be the major distributor of information and NBC with its partners, MSNBC and CNBC, is a particularly prominent force. When I looked around at the luncheon I couldn't help but notice the many faces of news people who have covered all the great events since TV news began. It makes me proud to be a part of the NBC heritage. Besides the news side, there was

a wonderful turnout of entertainment people with great history dating from Howdy Doody as well as

the usual suspects from all walks of life of NBC such as management, office support personnel, film, tape, etc. As we move forward into another year of history as a fraternal organization my goal will be to increase our membership and their participation. Please take the time to contact us with any ideas or advice concerning PN. This is a talented bunch of people and I am privileged to be part of it.

Marilyn Altman

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Spring Luncheon 2002



Claire Rosenstein & Gigi Harold



Dick & Annesley Swicker



George Cox & RW & Liz Davis



Enid Roth & Heino Ripp



James Greller & Jack Marshall



Bob Rizzo & Herb Gardner



Charles & Fran Davison



Dave Handler & Bob Rippen



Herb & Gloria Gardner & Jim Marshall



Gigi Harold, Fran DeGennaro
& Pete Peterson



Harry Warnerson, Tony & Nancy Nelle



Dominic Dunne & Heino Ripp



Peg & Pete Peterson &
Dominick Dunne



Ethel & George Corrado & Jack Keegan



Gloria Clyne, Enid Roth & Lois Marino



Harry Fleetwood & Maria Piela

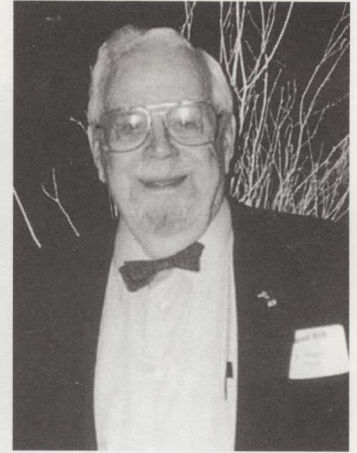
Spring Luncheon 2002



Jack Dolan & Grace Didato



Jim Mullen, Carole Arronsen, Cathy Vukovich & Bill Shortridge



Roger Muir



Liz Cahill & Marge McGlynn



"It's Howdy Doody Time"



Mary Marshall & Barbara Muir



Norman Davidson & Bob Rippen



Milly & Donald Gogarty & Fran DeGennaro



Madalyn & Michael Gilligan



Nancy Harper & Fran Davison

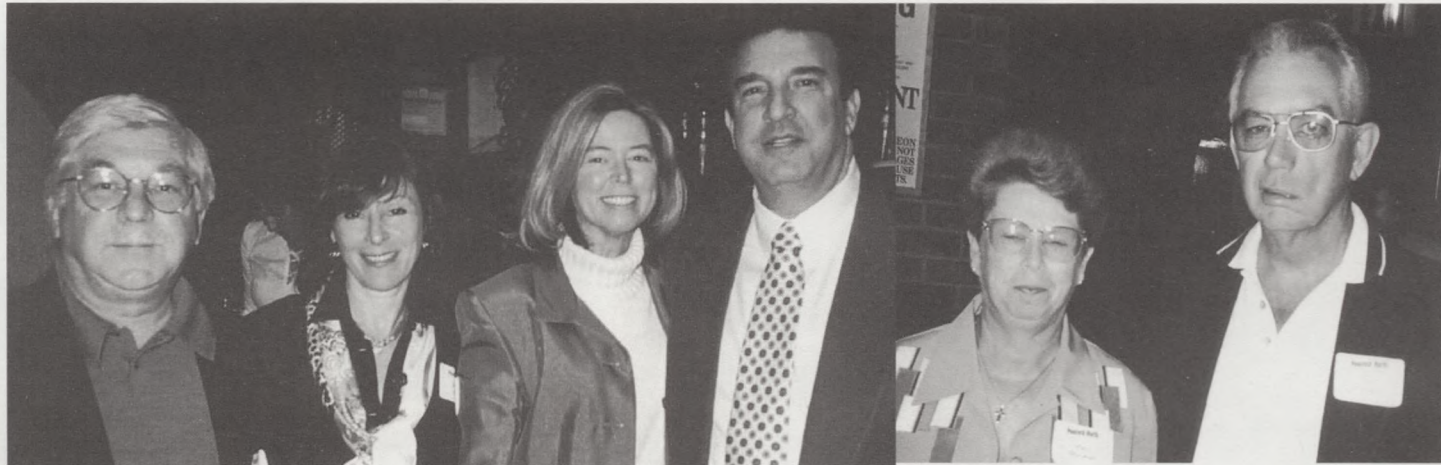


Val Branker & Theresa & John Scuoppo

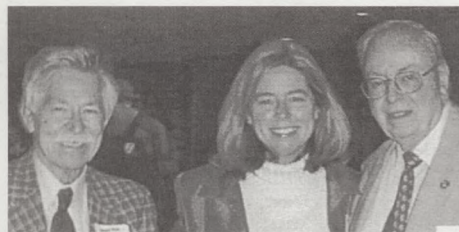


Peg Weber & Sally Morin

Spring Luncheon 2002



John Fider, Marilyn Altman Fider, Sharon Stucker, Lenny Stucker, Mary Marshall, Jim Marshall



Heino Ripp, Sharon Stucker
& Frank Vierling

Dominick Dunne



Keynote Speaker, Stage
Manager on Howdy
Doody, Court TV reporter,
Acclaimed Author.



Carol Aerenson, Gloria Clyne, Mamye Smith,
Joyce Werney, & Joan Gifford



Marilyn Altman & John Fider



Mamye Smith, Gene
Wagener & Carol Rider



News Group



Gene & Judy Farinet



Lenny Stucker

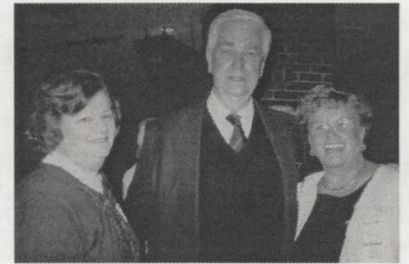
Spring Luncheon 2002



Judy Farinet & Ginny Seipt



All Robbins, Bambi Tascarella, Joyce Werney, Carol Aerenson, Gloria Clyne, & Gene Farinet



Joyce Werney, Pat Trese & Lois Marino



Joyce Werney, Bob & Vivian Newman



Cathy Vukovich, Stas Pyka & Lois Marino



Bill Freeda, Sandy Goodman, Bill Chesbergh, Carol Aerenson & Bill Theodore



Mamye Smith & Susan Drury



Maureen Potrato & Denise Robinson



Clare Rosenstein & Gigi Harold



Herb & Gloria Gardner & Jim Marshall



Gloria Clyne, Elisabeth Davis, Bambi Tascarella & Joan Gifford



Beryl Pfizer & Ann Taylor

PERSONAL GOSSIP

By Joe Mehan

Way back on May 19th when we gathered for our Spring Luncheon, Peacock North members reported news of their doings. Here's what they had to say.

Dominick Dunne (NYC)—Nick, the well-known author, got his start shepherding the kids into the peanut gallery on the Howdy Doody Show. He does a monthly piece for Vanity Fair, is writing a new novel, hosting a new television show and covered the Skakel murder trial in Connecticut for various national media.

Roger Muir—(Creator and Producer of the Howdy Doody Show.) Roger reports that he has formed a new company, Here's Howdy Again, which will produce a book on the back stage goings on of the Howdy Show, and a one-hour documentary on that subject and a CD on "The Real Truth of Howdy Doody." Wife, Barbara, adds that they are enjoying life in New Hampshire.

Ken Donoghue—Ken is doing volunteer work with an Alzheimer's group in his community.

Ginny Seipt—"Still plugging away, but only one or two days a week, as an AD at ABC. "Gotta keep that DGA health insurance up to date! Will now try to find something else to do to keep me busy the other four days a week."

DAN GRABEL MESSAGES

Pat Trese—"Dan, sorry you weren't here. You were missed greatly."

Gene Farinet—"Dan, best of luck and fond memories from a fellow cardiac veteran."

Al Robbins—"Dan, best of luck and stay well."

Bambi Tascarella—"Hey, Photo Man!" We all missed you documenting the day. Get well soon. Cheers!"

Lois Marino—"Dan, you are sorely missed."

Joan Gifford—"Dan, hurry back. We all miss you."

Ed Gough—"Dan, it's time for us to go skiing again."

John Scuoppo—"Missed seeing you at the luncheon. Hope you're feeling better and look forward to seeing you at the next one."

Denise Robinson (Health Office)—"This has not been my best year health wise." But Denise is hoping that Dan will be in good health soon. "God bless you. Missed you at the luncheon."

Pete & Peg Peterson (NJ)—"This has been a wonderful get together. We are so happy that there is going to be a continuance of our beloved Peacock North. Go team, we are behind you all the way!" "Also, what a thrill to meet Dominic Dunne. We are his #1 fans, we read all his books and his articles in Vanity Fair."

Frank DeRienzo (NJ)—"My 9 year-old grandson, Alex, hit 3 homeruns in one game!"

Bill De Lannoy (NJ)—Bill remembers the many NBC friends, family, camera crews, maintenance men, everybody." Bill did lighting for Howdy Doody, camera on Perry Como and his last assignment was NBC Master Control. Wife, Dorothy, remembers the old days, too.

Sandy Goodman (DC)—Sandy is living in Washington and loving it. He works part-time as a narrator on tour mobile buses going around the Washington Mall and Arlington Cemetery. Sandy says "I recommend this to all of us who spent our careers on the wrong side of the cameras and long to be HAMS!" Sandy and wife, Jane, are looking forward to being grandparents this fall for the first time.

Herb Gordon—"After umpteen years at NBC, took early retirement in 1986 and since then has been published seven outdoor books. Number 8 is coming out in '03".

Carla Engelman—"Terrific to be here today." Carla can be found at the Metropolitan Museum of Art.

Ed Voss (VA)—Ed is living on the eastern shore of Virginia on Chincoteague Bay and loving it.

Maureen Patrato (Health Office)—"This year has been a very emotional and busy year, working with the NYPD. It has only reminded me how dear life is and how wonderful it is to be with and talk to old friends."

Audrey Marshall—"I've been trying to learn the art of computer technique from Jack who receives a lot of jokes from his friends. Also, I've joined a club: The Creative Home Arts Club. It encourages women members to send in ideas. I've been doing some painted

glassware. I've had a second bird story published in the series 'Listening to the Animals.'"

Phil Harper—He and wife, Nancy, are enjoying the combination of grandchildren (3) and travel. They visit the kids in Virginia and Ohio. They plan to do other travelling this fall.

Charlie Davison—He and wife, Fran, likewise have been travelling: to visit a granddaughter in Illinois and a son in Colorado. They think, "retirement is great!"

Dick Doherty—Dick enjoyed a cruise through the Hawaiian Islands and will take another one, from Spain to Italy, this fall.

Harry Fleetwood—Harry has had a stroke, but he was at the reunion, "enjoying the event" and sends "best wishes to all!"

Bill Chesleigh—had momentous news: he painted the house again!

Bill Theodore—reports something Bill Chesleigh apparently forgot: "we went to Nova Scotia with the Chesleighs." Bill is freelance field producing for network news departments.

Bill Freeda—He and wife, Susan, celebrated their 40th anniversary in grand style, taking their three children and five grandchildren to Disney in Orlando, Florida for a week, including a 3-day Disney Cruise.

Bob Rizzo—Bob and girlfriend Trish took a bus trip with friends to Mohegan Sun and actually won some money!

Herb Gardiner—Herb and wife, Gloria, celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary in December, '01.

Bud Shadel—commented that "it was wonderful to see all the old NBC'ers at the May get-together and he hopes the events will continue."

Art Finkelstein—Art and wife, Minda, have been married 31 years. They are "fitness junkies" and enjoy activities like a cruise to Alaska.

Bob Garthwaite—always wanted to be an actor and 55 years after starting at NBC, Bob reached his goal: a guest appearance on "Ed" and an NBC Movie of the Week.

Bill Knight (NC)—moved in 2001 from New Jersey to North Carolina.

Marilyn Jacobs Furey (NYC)—"Unfortunately, I saw the twin towers collapse from my terrace." Marilyn also went on a safari to Africa, which she found "Very exciting."

Vic Roby (Scarsdale)—"The greatest thing is the fact that three saviors have saved the life of Peacock North."

PERSONAL GOSSIP

Art Gary (NYC)—"Eighty-eight years and still going."

George Corrado—George and wife, Ethel, have plans for an Alaskan cruise in September. George has been writing and giving speeches to local organizations.

Gary Iorio—Although Gary's wife, Dorothy, suffered a stroke, they still enjoy the winter months in Florida, "eating up the warm sun and staying away from the northern snow." While there, they also have a chance to spoil their great-granddaughter. She is the first after 18 grandchildren!!

Gloria Reina—Gloria says that she is writing her memoirs, now up to the sixth grade. "Whoopee!"

Fran DeGennaro—"I'm also writing my memoirs. I'm up to Page 1."

Bob Van Ry—"Had the pleasure of working the 75th special. The highlight was chatting with folks from a few years back."

Gigi Harold—Gigi is still trying to keep up her skills honed at the NBC Ski Club, "but only day trips these days."

Dick Swicker—Dick remains active by doing woodworking—specifically, woodturning—for architectural restorations. Besides that, he and wife, Annesley, travel both in Europe and the Pacific. They have a summer home in Maine.

Gene Frisch (VA)—Gene is still enjoying the good life in Charlottesville. He heads a community theatre group doing Shakespeare. They presented performances four weekends in August.

James Greller—"I love that NBC. My best times were working at The Rock for Alan Smiler." James is now "working in public transportation in New Jersey."

Bill McConnell—"Miss the good folks and times at 30 Rock."

Stan Lee Fatt—Stan is doing a lot of remodeling in bathrooms, porches, kitchen, etc. He and wife, Maxine, also

Michael "Joe" Gilligan (NH)—Joe and wife enjoy the bucolic paradise of the New Hampshire landscape changing colors with the season as they watch from their house in the mountains. Big event of the year was their son's wedding on Martha's Vineyard.

Jim Sunder—Jim has had a full year ("good and not so good") but he and wife, Florence, made the Peacock gathering and "as always, it has been great."

Tony Nelle—He and wife, Nancy, report a strange phenomenon: "when we retired, we had 0 grandchildren. We now have 8." (Are they great cheerleaders,

PERSONAL GOSSIP *Cont'd*

or what's their secret?)

Jack Keegan—Jack and wife, Irene, moved a few years ago into senior housing. Their reaction? “No shoveling, grass cutting, ect. It's a great life!” Jack's been retired for 20 years now and “enjoying every minute.”

Mamye Smith—She and Bob Hickey went to Alabama for a mini-family reunion of her family. The highlight was a trip with some 20 family members to see “Fantasy in Lights” at Calloway Gardens in Pine Mountain, Georgia. Mamye hopes to visit a sister in South Africa this year and take a safari.

Carol Aerenson—Carol is *still* working in the NBC News Archives! She says that “the Peacock North Luncheon is one of the highlights of my year.”

Milt Wyatt (NYC)—Took five family members on a trip to London and Paris in 2001 and planning to visit both those countries again in October.

George Moyantchef (CT)—Spend last winter in Florida—Palm Beach, Fort Lauderdale and the Keys—a sun-drenched situation, and had a great time.

Bob Newman (NYC)—Bob and Vivien spend considerable time going to the theatre. They have seen most of the Tony Award nominees, enjoying the musicals most of all, and gotten through most of the Oscar Award nominee list. They are experts on getting senior rates, if you need help.

Norman Davidson (NYC)—I'm in my ninth year as a twice-a-week volunteer at the Metropolitan Museum of Art, Information Department.

George Wagener—edited a psychiatrist's book and wrote a book of his own. He had a slight stroke on Easter Sunday.

Donald Gogarty—Donald and wife, Mildred, became grandparents of two grandsons via adoption. The two new family members are Sean and Seamus.

Frank Weill (Maine)—Frank and wife, Anne, enjoy a good deal of the summer at their seasonal home in Ogunquit, Maine. They invite any Peacock members passing by for thirst quenching and nostalgia.

Doris & Ted Everett—Both worked at NBC. They met there in 1949 and were married in 1952. Both enjoy the Peacock reunions.

Joe Mehan (CT)—Hey, what about me? I've been working on a book about media since World War II for the past two years. Hopefully, the project will be finished this year and maybe somebody will publish it.

We Get Letters

PUT A LITTLE LIGHT IN YOUR LIFE

By Herb Greeley

(“The Prince of Darkness, as Jim Blaney calls me!”)

In 1987, at age 62, I retired from NBC as a lighting director after 39 years. My 10 years with the “young” Johnny Carson were the best.

Since I last saw all of you, Ruthie and I sold our homestead in Mt. Vernon, NY and moved to Suntree, Florida permanently in 1990 and joined the Suntree Country Club immediately! They have: **two** championship-18 hole golf courses, one designed by Arnie Palmer with water holes on 30 of the 36 holes, ten Har-tru Tennis Courts, wonderful chef and dining facilities, and believe it or not the new most popular sport here is bocce ball that was started by a group of non-Italians who love it. There is no industry or manufacturing plants within 15 miles of Suntree and the nearest smokestack is in Orlando, 48 miles away—sounds like Brooklyn, Bronx and Staten Island, doesn't it?

Our “Lincoln Center” is the Bob Carr Center in Orlando, which brings in philharmonic orchestras and other classical music performers, mostly European and very good. Cocoa Beach is 10 miles north of us and has quite a few very good jazz clubs with several musicians from the New York City area who knew friends of mine from Doc Severinsen's orchestra. Walt Warner and his wife, Sophia, live in Cocoa Beach and Jim Neiland is in Cocoa on the mainland. Carl Ricca from Special Effects also lives in Suntree across the lake from us. We see him Sundays after church.

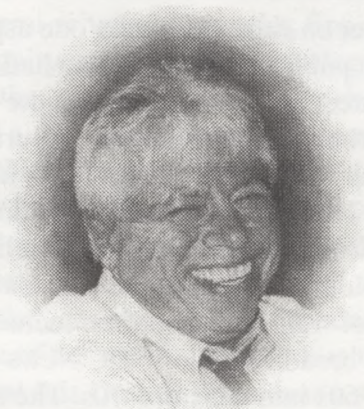
My daughter, Christina, presented us with twin grandsons who are 5-years old now. They are blond and blue-eyed, just like their Mom and Dad and are just as good-looking. I had double knee replacements 2 years ago because I wanted to play with my grandsons and not watch them from a wheelchair.

My son, Jim, is a wine consultant with the 1,000 chain of ABC Liquor and Wine Stores, mostly in Florida. We are tasting some of the most delicious wines available—only doing it to help further his career (of yeah!).

My Ruthie is actively involved as a fundraiser for the Abused Children Advocacy Center. Last year at a charity event at our club, she organized a silent auction that raised \$7,800 for them.

Hope to see all of you someday soon.

Tributes to Silent Microphones



Louis W. Castro
October 11, 1939—May 26, 2002

By Bill Freeda

My friend **Lou Castro** passed away from a heart attack, on the Saturday of Memorial Day weekend. He was 62 years old. Lou was on vacation in Spain with his wife Joyce and Joyce's granddaughter Megan. He worked for NBC for 37 years, starting in the News/film Department working himself up from apprentice to full Film Editor. In 1976 Lou was transferred to EJ. He was always concerned about his co-workers at NBC, and due to the fact that Lou was one of the first film editors to be transferred to EJ, he took on the responsibility of assuring that each of the film editors that followed him would succeed in this new technology. Toward that end, Lou created a loose-leaf notebook, known as "The Book", containing notes on everything he had learned. He made sure that each of us received copies of these notes when we arrived in EJ.

His children Robert, Rickey, Russell, Laura, and Raymond and five grandchildren as well as his wife of two years Joyce, survive Lou. Joyce was the wife of former NBC employee Bill Lockhart who passed away in 1996. After Lou lost his wife Roni in December of 1996, Joyce and Lou, after having been friends for many years, fell in love and were married in February of 2000. Together they had a large loving family of eight children and fifteen grandchildren. It was a tribute to Lou that Joyce's oldest granddaughter Megan spoke at his funeral and referred to Lou as Grandpa. Lou was a good friend, and a caring co-worker. To make sure Lou doesn't get swellheaded if he is looking down, and I am certain he is, I should tell

you that by all accounts he was a lousy fisherman. His premature passing will leave a void in the hearts of many people.

Contributions may be made in Lou's memory to United Hospice of Rockland, Inc., 11 Stokum Lane, New City, NY 10956 or Hospice of Orange & Sullivan Counties, 800 Stony Brook Court, Newburgh, NY 12550



Recollections of Dave Wilson

By Bob Van Ry

Davey, a colleague of thirty years, a friend for 48, was laid to rest July 5, 2002.

I met Davey in the fall of 1953, at Fairleigh Dickinson University in Rutherford, New Jersey (three years after he was chosen "Funniest Boy in NJ"). We were enrolled in a Play Production course and appeared in a few productions together. Later, he would direct a couple of musical-comedy productions, in which I appeared.

One play we were in was *The Royal Family*, loosely based on the John Barrymore (not certain of play characters name), and I the lesser role of personal trainer/fencing coach. The college fencing coach helped us with a routine, during which Dave had all the lines. Come the night of performance, Dave remembered his lines, but not the routine! I actually had to defend myself—but as usual, "nobody got hurt!"

Dave graduated in '55 (he was two years ahead of me) and went to work at NBC: first as a page, then in the "bowling alley" (you under 50-ites check the NBC glossary of terms). Soon he would be AD'ing in switching central.

While there, Hal Venlio, the AD on *Bell Telephone Hour*, became ill and someone suggested Dave as his replacement—and you all know the rest.

Disco and I worked with AD Wilson on *Kraft Music Hall* for approximately five years, after which Dave left NBC to direct.



Tributes to Silent Microphones Cont'd

When SNL came along in 1975, Dave asked Joe and me to work the show; to at least help to get it started. Disco lasted 21 years, and I, 25. So much for "helping to get a show started!"

I knew Dave socially for all these years as well, having met his wife, Roberta, at Fairleigh before Dave did. She appeared in the musicals as well.

I always enjoyed our visits over the years, which tended to last into the wee hours. Dave usually had a parlor game organized. He was the most enthusiastic of parlor game players—in fact, he died while participating in one at a friend's home.

I shall miss Pha-phogg (a SNL Muppet), as I sometimes referred to him, especially when speaking with Roberta; and will always remember the happy times we had—including the exciting ones at SNL.



Our condolences to David Handler on the death of his mother.



Eppie Lederer, better known as Ann Landers, died in her East Lake Shore Drive home in Chicago Saturday, June 22, of multiple myeloma, a cancer of the bone marrow. The Chicago Tribune was the flagship newspaper for her column since 1987. She died less than two weeks before her July 4 birthday, when she would have been 84.

By Russ Tornebene

I nominate for "best obit of '02" the fond farewell by Margalit Fox to Eppie Lederer, known to 90 million readers around the world as Ann Landers. I highlight this sentence, "**A petite, elegant woman who favored high heels and silk, Mrs. Lederer had delicate features and a voice of pure ground glass.**" The entire 70-column inches in the New York Times, including photos, is an adoration of this unique lady. The well-deserved space about the death of the most popu-

lar column writer on earth does miss one aspect of her lengthy life as a public arbiter: she also had a brief broadcasting career. That's where the quote "...and a voice of pure ground glass" becomes important.

The other item I offer is that I was in charge of the NBC Radio Network for some of her time before the mikes, and I was the one who would tell her that her contract would not be renewed. Ann Landers was one of a stable of well-known names, including many of the top news broadcasters of NBC News in that period of the late '60s into the early '70s. The name of the series was *Emphasis*, so popular on the air that it spawned a book of examples of its thoughtful discourse.

First, the ground glass. Yes, we in New York heard her 90-second "spots" being fed from Chicago on a regular basis. The flat nasality was part Midwesterner (Sioux City, Iowa) and part untrained-for-broadcasting. The radio affiliates had complained about how "unprofessional" was Ann Landers. Unless, of course, these stations were owned by newspaper chains that published this most popular purveyor of real life stories.

Given the command to end her contract, I wrote to her at her address to ask if she ever came to New York (Yes, I was a coward, and shivered internally at the thought of doing the deed at her office at the Chicago Sun-Times). Luck was with me. She wrote back that yes, she's going to New York for a few days in the near future. I wrote back and asked her to be the guest at lunch of the NBC Radio Network on one of her days in Manhattan. She selected the date. It was a Friday. That was the easy part. I asked around what was then known as 30 Rock, to assure that I would be taking the one and only Ann Landers, famous on farms as well as tall city buildings, to a five-star restaurant. An NBC high level executive suggested the Palm Restaurant, on the East Side of Manhattan, where important friends of Jackie Kennedy took her to lunch. We met there, on time. Within minutes, before I could stumble into making contract talk, Eppie had interviewed me about my own background. She was a true BIP, or born inquisitive personality, and she reacted honestly and without guile when she expressed pleasure that I was raised in northern Indiana, and had been to Chicago many times. Before my glass of wine had been emptied, I realized that I was enthralled by this unique famous yet down-to-

-earth newspaper personality. I was beginning to become very sorry that, before the lunch would end, I had to tell her that her contract would soon end. When I did unwind my semi-rehearsed remarks, Eppie Lederer, with more dignity, and dressed more elegantly than most of the other women there, calmly showed a small smile, waited a few seconds, and said something like, "Well, these things happen." She meant it. She was not going to be unhappy about an event that could shake other professionals. She gave me the chance to explain how the affiliate station managers called the shot on this one. She nodded, and then shifted the conversation to other subjects of the world. I had, in less than an hour recognized that this Grande Dame was a solid human being, nasality and all.

What kind of woman was she? A rare combination of talent and common sense. Years later, after taking a job in Chicago, I attended a symposium at Northwestern University, north of the city where she wrote her column for decades. There she and other luminaries spoke about the health of journalism and intelligent discourse. Afterward, I joined other admirers circling around her, in order to tell her, ever so briefly, that I had taken her to lunch at The Palm in New York when I worked at NBC Radio. Within a few seconds, she smiled, as she had before, and gave me a gift that few people in the business could. Or would. She remembered the lunch. And she said, in effect, I should not look back at unpleasant past events, but I should look forward to the tomorrows of my current job. It was the last time I would see her, but not the last time I would think admiring thoughts about her.



Can anyone identify the cameraman? This is from the 1960's, The Children's Theatre—Quillow and the Giant.



For the past 5 years during May sweeps the Today Show has gone on the road with a tour known as WITW is Matt Lauer. It has covered 27 locations, from Mt. Everest to the Great Wall of China; from an active volcano to an oil rig in the middle of the Atlantic; from Paris to Pisa to Machu Pichu and Victoria Falls, criss-crossing the globe at incredible distances from day to day. It has been some of the most daring and colorful "live" television which has succeeded in getting some of the best ratings for The Today Show in their long history. I was privileged to have been a technical manager on this tour for the past three years. This year, 2002, Matt Lauer announced that he was "retiring" from this tour. In his usual gracious manner Lauer made a point to thank everyone at the final dinner in Mougins, France for the esprit-de-corps exhibited by everyone associated with this show. Within a couple of weeks of our return he sponsored a luncheon for the entire technical and production staff at the field shop in Long Island City. At the luncheon Stacy Brady, Vice President of Field Operations, presented Matt with a Tiffany crystal globe of the world with the appropriate demarked locations and a lovely inscription noting the close bond established between him and the field operations unit. It was a wonderful and unique meeting of comrades-in-arms sharing a particular history in this business. Sort of like "the good old days" when the job depended on honorable men and women who felt responsible towards their job as well as to those around them.

Mr. Lauer is one of the most gracious and well-humored talents I have ever had the privilege of working with. But what made WITW work SO well is that there are people in all positions who simply want to do a great job and no one's ego got in the way. This tour's success is owed to people like Jeff Zucker, Mary Alice O'Rourke, David Nagger, Stacy Brady and all the staff in between. I have rarely seen a group of people demonstrate such warm and professional respect for each other as well as genuine feelings of friendship. I am proud to have been a part of it. Thanks for the memories.

Marilyn Altman

Looking BACK

Submitted By Jack Keegan

RCA/NBC 1939 Telecast From Mitchel Field

Can you identify any of the people in this photo?



The pictures shown here were taken at the U.S. Army Air Corps' Mitchel Field in Hempstead Plains, Long Island, New York, most likely in 1939. The building in the background is the base fire house. Mitchel Field ceased operations as an Air Force base in 1961.

The opening of the New York World's Fair in April 1939 also marked the beginning of commercial television broadcasting in the US. RCA had made a huge investment in the technology but also realized that to sell TV sets (which then could cost as much as a new car) they would need programming, as well. To cover remote events, they created the distinctive equipment vans shown here.

These photos can be found at http://uv201.com/Photo%20Pages/mitchel_field.htm. This is a great website for anyone interested in the history of Mitchel Field.



These vans contained everything needed to originate a live TV broadcast from a remote site. They relied on a VHF radio link, so they were limited to locations that offered a direct line of sight to their receiver at the top of the Empire State Building. These vans would have been a familiar sight in and around New York before TV operations were suspended in 1942 due to the US entry into WW-II.



The Birth of Peacock North

I was doing a little, and I do mean little, spring cleaning and came across the following...thought the members might get a kick out of how Peacock North first got started.

Joan Gifford

WHAT IS PEACOCK NORTH?!!

This is a newly forming organization for all employees, former employees, and retirees who have served for twenty or more years in the Broadcasting/Telecasting industry.

Thirty persons joined together on August 12, 1987 at a luncheon in Fort Lee, NJ to start things off. The association was formed for the benefit of a friendly group who wanted to foster a continuing relationship with friends in the industry.

It is open for membership to those from any department or company in the field, and has no bearing or affiliation with any union or company group. It is non-political and its only objective is a non-profit friendly (AND HAPPY) association, that will enjoy events for everyone's pleasure.

Since August 12th, two committee luncheon meetings were held and our next GRAND event will be the First Annual Holiday Season Brunch and Buffet on Sunday, December 13, 1987 at the Ramada Inn, Clifton, NJ at a price of \$23.00 per person.

The Committee

Vincent DiPietro	President
Sam Sambataro	Vice President
Phil Falcone	Secretary
Peter Peterson	Treasurer
Gene Martin	Liaison Officer

Here is a list of the Charter Members:

Arnold Dick
 Arnold Proner
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 Sam Sambataro
 Scott Schachter
 Thomas Lyman, Jr.
 Vincent DiPietro
 Wilbur L. Hildreth
 William Goetz

We Get Stories and Pictures



LOTS OF STORIES OVER THE YEARS

By: Arnold Reif

This picture shows the weekend sports Grandstand crew taken in 1980. I had invited the group up to my home in Sloatsburg, NY to play a softball game against my local volunteer fire department. Looking at the picture, you will see Mike Weisman, Ken Aagaard with his son on his shoulder, Lenny Greenberg, the Technical Director who died at a much too early age, Rex Lardner, Les Dennis, Bill Fitts, Don Ellis, Barbara Cline nee Stanley, Avo Koiv who not only played in the game, but supplied the post game meal. As you can see, there were many other very talented NBC Sports employees in the picture. That's Steve Rosen with the camera covering his face. Gee what a surprise! I am the one in the middle rear with the great suntan. If anyone cares, we won the game. Since I was also a volunteer fireman, I played for both sides.

For those of you who remember, we did the show for almost six months from a wooden prefab control room on the eighth floor. The real control room for the studio was being renovated. Each week we would come in and find that someone had painted windows, doors, etc, all over the wooden walls. Don Ellis, the producer of the show, thought it was great and wanted to know why we couldn't keep it. I believe Bryant Gumbel and Jack Buck, our show hosts, finally convinced him the new control room would be just as good.

Memories



Photo taken at Carl Watson's retirement party, February 25, 1975. Left to right: Audrey Halbig (now Audrey Marshall); Carl Watson and unknown lady. Submitted by Audrey Marshall.



Photo taken in January 1977. Seated, first row, left to right: Noel Engler, Manager; Thaine Engel, Office Manager and Stewart Bronfeld, Writer/Producer. Second row, Dave Bellin, Director; Paula Merlestein, Pintauro, staff; Rick Salcedo, Office Staff. Back row, Bill McConnell, Writer/Producer; Bruce Soloway, A.D.; Jack Fishman, Writer; Jay James, Writer/Producer; Doug Flynn, Writer. Submitted by Audrey Marshall.

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Gift Certificates of Peacock North Memberships were given to recent retirees **Kathleen Hurlie** of Ossining, NY, **Chris Brennan** of Trenton, NJ and **Frank McCulloch** of Bridgewater, NJ by Diana Hunt Butler. (Great idea Diana, thanks for thinking of PN.)

Mike Jensen, News Broadcaster with NBC from 1978 to 2000. He and wife Jane, live in Alexandria, Virginia.

Ken Donoghue, News with NBC from 1958 to 1987. He and wife Gloria, live in Pearl River, New York.

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