

Peacock North

The Second Generation

SUMMER, 2004



Volume 4 Edition 2



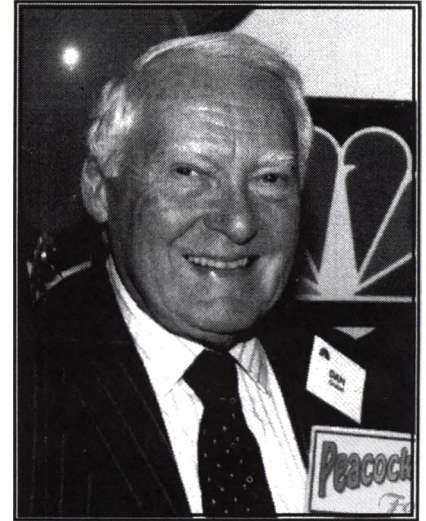
INSIDE PN

Spring Luncheon	1, 2
Obits	
Jerry Caruso	3
Howard T. Atlas, Jim Richards, Larry Elikann	4
We Get Letters	5
NBC Sports and the Shot Seen 'Round the World	6, 7

We Get Letters and Pictures	8, 9
Looking Back—Frank Vierling	10, 11
Herb Oxman Memories	12
Stacy Brady Wins Edison Award	13
New Directions at PN Newsletter	14
Honorary Membership and Dues & Membership Form	15
Your Contacts	16

Great Crowd Marks 17th Annual PN Luncheon

By Dan Grabel



The 17th edition of the Peacock North annual luncheon meeting brought smiling and suntanned faces to LaMaganette Restaurant on Sunday, May 23rd for memories and health reports!

One hundred and twenty-five NBC retirees, and a few still on the job like PN hosts Marilyn Altman and Lenny Stucker, had signed up. Almost that many showed up on a nice day when motorists at 50th and Third Avenue had to contend with a local street fair and the crowds at the Salute to Israel Parade.

While the numbers were down, and that's something we have to expect each year, there was no shortage of old stories and new experiences to report. Attendees always wonder why someone is missing and during the lunch there were a few reports on poor health (Howard Atlas in a nursing home in Woodbury, L.I.), Penny Marshall recovering from a heart by-pass, etc), and personal demands (the Roger Muirs are in the middle of moving from one New Hampshire residence to another).

Marilyn invited Peter Peterson, Frank Vierling and Dan Grabel to come to the podium to be acknowledged. They, especially Peter, had been the movers and shakers of PN for the first 15 years.

Dan said, "I can never face this audience without remembering one of the shortest and most appropriate comments spewed into this microphone. That speaker opined, 'Retirement? It's the best job I ever had!' So said director Dave Handler, who is here today."

Frank commented, "I can't believe it is our 17th year." And Vierling generously continued, "Everybody looks 17 years younger."

Attendees at the announcers' table were down to just Vic Roby and Arthur Gary. Another usual announcer guest -- Don Pardo, had worked "Saturday Night Live," and possibly the late gig kept him in bed Sunday morning! EJ editors were likewise limited to George Moyantcheff and Sonny Hansen. We couldn't find the usual "Today Show" table, (Marie Finnegan and Lilly Russo always used to show up). But the news writer/producers were out in force including Ken Donohue, Ed Bowers, Gene Farinet, Ed Gough, Joe Meehan, Beryl Pfizer, and Herb Gordon. Joining them was Ann Taylor who works at PBS in Washington half the week but still resides in New York.

Attending directors in addition to Handler included Enid Roth and Marilyn Jacobs Furey.

Cissie Lindemann announced that there will be a reunion of all who worked on the 1975 World Series this October 30-31 in Savannah, Georgia. She said they are expecting some 75 people, but she did not announce what the reason was behind that particular year. (See Ken Fouts' article regarding the "Shot Seen 'Round the World" on pages 6 and 7 of this issue. -ed)

Gloria Clyne went to the mike to bring up a subject she had discussed with Marie Finnegan - both worked at 30 Rock when NBC only occupied nine floors. That was "The Case of the Grand Staircase." It turns out there were two staircases at the studio elevators in the center of the building and you may find that memory in the next issue under Gloria's byline.

Peter Peterson had his tale of the Grand Staircase which ran from the 2nd to the 3rd floor. The year was around 1949. The area was a hangout for radio actors waiting to go on, scripts in hand, memorizing, spurring out lines. Midst all this hubbub, Peter, an audio engineer, was rushing to a studio when a young man accosted him crying "You gotta hear this song." He dropped to his knees, and while holding on to Peter so he couldn't dash off, he sang his heart out with that song. Peter figures he probably thought he was a big time producer. Memories! Memories!

Marilyn Altman pleaded for material for the next PN magazine - remember we used to publish 48 pages. One suggestion she threw out for retirees was an anecdote of how you got started in the business. There have to be many strange and quirky stories there, so please send them in. (See her article on page 14 -ed)

So many people communicate by e-mail these days that it is time for a PN e-mail directory. The organization will put one together if enough retirees send the information to us at

PO Box 16755, Stanford, CT 06905

or by e-mail to

peacocknorth@yahoo.com

(My apologies to anyone who attended and whose name was not listed although they were among the department groups mentioned.)

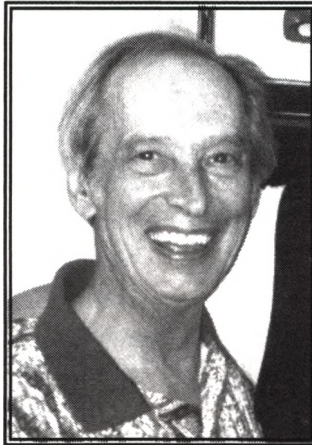
Tributes to Silent Microphones

Jerry Caruso June 10, 1926—July 12, 2004

By Mike Noseworthy

After completing his tour in the US Navy, Jerry landed at the National Broadcasting Co., much to their good fortune. During his diverse, Emmy Award-winning career at NBC, Jerry operated mic boom, did camera and mixed sound on a wide array of programs such as The Tonight Show, The Perry Como Show, The Today Show, Entertainment Specials, Political Conventions and Soaps. But the division that benefited most from his talents was Sports. As those who knew him would agree, Jerry threw himself fully at any endeavor he took on, whether it was getting his pilot's license or building a piece of furniture. He defined professionalism and set the standard for sound and communications for many of the NBC Sports properties including golf, football, and baseball, and the list goes on...and then he improved it. He always lived by words that he professed: "Be your own toughest critic and you will be okay."

If someone asked me to describe Jerry with one word I would use "Giver." There are many other descriptions that could be used due to his talents in cooking, entertaining, and furniture making. I was one of the many lucky recipients of that generosity. Twenty-four years ago he gave me an opportunity to learn a craft. Early on he would assign you to a cable crew and then observe to see if you displayed a good work ethic and common sense. If you passed that test, then the giving would continue. Jerry didn't teach by recipe. When you were finished with a task you not only how to do it but why it worked. As time passed, Jerry held the positions of Teacher, Promoter, and Supporter for many of us. For example, one cold winter weekend in 1982, was scheduled to work on an NFL game at Arrowhead Stadium in Kansas City MO as a sideline (parab) mic operator. I showed up on site on a travel/setup day for a game the next day. As I approached the truck, Jerry was outside waiting for me. I remember thinking "Uh oh. This doesn't look good." He said "You're mixing the show, so put down your stuff and get going. You have a lot of work to do." He had convinced the Producer George Finkel (another gentleman) that I was ready. Incidentally, he voluntarily did my job on the sideline in sub-zero temperatures and did it well. Unlike many, he had the ability to appreciate the work of those who followed in his field, always supportive and complimentary when deserved, never threatened by our successes.



After his retirement in 1986 the Carusos (Geri & Jerry) traveled the country in their beautiful motor home. Then they purchased and meticulously restored a plantation house in North Carolina that was built in 1825. Jerry recreated much of the ornate molding and woodwork with his own hands. He became so skilled at furniture building that people would commission him to create, or at times recreate, beautiful pieces with rich hand-rubbed finishes that are rarely done today. The Carusos then moved West and purchased a historic home, built around 1850, in Star Prairie, WI. That one was also in desperate need of their talents. Geri was the interior decorator for the restored homes and also had a picture-framing and wall art business. After completing the total restoration of this home they enjoyed it for the remainder of his days, and Geri continues to call it home.

The last lesson that Jerry taught was his most poignant: how to face death. Around the beginning of 1999 Jerry was diagnosed with some very serious health problems surrounding his pulmonary system. He shared the news with me during a phone conversation. "Don't worry. I'm not dead yet," he said. Then, before long the news got worse: he had leukemia and the doctors gave him six months to live. That was in late 1999. As I would check in with him over the following years, a typical exchange would go like this: "Hi Jerry. How are you?" "...Just fine. How are Suzy and the boys (My wife and children)?" The conversations would always close with "Don't you worry about us. We are fine. You've got enough on your plate." He was always considerate, always a gentleman. This continued for years, Jerry always taking pride in his woodwork despite his illness. He had the doctors scratching their heads. Not only was he still above ground, he was building houses and garages on it! My son Joe and I went to visit Geri and Jerry a few times and Jerry swore it was the Johnny Walker Blue that arrived with us, "a sip a day," that kept the doctors scratching their heads. However, during a call this spring, he told me he was getting tired but was quick to point out that he was okay with whatever came next. He continued to work in his gardens and putter around his workshop until only days before he passed away.

Jerry was a good man and he will be greatly missed.

Tributes to Silent Microphones

Howard T. Atlas passed away on July 8th of kidney failure due to diabetes. He was 81 years old and had been at NBC New York for 44 years. He was a past President of NABET Local 11 and also served the NABET International administration as a Region Vice-President for nearly 30 years as well as International Vice President in 1993. He was noted for his meticulous attention to detail as well as his very dry wit.

His family includes his wife Ruth, their two daughters, each of whom worked at NBC or ABC, and a granddaughter and grandson.

Tony Romeo tells us that several of Howie's good friends had visited him in the White Oaks Nursing Home in May. "Howie sends you all his best regards. Of course he is terribly sorry he has to miss the [May] reunion-- but does hope you all have a wonderful get-together. Mentally he is great--it's just that due to his heart problem and defibrillator he is unsteady on his feet." This same group, which includes Vinnie Gabriele, Frank Gaeta, Murray Vecchio, Hank Heustis, Leon Dobbin, Bill deLannoy and Jack Keegan will be having a remembrance luncheon at Domenico's Restaurant in Levittown on August 3rd. PN will attend and file a report in our next Newsletter.

Tony Block on Jim Richards...

Jim Richards died on April 1st. He retired in 1981 after 41 years at NBC, the bulk of them in Production Services as a Studio Manager.

His wife died shortly after his retirement and he's survived by two sons, one of whom (Reid) is at NBC, two granddaughters and three great-grandsons.

From the ASBURY PRESS...

JAMES G. RICHARDS, 83, of MIDDLETOWN, died Thursday, April 1, at Riverview Medical Center, Red Bank. He met his wife at Parsons Baptist Church, Parsons, Pa., when he was just 12 years old. He graduated from Coughlin High School in Wilkes-Barre, in 1938, where he played football, basketball and track and was a member of the National Honor Society. He attended Columbia University on a scholarship, graduating in 1942. He proudly served his country in the Pacific during World War II as an officer in the Navy.

After the war, he began his long and successful career in television with the National Broadcasting Co. in New York City, retiring after 41 years as studio operations manager. In his retirement years, he was an active member of the Shadow Lake Village Socializers, and being an avid golfer, became a lifetime member of the Lakers Golf Association. He will be greatly missed by all who knew him. Born and raised in Wilkes-Barre, Parsons, Pa., he lived in Matawan before moving to Shadow Lake Village, Middletown, where he lived for the past 25 years.

DIRECTOR LARRY ELIKANN REMEMBERED BY RAY WEISS (with additional material from the South Florida Sun-Sentinel)

Larry died on February 4th in Los Angeles at age 80. He served in the Army Signal Corps during World War II.

He was at NBC-TV in the early 1950's. He was #1 camera on The Philco Playhouse, which later shared sponsorship with Goodyear, and he was also #1 on Martin Kane Private Eye starring Bill Gargan.

The crew at that time had Don Pike as TD, Tambi (Orland Tamburri) on video, Jack Coffey, who also left to become a director and Bert Maxwell as the audio engineer. Larry would confer with Producer Fred Coe and all of the now famous directors who went on to Hollywood.

After he left NBC, he went on to direct such TV series as Dallas, Barnaby Jones, Falcon Crest and Hill Street Blues. He became known for an innovative approach to miniseries and movies based on news events.

We Get Letters

NBC Sports World Series Crew Reunion in October

Ken Fouts has a fascinating article on the 1975 World Series which follows on pages 6 and 7 of this issue.

In connection with this, Ken writes to announce another exciting event.

NBC Sports folks from 1976 and earlier will gather at the Westin Resort in Savannah, GA on October 29th, 30th and 31st.

Contact Ken for details at kfouts@aol.com or phone him at 513-625-2628.

Karl Kaessler had a stroke on May 13th, and is now at home. He is talkin' the Kaessler talk and walkin' with a cane. He was happy and energetic in a recent phone conversation and wants

to thank all of his friends and co-workers for their cards and calls. Karl is continuing with outpatient therapy and has been given an excellent prognosis. Feel free to call him at home at 914-779-7617.

Greetings, "You There",
Spent Feb & Mar at my home in St Augustine, along with Gene Martin and his lady at their new home in Palm Coast. It's the second year [or third] that we have done this.
On March 26th, after a round of golf with yours truly, Gene was broadsided in an auto accident.

He suffered a few pelvic fractures, spent ten days in the hospital, and is now at home in Florida having in-home rehab visits.

Bob Van Ry (April 19th)

P.S.: PN spoke to Gene by phone from his New Jersey home on July 27th. He has made an excellent recovery and expects to be golfing in September!

Dear Second Generation,

I won't be 80 until November of 2004 and it's a privilege to send you my dues. Reading Norm Blumenthal's great article about our restaurant meeting, drinking and eating places like Sager's, Rosoff's, et al, reminded me of the great evenings at Ding Ho's on 49th Street west of 6th Avenue. The owner's name was Joe Ky Yee. He was a great friend to me, Bob Long, Bill Waterbury, Dave Geisel and Billy Knight - all of us cutting our teeth on Philco Playhouse, Texaco Star Theatre, Lucky Strike Hit Parade and of course Howdy Doody.

We would meet about 10 pm (this being 1948-1949 and most of us still single) and would trade information on camerawork, audio, boom microphone, lighting, TD and video.

This is how we grew and gained knowledge of this fascinating new exciting television medium and we ended up doing all the jobs mentioned above when we were assigned by the scheduling dept., sometimes on a moment's notice. So these chats at Ding Ho's were very helpful.

In fact the first time I worked a Boom Mike was on the "Max Liebman Admiral Broadway Revue" starring Sid Caesar, Imogene Coca and Carl Reiner (1949), replacing the regular boom man who went home ill. I laughed so hard at Sid's antics & [was] shaking the boom arm so much that the audio man, Noel Warrick, thought I'd broken the ribbon in the 77D microphone!

Bye & good luck,

Herb Greeley

We Get Letters and Pictures



Hammerman and Connal—1975

NBC Sports and the Shot Seen 'Round the World

By Ken Fouts

Most baseball fans would agree that the 1975 World Series between the Cincinnati Reds and the Boston Red Sox is still the most exciting World Series in the history of major league baseball. NBC Sports, under the guidance of long time director, Harry Coyle, had set the standard for televised baseball and when the '75 Series arrived the entire crew was up to the task.

The historic series started in Boston on October 11th when Luis Tiant shut out the Reds in the first game, but the Red Sox lost to reliever Rawley Eastwick in the second game after the Reds rallied for two runs in the ninth to win it. After a travel day, they resumed in Cincinnati on October 14th. The Reds won 2 out of 3 in Riverfront Stadium, highlighted by Cincinnati hitting six home runs in the third game and another Luis Tiant win in the fourth for Boston. The left hander Don Gullett pitched a brilliant game for the Reds to win the fifth one in Cincinnati on October 16th, final score 6-2.

When the two teams and NBC returned to Fenway Park in Boston, the rains came. Commissioner Bowie Kuhn was forced to postpone the sixth game for three soggy days. Finally on October 21st, the teams were able to resume the Series with the Reds leading 3 games to 2. That sixth game became the most talked-about televised baseball game ever.

In game six, Red Sox pinch-hitter Bernie Carbo, once a part of the Big Red Machine, hit a 3-run homer to tie the score in the 8th inning. In the tenth, the Red Sox had bases loaded with no outs and failed to score. Carlton Fisk came to bat in the twelfth with no one on base and the score still tied. He slammed a high fly to left field that, if it stayed fair, would be a solo home run to win the game. Fisk watched the ball and as it neared the left field foul pole he began to jump up and down and seemingly tried to wave the ball fair. His antics worked as it stayed fair and the Red Sox won to tie the series at 3 all. Fenway Park erupted, but the most memorable thing about the game was NBC's coverage of Carlton Fisk waving that ball fair. The Reds won the next night 4 to 3 on a Joe Morgan single with two out in the ninth to win the Series for the first time for Cincinnati since 1940. However, NBC's "shot seen round the world" was the shot of Carlton waving that home run into fair territory. The camera used for the shot was a new innovation and how it all came about is still talked about by us "old-timers". In Fenway, the camera was actually in the old scoreboard in left field next to the Green Monster, shooting into home plate and in line with 3rd base. It was an angle that had never been used prior to the 1975 season.

Here is what some NBC staffers said when asked how it all came about:

Producer Dick Auerbach-

"Sometime during the regular baseball season that year, 1975, I was assigned to do the "game of the week" along with Harry Coyle. Both Harry and I had the light bulb go off at almost the same time. (I was a bit ahead) and we grabbed the Boston PR and the three of us trudged out to the scoreboard on Friday, the day before the Saturday game. When we entered the scoreboard, Harry and I wanted the position to be as close to left center as possible, but there were too many beams and the setup for the guy who manually placed the numbers into the scoreboard slots was in the way. As we moved back toward the left field end of the scoreboard and almost even with third base, we chased a nest of mice and found the place where the Red Sox agreed that they could cut an opening. The rest is history.

Harry got the shot and used it in our game and then refined it until the end product was the infamous World Series shot."

Producer George Finkel-

"I had nothing to do with the World Series, but I do know some of the history of the left field camera. As far as I know, it was Tony Kubek's idea. He was looking for the takeout at second base on a double play. The left field camera lined up from 1st down to 2nd. We had used it several times prior to the '75 post-season. However Scotty Connal, Executive Producer NBC Sports, had told me to drop the camera in Oakland for the Oakland-Boston LCS, and just go with low centerfield. I knew we had gotten some great shots from the camera, including balls down third base, and also reverse angle replays. I walked the outfield in Oakland and found that there was an open area from center field into left field. As a result, we put the camera on a fork lift, and we used it in both left field and low center and got some great shots. The camera then continued into the World Series. There are two stories about the Fisk shot. One said the cameraman was scared by a rat in the Fenway Park scoreboard. The other said he lost the ball, and just stayed with Fisk. I don't know which is right..."

Continued

We Get Letters and Pictures

Announcer Tony Kubek-

"In 1974, just before the World Series, I went to Scotty Connal and said that with the two teams involved, Dodgers vs. Oakland A's, there could be a lot of base stealing attempts.

I told him that it would be a great shot for the TV fans looking in from left center field lining up second and first base to give the fans at home a view of what it looks like to have the runner sliding right at you on a steal. The day before the first game in LA, after the teams' batting practice, Scotty and I walked out to left center field and Scotty liked it. He spoke with Harry Coyle and our producer Roy Hammerman and then to Chet Simmons, Vice President in charge of production. They went to Mr. O'Malley, owner of the Dodgers at the time, to request that some seats in the area be blocked off for a camera position and were turned down.

The next year, one or two weeks before the '75 World Series, we were in San Francisco for a Saturday Game of the Week. Ted Nathanson directed and, I believe, Dick Auerbach was the producer, and the camera was placed experimentally in Candlestick's left center field bleachers. As I recall, nothing particularly exciting occurred that afternoon. In Fenway, when the World Series was on, we were looking for Morgan, Griffey, Geronimo or Concepcion (all Cincinnati Reds) on steals, Pete Rose diving into 2nd base or sliding head first, or a ball off the Green Monster (left field wall) where you could look into the eyes of the left fielder playing the carom. The off day before Game I in Boston, I went out to the wall and, then through the door to get behind the wall with Scotty and Harry to see which opening in the scoreboard would provide the best angle but, just as much, to ask which openings would be available.

Getting the Fisk reaction wasn't luck, it was the work of a great cameraman who knew the game of baseball, was alert and really understood the game. I've often thought that he must have known while he was getting "the shot" that he knew its historical significance.

A sidelight to the story was the perspective I had when the HR left the park. I was sent down to the Reds' dugout to do a post-game interview. If you remember the setup at Fenway, you had to go through the visitors' clubhouse and go down some stairs, then a long tunnel and then up several steps to be at field level. When I got to the clubhouse door and knocked, the long-time club house boy/man, Vinnie Orlando answered. Vinnie had been around for many years and had partied with the Babe, and told some great Ruth stories. He also picked off pigeons in the ball park with a .22 rifle with Ted Williams until a couple of storefront windows were riddled and the police stopped them. Anyway, I go to the Reds' dugout and there was manager Sparky Anderson, on the top step with Larry Sheppard, his pitching coach seated next to the bullpen phone. When I hit the second step from the top I said to Sparky, 'I shouldn't be here while the game's still on. I'll head back to the clubhouse and watch it on TV.' Sparky said, 'Hey you've been in this dugout and in the World Series more times than me. Stay right here.' So, I did.

A couple of pitches later, Sparky turned to his pitching coach and said, 'Shep, how many pitches has Darce (Pat Darcy) thrown?' I believe Larry said, 'He's at 38, George. He ain't never gone this far.. .aw.. .shit!' Pudge (Fisk) was just in his swing's follow-through. Then came the tightrope/wire dance. I always thought Fisk appeared to be on a highwire going across Niagara Falls. Aaron Traiger, the NBC A2 with Tony, and I had to hustle to the 1st base side of the diamond and knock over a few people to get there for the interview."

1975 World Series Producer Roy Hammerman-

"The camera in the scoreboard in the 'Green Monster' was lined up with home plate and 3rd base. The cameraman, Lou Gerard, was assigned to follow the ball when hit down the left field line. When Fisk hit the high fly down the line, Gerard lost the ball in the lights and, being alert, he panned back to Fisk who was few feet down the line and got 'The Shot'. We replayed it several times, even as Fisk was rounding the bases, and several more times during the post-game interview. It was the first time NBC Sports won an Emmy. Scotty and I each received a Statue. Mine is in a place of honor in my living room."

Ken's closing thoughts:

So, there are four memories of people who were a major part of NBC Sports at the time; two of them were working the Series and were a major part of it all. As Roy mentioned, the cameraman who got that shot was Lou Gerard and Tony's assessment of his abilities was very accurate. But Lou was one of many NBC sports cameramen that covered baseball better than any other network ever could. The technical director on that Series was Horace Ruiz and the audio mixer was Jerry Caruso. Mario Ciarlo was the high home cameraman and Jack Bennett was on high first. Those are only a few of the extremely talented crew members who covered that 1975 World Series. They all knew baseball, knew television and took tremendous pride in their work. They were devoted to their director of many years, Harry Coyle. I was a young director from Cincinnati who had recently been signed onto the NBC Sports Staff by Scotty Connal. I was not a part of the coverage in Boston, but am certainly proud that I was associated with all of the above people for years after that. There will never be a better World Series than the one in 1975 and never a better television crew covering one than the NBC crew that year.

Note: Source for World Series facts- *The Baseball Encyclopedia*, fifth edition, Macmillan Publishing 1982

We Get Letters and Pictures

25-Year Class of 1980



By Dan Gabel

One of the big social events on the NBC employee calendar back in the "good old days" was the annual bash at the Plaza Hotel where veteran employees who had accumulated 25 years of service were invited to a party to mark that occasion. We all got watches, letters from the NBC president and a photo to remember the day. I was inducted into the club in 1980 along with 63 other men and women. It was graciously called The Service Award Reception. Every longtime employee was invited so there were a couple of hundred attendees.

Eventually, GE probably thought it was a waste of money and switched the venue (it's an Olympic year, every locale will be a venue) to the executive dining room in the RCA --oops-- GE Building. They also dropped all the supernumeraries, ("25 years plus" employees) from the invitation list. I cannot identify all the people in the 1980 photo, but I on page 9 you will find the list of honorees names from the event souvenir booklet. Perhaps our members will send in some IDs...

We Get Letters and Pictures

Here's the list of 25-year names as printed in the 1980 souvenir booklet.

Please write or email us with the photo position of any folks you can spot.

Barbara S. Andres
Joan M. Annette
Sigmund Bajak
Richard Ballad
Howard Bayha
Lee Baygan
Dominick L. Bellezza
J. Karl Bell
J. Taber Bolden, Jr.
Peter S. Calabrese
Theresa Canner
P.S. Cerruto
Frank Costantino
Harry Coyle, Jr.
Norman Davidson
Rose M. De Renzis
Raymond Di Prima
Richard Duester
Marvin Einhorn
Louis Ellis
Lucien Fallot

Joseph Fedrich
Nancy Fields
Fred Flamenhaft
Andrew L. Gallo
Leo Gavron
Dan Grabel
Rhoda Grady
Genevieve Harold
Helen J. Harvey
Morton Hochstein
Jeanne Hutty
Lawrence C. Johnson
Ann Kramer
Paul Lipson
John Lynch
Alfred Manni
Helen Marmor
Murlin H. Marsh
Ignatius Maxwell
Rosemarie Mc Guinn
Helen Mc Kinley
Jerry Muller

Claire O'Connell
William O'Connell
Timothy O'Keefe
Charles O'Loughlin
Ernest H. Otto
Edward Prendergast
Theodore Reisig
William S. Rubens
Nicholas Ruggiero
Peter Sarkies
Victor Schwebius
Gloria Settle
Frank Skinner
Joseph Strangl, Jr.
Saul Strein
John Teeple
Hilke Verhelst
Vivian Walsh
William Wendell
Catherine Wilmor
Frank Zappulla



1951 Crew Film Studio 5E

**From Wellington, Florida
DOM SALVIOLA writes**

Check out these youths:

Charlie Seig, John McGinty,
Dom Salviola and George
Neuman.

“Keep the Peacock Flying, It’s
Great!!!!!!”

Looking BACK

By Frank Vierling

Scanning the 1955 New York Times.

Monday, September 19th

"A GREAT PLAY" (N. Y. Daily Mirror)
NOW A GREAT MUSICAL

PRODUCERS SHOWCASE presents

FRANK SINATRA
EVA MARIE SAINT
in a new musical version of
THORNTON WILDER'S PULITZER PRIZE PLAY
"OUR TOWN"
also starring **PAUL NEWMAN**
with ERNEST TRUNK and PAUL HARTMAN
original music by JAMES VAN HEUSEN lyrics by SAMMY CAHN
produced by FRED COE directed by DELBERT MANN
Audiences and critics hailed the play on Broadway and in the movies. Now, in a new musical setting, it's a 90-minute NBC Television Spectacular you'll be talking about for a long time!
PRESENTED IN COLOR AND IN BLACK-AND-WHITE
TONIGHT 8:00 to 9:30 **NBC 4**

Full page RCA AD, September 18, 1955:

"See the World Series" on RCA's two new 21-inch Color Television models, The Director and the Seville.

See the games at your RCA Victor dealer's — free. See how much Big Color adds to TV enjoyment. See how easy it is to adjust color with two simple dials. After the game, see how the same set receives black-and-white programs in black-and-white, too. For this is Compatible Color, pioneered and developed by RCA Victor.

October 17 — See "Cyrano De Bergerac" on "Producers Showcase" starring Jose Ferrer.

The Best Seller List — June 5 1955

Fiction

- 1 Bonjour Tristesse. *Sagan*
- 2 Something of Value. *Ruark*
- 3 Sincerely, Willis Wayde. *Marquand*
- 4 The Good Shepherd. *Forester*
- 5 No Time for Sergeants. *Hyman*

General

- 1 Gift From the Sea. *Lindbergh*
- 2 The Power of Positive Thinking. *Peale*
- 3 How to live 365 Days a Year. *Schindler*
- 4 A Man Called Peter. *Marshall*
- 5 Gertrude Lawrence as Mrs. A. *Aldrich*

At The Movies

In CinemaScope at Cool Loew's STATE — **MARILYN MONROE** and **TOM EWELL** in "the Seven year itch"

LAST TWO DAYS to see **HIROSHIMA** at the Baronet.

"NOT AS A STRANGER" starring Broderick Crawford as Dr. Aarons. "As doctors, we are the only group in modern society privileged to commit manslaughter with immunity from the law."

At the Radio City Music Hall — Doris Day and James Cagney in

"Love Me or Leave Me," "The stuff 'Oscars' are made of... easily the best dramatic musical to play the Music Hall. What impact!" Quinn, Mirror

Last two days at Loew's State, MGM's DRAMA OF TEEN-AGE TERROR! **"Blackboard Jungle"** with Glenn Ford.

"Marty" with Ernest Borgnine was at the Sutton.

Fred Astaire • Leslie Caron in **"Daddy Long Legs"** at the ALBEE.

Page 1, NY Times, June 1, 1955

HIGH COURT TELLS STATES TO END PUPIL SEGREGATION WITHIN 'REASONABLE' TIME

Southerners React Quietly, Although Some Are Defiant

***Court Ruling Brings Feeling of Relief—Tensions Reduced by
Absence of Desegregation Time Limit***

RADIO-TV NOTES, June 5, 1955, from a column by J.P. Stanley.

NBC's new Tuesday lineup for next season: 8 to 9, Bob Hope will do six to eight shows; Dinah Shore, a newcomer to the series, will do two; Milton Berle will star in either nine or thirteen (probably the latter), and Martha Raye will appear in thirteen.

Mr. Hope, who announced some months ago that he planned to retire from television, has decided to continue the million dollar grind. He may do even more shows in the 1955-56 season than the previous year.

The two musical variety shows starring Miss Shore will be in addition to her fifteen-minute TV program on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Her shows, and those of Mr. Hope, will be sponsored by Chevrolet.

It was reported last week that Mr. Berle, who has let it be known that he wanted to do only nine shows, might concede to NBC's wishes to do thirteen. ...his proposed plan to switch to film has been dropped. ... no indication yet what type of format the comedian may use next season. ...he recently dispensed with situation comedy and returns to the variety format.

Admiral renews Bishop Sheen on ABC.

"Down You Go" hosted by Dr. Bergen Evans, moves from the

Dumont network to CBS next Saturday. And next year it moves to ABC.

The job of permanent host of the new "Colgate Variety Hour" apparently will not be filled until fall. The program makes its debut over NBC-TV next Sunday from 8 to 9 P.M. with Charlton Heston serving as guest host for the first two shows.

Radio station WNYC is putting on its Annual Opera festival this week. Fourteen operas will be broadcast (two each day) in their entirety between now and Saturday.

Station Breaks: President Eisenhower's address at West Point commencement exercises will be televised by NBC Tuesday at 10 A.M. ... A live program, with pickups from Canada, Mexico and this country will be televised by NBC on Monday, June 27, from 8 to 9:30 P.P. The show, first in proposal series, is titled "Wide, Wide World."

PERSONALITY IN TV NEWS

Almost a year has past since Martha Wright ended her career as Nellie Forbush in "South Pacific." Tonight she makes her "dramatic debut" on the NBC network in the leading roll in "Mr. Dorothy Allen," in a play about a successful musical comedy star whose husband, a former newspaper man becomes her manager.

New York, January 1, 1955

HARRIMAN TAKES REINS OF OFFICE; INAUGURAL TODAY

**Assuming the Governorship
after 12-Year G.O.P. Rule**

Playbill

June 1, 1955—

Fanny, Ezio Pinza & Walter Slezak at the Majestic.

Damn Yankees.

"Gwen Verdon's a doll!" Chapman,
Daily News

At the Barrymore, Karl Malden in
Desperate Hours.

Inherit the Wind, Paul Muni, Ed Begley & Tony Randall at the National.

John Raitt, Janis Page, Eddy Foy, Jr. in **The Pajama Game**

Eli Wallach at the Martin Beck in
Tea House of the August Moon.

Also on Broadway
Can-Can
Bus Stop
Bad Seed
Plain and Fancy
Tea and Sympathy
The Seven Year Itch
Cat on a Hot Tin Roof
Witness for the Prosecution

What's on NBC TV, Sunday, June 5th

3:00 – Frontiers of Faith
4:00 – Zoo Parade
5:30 – Captain Gallant
6:00 – Meet the Press
6:30 – Roy Rogers Show
7:00 – People Are Funny
7:30 – Mr. Peepers
8:00 – Comedy Hour
9:00 – Television Playhouse
10:00 – Loretta Young Show
10:30 – Bob Cummings Show
11:00 – News & Weather
11:30 – Philo Vance Film

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

We Get Letters

I Remember When

As a boom operator on the Howdy Doody show (1948), it was quite extraordinary to watch Dayton Allen, puppeteer, have Mr. Bluster perform exquisite sexual acts, with verbiage, upon the lovely Indian Princess --- during rehearsals, of course.

The one time Dinah Shore blew a kiss directly to me.

John Cameron Swayze expounding on the Timex watch that "takes a licking a keeps on and ticking"-- and then stopped dead!

I did the Garroway morning show that featured J. Fred Muggs.

I fell in love with Eydie Gormé, making her first appearance on TV on Steve Allen's Tonight Show.

Observing Ernie Kovacs drink a bonafide gin martini, on air, during his poetry recitation. The prop department had always provided plain water... until now.

Gaping at the glorious bosoms of Dagmar and Jayne Mansfield.

Playing poker with Chet Huntley during the breaks in his Sunday afternoon news specials.

The "dead body" arising on camera after being shot on the Martin Kane, Private Eye show.

Philco Television Playhouse Memories...

Producer Fred Coe severely admonished his director as to why he took an extreme close-up of a dollar bill, exclaiming, "Is there anything we all want to read on that piece of paper?" in his distinctive Southern accent.

The time a scoop's 1000 watt bulb broke and the melted tungsten just missed my head and bored a ¼ inch hole in the boom platform.

From my high vantage point on the boom, observing Zsa Zsa Gabor go totally nude during a costume change.

Vic Ferrari, my dollyman, and the best that ever was, lifting the dolly including me, over cable we rolled over during a fast transition from the end of an act to the commercial.

Milton Berle, who never told his jokes during rehearsal but, sat in his sweat suit blowing his whistle to stop the action, if he did not like what he saw.

A direct opposite, Perry Como, who was as sweet and calm as could be if he wanted to change something. He threw a fantastic golf outing once a year at the Garden City CC. It ran from 7am to 7am the next day with a great banquet, prizes and poker all night.

The Bob and Ray Show, with Jayne Meadows, that was sooooo funny, we all broke up on air.

Equally as funny, The Phil Silvers Show. An exhausting day: after signing-off, the tearing down of the TK-10 field equipment; loading it the vans, taking it to the theater in Columbus Circle; and, setting up for The Show of Shows.

Uptown at 106th Street Studios, doing the Eddie Condon Show (guitarist), having at that time the greatest jazz musicians in the country.

Finally, after 12 years, a few of which were spent as Color Video Control engineer in the darkened Control Room, I decided due to the advent of video tape, to accept a position at RCA and travel the world as a Project Manager.

It was then, in 1972, on my way to El Salvador, C. A., with a stop over in Miami Beach for two weeks, I met my wife, Renée. We had the pleasure to be invited into the NBC Mobile Van during the Nixon Convention; and later to the convention floor. It was gratifying to introduce Renée to American Politics.

I never regretted one minute at NBC, where I had the most enjoyable time of my life; and, where I made lasting friends.

Love you all,

Herb Oxman

Stacy Brady Wins GE Edison Award

Stacy Brady, NBC VP of Network News Field Operations, has been chosen as a recipient of the GE Edison Award this year. Jeff Immelt along with Scott Donnelly, Senior Vice President GE Global; Research, recognized Stacy at a reception held during the GE Engineering Leaders Council meeting earlier this Spring.

Named after one of history's most prolific innovators, these annual awards are presented to individuals for recent technical contributions that have made a significant impact on the current and future vitality of their businesses. Award recipients, selected by the leadership teams from their respective businesses, receive a \$25,000 grant to fund research at a university of their choice.

"Our engineers and scientists play a vital role in shaping the technological breakthroughs that have been the hallmark of GE," said Scott Donnelly when he announced this year's recipients. "The Edison Award winners embody the GE values of Imagine, Solve, Build and Lead and their outstanding contributions and commitment to innovation have truly made an impact on their businesses." Stacy has been singled out for her significant contributions in 2003 to NBC News coverage particularly with regard to the war in Iraq.



Stacy's leadership has inspired her colleagues in News and Field Operations. Her unrelenting pursuit of and work with vendors enabled NBC to distinguish itself as a leader in providing unique and compelling coverage of the war.

Her accomplishments include the innovative and highly regarded "Bloommobile," which made live transmission from a moving platform to a satellite possible; the High Quality Rapid Deployment Satellite Newsgathering System (The "Down And Dirty System" or "DADS"); and the Portable Bureau/Field Communications System ("Data boy").

The output of Stacy's work had a direct correlation to the ratings advantage NBC News experience during the war coverage. The viewer experience of the "Bloommobile" was groundbreaking. The DADS system provided enhanced viewer experience at low bit rates and was very cost effective. The Databoy drove significant productivity, virtually eliminating the need for international or long distance phone calls or circuits to support information needs. NBC continues to leverage these innovations and will use them not only in News, but also in Sports and the

Olympics.

The Bloommobile and the DADS systems are industry award winners and were nominated for Technical Emmy's, virtually unprecedented for a standalone broadcaster.

Congratulations Stacy!

About the Edison Awards...

Criteria for Edison Award:

Technical Excellence - Recent technical achievements, introducing new products, inventions or process changes that provide their business with a demonstrated competitive advantage. Driving innovations that have propelled sales growth in their business over the last 3-5 years as measured by business impact (e.g., increased revenue, market share or price improvement etc) or breakthrough technology that is so revolutionary that it will have significant future impact.

Customer Impact - Driving customer connections and leveraging technical excellence to drive real customer impact. Role model for customer centricity.

Organizational Citizenship - a positive influence on GE's technical community, exhibits "role model" behavior and acts as a mentor for fellow technologists. Lives, promotes and models the GE Values.

The award winners are selected for their recent technical achievements in introducing new product inventions or process changes that provide their business with a competitive advantage, resulting demonstrated sales growth and/or achievement of critical objectives over the last several years, and/or breakthrough technology that is so revolutionary that it will have significant future impact. Award recipients, selected by the Engineering Leaders from their respective businesses, receive a \$25,000 grant, to fund research at a university of their choice. Award recipients are recognized at reception with Jeff Immelt.

New Directions at PN Newsletter



New editor Joel Spector, First C.E.O. Pete Peterson and Current Co-President Marilyn Altman at Spring Luncheon

Well, two years after the “almost” demise of Peacock North, our regular spring luncheon took place reaffirming our rich and popular existence. This luncheon was filled with old faces, good friends, valued connections and, dare I say, a thirst for staying in touch. There were also “new” old faces that arrived and were enveloped by their surroundings of familiarity and warmth.

It was a wonderful day.

I know I get a little over the top about the luncheon but it is something I love and look forward to. So many of us have spent a lifetime working together, and now we have the luxury to savor it.

I think the people I have met through my profession have been quite a cross section of life.

I want to acknowledge at this time Mary and Jim Marshall who have been **INVALUABLE** in keeping this newsletter alive. They have decided to pass the baton on to Joel Spector, ex-audio man extraordinaire, most notably from Saturday Night Live, Miss America, The Macy*s Parade, you name it. He is taking over their job of laying out this very complicated newsletter. Mary and Jim will remain in the loop of helping to keep records and membership lists, etc. PN would not have survived without their incredible skill and dedication.

We thank you; I thank you for all your tireless efforts. And I/we warmly welcome Joel. He will be our glue, as were Mary and Jim... And I have also recruited some of our “old timers” to help out. Dan Grabel, Frank Vierling, Herb Oxman, Pete Peterson. This is still a joint venture, sort of like “live” television.

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.

Peacock North Dues and Membership

Name _____ Spouse Name _____

I am 80 years young (or over) and qualify for Honorary Membership. ☐

Honorary Members do NOT pay dues.

Renewal—No changes to information previously sent. ☐

Changes only ☐ OR New Membership ☐

Street _____ City _____

State _____ Zip _____ Phone _____

E-mail Address _____

At NBC from _____ 'til _____ Dept. _____

Dues: \$20 Per Year

Year 2004 WAS DUE IN JANUARY

Make check payable to Peacock North.

Mailing Address:

PO Box 16755

Stamford, CT 06905

Open to NBC Employees with **15** Years or more service.



Your contacts:

Marilyn Altman

Jim Marshall

Lenny Stucker

E-mail:

peacocknorth@yahoo.com

Mailing Address:

PO Box 16755

Stamford, CT 06905

Peacock North
P.O. Box 16755
Stamford, CT 06905

Pre-Sorted
First Class
U.S. Postage

PAID

Permit No. 103
Marietta, OH

First Class Mail



Dues were due—
January 1, 2004