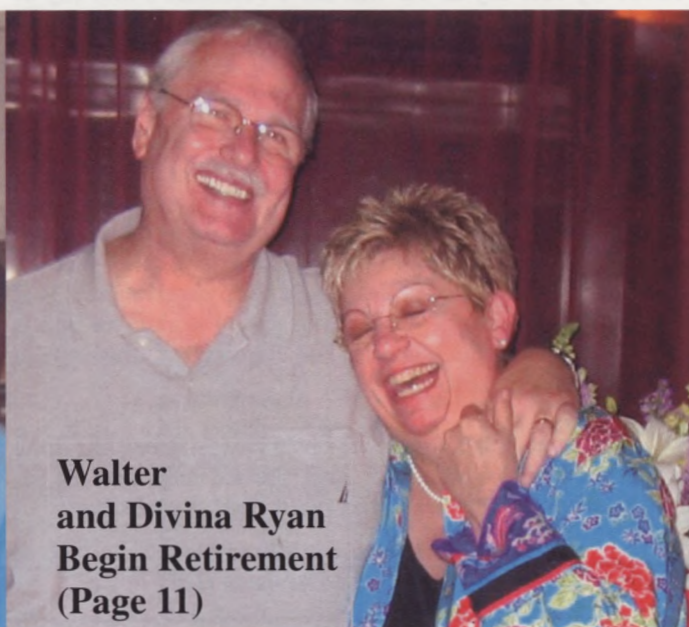




# Festive Season Highlights



**Chet and Harriet Simmons  
host Sunday Brunch  
for NBC Sports Reunion  
in Savannah (Pages 6 & 7)**



**Walter  
and Divina Ryan  
Begin Retirement  
(Page 11)**

## Correction to Summer 2004

The report on the Spring Luncheon contained a serious error which made it through to the printed magazine, and for which I take full responsibility. The article referred to a "Penny Marshall" not being able to attend the luncheon due to "recovering from a heart by-pass." **In fact, it was Jim Marshall, one of the kingpins of Peacock North, who was the patient.** Despite his condition, Jim and Mary participated fully in preparations for the Luncheon as well as subsequently training me (aided by Frank Vierling) in Microsoft Publisher and the inner workings of this Newsletter. I personally owe the Marshalls a major "Thank You" for their help and continued support. This organization would not be where it is today without their years of devoted service. With great respect, Joel Spector.

### INSIDE PN

Fall Festivities, Correction to Summer 2004 .....	1
Marilyn's Page .....	2
Silent Microphones .....	3, 4, 5
NBC Sports Reunion in Savannah .....	6, 7
We Get Letters and Pictures .....	8, 9, 10
Walter Ryan Retires .....	11
Bob Asman: NBC and How I Started .....	12, 13
Rick Caro: A Memorable Event .....	13

MONITOR Reunion .....	14
We Get Letters .....	14, 15
George Voutsas Appreciation .....	15
Don Blair: A radio-active life .....	16, 17
Video Mystery .....	17
Long Island Retirees Luncheon .....	18
Honorary Membership and Dues & Membership Form .....	19
New Members .....	20
Your Contacts .....	20





## Marilyn's Page

### Tom Brokaw, Thanks For the Memories

This edition of PN would not be complete without mentioning the fact that Tom Brokaw has formally stepped down from Nightly News and handed over the reins to Brian Williams.

Tom was in that seat for 22 years. Prior to that, he was the co-host of the Today Show. I first became a Technical Director in 1980 on that show. My first day as TD was Steve Friedman's first day as Executive Producer. I learned a lot on that detail. Julian Finkelstein, fresh from the coast, became the Director.

A couple of years later when Tom moved to anchor NN, Julian moved with him as Director and I ended up moving with Julian as his Technical Director. I was **thrilled**. Not only did I feel vindicated as a political science major that I was working on a show that had "value" in our democratic process by passing on important information, but the hours were GREAT! (Let's just say that the Today Show taught me a great deal about sleep deprivation.) I sat in that chair for a number of years. Even when I worked for Sports I kept a hand in doing the primaries and conventions, always with Mr. Brokaw in the hot seat.

I went through the Roger Mudd co-anchor experiment, the John Chancellor editorial slot, the blue map, the red map, and the redoing of the newsroom several times (wish I had stock in that!).

I went through George Paul, Bill Wheatley, Gordon Manning, Paul Greenberg, Guy Pepper, Beth O'Connell, Jeff Zucker, Jeff Gralnick...all with Tom Brokaw in the main seat. He was a champ on camera and a really good guy to work with. Decent would be a good word for him. He just always seemed decent to those around him.

My uncle met Tom a number of years ago at a speech he gave in Florida. There was a picture snapped of them and I asked Tom if I could use it as my holiday card. He said "sure". You've got to love a guy who is not overly concerned about someone using his good name for a really funny but harmless holiday card. He just always seemed to maintain a good balance of common sense about himself.

Even though I always worked in the control room (and you all know how trashy that environment can be) I never heard a bad word about him, and I think that speaks volumes about his character. This past election night, when he signed off at about 5:30 am, he brought tears to those of us who have been around for the past 25 years or so.

Tom, if you are reading this, thanks for all those years and all those memories. Your shoes will be very hard to fill, but we will see you down the road.

## For The Troops

At this special time of year we would like to send our heartfelt love and support to the men and women in uniform of this country. PN would like to urge everyone to support our troops in every way they can.

## Donating Days to Tom Hogan and Jimmy Mott

As many of you are already aware, people in B&NO are donating time off to Tom Hogan and Jimmy Mott so they can spend more time with their families. According to NABET, the procedure is simple: drop a note or email to Jolie Pivarnik, cc: Mary Beth Scalici, and they will handle it.

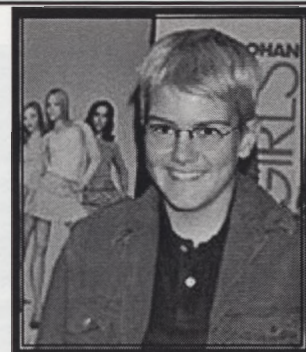
It should be noted that the credit for this wonderful gesture should go to Mary Beth, Frank Accarrino and Jim Kiick. Sometimes (many times) "the company" is simply the people with whom we work. We should never forget that we too have our own "band of brothers and sisters."



## Tributes to Silent Microphones

### Teddy Ebersol

On November 28<sup>th</sup>, 2004, a chartered plane carrying NBC Sports Chairman Dick Ebersol, two of his sons, and others, crashed in bad weather shortly after takeoff near Montrose, Colorado. The accident killed 14-year-old Edward "Teddy" Ebersol, pilot Luis Alberto Polanco and flight attendant Warren Richardson III. Dick Ebersol and his 21-year-old son, Charlie, were hospitalized and co-pilot Eric Wicksell was critically injured. Ebersol's wife, actress Susan Saint James, was not on the plane when it crashed. Our hearts go out to the Ebersol family as well as the families of those who also perished.



### Norman Rose

Actor and announcer Norman Rose died November 12, 2004, at age 87. He was born in Philadelphia, came to New York in the early 1940s, and became active in theater, radio, and eventually television. He worked on and off Broadway and narrated radio programs including Ray Bradbury's "The Martian Chronicles."

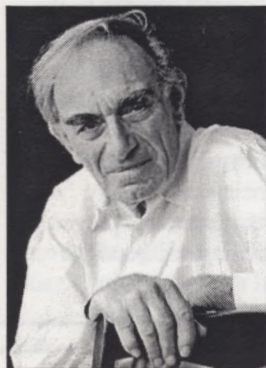
At the beginning of the television era, he performed in programs such as "The Big Story" and "Robert Montgomery Presents." During his theatrical career, Rose was a member of Lee Strasberg's Actors Studio. During World War II, he was one of a select group of actors recruited by the Office of War Information to broadcast news overseas to Europe. In 1948 Rose co-founded New Stages, one of the first Off-Broadway repertory companies, where he coproduced "Respectful Prostitute" by Sartre.

His widely recognized deep voice was heard in countless television commercials and narrations from the 1950's to the present. For over a

decade, he was the voice for Juan Valdez, who picked "only the ripest beans." For many years he was heard in promotional announcements and show openings for both the NBC and ABC television networks. Rose recently was the narrator for the 70th Anniversary broadcast of the Oscar Awards.

Also in film, he played Woody Allen's lawyer in "The Front" and one of Sean Connery's robbery victims in the 1971 heist flick, "The Anderson Tapes." From 1969 to 1974 he was Dr. Polk, the psychiatrist in ABC's "One Life To Live" and "All My Children." He guested on shows including "Naked City" and "Law and Order."

During the 1970's Rose was a member of the faculty at the Juilliard School's Drama Department, headed by John Houseman. He is survived by his wife, Catherine; three daughters, a son, a sister, five grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.



### John Lynch

Excerpted from the New York Daily News October 7, 2004...

79-year-old former NBC Stage Manager John Lynch was discovered in bed by a home health aide on October 5th, 2004, in his Greenwich Village apartment. The city medical examiner's office ruled Lynch's death a homicide, describing the cause of death as "manual strangulation and suffocation." There was no forced entry to Lynch's first-floor home, and there was no evidence suggesting a burglary, police said. Fellow tenants believed the killer may have targeted Lynch because of his feeble appearance, and followed him home from one of his regular errands.

Lynch was a loyal member of the Central Village Block Association, attending every meeting for five years until last month, when he broke his shoulder. The well-groomed, courteous man cared deeply about the neighborhood, but also safeguarded his privacy, said association member Peter Zimmer. Neighbors said they never saw Lynch, who was divorced, with any relatives. They said he spent time at a nearby senior center but was regularly hospitalized this year, including a visit about 10 days ago.

According to Jim O'Gorman and Dave Herz, John's career at NBC spanned the late 1940's to the early 1990's. He stage managed programs ranging from Fred Allen and The Tonight Show to WNBC-TV's News and Public Affairs shows.



## Tributes to Silent Microphones

### Dayton Allen

HENDERSONVILLE, N.C., Nov. 17 (AP) — Dayton Allen, a comedian and actor best known for his work as the voices of the cartoon character Deputy Dawg and the grumpy marionette Mayor Phineas T. Bluster on "The Howdy Doody Show," died here on Nov. 11. He was 85 and lived in Flat Rock, NC. The cause was a stroke, said his brother, Bradley Bolke.

Mr. Allen was also a regular on "The Steve Allen Show," but his most notable voice work came from his longtime association with the cartoon studio Terrytoons. He provided most of the voices for "The Deputy Dawg Show," a syndicated series that started in 1960. He was also the voice of the cartoon magpies

Heckle and Jeckle and many other characters.

Earlier, he spent four years on the original "Howdy Doody Show" with Buffalo Bob Smith, giving voice to marionette characters like Mr. Bluster and Flub-a-Dub as well as human characters like Pierre the Chef.

On "The Steve Allen Show," from 1958 to 1960, he often appeared as a bogus expert or in the comic "Man on The Street" interviews. His frequent comment, "Why-y-y-y not?," became a favorite catch phrase.

In addition to his brother, Mr. Allen's survivors include his wife, Em.

### Frank Vierling recalls Dayton...



**Dayton** was a very funny guy. Most of his humor (on the Doody set) would not be airable. Dayton rode in from Westchester with Buffalo Bob. Passing through the toll booths Dayton would flash a police badge to the collector and tell Bob to keep going without paying. Bob thought it was all on the up and up until one day Dayton admitted that the badge was fake. Dayton confessed he also flashed it on trains and was never challenged. On our breaks we'd sit in the Peanut Gallery and be in hysterics listening to Dayton and Bob try to top each other.

We did a show called "Martin Kane, Private Eye" with Lee Tracy in 8G, TD was O. Tamburri. It was sponsored by Bonny Maid floor coverings. In the live commercials, budding actress Ann Francis was "Bonny Maid." The floors were supposedly impervious to "Dirt" and "Grim" played by two actors; Grim was played by Dayton. I remember the first show. We didn't even get to a dress rehearsal before we were live on the air. It was a wing-job after the first few minutes, but not too disastrous.

### Lee Pliskin

Lee's daughter called and informed me that Lee passed away this morning (August 31, 2004) at Southern Ocean County Hospital here in Manahawkin, NJ. I have known Lee many many years, having worked with him on many shows at NBC. Since he retired to Beach Haven, NJ, (about 10 miles from my home in Manahawkin), I have seen Lee quite often. For quite a few years he belonged to a lunch group, Mondays and Fridays, made up of myself, radio hams, and organ club members. He was operated on in April, both knees replaced. He had many complications from the surgery,

back and forth between rehab and the hospital. The last time I saw him was at the hospital in late July. He still could not walk and he was going back home in three or four days. I talked to him about three weeks ago and he said he had a round the clock nurse, and, hopefully would get back into therapy I thought that thru the newsletter many of his past co-workers at NBC would get this news about Lee. Regards, Fred Wagner - Retired in 1979.

### Douglas Davenport

Douglas Davenport, 75, died May 22, 2004. Beloved father of Dori Davenport, grandfather of Joanna, Charlie and Richie Leunig, of Milwaukee, WI. He was predeceased by his wife of 27 years, Alice Rudder Davenport, (who had worked at ABC and CBS) and was the former husband of Eleanor Bohlmann Davenport of Milwaukee, WI. He worked for 30 years in broadcast news in New York, including 20 years at NBC News, retiring in 1993, to Cary, NC. He served in the U.S. Marine Corps, attended Marquette University in Milwaukee, WI, and worked in radio and TV news in

Milwaukee at WISN and WEMP, prior to moving to New York in 1962. One of his favorite stories was about his journalism professors in college in the early 1950s telling him not to get involved with television, because it was a fad and wouldn't be around for very long. He died in Milwaukee, WI, following a move to hospice care to be near family.

A memorial service is planned for June 10, 2004, at the Unitarian Universalist Church West of Brookfield, WI.



## Tributes to Silent Microphones

### Shui-oi-Chin



Shui, a Scenic Artist of Local 829, died April 1, 2004 from complications of a stroke. He was 80 years old and had been on staff at NBC.

He left a wife, King Quen, and three daughters: Wai Fong, who was born in Hong Kong; Ting Sui, who was born at home in China; and Wong Sui, who was born in Canton, China. He had 4 grandchildren: David, Mary, William and Alex.

Shui was born in China and came to the USA when he was 10 years old. He went back to China to get married. He stayed in China for 8 years, and then returned to the USA. Emigration took his green card and he was unable to apply for his family to join him here.

Seventeen years later, his wife and two younger daughters came as Chinese refugees. Wai Fong couldn't come because she was born in Hong Kong, which was a British colony. She stayed and took care of her grandparents. Five years later, King Quen became a citizen and applied for her daughter. She came and then left to go back and get married and then they both returned to the USA.

Shui's grandson David asked us to raise our glasses in a toast to Shui at our annual get together. On Sunday July 11, we did just that.

Sincerely,  
Jean and Robert Bader

### Mike Madigan

Mike Madigan, a NABET electronic maintenance man and video engineer during his 40 years, plus tenure at NBC died at his retirement residence in Dunedin, FL on October 7, 2004. Mike is survived by his wife June.

### Charles Tesser

A gentle man, Charlie died at age 84 on November 28, 2004. In World War II he was a Signal Corps photographer. He worked for 32 years at NBC (New York Studio/Field). Your editor knew him as a terrific Audio Assist. Loved by his wife Doris; children Lew and Marjorie, Stu and Jan, Bonnie and Rich; 12 cherished grandchildren; brothers, sisters, nieces, nephews and valued friends. The memorial services were held on December 1 in Rego Park, NY.

Just this past August "Dorie and Charlie" had notified PN of their new home in Boca Raton, Florida with this note...

"We have missed all the Peacock N Happenings. Please continue to keep us informed. Change of address is:

Charlie and Dorie Tesser

2091 Wolverton E

Boca Raton, FL 33434 1 561 482 0809

We are all well and would love to hear from you all.

With fond memories, I wish you all best wishes.

Charlie"



## The NBC Sports Reunion in Savannah

By Ken Fouts

How something so big and special could come out of a casual internet conversation between two old friends who had worked together at NBC Sports in the late 1960's and early 1970's is a marvel and reminder of how the sports department was one very happy and close-knit family in those days. That conversation between Tony Kubek and myself about how great it would be to see the "old gang" spread out over the internet starting last March like a grass fire in the prairies and culminated on October 29, 30 & 31 at the Westin Hotel and Resort in Savannah, Georgia.

On that Friday, 68 people began to arrive and were greeted in the lobby of the hotel with an NBC Sports banner from the 70's (with the logo that was contested by the Nebraska Educational Network) on a reception table. Each attendee was welcomed by retired sports producer Dick Auerbach and his wife Barbara along with former associate producer and producer Ginny Seipt and handed a packet with name tags adorned with three old NBC logos, an agenda for the week-end, a book containing bios of most of the group, gifts including a souvenir picture frame, Charlie Jones' most recent book release called "A Christmas to Remember" and a CD sports trivia game invented by Tom Merritt. The current NBC Sports management had also sent Olympic pins, bag tags and hats for everyone. Even with all the goodies, the best thing at that reception table was the surprise on everyone's face as they spotted friends and co-workers that they had not seen for up to 30 years. The joy and pure glee of each of them filled the whole afternoon of arrival times with a special feeling that the week-end ahead was going to be something to remember.

They came from all over the country to be at this gathering: Utah, Georgia, Louisiana, Ohio, Michigan, Florida, South Carolina, Pennsylvania, New York (both the city and upstate), Connecticut, North Carolina, New Jersey, Missouri, Virginia, Maryland, Idaho and Tennessee. People from the Virgin Islands, California and Texas were scheduled to attend and had to cancel at the last minute.

There were former NBC Sports staffers from all areas of expertise represented; Roger Harbaugh, a Burbank based cameraman; Rick Berman, lead audio in Boston on the '75 World Series; and Lenny Basile, a true "white hat" sports cameraman were the technical people in attendance. Production was represented by the likes of Don Ellis, Dick Auerbach, Larry Cirrilo, Bill Fitts, Joe Gallagher and George Finkel, all retired producers along with Michael Weisman who is still actively producing. Dick Cline and I were the directors in attendance along with Edith Nathanson representing the late Ted Nathanson and Peter Rolfe with Mike Hadley representing the associate producers of the time. Ginny Seipt, a pioneer in females producing sports coverage was there along with former office staffers Barbara Cline and Melody Iden-Fleisher. The Unit Manager staff had the best turnout led by George Smith, Barry Black, Sandra Baker, Jim Dullaghan, John Wendell, Don Baer and Joe Gianquinto. From the operations staff came Arnie Reif and from the sports PR staff, Tom Merritt and Chuck Adams attended.

The legendary Jim O'Gorman came to represent the stage manager staff and from administration and sales were Chet Simmons, Mike Trager and Bob Gutkowski. Ellen Beckwith, who had worked on "Grandstand" and long-time staffers Curt Block and Alan Baker were among the group. Bill Potts, from client relations was also there. Former announcers included Jay Randolph, Merlin Olsen, Tim Ryan and Sandy Koufax. 41 former NBC Sports staff and 27 of their spouses or friends rounded out the reunion group of 68.

The Westin Hotel was the perfect setting, with a spa and golf course adjacent and historic downtown Savannah only a short ferry-boat ride away. There was a hospitality suite, provided by Dick Ebersol and the current NBC Sports staff, to gather in for reminiscing and to view all the memorabilia that people had brought along with them. There were pictures, banners, hats, pins and credentials from the events of the late 1960's and early 70's along with letters from the many who could not attend, but wanted to send along their regards.

The week-end began with a dinner at a Savannah landmark restaurant called Mrs. Wilkes. The family-style service was perfect for the socializing that was to be the trademark of the weekend, and the food was plentiful. The evening continued back at the hotel suite and friendships picked up right where they had left off 30 years ago.

Saturday morning activities included a golf outing organized by Larry Cirrillo and Don Ellis, both former golf producers for NBC Sports. The winner of the outing was the golf course!! Many of the rest of the group toured historic downtown Savannah and the afternoon was filled with more getting together in the hospitality suite.

The Saturday evening banquet was the highlight event of the reunion. After a cocktail hour in the Grand Ballroom, Chet Simmons gave the official welcoming speech and the dinner began. The food was wonderful and the service superb, but the best part was yet to come. A program had been put together including short speeches by 15 attendees and video messages from Joe Garagiola and Charlie Jones. Bill Potts and Ginny Seipt had assembled hundreds of old photos and had created a video memorial to those who had passed away, as well as a video set to music of old photos of almost everyone in attendance.

All of the speeches were great to hear, but George Smith had us rolling in the aisles with his tremendous humor, including his opening line "Nothing has changed. When coming here, I took a cab to the airport and asked the driver for a BLANK receipt!" Jay Randolph, who had opted to be at the reunion instead of being at his induction into the Texas Radio Sports Announcer Hall of Fame, finished the program with a moving quote from his late father, the distinguished Senator Randolph, "You never know how high you are, until you are called to rise and if you are true to the plan, your stature touches the skies." Jay closed by saying, "This group of early NBC Sports staffers can be proud of its work and that its stature truly touched the skies." It was an evening that no one wanted to see end.



However, Sunday morning the group was off to the home of Chet and Harriet Simmons on nearby Tybee Island for a brunch and a final hour of socializing. After lox and bagels and a lot of corned beef had been consumed, it was all over. As people prepared to leave, Barbara Auerbach was heard commenting that she had never seen so many men hug each other with so much emotion. It was a sad moment when the bus pulled away taking people back to the hotel to check out and head to the airport.

Everyone agreed it was a fabulous weekend, but what made it

truly great was the rekindling of those friendships that we all thought had been **lost** forever, and in Savannah, we found out instead, that they will **last** forever. NBC Sports truly was like a family back then and it left its mark on all of us.

I, as the chairman of the event, said it was a "one-time only happening," but others insisted as they headed home, that it would happen again. Only time will tell, but the one thing for sure, we have all reconnected and that connection will not be broken again.

Note: Photos taken at the reunion and a VHS highlight tape of the weekend are available by contacting Ken Fouts, phone 513 625 2626 or email [Kfoutsjr@aol.com](mailto:Kfoutsjr@aol.com)



(back row) Peter Rolfe, Don Ellis, Ken Fouts, Dick Auerbach, George Finkel, Jim Dullaghan, Dick Cline, Michael Weisman  
(front row) Barry Black, Ginny Seipt, Larry Cirillo, Mike Hadley



The Golfers: Bob Gutkowski (sales), Larry Cirillo, Lenny Basile (covering his face), Ken Fouts, Don Ellis, Don Baer, Barry Black, Mike Hadley, Merlin Olsen, Barry Fleischer (Melody's husband), George Finkel and Jay Randolph



*We Get Letters and Pictures***Opal and Bill Howard**

4100 Jackson Avenue # 11

Austin, Texas 78731

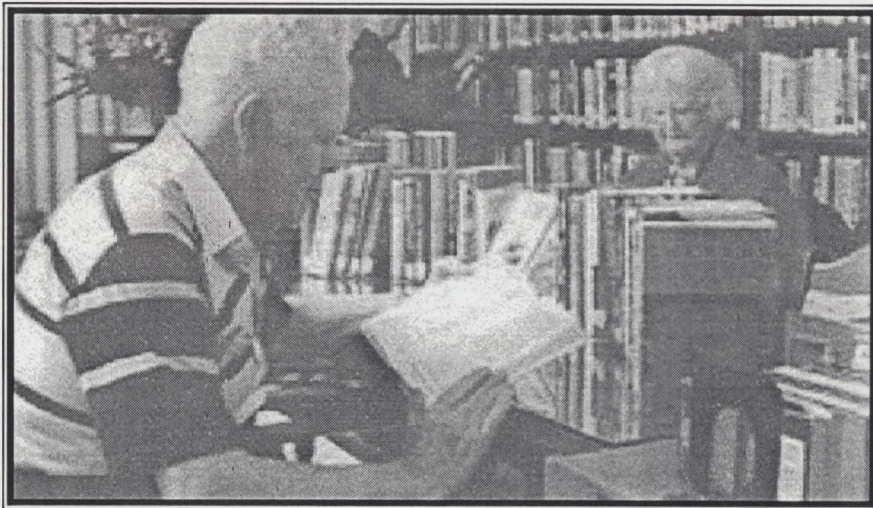
(512) 302-1316

billhow@worldnet.att.net

August 30, 2004

**Peacock North Editors and Past Editors:**

I want to congratulate you on the wonderful job you have done with Peacock North. I was very happy to know some time ago that you would continue publication of it. I would qualify for an Honorary Membership since I was 90 years old last December 1, but I am sending you a \$20.00 check in support of what you are doing.



I joined NBC Engineering in New York on April 15, 1946 after spending 3 years with Philco Television Engineering. At Philco, I worked on the Block 10 Project. RCA and Philco had a contract for developing an Airborne Television System for the United States Air Force. My first assignment at NBC was to join Vernon Duke, Dudley Goodale and Rudy Gebhart in developing and Processing Studio and Film Cameras for New York and Washington since RCA's Post-War Broadcast Equipment was not available because of their War Production schedule.

Early in 1948 Bill Resides and I were assigned to engineer and install television facilities for WNBK-TV, Cleveland, Ohio, which went on the air in late 1948. In January of 1949, I was asked to transfer to Cleveland as Maintenance Supervisor for WNBK-TV and later was promoted to Supervisor of Technical Operations for WNBK-TV.

In January of 1956, Westinghouse and NBC traded radio and television stations and I was assigned as Supervisor of Technical Operations for WRCV and WRCV-TV in Philadelphia. I was also assigned the job of colorizing WRCV-TV to make it a showcase for RCA's color television equipment, at David Sarnoff's request.

In January of 1960, Andy Hammerschmidt was Vice President and Chief Engineer of NBC. With the NBC Network going all color and the problems with standardization of color video tape recorders and distribution equipment with the NBC Owned Stations and the Network, Andy asked me to return to New York Engineering and accept the newly created position of "Manager, Engineering Standards and Practices" for the NBC Television Network and the Owned and Operated Stations.

On leaving Philadelphia, Ray Welpott, Manager of the NBC Stations in Philadelphia gave me a Going Away Party. Mr. Welpott and the employees at the station presented me with a 28 by 22 inch framed poster: "Saga of Bill Howard," with their signatures around the borders. This illustrated my career with NBC from New York to Cleveland and Philadelphia and now returning to my "Place in the Sun" at NBC New York. I am shown riding on a giant vacuum tube, which marks the time before solid state and the beginning of the era of rockets.

My wife, Opal, and I are enjoying our retirement at Westminster Manor in Austin, Texas. We are both in good health, she at age 85 in spite of being legally blinded by Macular Degeneration, and with me at age 90 December 1, 2003. We enjoy short trips in the car, eating out and many other activities that we take part in.

Sincerely,  
Bill Howard

We at Peacock North are very touched by and appreciative of this wonderful 91 year old who still wants to actively support our efforts. Thank you from the bottom of our hearts.



*We Get Letters and Pictures*

I had an interesting experience yesterday and today which I would like to share with my friends at Peacocks North and South. Here in our little town of Orleans, Mass., on Cape Cod, we have a Public Access TV station which is shared by three towns.

A friend of mine was going to host a local interest show, so we went over to set up the furniture. As we arranged the tables and chairs, I noticed that the lights were all over but where they should be located. Out came the ladder and, remembering countless hours with Herb Greeley, Lee Carlton and Bill Anderson, I rehung and then focused them on the three guests and on the host.

The video man liked the pictures he was getting and he was ready to tape. I said, "Wait one minute," then strolled on the set and called "Electric!" just like Phil Hymes. I could swear the guy who walked onto the set looked like Irv Messing.

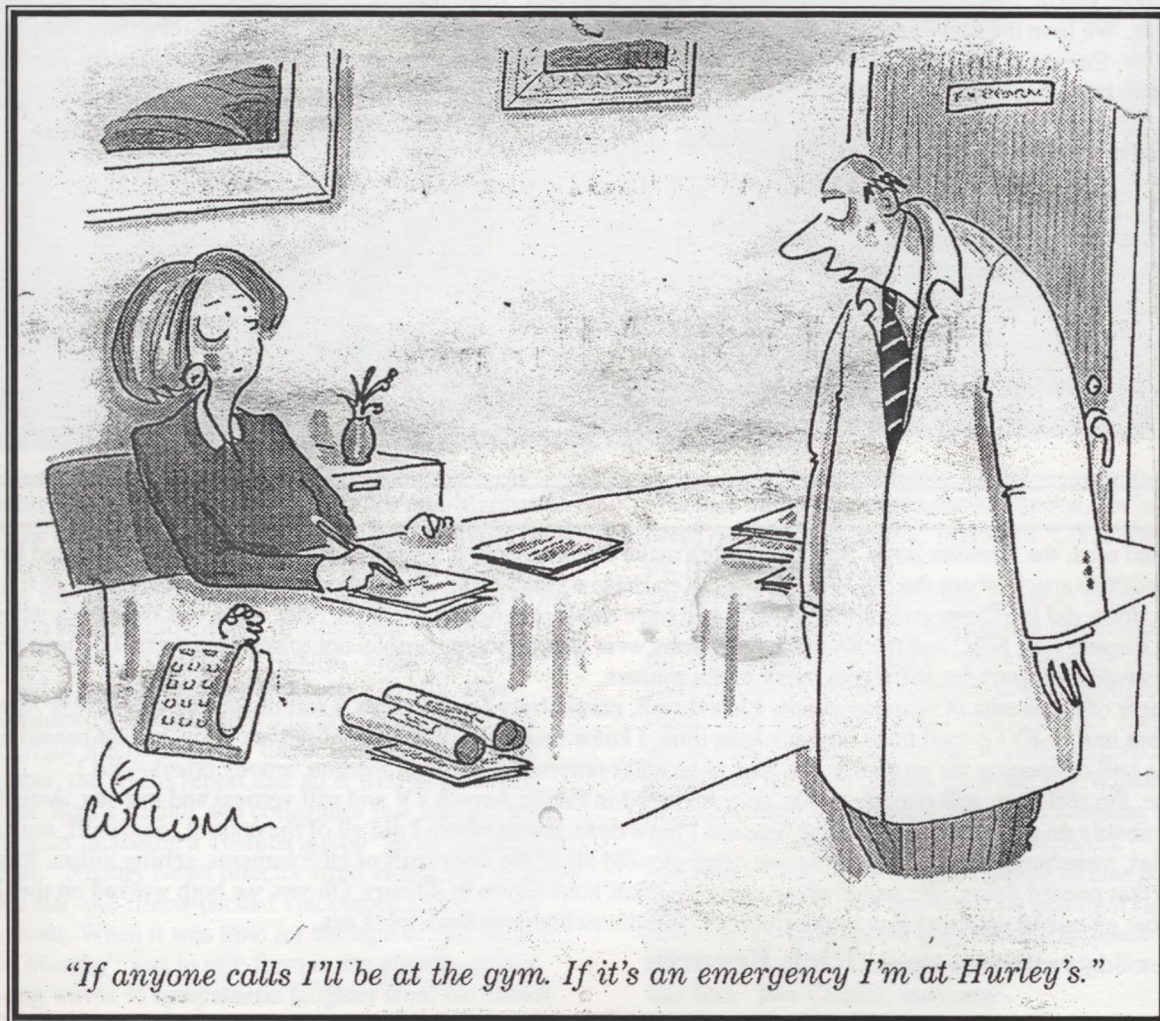
Then the fun began as they realized they were one cameraman short. Here I was, camera number one, just like Al Camoin, John Dolan or Al Rice, with my heroes coming to guide me. As I donned the headset, the director asked me to cue the host on several instances. Now my day was complete. My hand gave the fifteen-, five- and one-minute cues. I was Jack Sumroy, Eddie Hugh and Joe Dicso all wrapped into one. I was sorry I couldn't give the "one" cue out loud like one of the nicest men we knew, "Two and a half" - Frank Caden.

As I do make more shows at our little studio, I will think of all the people at NBC who were really a pleasure to know. Those mentioned in this story are a few of the wonderful people I met, and I love you all.

**John Trautwein**

amyjohnt@capecod.net

**Fond Memories**



*"If anyone calls I'll be at the gym. If it's an emergency I'm at Hurley's."*



*We Get Letters*

Hello Good People,

I want to let you know that I'm ever grateful to your group. Your decision to keep the Luncheon a yearly event makes me ever thankful. Having the opportunity to spend precious time with the people I thankfully worked with for 35 years brings great joy to me. My sincere thanks to you.

There was mention at the last affair of some events in the life of Lillian Russo. I would like to share a happening we were involved in. We were working on the "Today" show. We had to arrive at 4 am. The show came out of the Florida Showcase, located at the corner of Rock Plaza and 49th. We had parking access on the private road near the ice rink. We parked our cars and met to walk to the studio. Suddenly we heard the firing of gun shots. There was a ricocheting of bullets in the parking garage opposite the entrance to NBC. I grabbed Lil's hand and asked her to run as fast as she was able. She begged me to hide under one of the parked cars. We continued to run to the studio entrance. Once inside she asked me why didn't we hide under a car. I replied "Lil, I could see tomorrow's headline:

'TD Gary Iorio of NBC Shot Dead While Under a Car With a Blonde By His Side.' "

We shared that with the crew and all had a good laugh.

The best to you,

**Gary Iorio**

I retired from NBC Traffic in 1999 after 37 years and one week of service. After leaving NBC, my wife, Sharna and I moved west to Scottsdale, Arizona. We love the weather, especially the 'dry' heat. Since retirement, we have done a lot of traveling: Australia cruise, Panama canal cruise, Europe etc. Retirement is a wonderful thing. Peacock North keeps me attached to my past life. I see so many names and faces that bring back fond memories of all those years. I am proud to be part of the group.

I see four faces that I recognize in the 25-year class of 1980 photo published in the Summer 2004 issue:

2nd row 6th from right is Andy Gallo

2nd row 7th from right is Dom Bellezza

Back row (top) 4th from right is Joe Fedrich

Back row (top) 2nd from left is Ed Prendergast.

Keep up the good work.

Sincerely,

**Al Baeder**

Just received, and read, the Summer issue. Sorry I couldn't make the luncheon. It sounds as though a good time was had by all.

In the (Summer 2004) article about the '75 World Series, Ken made a small error. The audio man for the Boston end of the Series was me, not Jerry. Jerry did the Cincy end of the Series. I still have the World Series pin from 1975. That was the Series where there was a slight labor dispute with NBC and the Emmy nominations went to production people, not to any engineers. I believe that Bud, the Unit Manager, received an Emmy for stiffing so many of the runners.

I was sorry to hear of the deaths of so many people I knew well, particularly Jerry Caruso. I sort of figured that Howie Atlas was in trouble as I have not had an FYI e-mail from him in a long time. I knew he was in ill health but did not know he had passed on. Is anyone picking up the ball of keeping the retirees in the loop as to other retirees? (Yes. Jack Keegan, among others—Ed.)

In the meantime, I'm still here, still playing tennis, very involved in Public Access TV and still vertical and moving. Actually, I think NABET would probably do something nasty to me because I have done shows where I did all of the control room stuff, music, audio, video tape, graphics, switching and directing while one other guy did all of the floor stuff of all 3 cameras, setting mikes, stage manager and anything else that needed doing. We would do as many as 3 half hour shows in 4 hours. Oh yes, we both worked on the lighting.

I think getting out an e-mail directory is a wonderful idea. Mine is rickberman@adelphia.net.

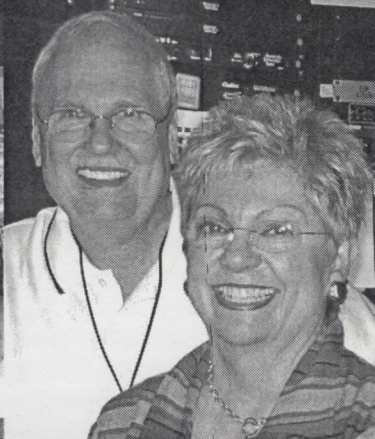
Good newsletter. Stay well and be happy...**Rick Berman**



## “This Just In to NBC Nightly News: Walt Ryan Retires!”



**Top L: Kathy Barbee, Lisa Bernardo, Walt, Nancy Pinto, Cathy Worster; Top R: Brett Holey hosts in Studio 3C; Center L: Brian on the big screen; Center: Walt and Divina; Center R: Evelyn Cordero, Nancy Pinto, Yvonne Fernandez, Walt, Divina Ryan, Archie Brignoni; Bottom: An Audio Group (of) Five: Fred Bugg, Larry & Cathy Worster, W, Joel Spector.**



On September 2nd, 2004, Studio 3C and other mid-Manhattan areas were the scene of The Big W's Departure. Thirty-eight years and eleven months after walking in the doors at NBC, Walter Ryan was fêted on two occasions as he and wife Divina packed up and headed into the eye of Hurricane Frances in West Palm Beach, Florida. As Bryan Williams, "substituting for Tom Brokaw," said at the afternoon studio bash, "Wally, after tonight's broadcast I'm flying down to give you a first-hand report from right where your new house used to be!" (As of mid-December, the Ryans report that all is well in their new home.) 50 of Walt's friends and colleagues sent him off with several fine gifts including a Toshiba laptop "so he can keep in touch with us." Nightly News director Brett Holey had prepared an elaborate star-and-friend-packed videotaped tribute to the man of the hour. When it was time for the tape to roll, Brett's friend "Mr. Murphy" was in rare form in the gremlin department, causing waves of sympathetic laughter from the crowd.

Whether mit or mitout-the-correct-sound, the labor of love was deeply appreciated, and a "corrected" DVD was sent along to the Ryan archives.

On September 3rd, an informal group of friends gathered at the SW44 Restaurant for a non-technical celebration. This capped off Walt's last day of work, which naturally consisted of an early morning call and then two complete Nightly News broadcasts, right up to the 7:29pm fade to black! During his long tenure at NBC, Walt first worked in radio with such diverse talents as Murray the K, Wolfman Jack and Big Wilson. In television, he made major audio contributions to Saturday Night Live, the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade, Network News in the field, and then to Nightly News and Special Events Senior Audio. His attention to detail and insistence on getting it right the first time (because it was often the only time) was matched by his relentless good humor. He really set the bar high for those who follow him. *Bon Chance, mon ami!*



## NBC and How I Started By Bob Asman

So there I was, a young Navy crewman aboard an LST (Landing Ship: Tank) heading back across the Pacific from the Philippines. World War II had just ended and when we reached the States, our 320 foot long, flat bottomed tub was to be de-commissioned and we were to be discharged from the U. S. Navy. On this long and weary trip home (our LST was traveling without a convoy at a speed of about 10 knots...you could ride a bicycle faster) I began to think about my post-Navy future.

I had always been fascinated with broadcasting. In high school, I was the designated PA announcer. I spent Sunday afternoons visiting radio station WHAM in my home town of Rochester. That station was the local NBC affiliate. One of the announcers was a history teacher at our high school who moonlighted as an announcer on weekends. He would let me sit in the studio while he read commercials or did station breaks.

One of my Navy buddies from New York told me about a course at Columbia University on broadcasting. When I finally got back home, I investigated and found, to my delight, that Columbia did, indeed, offer a broadcasting and journalism course. Not only that, but some of the broadcasting classes were actually held at NBC! The dean was a man named Eric Barnow, who had a distinguished career in radio. I wrote him a long letter about my passion for broadcasting and, bless his heart, he wrote back with an application enclosed. I was accepted and went to New York City in the Fall of 1947.

The G. I. Bill paid for most of my tuition and to pay for my room and board, I managed to get a job as a Guide in the Guest Relations Department of NBC. Pure heaven! They were wonderful days at a time when Radio City was still among the newest great sights in New York City. The art deco design of Rockefeller Plaza was most evident in the grand staircase and mezzanine of NBC where the tours would assemble. It was an impressive and beautiful sight.

Pat Kelly was the dean of the NBC announcing staff (which numbered in the 20's at that time) and he also taught a class for members of the page and guide staff who had passed an audition. I was lucky enough to have made it into his class. If, at the end of his class, he felt any of us had any real promise in the announcing field, he would arrange for a note to go out to the affiliates. As a result, I was offered an announcing job back in my home town of Rochester. I worked for an independent station there for about a year and then moved on to a new station that had opened in Geneva, New York. I made that move because they made me the morning "drive time" DJ. I was on from 6:30 AM to 9 AM Monday through Saturday at the princely sum of \$75 per week!

The guide staff was co-ed and there was a fair amount of dating between the male and female guides. I met a lovely young lady from Winchester, Mass. named Nancy Johnston. We had dated in our time together as guides and after I left NBC for the announcing

jobs, we carried on a lively and frequent correspondence. She even came up to Geneva once to visit. That visit really cemented our friendship. I proposed, she accepted and we were married in September, 1949. We celebrated our 55<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary this September. She's still lovely.

We had been married almost a year when I realized that while radio was fun and I enjoyed my local fame, television was becoming the broadcasting business to be in. So I went back to New York, pounded pavements for about a month and finally landed a job with a new film company that was producing stuff for television. They did a lot of sub-contract work for CBS News and I got to know a lot of the CBS News people. So when CBS was starting a new weekly series with Walter Cronkite, to be called "The Twentieth Century" they were looking for a Production Manager and I got the job. It was a wonderful series of programs (still running on the History Channel) and I stayed with it for 5 seasons.

Then, one day, I got a call from Ted Yates, a successful and energetic young man who was producing an interview show with Mike Wallace. He invited me to lunch to tell me he was leaving New York because NBC had hired him to come to Washington to produce a new series with David Brinkley. It was to be a one hour long magazine show in prime time and he had already enlisted Stuart Schulberg as his co-producer and wanted me to join them as associate producer. I turned him down at first because I was doing just fine at CBS and to leave New York for Washington seemed just to risky. But Ted persisted and offered me quite a bit more money than I was making at CBS. So I talked it over with my wife and we agreed to give it a shot.

By then we had two kids and a new home in Dumont, New Jersey, but we pulled up stakes and moved to Washington where we rented a house (I guess I thought I would go back to New York if the Brinkley show didn't pan out).

The series worked out very well and "The Brinkley Journal" held it's 10 to 11 PM time slot for two full seasons. But David himself asked to do occasional specials rather than the weekly grind of a one hour program. In the early '60's NBC's Washington news bureau was growing fast and there was a need for a full time special events producer. I volunteered myself for the job and there started the most interesting, challenging and exciting 32 years in the broadcasting business. The '60s, '70s, and '80s were very rich news years what with the Kennedy administration (Camelot), the cold war and our race to space, the whole civil rights movement, the assassination of President Kennedy, Martin Luther King and the attorney general, Robert Kennedy, Watergate, the Cuban Missile Crisis. I got to travel with Kennedy on his trip to Germany. I did overseas trips with every president up to the Clinton years. I worked with Jim Kitchell and the Space Unit covering all the manned space shots from the first Mercury flight, through all the Gemini and Apollo flights and right on to the first Space Shuttles. Jim assigned me to the Cape for the launches and then to Houston or New York for the rest of the flight and the landings.



I was TV pool producer for many of those flights and became the designated pool producer when it was NBC's turn for national political conventions and inaugurations. And even though I was based in Washington, I got to know, work with and enjoy the company of many New York technical folks and directors and AD's.

So, NBC has been threaded through my whole life, from my high school visits to the NBC (Red & Blue Networks) radio station in Rochester, to the wonderful tour guide '40s at Radio City at a

time when it was still David Sarnoff's RCA with the NBC Symphony and Arturo Toscanini, "Victory At Sea" and "Wide Wide World," to my exciting 32 years at the NBC Washington bureau. And while it might not be fashionable to say this about the company for which you work, I truly loved the NBC I worked with. I loved the quality, the professionalism, the sincere and serious approach to all that we did. Perhaps, most of all I loved the people I worked with. The timing could not have been better. I got in the business at the right time....and I got out at the right time!



This photo was taken in the Oval Office just after President Ronald Reagan finished his last address to the nation before he left office. NBC was lucky enough to be pool on this occasion...and since it was a special occasion, we brought in champagne and after we went off the air, the president hung around and had a drink with all of us. He also shared some very funny stories. We all miss him.

### **Rick Caro: A Memorable Event from an NBC/RCA Career**

One of the most memorable events in my 40-year career with NBC and RCA occurred in 1958 when I was traveling frequently between Washington and New York. At the time I was a project supervisor in the New York based Staff Engineering Department involved in the technical design and installation of the Washington NBC/WRC tv plant on Nebraska Avenue.

On one of these trips when I took my aisle seat on the plane heading to La Guardia, I noticed that an elderly lady was already sitting in the window seat. A little later much to my surprise I recognized this lady. It was none other than Eleanor Roosevelt, who was studying an appointment calendar. (no PDA's then).

After a while I worked up enough nerve to engage her in conversation. She couldn't have been more gracious and of course most interesting. When we landed at La Guardia, and as I was about to head to the parking lot, I noticed that she was heading for the taxi line. I asked her if I could give her a ride to her home, and sure enough she agreed. So, the former First Lady rode in a seven year old Chevy to her town house on the East Side of Manhattan, and we had another fascinating conversation.

It is hard to visualize that any former First Lady since then, who no doubt have or had Secret Service protection, would agree to ride into town with a total stranger in a somewhat run down older car.





## REUNION



MONITOR Production Assistants Barbara Zinn Feldman, Suzanne Lavalley Bothamley, Melanie Turner, Joyce Rind, Pauline Barfield, Angela Ladas Vierville and Cathy Stuck Karlshoej.

MONITOR, NBC Radio's "Weekend Radio Service" was broadcast from 1955 to 1975. On July 14th 2004, twenty-nine years after the final broadcast, more than 50 former staff members from throughout the nation gathered at the "new" Hurley's Restaurant on West 48th Street for a full afternoon of reminiscing, feasting and photo ops. The event was organized by Dennis Hart, a long-time MONITOR fan and author of a comprehensive history of the program. He is a radio program director in California who decided he'd waited long enough for someone to chronicle the history of network radio's greatest program. Dennis located as many participants as possible and hosted a fabulous party.

Some attendees had been in regular contact over the years, but for others there were many big smiles and "You look marvelous!" moments. Special guests included the one and only "Miss Monitor" (Tedi Thurman), Ed Newman, Jim Lowe, John Bartholomew Tucker, and Peter Drake, the son of the late Monitor Producer Bud Drake, who was very touched by the warm memories of his Dad expressed by many partygoers. Among those who spoke to the group were Executive Producer Bob Maurer, Peter Flynn (then Director of Radio Net Operations) and writers Charlie Garment and Beryl Pfizer. Gene Garnes Senior and Junior documented the day in a fine VHS tape.

**Dan Grabel**, newswriter, producer, etc., and Peacock North page-filler, has pulled stakes out of Scarsdale, NY and is spending his retirement time in a cottage in Westerly, Rhode Island, a waterfront community, and in a condo he and wife Trisha are buying at Arrowwood, near the PepsiCo campus in Purchase, NY.

Dan is still writing ski columns for six Westchester newspapers, and is downhill skiing, playing doubles tennis and bike riding. Trisha does 70 and 100 mile-a-day treks on her high-performance two-wheeler. Dan's maximum is 13 miles followed by a good snooze.

Trisha has gone to lengths to get in her bike mileage, often joining charity rides in far-off places -- rides for which she must raise big bucks before gaining entry. These jaunts have included Cuba, South Africa, the California Coast, New York's Five Boro Ride, the Long Island Century -- 100 miles in one day-- from Babylon to Montauk, and Westchester's Golden Apple ride.



*We Get Letters*

**Dave and Betty Rush**

1563 Jamaica Ct.  
Marco Island, FL 34145

Hi People:

Since I left the wonderful world once fostered by NBC (pre-GE obviously), I have become something of a procrastinator. Since Russ Tornabene and I renewed contact a coupla years ago, I have vowed each year to get my name on your membership rolls. Procrastination ends with this letter and a check for 20 bucks. Some of you may remember me, from somewhere out there. I first joined NBC at WRC-TV in Washington, became a network regular shortly thereafter, anchoring Monitor News on the Hour on weekends for 10 years, Political, White House and Business Correspondent until November 1987.

As a business correspondent I knew very well GE's plan of action and began looking toward the day "Neutron Jack" Welch's minions in the primary form of Robert Wright, would see fit to put me on the street. So, I prepared for a second career as a financial planner (thanks to a decision I had made 40 years earlier to major in business and finance), and when the day came, I stepped into my second career. It worked well for me, keeping me off the streets, into an arrangement with a large independent broker-dealer which enabled me to open my own office on Marco Island Florida. My target for full retirement was December 31, 2003. Little did I know the State of Florida would step in and give me a sendoff bigger than any retirement party imaginable. A quarter share of a \$100 million lottery prize.

So here I am today, still living on Marco Island, enjoying the climate and the sunsets with wife Betty.

The things I remember most about my other life is the great times we had on weekends, when I commuted to NY for Monitor NOH, and the conventions where us air people drove the tech side slightly insane.

Cheers to you all, and stay in touch.

After speaking to Tony Romeo, I learned that Peacock North is still available. I would like to receive it again. I worked for NBC for 38 years and worked in Switching Central for 14 years before my retirement in 1986. I am 82 years old and about 2 years ago my wife and I moved from humid Long Island to the wine country of Sonoma, California. We now live in a beautiful retirement park enjoying the beautiful weather of Northern California. Thank you.

Sincerely,

**John (Barney) Blake,**

149 Chiquita Camino Sonoma, CA 95476

**George and Margery Voutsas,  
an appreciation by Joel Spector**

George was a long-time NBC Producer, working with Glenn Miller, Maestro Toscanini and the NBC Opera Theatre. When I started at NBC Radio in 1965, George was in charge of the Sunday Night segment of MONITOR. His host at that time was Frank Blair. During the early 1970s, George produced a number of special musical broadcasts which were engineered by Gene Garnes, Warren Hogan, myself, and others. These included the rock group Blood, Sweat & Tears as well as the 1972 Newport Jazz Festival throughout New York City. Following his retirement from NBC at the end of the MONITOR Era, George and Margery moved to a charming house overlooking the Pacific at Carmel. They devoted their time to travel, family and many cultural pursuits. He passed away at age 93 in 2004. Margery, a former star at the New York City Opera, recently attended an Opera reunion here in the Big Apple.



photographed in 1990



## A radio-active life

By Don Blair, NBC Radio Network. Retired (well, not really).

Retired? Not really. While we're only minutes from the Gulf of Mexico here in Venice, Florida, and don't sit on the beach nearly as much as we should, I can easily recall nearly 60 years growing up and working in the New York Metropolitan area and never getting to the Statue of Liberty either. It happens.

My road to the hallowed halls of 30 Rock (the best years of my career) took a little time. It began with the usual apprenticeship-type years (ten to be exact) in suburbia, doing disc jockey, rip-and-read news, sports and anything else stations in Connecticut and Massachusetts asked you to do. When I added a few years of television just prior to hitting the Big Apple, I found myself doing booth-announcing (a la Howard Reig), on-camera sports, a Today-type morning show following the NBC biggie, and...weather. One day, my boss called me into his office and said, "You're a weatherman." Another instant expert was born at that moment. Actually, calling the real weather experts at Hartford's Bradley Field was all I needed to flesh out a nightly 5-minute weathercast.

Along the way I have been privileged to help a number of colleagues find their next jobs in NYC on several occasions. The importance of helping a friend was never more evident than when I got one individual a modest Saturday night local on-camera newscast on the Hartford TV station where I was working. As his way of thanking me, he called and urged me to immediately get a tape to his friend, the boss at the Mutual Network. I began a seven-year run at Mutual over the Christmas holidays in 1965 joining the familiar Tony Marvin, Del Sharbutt, Bill Stern and Don Dunphy. Yes, Marvin, Sharbutt and I did write all our own stuff despite the public's continuing belief we just sat there and waited for others to put words in our mouths. Why does this mythology survive?

Barely four months into what would become a quarter-century in Manhattan (and find me working for all four radio networks) my Mutual boss, the late Charles A. (Chuck) King, called me to his office one day and said he was sending me on the biggest assignment of my life. He was right. I was to be "Pool" correspondent aboard the carrier USS Wasp for the Gemini 9 splashdown. We sailed out of Boston in June 1966. I co-broadcasted the return of astronauts Tom Stafford and Gene Cernan with the late and highly respected Bill Ryan of WNBC-TV (Channel 4). He had already done several "splashdowns" and was a very good man to watch and learn from.

By the sheer luck of the draw I drew similar assignments for Gemini 10 and 11 that same year. The network news directors would meet at CBS Black Rock up the avenue from NBC and pick assignment slips out of an ashtray. Very unscientific but I was not about to complain. I was like a kid in a candy store, meeting great people from not just NBC, but ABC and CBS as well. Rarely did one network send its cameras and technical crews on two missions in a row, but it did happen. I got to know and respect the wonderful Pete Fatovich, the late Bob Priaulx and many others.

The luck of the draw process was not to kick in again for several years but, when it did, we learned the news directors

had decided Apollo 11 was of such overriding importance there would be one of us from each of the four networks. We all filed daily radio reports for our respective networks: Ron Nessen (my roommate on the USS Hornet) reported for NBC, Dallas Townsend for CBS and Keith McBee for ABC. On splashdown day I had the radio audience, worldwide, all to myself while my three colleagues did an open-mike, mostly voice-over collaboration, for the huge television audience. My producer thought then (and I still do) we were talking to one of the largest radio audiences of all time – for about 5 hours.

Typically, the public's interest in space weakened with NASA's successes; peaked again during the Apollo 13 crisis; and fell right back into ho-hum for the final four missions to the Moon. After Apollo 11, the network honchos had gone right back to the two-man reporting teams. My last mission assignment was for Apollo 15 (Dave Scott, Jim Irwin and Al Worden) aboard the USS Okinawa. She was a helicopter landing platform and not a carrier in the usual sense of the word. No fixed wing aircraft but the best food ship out of the five carriers I sailed on and that counts for something.

A year later, Mutual moved to the D.C. suburbs and I, not wanting to leave a lifetime in the Northeast, walked down 52d Street and landed a job at WCBS, NewsRadio88, that was hectic, exciting, challenging, tiring and – most of time – fun. When they eased me out after about two years, I was not disappointed, and quickly (and gratefully) got back into good old 5-minute network news with the ABC Entertainment Network. In 1974, I was hired by Bob Kimmel at the NBC Radio Network.

For an on-the-hour network, our first days were high-pitched, high-quality constant radio specials from a great team of professionals both on and off the air. Nixon was crashing and NBC Radio was turned into a nearly-all-news, all-the-time package that our affiliates utilized – big time. This was an incredible way to begin what would become my last fifteen years in network radio news. Colleagues were Mike Maus, Gary Nunn, Steve Porter, Alan Walden, John Bohannon, Sam Hall, Bob Cain, Ann Taylor, Frank Gorin, among others. They were all terrific. Among our off-air giants were Charley Garment, Herb Gordon, Beryl Pfizer and a whole lot of easy-to-work-with engineers, many of who had spent their earlier years at NBC television.

In fifteen years you cover a lot of awesome stories and there were simply too many to list here and now, but two stand out in my mind – the Iran hostage saga and the Challenger disaster.

On a nervous Sunday morning in January 1981, I was on deck for one of my regular strips of six network newscasts. We all knew the Iran hostage story was ready to explode, but nobody could tell you exactly when. UNTIL, NBC's London bureau chief, Fred Kennedy, came screaming across our speakers with word that it was over, a deal had been struck between Iran and the U.S. and our hostages would soon be on their way home. My young producer that morning objected strongly when I got up to go into the studio for an ad-lib 60-second talk-up as a



warning to our affiliates an urgent bulletin was on tap. I looked at him, reminding him the voice we were hearing was just the best bureau chief in the business and I was going to put him on the air. If Kennedy were wrong, then both he and I would be out of work. Yes, I violated the two-source unwritten rule on a story, but I had total confidence in Kennedy then, and I still do. We have been together socially several times since, and he knows full well if I hadn't bent the rules we never would have beaten the entire media by a full five hours --- and that included NBC Nightly News which went ballistic and never forgave our audacity. I still have Kennedy's entire breathless bulletin during which we kicked back and forth for about three minutes on that unforgettable day. WTIC in Hartford told me months later it was, in their opinion, one of radio's finest hours and their salespeople carried cassettes of that bulletin broadcast. Kennedy was taken over the coals verbally by some of our bosses, but I was never even approached about it. It was a great scoop and we both kept our jobs for many years.

On another January day in 1986, just after wrapping up a totally fun assignment covering Bourbon Street parties leading up to Super Bowl XX (Bears/Patriots), I was waiting for a plane out of New Orleans with a stopover at Houston to do some coverage on the first school teacher in space - Christa McAuliffe.

As I later wrote for a local paper in Connecticut, it turned out to be "From Hoopla to Horror" as Challenger blew up even before my flight to Houston had departed. I called New York and was told to get to the Johnson Space Center, get busy and stay there until after President Reagan had flown in the following Friday for the somber memorial ceremony.

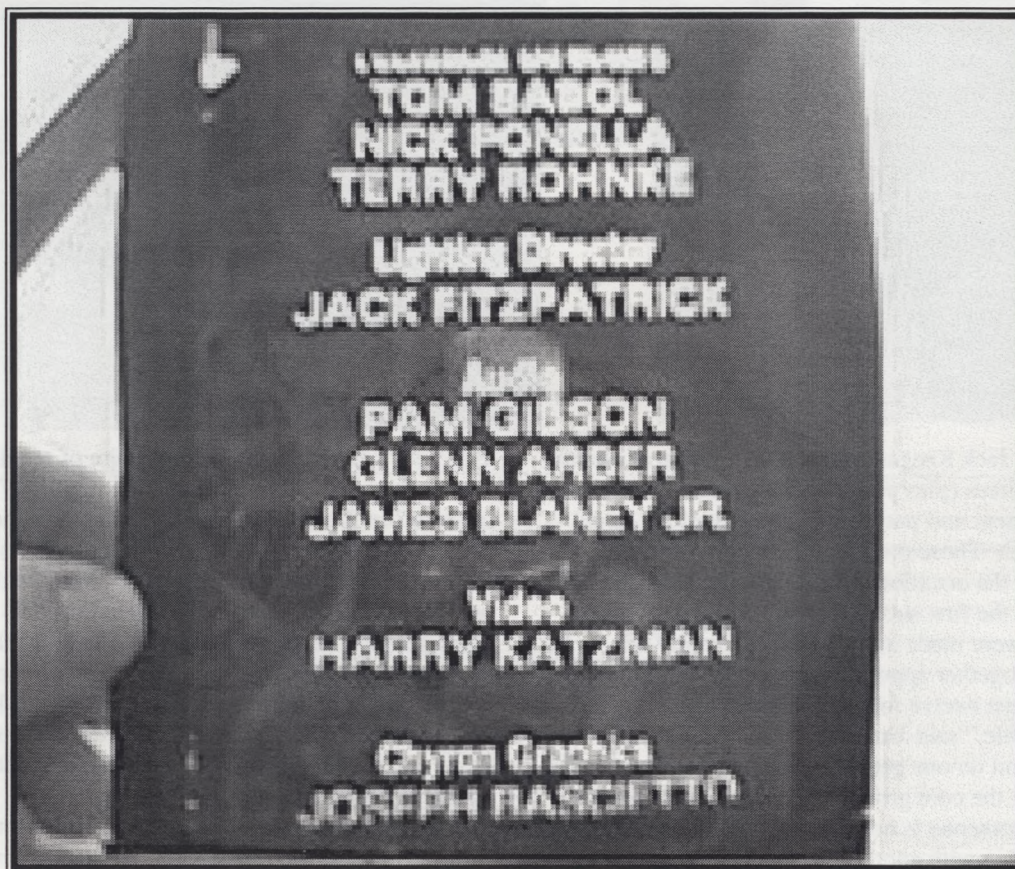
On the air that day, I was describing a flyover of jet fighters when one of them gunned out of formation to leave the "missing man" position. I choked up, lost my voice, and Steve Porter, standing alongside me, picked up and got me through my emotion attack. When I phoned New York for a wrap-up, I asked my producer what she thought of my "drop-out" and she said, "Don, when you went you took a few dozen people in this newsroom with you."

At least one affiliate news director later wrote to my bosses that a little emotion in delivering epic events is never unwelcome. Most of the time I did keep my cool, but I have never lost my love for network radio news. Great people doing great reporting, many of them still close friends and e-mail correspondents—besides, you can wear blue jeans to work.

(Don's recently published book, *SPLASHDOWN NASA AND THE NAVY*, can be viewed at [www.turnerpublishing.com](http://www.turnerpublishing.com))

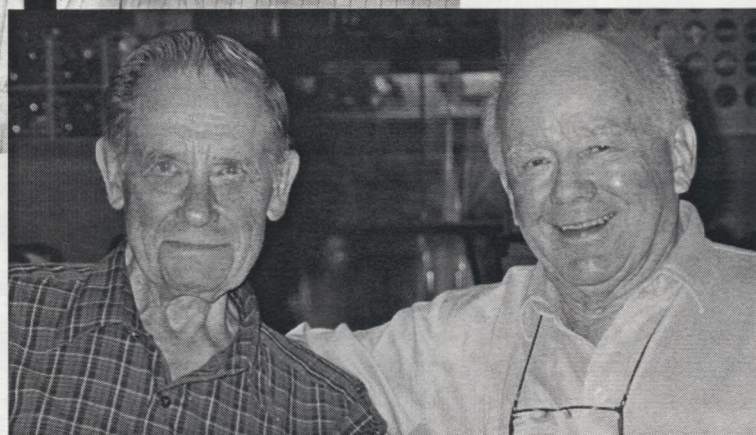
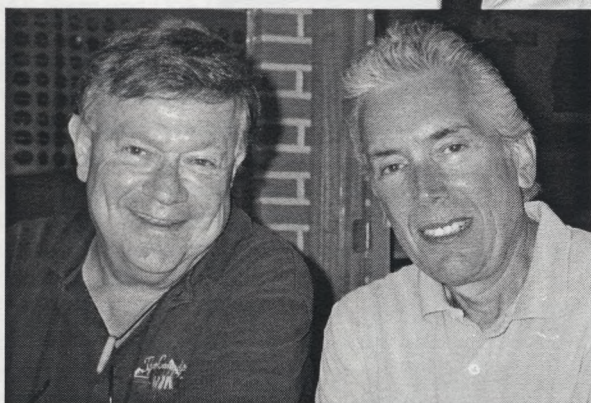
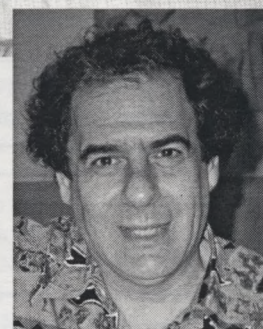
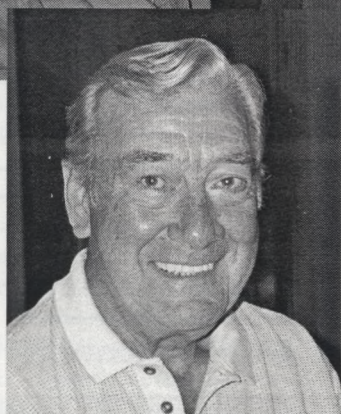
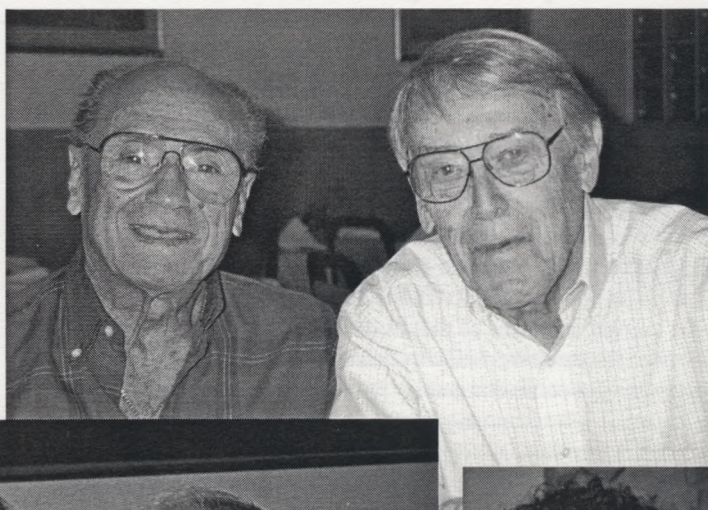
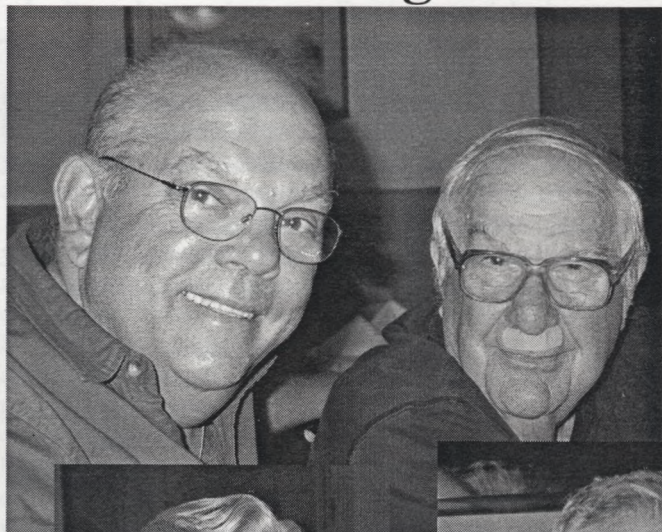
## Video Mystery

**Jim Blaney Jr asks our readers to GUESS THE PROGRAM on this credit crawl.**





## Long Island Retirees Luncheon



On August 3rd, 2004, Jack Keegan rounded up a group of eleven Long Island-based retirees (plus your editor) to share lunch and some good talk of present and past events in the world at large and, of course, at NBC. Those present at Domenico's in Levittown were continuing the occasional meetings started by the late Howie Atlas. At this, the first such event since his passing, several soft-drink toasts were made in his honor. Jack and the group decided to get together approximately every other month, holding the group to just twelve folks. "This way, we all get to sit around the same table," said Jack. "We can cruise through many conversations and no one gets left out of any of them!" He went on to say that the core group is actually larger than twelve, so that when someone is not able to come in on a particular date, he can fill in with another person.

This adds some spice to the repertoire of recollections. Walter Dibbins told of participating in post-WW II "blind listening tests" in Studio 3A to demonstrate the superiority of the newly-discovered magnetic recording tape system developed in German laboratories. In December, Wes Paulsen told of serving on a Minesweeper based at Pearl Harbor. His ship pulled out on December 6th to engage in target-towing for the fleet. When they returned to Pearl several days later, fireboats were still pouring water on the smoldering ruins of Battleship Row. Wes told us that he will never forget that devastating sight. Pictured above are (Top) Bill Freeda, Hank Heustis, Murray Vecchio, Leon Dobbin; (Center) Frank Gaeta, Jack Keegan, Tony Romeo, Joel Spector; (Bottom) Jan Kasoff, Jack Katz, Walter Dibbins, Bill DeLennoy.



**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.

**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 2005 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.





## New Peacock North Members

**Your contacts:**  
Marilyn Altman  
Jim Marshall  
Joel Spector  
(Peacock North Editor)

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

**Mailing Address:**  
PO Box 16755  
Stamford, CT 06905

Phil Cantrell worked for West Coast Engineering from 1965 to 1989. He now lives in Tucson, Arizona.

Jim Hughes worked in News, Film, VT, WNBC, Studio Ops and Sports in 1956 and from 1962 till 1993. He and wife Eileen live in Yonkers, New York.

Jeff Kulliver worked for Radio Net, BOC and Sports from 1964 till 1988. He and wife Lennie, live in Atlanta, Georgia.

Dave Rush worked in News from 1962 till 1987. He and wife Betty live on Marco Island in Florida in winter and in Roaring Gap, North Carolina during the summer.

Harry E. Smith, Jr. worked for TV Maintenance from 1966 till 2000. He and wife Theresa live in East Fallowfield, Pennsylvania.

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

**First Class Mail**

Dues are due—  
January 1, 2005