



Springtime Events Rock New York



First and Second Generation leaders arrive at La Maganette for the annual luncheon.

Left: Dan Grabel, Peg and Pete Peterson, Frank Vierling are joined by member Renee Oxman .

Below: Joel Spector, Marilyn Altman, Jim Marshall, Lenny Stucker.



Left: Howard Reig, whose retirement party is pictured on Page 19, is shown here in Studio 3B Announce Booth. After the celebration, he was asked to record some additional tracks for Weekend Nightly News. Ever the consummate pro, Howard sat right down and took care of business "one more time."

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Marilyn's Page

A Rome Memoir



Before I get to the part where I lavish kudos on all my colleagues and the membership concerning the success of our annual luncheon, I want to share with all of you a personal memoir of an NBC nature. On the Wednesday before tax day I was sitting in my kitchen when I got a phone call from Field Operations in Long Island City: Could I go to Rome on Saturday for the Conclave? And so a few days later I joined the now paired-down group which remained on site in Rome after Pope John Paul's funeral.

I had never been to Rome, never seen the Vatican, the Sistine Chapel nor St Peter's Basilica..... Need I go on? Not to mention the reason I was there was for an historic occasion, the choosing of a new Pope. The crowds, the passion, the fervor of most everyone there (seasoned correspondents included) was unparalleled. For someone who had never witnessed the enormity of the Vatican (and it is!) as well as the incredible power it exudes, it was like bumping into a monolith with all the pomp, circumstance and mystery one can conjure up. But my best day in Rome was yet to come.

It was the Saturday after the Conclave. Cardinal Ratzinger had become Pope Benedict VI. Marjorie Weeke, who had been the highest ranking woman at the

Vatican until her recent retirement, arranged for a few of us to accompany her on a special private tour of the Sistine Chapel. Pure magic. We walked around the Basilica only then to be invited by Marjorie to a private audience with the new Pope as he addressed the world press. On several occasions parts of the crowd would spontaneously break into enthusiastic chanting. It was unbelievable. The Pope very graciously spoke to the gathering in five different languages. I found the whole scene quite exhilarating.

Later that evening I spent the first night of Passover at a seder in a Jewish Community Center in the heart of the old Jewish Quarter. This community has survived in the same location since before Christ. (They say that the original Romans were Jews.) The service was in Hebrew with some Italian on the side. The people were very friendly and the Passover fare was different - Sephardic. Risotto had never been part of my seder meal but I am now re-thinking that faux pas.

In one 16 hour period I felt like I had witnessed a part of the Old Testament and had come full circle. I truly believe that all roads lead to Rome ...and Jerusalem... and if you are lucky, then to New York. This was one of the most memorable trips I ever made on behalf of NBC.

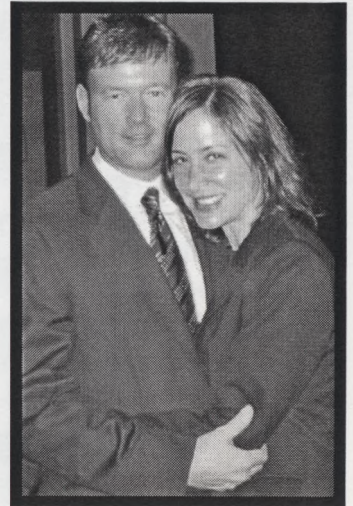
And now to the luncheon.....

As you turn to Page 10 of this issue and breeze through the various comments and wonderful pictures of smiles, you will all note that another glorious luncheon has taken place at La Maganette. For those of you who could not attend and for those of you who have not yet joined us, I can only tell you that you missed a wonderful and warm walk down memory lane. Our bonds are familiar and strong and stand the test of time. Enjoy!

What's Happening Now!

Karen Obel and Edward Cape Jr. were married on June 5th at the Glen Island Harbour Club in New Rochelle, N.Y. While on staff at NBC, Karen was the technical director for "Dateline." From 1998 to 2002 she was the TD on "The Rosie O'Donnell Show" and won Emmy Awards for her work in 1999 and 2001. She currently works on Bravo's "Celebrity Poker Showdown" and the syndicated program "Judge Hatchett." She graduated with distinction from Cornell. Her mother, Susan Obel, is the director of fund-raising for Theaterworks-USA, which provides free and low-cost theater for families. Her father, the late David Obel, was a labor relations lawyer for NBC.

Edward is the managing partner and founder of the investment company Sapphire Group. From 1991 to 1996 he was an assistant professor in the chemical engineering and medicine departments at the University of Pittsburgh. He graduated from the Georgia Institute of Technology, where he also received a doctoral degree in engineering. He later received an M.B.A. from Harvard. He is a son of Mr. and Mrs. Cape of Gainesville, Ga.



Lenny Stucker's production company TalentWorks has created another series. This time it's a children's series called "Kid Fitness." PBS has picked up the first thirteen 30-minute shows for 2005 with a reorder for twenty-six 30-minute shows to be shot in February 2006 and aired in 2006.

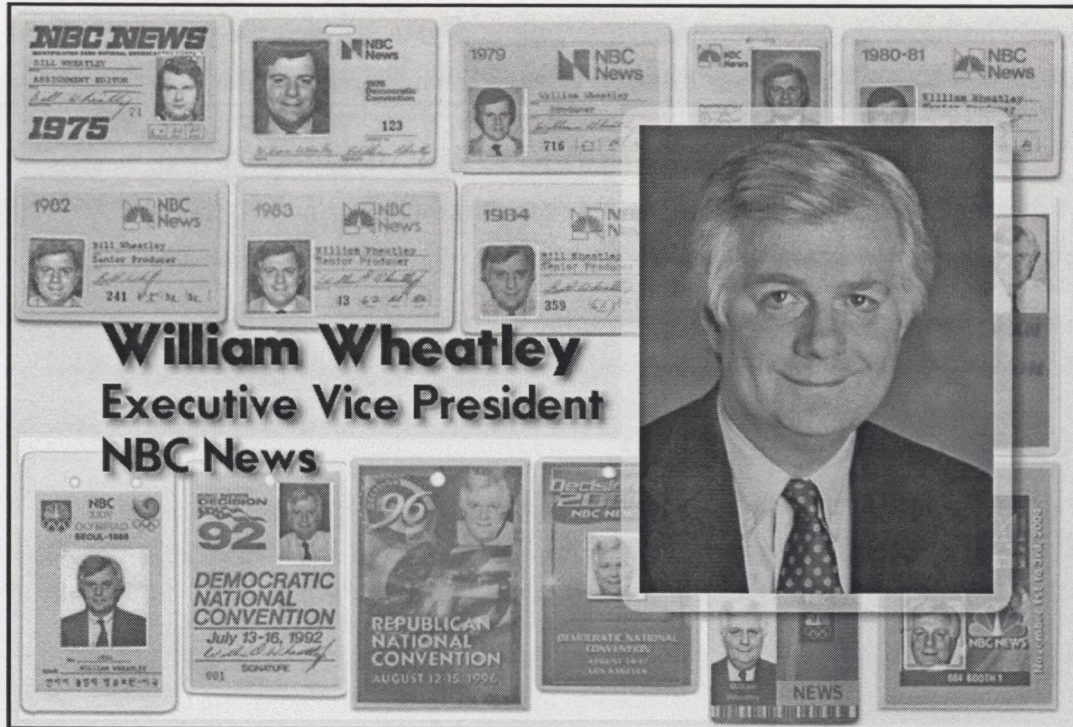
Randy Wands and Frank Kennedy both retired during June 2005. Frank's party will be held on July 28th at Pig 'N Whistle. PN will have the details of both occasions in our next issue!

From Variety...

Emmy-winning producer **Michael Weisman** has signed on as NBC Universal TV Group's first-ever utility player, lending a hand as an executive producer throughout the company. Weisman, whose credits include stints at NBC Sports, Fox Sports and CBS Sports, will be handed assignments by NBC U TV Group prexy Jeff Zucker, to whom he'll report. First up, Weisman will work with new "Today" show exec producer Jim Bell. Zucker "described it as being a troubleshooter, to take advantage of my experience, particularly in live TV," Weisman said. "Jeff's attitude is, you can never have a deep enough bench ... I told Jeff that I love NBC, and he gave me an opportunity to work closely with him." The two executives have known each other since the mid-'80s, when Weisman -- then exec producing NBC's coverage of the 1988 Seoul Summer Olympic Games -- hired Zucker, straight out of Harvard, as a researcher. Zucker brought Weisman back to the Peacock to exec produce NBC-distributed talker "The Jane Pauley Show." "Although it was a (ratings) disappointment for us, it was a good experience, and I got to work closely with Jeff again," Weisman said. Beyond "Today," Weisman will likely work with NBC Sports' Dick Ebersol on coverage of the 2006 Torino Winter Olympic Games, he said. Then it's up to Zucker to place Weisman around NBC U. "Jeff will decide where I'm best suited to help," he said. "MSNBC, CNBC, wherever, to take advantage of my thirty-something years in the business." Weisman, who's scored 22 Emmys through the years, will remain based in New York. His credits include major sports coverage, in addition to specials, reality shows, music videos and documentaries.

Our hearts go out to all of our friends and families in London.

THE END OF AN ERA By Marilyn Altman



Graphic From NBC News

On Friday, June 17th, I watched Nightly News as I often do. At the end of the broadcast a picture of Bill Wheatley was aired in honor of his retirement after 30 years of service to the News Division. Ten days earlier, several hundred members of the Who's Who in Broadcast News (and whose service spanned at least forty years) assembled to do much the same. They came from all over the USA as well as the varied news organizations and networks. The crowd was not demographically appealing unless you loved the history of the business.

This group was led by Bob Wright, Brian Williams, Tom Brokaw and Neil Shapiro, all of who extolled Bill's fine work. The rest of this party consisted of several ex-Presidents of NBC News, present and past Executive Producers of Nightly, bureau chiefs, editors, camera people, correspondents present and past, technical management, writers, Directors, and AD's. You name it, there was a representative from every nook and cranny of the News Division. Everyone came out to say thank you and pay homage to a man many called "the conscience of NBC News." And that he was.

I worked with Bill Wheatley on Nightly News from 1980 - 1985. He was the Senior Producer, I was the Technical Director. He encompassed everything I respected in a serious news person: he was smart, educated, knowledgeable (yes, I think those are three different, non-inclusive things) and sincere at his job. He wanted to "get it right" because so many people relied on this broadcast for their information about the country and the world. I liked Bill because his standards were high. He also suffered my many comments, both good and bad, about NBC's news coverage. He was accessible.

Finally, at his party, after the traditional "roast" video was shown and several people had their opportunity to speak, Bill came to the dais. His words were heart-felt. But he said something that struck a chord and rang in my ears and hopefully in the ears of those who will follow in his footsteps.

THE END OF AN ERA

Here are Bill Wheatley's closing words:

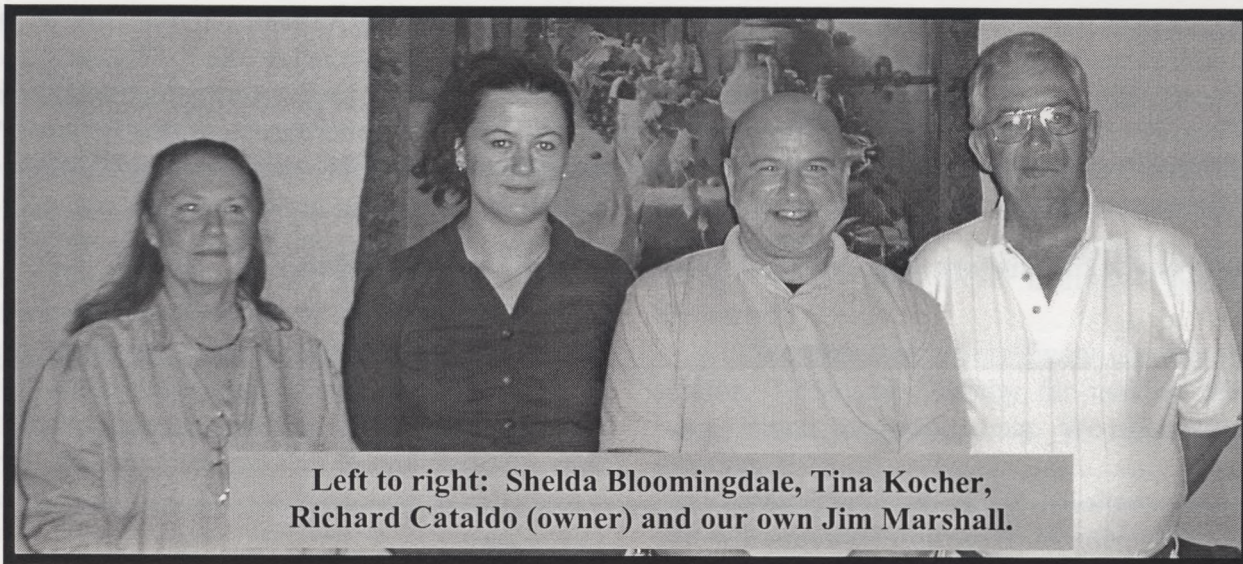
"Before finishing I wanted to say a few words about something that I know is on some minds tonight. Many of you have expressed to me concern that the news media have lost their way, that increased competition is leading to excess, that our craft is caught in a downward spiral of sensationalism, shouting matches and celebrities. I will state the obvious: it doesn't have to be that way, particularly at NBC.

We have in this room and in our offices around the country and around the world the finest journalistic and business acumen in all of television. We have a powerful and respected name. We are backed by one of the world's great corporations. We are the place talented people most want to work. With all these advantages we can be whatever we want to be, so why would we want to be anything but the best, respected for the excellence of our coverage and the good judgment which we bring to it? Yes, it's tough out there. Yes, the competition is relentless. Yes there's a lot of money at stake. But as competition grows, I am certain of one thing: a news organization better stand for something or it will get lost in the gathering crowd. And if it wishes to be successful in the long run, what it stands for better be high quality. Interesting and important information presented with accuracy and fairness, expertise and insight and produced with style. High quality is what viewers have always expected from us. High quality is what we have always expected from ourselves. We change those expectations only at our own risk."

I couldn't agree more.

Bill, we at PN want to wish you and your family good luck in your retirement. We hope to see you down the road.

Pressmark Printing Salute!



Left to right: Shelda Bloomingdale, Tina Kocher, Richard Cataldo (owner) and our own Jim Marshall.

Peacock North salutes our printing company, Pressmark Printing in Marietta, Ohio. The second generation of leaders had quite a job replacing the original printers after inheriting the magazine. After much searching and several publications that did not meet our expectations, we found this wonderful company and the rest is history. Pressmark is a great group to work with and their results always exceed our needs. The above picture was taken recently at a dinner in their honor. "Great Job, Pressmark!!"

Peacock North Email List

By Jim Marshall

The First Generation of PN Leaders developed a policy of not sharing any information contained on our membership mailing list. This continues today with the Second Generation of Leaders. Because many members are asking us to share other members' email addresses, we are now building a list in which you can participate.

You can enroll by sending an email message to peacockfriends@yahoo.com. Only members who wish to share their email address with all of the others on the list will qualify. Your address will NOT be given out to anyone who is not on our email list. Once the list is compiled, it will be emailed to those on the list.

The purpose of this list will be for keeping in touch with co-workers and sharing news and information **ONLY**. The intent of sharing the address list is not for sending JOKES. We all have other sources for our daily chuckle.

We ask that you make every effort to keep the email addresses free of "SPAM." When sending a message to multiple addresses, send the message to yourself in the "TO" line. Place all of your recipients in the "BCC" line. This will hide them from appearing to everyone else.

If you so choose, you may also include your mailing address, phone number and the department for which you worked. Register today by emailing peacockfriends@yahoo.com

Website Proposal

By Lenny Stucker

All Members Please Read and Respond!

Dear Membership,

We are seriously thinking of creating the Peacock North website. This is taking a step into the electronic age. However, there is a cost to it. You will find a questionnaire and poll form on Page 31 of this issue of PN magazine. Please, we need you, the membership, to give us guidance...Do you want a web site? If so, what would you like to see on it?

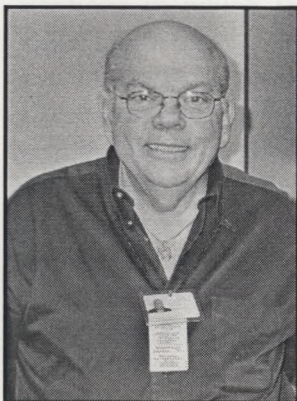
We need everyone to fill this form out and send it back to us with your thoughts.

Lenny

Current E-mail Addresses

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.

From Bill Freeda: NABET-CWA National Retiree Coordinator



The NABET-CWA Local 11 Retired Members Club met on March 29, 2005. After we enjoyed a nice lunch I called the meeting to order.

I announced that I had been appointed a Vice President-Merger Partners Sector of the CWA Retired Members Council. I will be filling out a term and have to run for election at the end of this year. I reminded the members that the 2005 dues of \$20 were due.

I then had the privilege of introducing Dorothy Zuckerman. She is the Long Island Chairperson of the Alliance of Retired Americans. I had invited Dorothy to speak to the Club about what was happening with Social Security. She emphasized that Social Security was not in a crisis.

True, there will be a need to make changes and adjustments but the privatization that President Bush is advocating is far too drastic and does not solve the solvency problem of Social Security. Dorothy pointed out that the most pessimistic projection tells us that there is enough money to pay 100% of the benefits until 2041. The Congressional Budget Office estimates there will be enough money until 2052. Dorothy's point: "What is the hurry?"

We then had a very lively question and answer session. I thanked Dorothy for making the trip from Long Island to speak to us. We then adjourned our meeting.

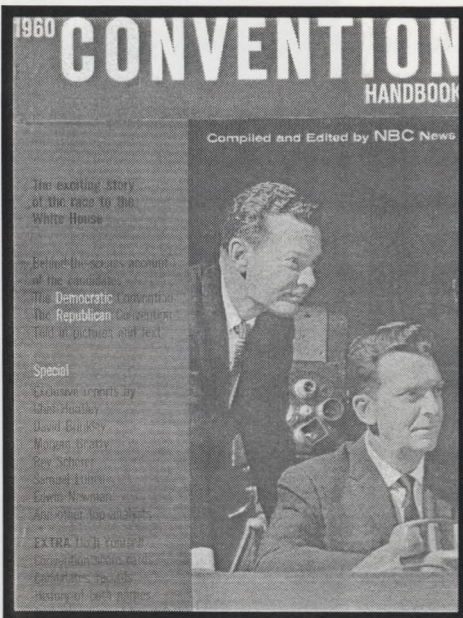
My goal is to invite speakers to our meetings that will provide information of interest to retirees.

If you need to contact me you can call me at
1-800-928-5279
or e-mail me at
bfreedanabetcwa@Optonline.net

News Broadcasting is Changing Quickly From the Old Days

By Russ Tornabene

NBC News 1951 to 1981, Washington DC and New York City



How many changes have you seen in "broadcast news" in the past 15 to 25 years? My contacts with NBC retirees would answer: "...plenty, and not all that good," "too much," "why so many changes?" and on and on.

Here's a look backward: The NBC News coverage of the 1960 Democratic and the Re-

publican National Nominating Conventions. We had two main faces and voices, David Brinkley and Chet Huntley, following up on their initial pairing in 1956, with a flock of other, experienced reporters...Ray Scherer, John Chancellor, Edwin Newman, Morgan Beatty, Herb Kaplow, Frank McGee, Merrill Mueller, Roy Neal, Richard Harkness, Bob Abernethy, Martin Agronsky, Frank Bourgholtzer, Leif Eid, Bill Henry, Peter Hackes, Sander Vanocur, director Jack Sughrue and more. Teams assembled by the Vice President of News, William R. McAndrew, and his right-hand man, Julian Goodman, with NBC President Robert E. Kintner looking to use live television to share the important events at the national Political conventions.

For NBC, at the Convention, there were: an eager team of technicians and cameramen and studio personnel (including make-up experts) and arrangers of cars, hotel rooms, and planning teams, and press department reps, and food service and on and on.

Chet Huntley was born in Montana. He was nine years older than Brinkley. For almost 20 years, Huntley was a radio newsman on the West Coast, mainly in L.A. He had covered the Japanese peace treaty negotiations, the founding of the United Nations in 1945, and the 1955 Bandung Conference. In the Spring of '56, NBC moved Huntley to New York City to launch a new series of weekly television subjects in

the news. His second wife, Tippy Stringer, was well-known in Washington as the "weather girl" on WRC-TV. Brinkley introduced them to each other when Chet saw her on a monitor during a New York/Washington facilities check for the newscast. That was indeed a fateful mike check. Chet arranged to meet her the next time he had reason to be in Washington and they were soon married. She now lives in retirement, north of Los Angeles.

"Huntley-Brinkley" became a catch-phrase as the two men made history with their lengthy appearances on camera at these two Conventions, their authority coming from being thoroughly updated by the news-gathering teams, and always calm during many hectic hours on air. Through all these new-way plans was the leader of the live coverage, who had pioneered other developing news programming, Reuven Frank (a one-time Canadian who worked on a newspaper in New Jersey). Long before the Convention coverage began, Frank and his teams had three key supporters of excellence in live broadcast news reporting: Kintner, McAndrew and Goodman. Kintner's vision of television: to educate and inform the Citizens about political and social issues, fairly and openly, by revitalizing NBC's network public affairs programming, and after the '60 Conventions, lifted the network's news reporting of serious and political issues with such series as the NBC White Papers. Kintner opened the way, by 1962, to bringing the best coverage of space flights and civil rights riots. (In 1963, both NBC and CBS lengthened their nightly news programs from 15 minutes to a half-hour.)

Kintner had solid experience as a journalist. In the 1930s, he co-wrote a syndicated political column with Joseph Alsop. After WWII, he moved into television and became the ABC-TV President until 1956, then joined NBC in early 1957, and was named President there in 1958. In 1966, he retired from the exhausting pace he set for himself, and he became a special assistant and Cabinet secretary to President Lyndon Johnson. He was in the White House, but that was not a high-point in his journalistic life.

[Continued on Next Page]

Bob Kintner wrote in the NBC 1960 Convention Handbook of "The adventure of quadrennial conventions in which the two major parties choose their standard bearers and in the ensuing campaign for the Presidency." He conducted a meeting of all personnel the day before we "went to work." And he made an announcement: " ...starting tomorrow morning, and running to the end of the Convention, Bill McAndrew is in charge of this network." Translation: when something important enough happens at non-scheduled Convention broadcast time, he just picks up the phone to New York and says, we must go on, in ten minutes. " We had a new order and did not overuse it. But America learned quickly to tune in NBC to get the latest important happenings, beyond the pre-announced broadcast plans.

More about those two Conventions in '60. John H. Thompson was the NBC News West Coast Manager who asked McAndrew and Goodman to have key Personnel make a pre-Convention visit of three days, a month or so before the July 11th beginning of the Democratic Party gathering. This was a most important decision. I was privileged to be in the "pre-Convention" group to L.A.

We did not know then, or could not know, that the Democratic Senator from Massachusetts would be designated as the party's choice to run for President. On July 4, I received a phone call as I was holiday swimming with my wife and small children in the community pool in Northern Virginia. The loud-speaker blared "Mr. Tornabene, call your office." What could possibly be going that 'wrong?' I called to hear that Senator Lyndon Johnson had announced to the printed and broadcast press that the next day, he would be announcing his drive for the Presidency, and" ...that it's NBC's turn in the TV pool" at a hotel near Capitol Hill. The next day, we were all set to go at 1:00:00 PM, when Johnson walked in alone, just 14 minutes to air-time. We chatted, I showed him the lectern, the mike, the two cameras ready for the live broadcast. He was not comfortable with that camera, but he had his speech, and his future, so he promised himself to do this, and get it over with. (Nor was he successful at becoming the Democratic candidate for President, six days later, in Los Angeles. But he did bow to JFK and became the vice-Presidential candidate, which later, as history reminds us, he did succeed to the slain President, in Johnson's home state).

The final prep for the national Presidential race began in Chicago. Frank Jordan was Midwest News Bureau Manager, and he laid out helpful details for the

reporters, producers, anchors, writers, techs and all the behind the scenes TV and radio laborers at the Republican Convention, which began on July 25, 1960.

As Vice President, Richard Nixon had taken on major duties in the Eisenhower administration. He was nominated for President by acclamation in 1960, but he lost by a narrow margin to John F. Kennedy. In 1968, Nixon again won his party's nomination, and went on to defeat Hubert H. Humphrey of Minnesota and third-party candidate from Georgia, George C. Wallace.

At those Conventions, Huntley-Brinkley became an greater draw than any other TV network. Earlier, The Huntley-Brinkley's Report's audience was estimated at 20 million, and in 1965, a consumer research company found that in their hugely successful news program, both Huntley and Brinkley were more recognizable to American adults than such famous stars as Cary Grant, James Stewart or The Beatles. Throughout his impressive career, however, Huntley developed a reputation for airing personal opinions on-air, and he was once accused of editorializing with his eyebrows. In the 1950s, he candidly criticized Senator Joseph McCarthy's outrageous allegations of Communist sympathy among Government officials and members of Hollywood's film industry.

He also earned several prestigious news industry awards, including an Alfred I. DuPont Award, a George Polk Memorial Award, two Overseas Press Club Awards, and, with Brinkley, eight Emmy Awards. He also was named the International Radio and Television Society's "Broadcaster of the Year" in 1970.

The Huntley-Brinkley Report's ceremonial closing, "Good night, David," "Good night, Chet" would have been heard for the last time on August 11, 1970, when Huntley retired from broadcasting, and Brinkley, that night, altered his words to "Good-bye, Chet." As he signed off, Huntley left his audience with one final plea: "Be patient and have courage -- there will be better and happier news some day, if we work at it." Huntley retired to his native Montana, where he worked to develop the Big Sky Resort. He died in 1975.

David Brinkley died in Houston TX in June, 2003, after a fall in his get-away chalet in the western US.

So, together, David and Chet, and Chancellor and McAndrew and Goodman, dozens of skilled broadcasters, and many hundreds of "workers in the operations" with long hours and demands of perfection and speed, brought to Americans their first opportunity to witness how vital was the superior work provided at all the networks, led by NBC News.

Lunch Marks PN's 18th Year

By Dan Grabel

"Build it and they will come," 'twas once said and on Sunday, May 22nd, at La Maganette Restaurant on 50th Street, the phrase was "Stage it and they will show up, schmooze and dine!!" And so they did at the annual Peacock North May Luncheon.

Some 120 NBC old-timers attended and spent nearly 4 hours in camaraderie and conversation. As might be expected the numbers were down, but that only reflects the natural survivorship of any group of retirees. Attending as guests instead of major-domos, Peter and Peg Peterson. Peter, the creator of the organization, recalling that in Peacock North's heyday 220 NBC veterans turned out. Many fewer had been expected and La Maganette staff happily set up more tables, more chairs, more food.

Pete reminisced and said Tom Brokaw had it right -- we were "the greatest generation," and the folks he worked with -- and this crowd -- were indeed marvelous. He had special thanks for his co-workers -- Frank Vierling and Dan Grabel -- with whom he published 3 issues a year of the magazine you now hold in your hands.

Peterson had accolades, too, for the "second generation" of leaders -- Marilyn Altman, Jim Marshall, Lenny Stucker, and Joel Spector have been doing an excellent job of continuing the organization which was established in 1987. The back-slapping and enthusiastic exchanges were a testament to that.

If you checked lapels and bosoms you might have noticed the old NBC jewelry which was brought out of storage for display this day -- the colorful fan-shaped peacock pins, the diamond and emerald tie bars -- which were awarded for 10, 15, and 20 years' service -- and also the peacock cuff links. In our era, 25 years got you a watch or clock.

Milton Wyatt (Advertising and Promotion) really dug into his old stuff box and wore a polo shirt with the logo "NBC Moscow Olympics 1980!" That was the year, you'll recall, that Jimmy Carter got angry with Russia and kept the U.S. team of athletes at home.

Yesteryear's special tables were fewer. There was no Today Show table, nor one for the announcers -- although two of them, Vic Roby and Fred Collins -- attended. Years back that group would have included such regulars as Arthur Gary, Don Pardo, Mel Brandt,

Harry Fleetwood, Fred Facey and Guy LeBow. The news department had its gathering spot with Ken Donohue, Ed Gough, Joe Mehan, Beryl Pfizer, Gloria Clyne, Joan Gifford and Dan Grabel.

Mehan, who had been an adjunct journalism professor at Columbia University, told us he had been honored with membership in the University's emeritus association. Gough, who likes to keep busy, is just beginning a new job -- New York city tour guide for one of those companies which run the huge red double-decker buses that manage to squeeze their way through mid-town traffic.

Beryl Pfizer announced details of a memorial service for Monitor staffer Joyce Rind, who had recently passed away. She also filled us in on the recent gathering of Monitor radio show staff, which has its own cohesive factor, and gets together to recall the heyday of that radio fixture. It filled the air from Friday through Sunday with great features and an occasional report of a rattle-snake roundup in Texas.

Frank Vierling, once our PN Magazine compositor and publisher, remains active as town historian for Oradell, and seems to know every nook and cranny in that New Jersey town. Going through the jobs he had held at NBC, Vierling remembered that his first chore was in the Kinescope department. It was his job to run old film through a process that retrieved the silver on the film -- silver nitrate -- which was then sold in an early recycling process.

Others: Gary Iorio, Hank Huestis -- who, along with the late Morty Aronoff provided valuable assistance to many employees who had alcohol and emotional problems -- Jack Weir and spouse Barbara, Jack and Audrey Marshall, director Enid Roth, graphic designer Stan Pyka, EJ editor Billy Freeda. He is still active with NABET, now a part of the Communications Workers of America. Also, Tony and Nancy Nelle, and Rick Caro to name a few.

When we approached Herb Oxman with a yellow pad for comment, he said "I have nothing to say except that there are too few of us left." Herb started with the Peacock in 1948.

And finally, director Dave Handler whose memorable statement from luncheons back, and which we reminded him -- "Retirement? Its the best job I ever had!"

Notes from the Luncheon Tables

Arnold Rand - Spent Winter in North Ft. Myers at our home there, then left May 5th for extended motorhome trip via Atlanta, NY/NJ and one to our Summer place in Winthrop, ME, Narroes Road. We do six and six to see my nephew and kids, and a few friends. Makes a nice trip for my wife, Barbara. As I am not a Maine Winter or Florida Summer type, this works just fine.

Dick and Annesley Swicker missed the luncheon last year as it was Annesley's 50th college reunion. November '04 spent our 50th wedding anniversary on a barge on Rhône River. Oldest son Chip now a Captain in the U.S. Navy. #2 son handles high-risk insurance. #3 son knocks down doors for the DEA. Offspring #4, Daughter Laura, has provided us with a delightful granddaughter Sydney. All's well with the Swicker clan!

Ed Gough -I first worked as a reporter on Cape Cod Standard Times. They needed someone to write and read the news on a radio station they owned, and that's how I got started in the business. I have a NYC Sightseeing Guide license, and am now working as a guide for an outfit called "CitySights." Come join me on the bus, I'll give you a great tour!

Frank and Anne Weill - After our usual Summer stint in Oqonquit, Maine, we broke the Autumn monotony with a trip to England. We attended a family wedding, stayed in a rented flat in Knightsbridge (which we found on the Internet) and saw some great theatre. At the end of a week we picked up a car and "did" the Cotswolds, Stratford-on-Avon and various other places en route to Cheshire, where we visited Anne's family and caught up with old friends. It was a delightful interlude.

George & Ethel Corrado - We moved from our home of 35 years in East Brunswick, NJ to Phillipsburg, NJ to be near our first granddaughter, Gianna, and her proud parents David and Jayne Corrado. While Ethel watches Gianna, I work on my speeches for the Toastmasters Club. On May 14th, I won Second Place in the NY-NJ Evaluation Speech Contest for District 46. I also belong to an investment club where I create and teach the NAIC method of investing for our club members.

Jack Keegan - About ten years ago Howard Atlas had a get together for NBC Retirees on Long Island. When he passed away several years ago I met with several of the retirees and we opted to continue the luncheons. Some how I wound up as officer-in-charge. We meet about every two months for lunch, with much discussion of old times at NBC, spending several hours together with tales of the good old days at work.

Ken Donoghue - I got my NBC job because of illness. I had worked the old International News Service. When that folded I did six months with Mutual News. I had applied to NBC and one day got a call. They said the job might be temporary, as Jim Holton, a newswriter, had contracted TB. They said I could fill Jim's spot until he came back. Better an NBC temporary than a Mutual News permanent. Happy ending: Jim came back and they kept us both anyway.

Liz Davis has kept herself busy with her alumnae/I associations, and has just completed four years as President of the Vassar Club of New York-(a/k/a running a not-for-profit business!) **Bob (RWD)** has many projects going - all in a state of completion!! They enjoy entertaining friends, traveling a bit and attending opera and theatre. They are fortunate in that their pug dogs - Dudley and Dana - permit Liz and Bob to live in the apartment with them.

This past summer **Mamye Smith** attended a family reunion in Detroit. During the banquet, to Mamye's great surprise, she was awarded the family's "Our Hero" Award for all she has accomplished, from the time she marched with Dr. King at the Edmund Pettis Bridge in Selma, Alabama as a young girl (and went to jail for this) to the way she deals with her disability (Multiple Sclerosis) to this day.

Make-up artist **Rosemarie Gardner** can be reached at PDRPUFF@aol.com.

Ginny Seipt is working 4-5 days a week at ABC in Net Ops. Still in NY enjoying it, especially the walk to work.

Notes from the Luncheon Tables

Herbert Polak (Broadcast Systems engineering) had an accident in February 2004. He fell on his head while carrying the Gateway computer he was taking back to the vendor (Says Herb: "Don't buy this brand!") Also worked for RCA Industry Service Lab and RCA Institutes.

Bill DeLannoy- I'm reading Peacock North and thinking of all the swell NBC'ers that I had the great pleasure to meet and help at 30 Rock Plaza for 40 years.

Gary Iorio- It's good to have a reason that brings so many of us together. Friendly faces from our stay with NBC. Love the stories and news from the newsletter. Keep up the good work. It is truly appreciated.

Rich Scrivani- In the last year I've finished a book on TV personality John Zacherle, and have written at least a dozen songs with my brother Doug.

George Ann Muller and Paul Scrabo- The last year we've been working on distributing our movie "Dr. Terror's Erotic House of Idiots." It's been entered in a few film festivals, shown at Microcinemafest in Rapid City, SD, where it won prizes for best actor & best actress in a comedy. It will also be shown at the Film Workers Festival in Pittsburgh in early June. The movie was also a runner-up for Best Independent Film 2004 at the Rondo Awards. Our latest project involved working with horror host Zacherley on a DVD release called "The Zacherley Archives" which has some old kinescopes from his early years and a recent documentary of his fan memorabilia.

Margot Collins finally joined husband **Fred** for a great time at the Peacock North luncheon!

Vic Roby- The peak of the year is this Peacock North luncheon—a time to speak with old friends.

Jeanette Schwarz Young, CFP, CMT- Former NBC "Color Gal" now a technical analyst "pit trader" at the NY Board of Trade Coffee Exchange.

Arnold Reif- Still working in Westchester County as Director of Operations for News 12 Westchester.

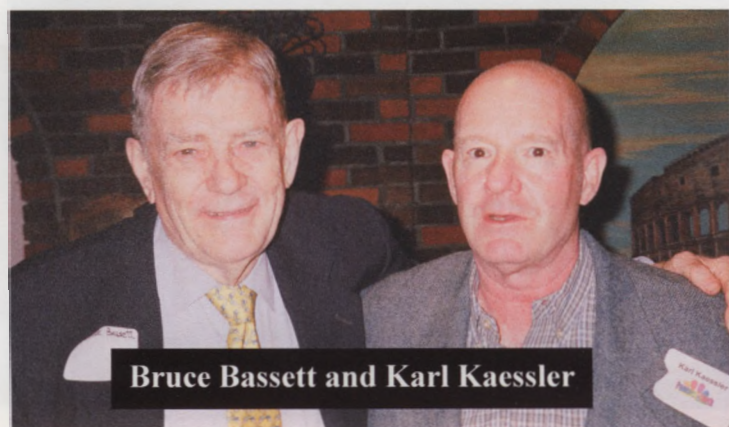
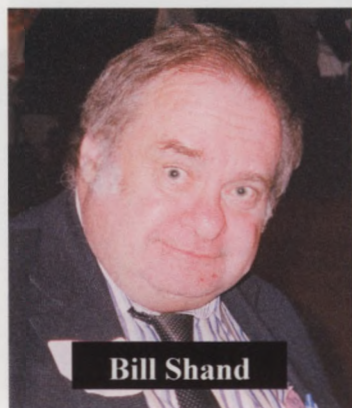
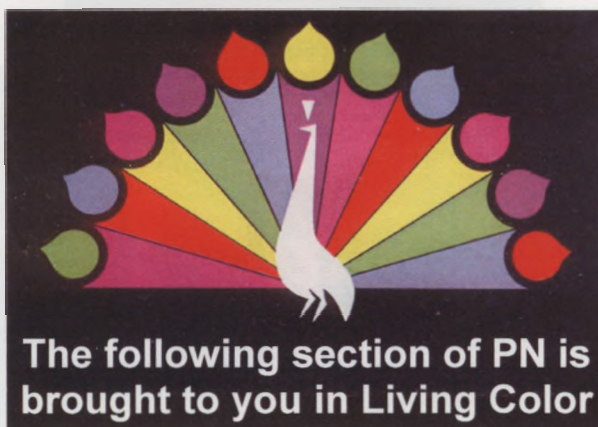
Ed Voss- currently residing on the Eastern shore of Virginia. I worked at NBC from March 1951 to March 1986. My areas were Audio Maintenance, TV Maintenance, TV Operations. I did summer relief in Kine Recording, Audio Recording, and Video Tape (among other things.) (**Editor's note:** The modest Mr. Voss and the late Larry Glacy were the Audio Editing and Playback Masters of NBC TV for more than twenty years, working on the biggest and most complex shows with style and grace under enormous pressure.)

Peter Perolini- worked in Video Tape. In recent years, I started a chicken place called "Jus' Wing It" in North Carolina. Drive-Up and Walk-Up. Doing well. Hope to put up more.

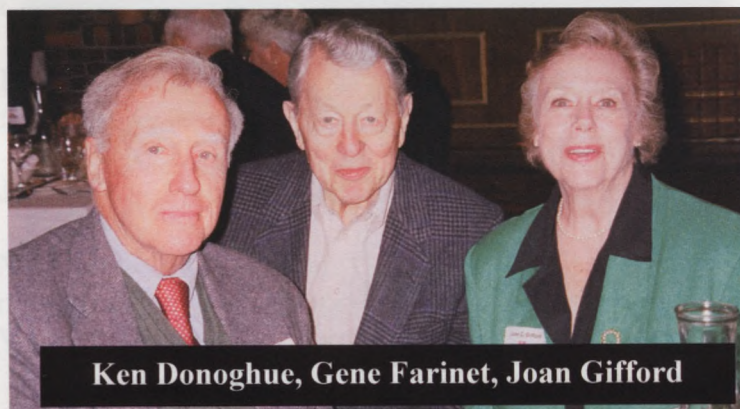
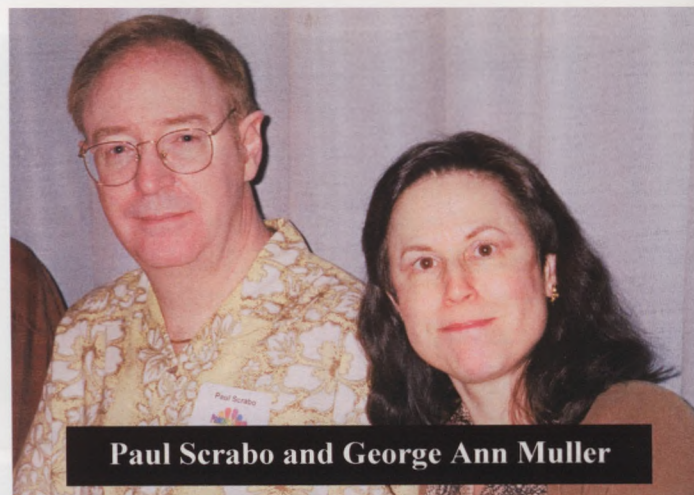
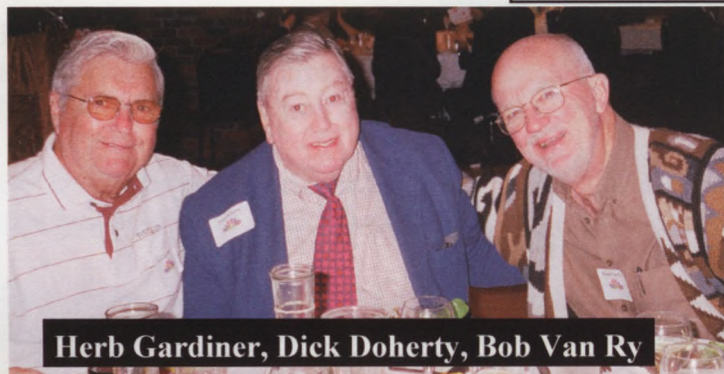
Bob Rizzo- I'm in Kingston, NY. I took an early retirement in 1998 after working in the Video Tape department for 30 years. At the moment I help out at the Kingston Public Access TV Station.

Jack Katz- I went on a cruise to Alaska with my wife, Faye, and we loved it.

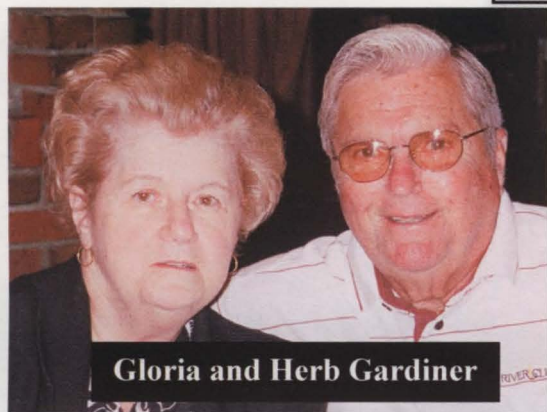
Milt Wyatt- Taking family to Hawaii at the end of June. Will celebrate age 81 there. Older granddaughter Jennifer moving to England. Hope to visit her in October. Younger granddaughter Katie starts college in Fredericksburg, VA in September. Last October, I went back to Omaha Beach for the first time in 60 years.



Luncheon Pictures



Luncheon Pictures



Gloria and Herb Gardiner



Peter and Jean Perolini

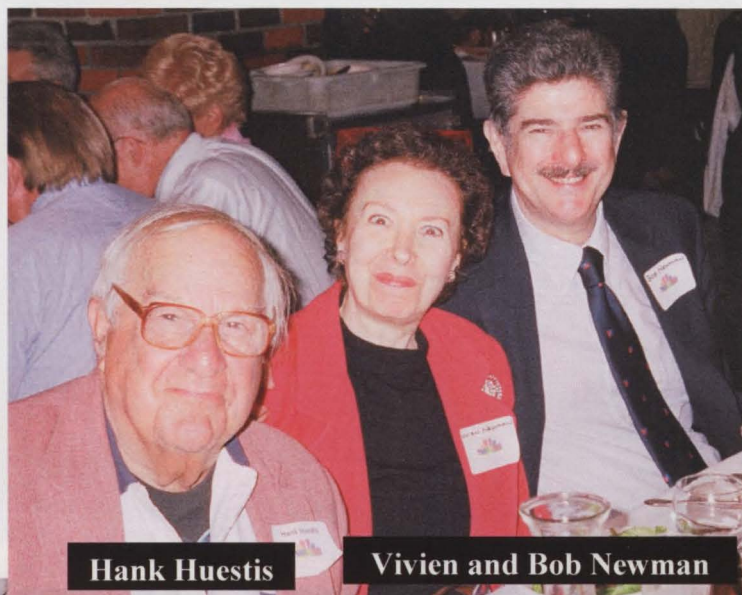
**Bob
Rizzo**

Jerry Schmotolocha



Marilyn Jacobs Furey

Rick Caro

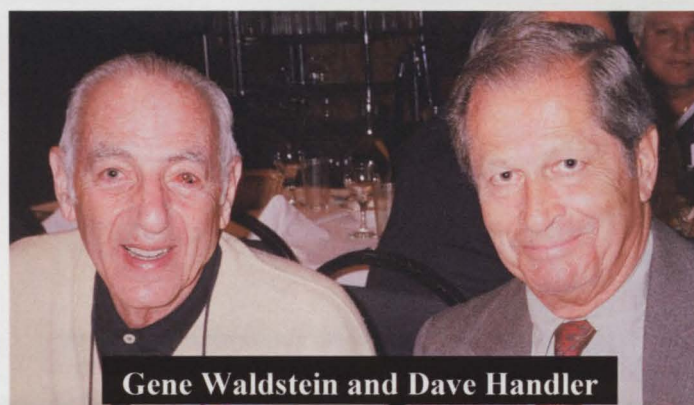


Hank Huestis

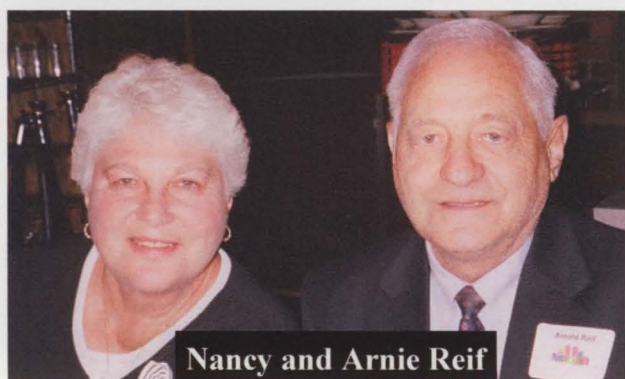
Vivien and Bob Newman



Ginny Seipt and Carla Engelman



Gene Waldstein and Dave Handler



Nancy and Arnie Reif



Theresa and Harry Smith

Luncheon Pictures



Vic Roby



Enid Roth



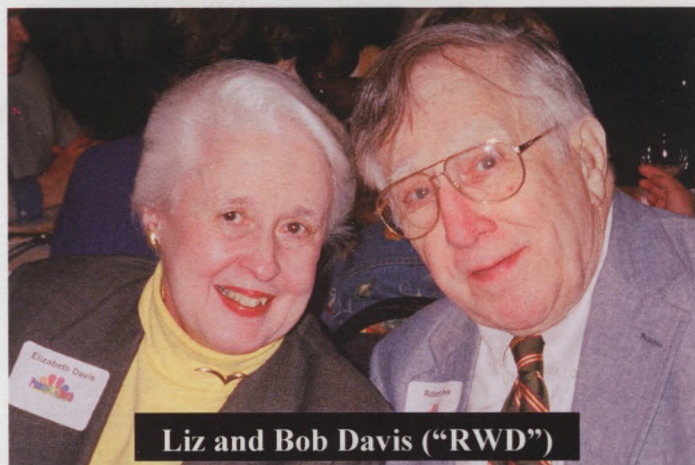
Jim and Gloria Reina



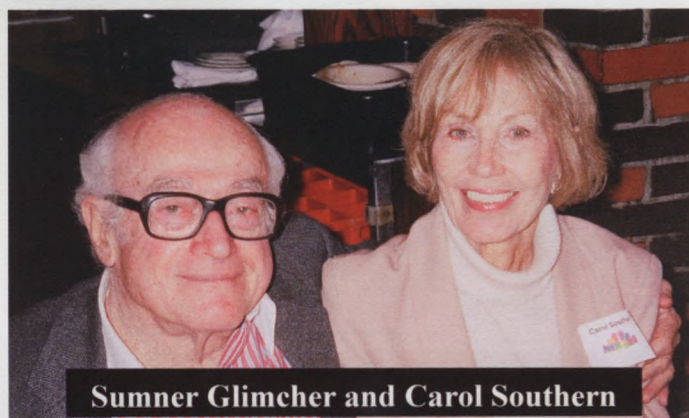
Renee Oxman

Gary Iorio

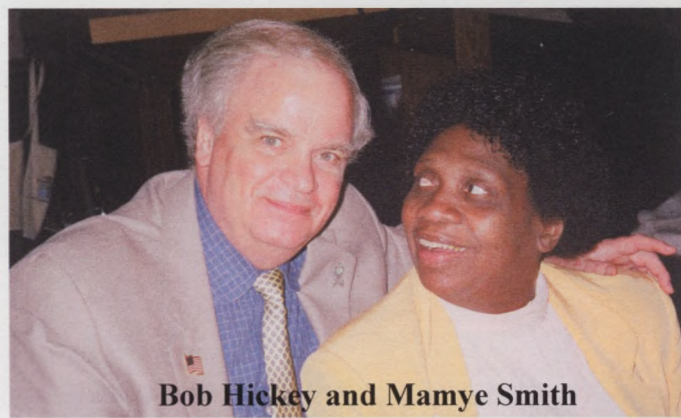
Dorothea DeLannoy



Liz and Bob Davis ("RWD")



Sumner Glimcher and Carol Southern



Bob Hickey and Mamye Smith

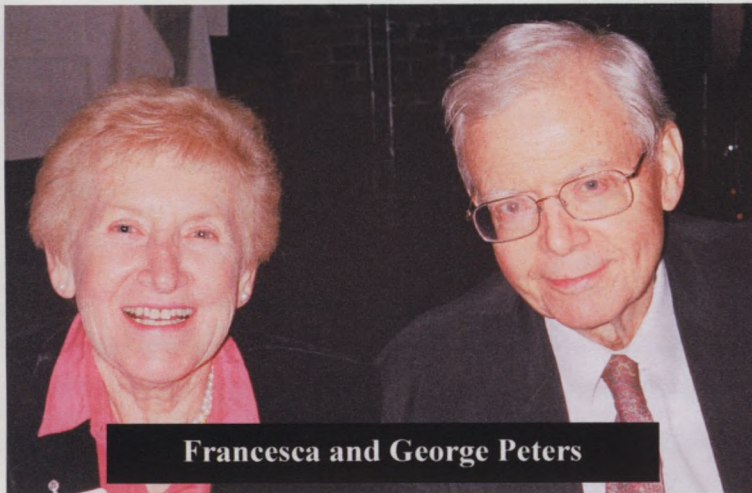


Jack and Barbara Weir



Frank and Anne Weill

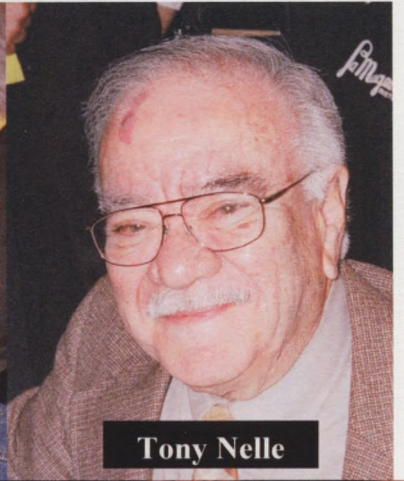
Luncheon Pictures



Francesca and George Peters



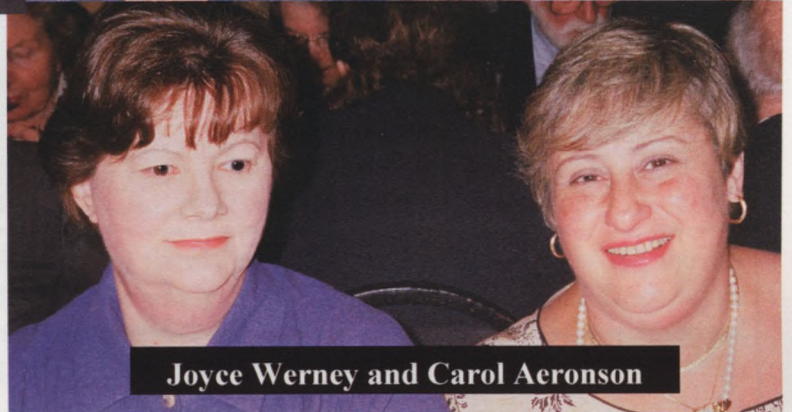
Cynthia Brush



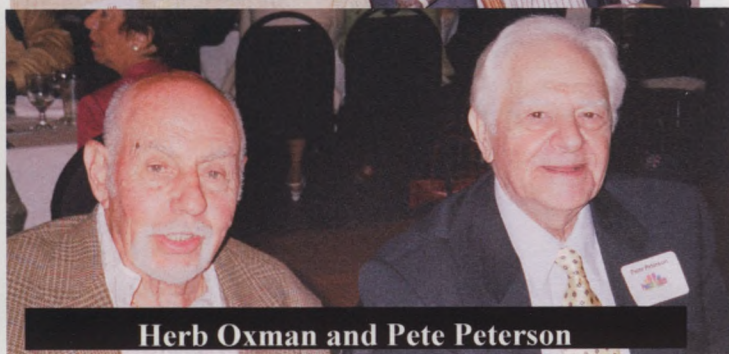
Tony Nelle



Nancy Nelle and Bill DeLannoy



Joyce Werney and Carol Aeronson



Herb Oxman and Pete Peterson



Catherine Vukovich and Stas Pyka



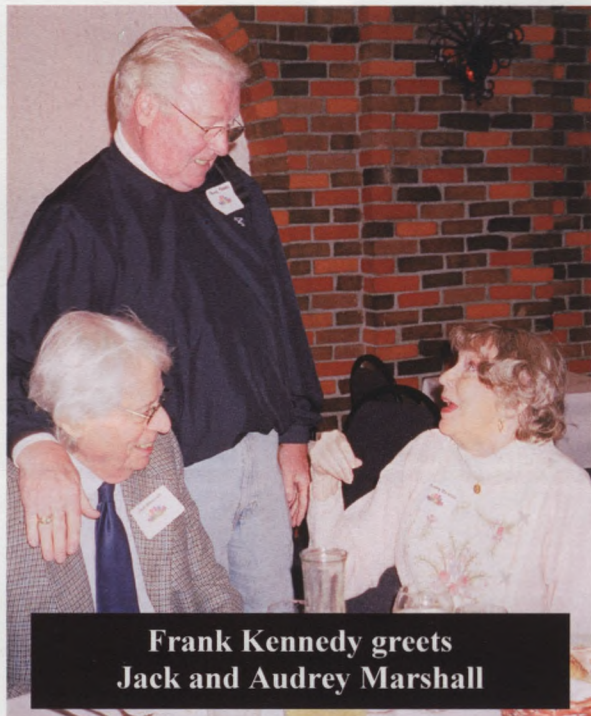
Mary and Herb Polak

Jeanette Young



Milt Wyatt and Rich Scrivani

Luncheon Pictures



Frank Kennedy greets
Jack and Audrey Marshall



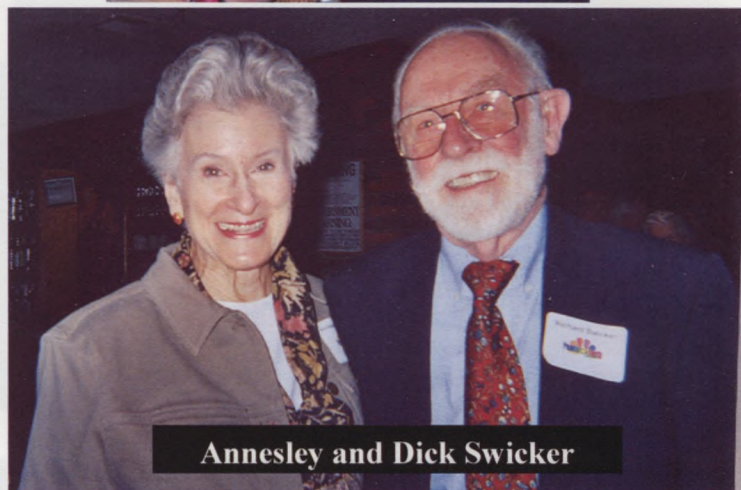
Gigi Harold, Fran DeGennaro, Branko Radulovic



Beryl Pfizer and Bob Newman



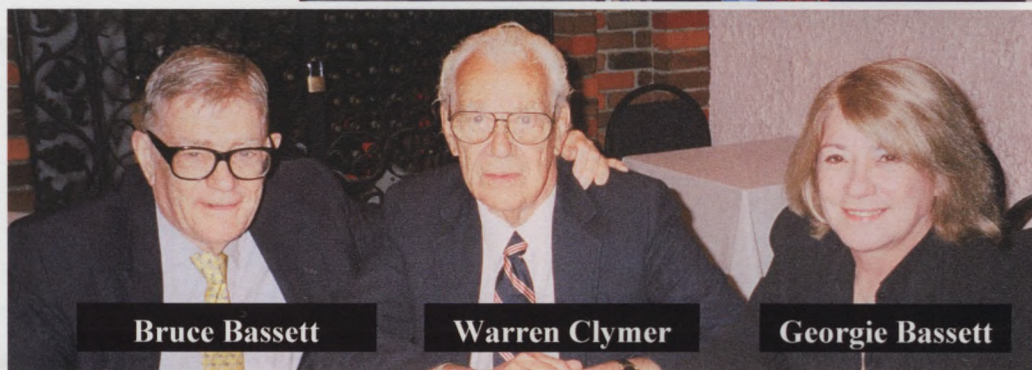
Frank Vierling and Arnie Rand



Annesley and Dick Swicker



Pat Donegan



Bruce Bassett

Warren Clymer

Georgie Bassett

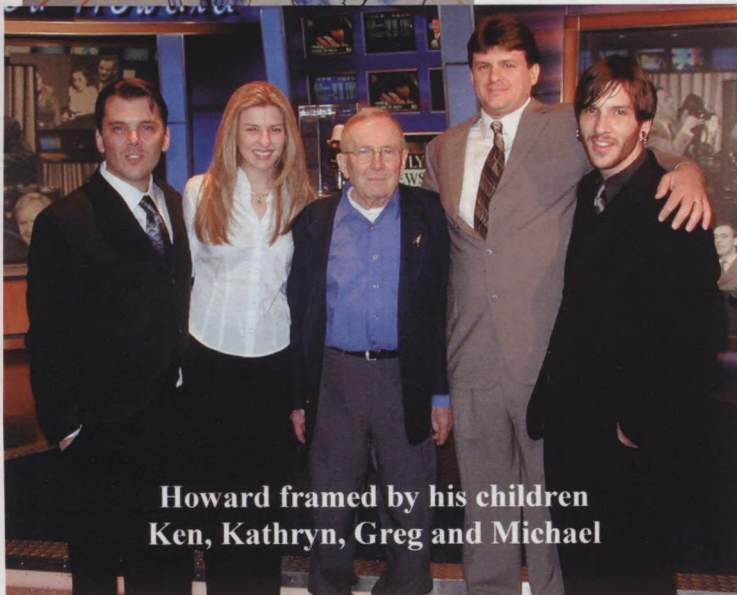
Howard Reig's Historic Sign-Off



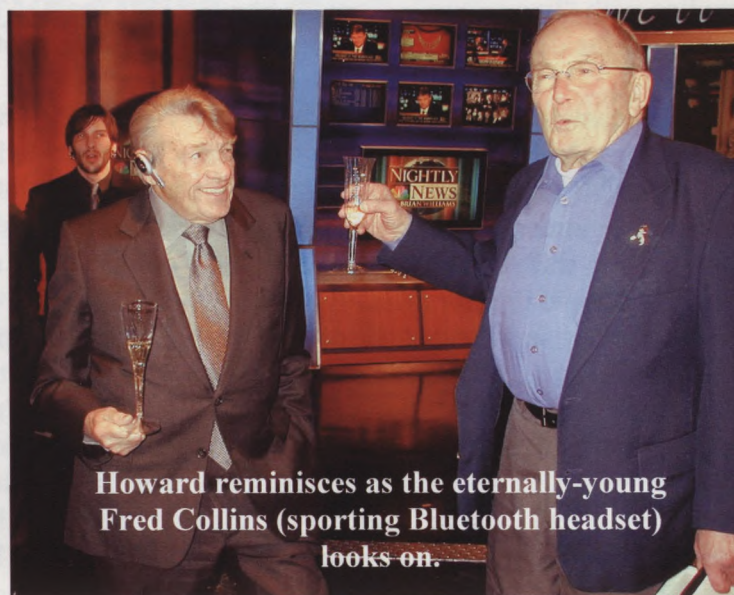
Brett Holey as MC



On March 25th, friends and family members gathered in Studio 3C, the unofficial "Farewell Site" for many long-time NBC News folk. Once again Nightly News director Brett Holey hosted as revelers enjoyed a videotaped tribute highlighting Howard's career. Actor Harold Gould worked with Howard at WGY in Schenectady, NY during the 1940's, on such shows as "The FBI in Action." In a clip from the "Today" show, Matt Lauer read from a WGY sales brochure extolling the "natural selling power" of Howard's voice! Others joining in on the tape included Tom Brokaw, Brian Williams, John Seigenthaler, Neal Shapiro, Tom Capus and others, many of whom tried in vain to imitate Howard's Nightly News opening announce style. Daughter Kathryn sounded the best of all!



Howard framed by his children
Ken, Kathryn, Greg and Michael



Howard reminisces as the eternally-young
Fred Collins (sporting Bluetooth headset)
looks on.

How I Started By Bambi Tascarella



Bambi Tascarella Fan Club

Members Signature

Mardelle Corrigan
President
Sioux City, Iowa

John Chancellor
President
New York Chapter

David Brinkley
President
Washington D.C. Chapter

**"Fan Club" created by a "Nightly News" viewer
after seeing Bambi's name on the credits!**

RULES & REGULATIONS

1. Eat pasta once a week.
2. Buy a symphony record once a year.
3. Watch NBC Nightly News daily.
4. When Chancellor leaves as commentator, or anchorman, organize mass letter campaign to promote Bambi to Anchor woman realizing that NBC has another Barbara Walters.
5. Never hit a deer with your car or your left ear.
6. Stand when credits are shown!

"I'll empty ash trays," I said to Dave Anderson in Guest Relations during my interview for a summer job as an NBC Guidette. My Dad was conducting the orchestra across the street at Radio City Music Hall. His trumpet player's girlfriend was the assistant to the head of NBC Guest Relations - Peter Tintle. The words "You're hired!" were music to my ears.

June, 1965 - after one year of college in Ohio as a drama/speech major - there I was in my slightly shabby but very glamorous navy blue uniform, hem length and heel height just perfect, ready to give my first tour of the studios. "Hullabaloo" had premiered in 8H earlier that year, Johnny Carson was three years into his thirty-year reign, and a 1965 survey showed Chet and David were more popular than the Beatles!

The studio tour went for \$1.25; I was making \$40.00 a week (cigarettes were 25 cents in the commissary machine). You got to see a lot for your ticket: after an explanation of how the "Emmy" got its name, you were shown studios with "live action". Tonight Show guests roamed the hallways and occasionally Johnny, Ed or Skitch would appear to the delight of the group. The sound effects booth was my favorite, but seeing yourself on TV was a close second.

Dad came over on a break between shows and inquired of the rather stern tour supervisor, "How's my baby doing?" Once she realized that I was the "baby", she greeted him warmly. He was so proud! It was an exhilarating first day. I had blisters on both heels, but a big smile on my face - I was an NBC Guidette!

That summer went very quickly. I worked the late shift a lot and would take drunken sailors on tour at 9PM. But, on that shift I got to hang out in the Tonight Show make-up room and met many stars. I also met many good friends. It was a grand summer!

As the calendar pages flipped, I worked my way up in Guest Relations as cashier and eventually supervisor, while studying at the American Academy of Dramatic Arts and getting my degree at NYU. I was "plucked out of the chorus line" in 1969 by Gloria Clyne to work as a "Gal Friday" in the Newsroom with Mac Johnson at the helm; we had typewriters, rotary phones and a pneumatic tube to send messages up to the telex room.

My year and a half on the Newsdesk was unforgettable, followed by nine years in Nightly News production (including a Fan Club in Iowa!), a decade as a Desk/Satellite Operations Manager and News Specials Projects Director and currently in Telecommunications as a Voice/Data Engineer - forty years have flown by.

I often think back to that first day in June of 1965 when the world was a simpler place!

“Eye Guess” 1968 Staff and Crew



**Gene Waldstein (Front Row, left) sent in this class photo of
Bob Stewart Productions' EYE GUESS staff and crew.**

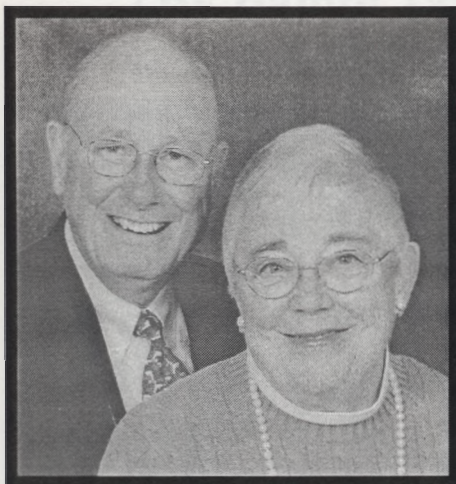
Front Row: Gene (Director), Eddie (?), Ziggy (Cue Cards), Frank O'Shea (Unit Manager)

Second Row: Nancy Ziba (PA), (?), Jo (PA), Edythe Chan (Producer), Bill Cullen ("Arthur" - Host), Kathy Greene (AD)

Third Row: George (Stage Crew), Don (Contestant Picker), Leon Dobbin (Video), Aggie Horine (House PA), Jan Kasoff (Camera), Mike Rosar (TD), Paul Frank (Camera), Jim FitzGerald (Stage Crew), Arnie Reif (SM), Tom Casabona (Stage Crew)

Fourth Row: Jack Clark (Announcer), Bob Lendemann (Camera), Bill Anderson (LD), Fred Smith (A2), Ernie Varga (Camera), Sam Monroe (Audio), Jack Anderson (Sound Effects), Jim Holland (Bill's Stand-In), Bob Massa (Stage Crew), Randy Wands (SM).

How I Started By Peter Flynn



I arrived in New York City in May of 1955 as a Seaman Apprentice in the US Navy, stationed with the Armed Forces Radio Service, first down on Sheridan Square in the Village and then shortly after at 250 West 57th Street, between 7th and 8th Avenues.

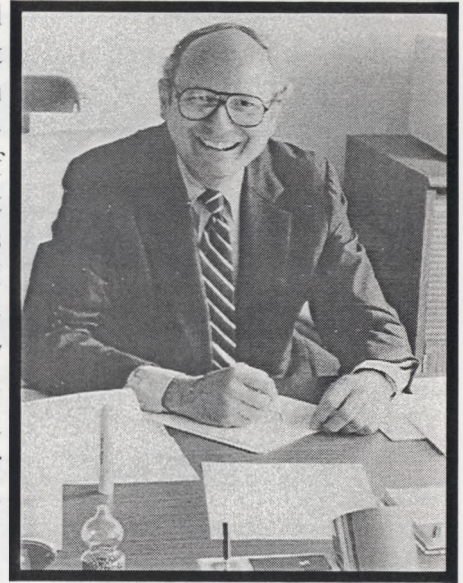
It was a great two years of active duty as a staff announcer, director, editor and writer. We originated programs for Europe and North Africa. Towards the end of my hitch the plan was to return to Houston, TX where the Houston Post-owned NBC Television affiliate was holding a director's job open for me. In my final year at the University of Houston I had been a cameraman at the station, while at the same time ending three years as a disc jockey at a local radio station in town. (I'm not a Texan, however. I was "the resident Yankee" for five years, having migrated from a small town in upstate New York in 1950.)

Just before I was to be discharged from the Navy and AFRS, Bud Lewis, one of the newswriters at AFRS had been vacation-relieving at NBC over at Rockefeller Center. Bill told me about an opening for a PA (Production Assistant) on a new radio program about to debut, Monday through Friday, and why didn't I go over and give it a shot? So I did. The program was NIGHTLINE with Walter O'Keefe. A weekend MONITOR-like format, weeknights from 8-10PM. I was told Al Capstaff, exec producer of MONITOR was the guy to see. So, I went over and sat in his outer office with two lovely secretaries (Carrie Ellen Langley, Washington State's Governor Langley's daughter and Peggy Victoria.) For two weeks I sat there while Al flew in and out at intervals. Finally, I think it was Peggy who went into Al's office and told him I'd been waiting to be interviewed for the PA job on NIGHTLINE. I was immediately ushered in and hired in no less than 10 minutes. Al took me up to see the VP of Programming Jerry Danzig and I was in. My immediate report was Peter Lassally, Producer of NIGHTLINE. Along with NIGHTLINE, we also produced the IMAGE AMERICA series narrated by Bob Considine, a wonderful experience for all of us. In fact, the working relationships during those years developed into close personal friendships with writers, engineers and other PA's that lasted my entire forty years with the company. NIGHTLINE lasted from 1957 until 1959. During that time, my desk abutted another desk at which a lovely young woman sat named Laura Speers. We were married in 1959 at which time I was promoted to produce weeknight MONITOR, under the tutelage of Marx Loeb, then the exec producer of MONITOR, Al having retired to his retreat in the Caribbean. As I remember my salary was tripled, having had to join the Directors Guild of America. So, Laura and I moved into the Regency House, a new apartment building on East 72nd Street between First and Second avenues. That job lasted about eight months when it was decided a weeknight version of MONITOR wasn't all that saleable.

Then Joe Culligan, President of the Radio Network, came up with the idea of EMPHASIS, seven five-minute daily features Monday through Friday. I was named Director of the series for the Radio Network and worked with a news producer since many NBC News correspondents contributed pieces to the series. The first news producer assigned was Jerry Jacobs, and Hank Heustis was the engineer. After Jerry, Jim Quigley came aboard, Steve Flanders after Jim, then finally Len Probst. Non-news talents were Arlene Francis, Howard Whitman, Bill Cullen, Gene Rayburn, Dr. Joyce Brothers, Lindsay Nelson (sports), and others I can't think of right now. Of course, all the news guys contributed: Chet Huntley, David Brinkley, Frank McGee, Morgan Beatty, Richard Harkness, Joseph C. Harsh (London), Sander Vanocur, Ed Newman, John Chancellor, Irving R. Levine (Rome), Pauline Frederick (UN), Welles Hangen, John Rich and Cecil Brown (Tokyo), Ray Scherer (White House), Merrill "Red" Mueller, Leif Eid, Alex Dreier (Chicago), Frank Bourgholtzer (LA), just about the whole stable. That all lasted until 1968. During that run MONITOR and NBC Radio won the Radio-Television Daily annual award as the best network, etc. I was named Director of the Year for 1963 while with EMPHASIS. I remember other MONITOR contributors who were named "best" were Selma Diamond, Al Capp, John Daly and Bob Wogan and Bob Maurer, Vice President, Programs and MONITOR producer respectively.

(Continued on Next Page)

Then the opportunity to "join management" came along and I went for it. Named Operations Manager for the Radio Network in 1968, I entered four of the most tumultuous years of the 20th century. And since the job entailed coordinating with NBC News all the coverages of events like the Apollo shots, including the landing on the moon, the 1969 Democratic Convention in Chicago, assassinations of Martin Luther King and Bobby Kennedy and on and on, it was one of the most intense, valuable and rewarding experiences of my entire career. All the directors reported to me and they were some of the most talented and professional people I ever had the pleasure with which to work. Al Reyes, Danny Sutter, Ken MacGregor, Jeff Kulliver, Don Washington and engineers like Bob Rudick, Marty Enghauser, Ray Weiss, Joel Spector, Bob Hanratty, Royal Denny, Murray Vecchio and of course all the staff announcers at that time. My "staff" consisted of a secretary and an assistant. I'll always remember Laurie Krug, now Grant, for her wonderfully positive, natural way with those day-to-day details that were the essence of "Operations."



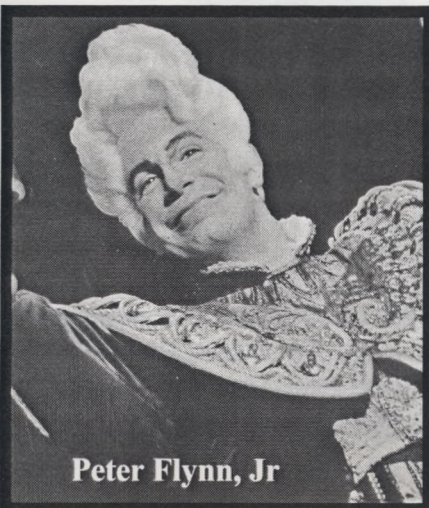
In 1972, I jumped to Television as a Regional Manager with Affiliate Relations. In '74, Russ Tornabene was GM of the Radio Network and enticed me back as Director, Programs. Jack Thayer hit the door at the same time as President and we started working on NIS, the News and Information Service. We came up with an hourly "clock" which went 24 hours a day to some brand new affiliates. However, new RCA management at the end of the first year or so, took a dim view of the profitability and terminated it, rather ungracefully I always thought. The affiliates got the word during hourly newscasts before Jack could get to them. Then in 1976, Affiliate Relations magnanimously took me back and from then until retirement in January 1998,

I handled several regions of the country representing NBC's management to Affiliate managements and more often than not, vice versa. It was a great job which took me back to my early years as an affiliate person. I maintain close contact with several of the affiliate managers to this day.

Our whole family at one time or another were NBC'ers. Both our son and daughter were pages for a time, and, of course, Laura was at the network several years before me, first with the sound effects department and then as assistant commercial manager of MONITOR. Though Guest Relations was always considered entrée to the company if one wanted it, our two chose different directions. Daughter Kelsey is the BROADCASTER in the family. Has her own award-winning morning drive time show on a local station serving Western Massachusetts and is a member of the premiere improv group in the area. Peter, Jr. and his lovely bride Andrea Burns are New York actors. Peter is currently starring in Disney's BEAUTY AND THE BEAST at the Lunt-Fontanne Theatre on Broadway as Lumière, though his main career thrust is as a director with many Broadway, off-Broadway and regional credits. Andrea has enjoyed an active performing life in New York and her latest coup was giving birth to our first grandchild, a son born Christmas Eve, 2003.

Laura and I are now enjoying a beautiful part of the country and some new-found fabulous friends here in the Seacoast Region of New Hampshire. We keep busy as University of New Hampshire Marine Docents immersed in environmental concerns. I even keep a hand in broadcast stuff, occasionally writing and voicing pieces for Great Bay Area Radio, a low power public service frequency for the area.

We loved broadcasting and are immensely proud to have been associated with NBC the FIRST network, never forgetting all the people from whom we learned so much and with whom the fun never ended.



Peter Flynn, Jr

Looking BACK

By Frank Vierling

Scanning the 1962 The New York Times

NY Times, February 21, 1962

**GLENN ORBITS EARTH 3 TIMES SAFELY;
PICKED UP IN CAPSULE BY DESTROYER;
PRESIDENT WILL GREET HIM IN FLORIDA**

KENNEDY PRAISES 'WONDERFUL JOB'

Tells Glenn Nation is 'Really Proud of You' — Welcome at White House Planned.

81,000-MILE TRIP

Flight Aides Feared for the Capsule as it Began Its Re-Entry

Vierling File



THE SEVEN PROJECT MERCURY ASTRONAUTS

Walter M. Schirra, Donald D. Slayton, John H. Glenn,
M. Scott Carpenter. Rear — Alan B. Shepard, Jr., Virgil I. Grissom,
L. Gordon Cooper.

On a personal note: I was a member of the TV crews covering the Mercury and Gemini space programs, but I missed Glenn's orbit. He and I sweated out many scrubs due to bad weather. We would shape up in the motel lobby nightly in the weeks prior to launch only to be sent back to bed because of the weather. Meanwhile, back at home in New Jersey, "we" were expecting our third child — which would launch first? The weather did not cooperate with Glenn or me for almost a month. I finally returned home on the 18th for son Donald's birth on the 19th. I missed the launch by 2 days. Many PNers will remember Donald as our luncheon photographer a few years ago.

The Best Seller List — January 21, 1962

Fiction	
1	Fanny and Zooey. <i>Salinger</i>
2	The Agony and the Ecstasy. <i>Stone</i>
3	To Kill a Mockingbird. <i>Lee</i>
4	Little Me. <i>Dennis</i>
5	Spirit Lake. <i>Kantor</i>
6	Daughter of Silence. <i>West</i>
7	A Prologue to Love. <i>Caldwell</i>
8	Chairman of the Board. <i>Streeter</i>
General	
1	My Life in Court. <i>Nizer</i>
2	The Making of the President 1960. <i>White</i>
3	Live Free. <i>Adamson</i>
4	The Rise & Fall of the Third Reich. <i>Shirer</i>
5	A Nation of Sheep. <i>Lederer</i>

On The Silver Screen

The Music Hall was showing **A MAJORITY OF ONE** with Rosalind Russell and Alec Guinness while at the Paris there was **LA BELLE AMERICAINE**, "Frolicsome, funny...worth anybody's money," per the NY Times. — RKO Theaters were showing **FLOWER DRUM SONG** and at the Trans-Lux Normandie **THE FIVE DAY LOVER**. — Margaret Rutherford was at the Baronet in **MURDER (SHE SAID)** with Arthur Kennedy. **LA DOLCE VITA** ("original version uncut") at the Embassy and **TENDER IS THE NIGHT** was on the Paramount screen with Jennifer Jones, Jason Robards, Jr. and Joan Fontaine. — **TWO WOMEN** with Sophia Loren, "Best Actress of the Year!" was at the Guild 50th. The Lowe's feature had Frank Sinatra and Spencer Tracy, in **THE DEVIL AT 4 O'CLOCK**.

WHAT'S ON NBC TV — *Wed, February 21, 1962*

7:00 am
Today Show
 9:00
Slimnastics
 10:00
Say When C
 10:30
Play Your Hunch C
 11:00
Price Is Right C
 11:30
Concentration C
 12:00 pm
First Impression C
 12:30
Truth or Consequences C
 12:55
News Report
 1:00
Film Drama
 1:30
Dr. Brothers
 1:55
News Commentary
 2:00
Jan Murray C
 2:25
News Report
 2:30
Loretta Young
 3:00
Young Dr. Malone C
 3:30
Our Five Daughters C
 4:00
Make Room For Daddy

FIRST NEW YORK TELECAST

ALFRED HITCHCOCK'S "I CONFESS"

★★★★ DAILY NEWS

STARRING

MONTGOMERY CLIFT

ANNE BAXTER

KARL MALDEN

BRIAN AHERNE

11:15 SATURDAY NIGHT ON MOVIE 4

MAKE IT A COMPLETE "SATURDAY NIGHT OUT AT HOME!" TUNE IN: 9:00 P.M. — SATURDAY NIGHT AT THE MOVIES, "MONKEY BUSINESS" — WITH CARY GRANT, GINGER ROGERS AND MARILYN MONROE. IN COLOR, 11:00 P.M. — SATURDAY NIGHT NEWS AND WEATHER WITH BOB WILSON AND DR. FRANK FIELD.

SATURDAY NIGHT WNBC TV



6:45
News & Comments
 7:00
Death Valley Days
 7:30
Wagon Train C
 8:30
Joey Bishop
 9:00
Perry Como C

10:00
Bob Newhart C
 10:30
Brinkley's Journal
 11:00
News & Weather
 11:15
Jack Paar C
 1:00 am
News; Film Play
 C = color

Playbill



"A GIFT OF TIME" - Henry Fonda and Olivia de Havilland star in Garson Kanin's play at the Ethel Barrymore Theater.

And at the ANTA, Paul Scofield starred in **A MAN FOR ALL SEASONS**. **A PASSAGE TO INDIA** with Eric Portman & Gladys Cooper was on stage at the Ambassador. Julie Harris, Walter Matthau and William Shatner star in **A SHOT IN THE DARK**, at the Booth Theater. The Majestic's ad touts "**CAMELOT** is magnificent," with Julie Andrews and William Squire and the Roberts, Coote and Goulet. Over at the Brooks Atkinson, Hal March stars in **COME BLOW YOUR HORN**. **CARNIVAL** with Anna Maria Alberghetti, choreographed by Gower Champion is a hit at the Imperial Theater. The Plymouth has Fredric March in **GIDEON**. And the list goes on with: **HOW TO SUCCEED IN BUSINESS WITHOUT REALLY TRYING** (Robert Morse); **MARY, MARY** (Barbara Bel Geddes); **TAKE HER SHE'S MINE** (Art Carney); **THE NIGHT OF THE IGUANA** (Bette Davis); **THE SOUND OF MUSIC** (Martha Wright); **THE UNSINKABLE MOLLY BROWN** (Tammy Grimes); **MY FAIR LADY** (Michael Allison & Margot Moser) and **SUBWAYS ARE FOR SLEEPING** (Sidney Chaplin, Carol Lawrence and Orson Bean).

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

Radio Highlights — 10:30-11:00 Youth Forums; 12:05-12:30 Family Living; 12:30-1:00 Eternal Light; 2:05-2:30 Searchlight; 6:30-7:00 Meet the Press; 7:00-10:00 Monitor; 10:00-10:30 Hour of Decision; 10:30-11:00 Back to God; 11:00-11:15 News; 11:15 Serenade in Blue; 11:30 People at the UN; 12:00-12:05 News; 12:05 Open Mind.

We Get Letters

Dear Peacock North Members,

I am Budd Schulberg's niece and am writing a book about former NBC Pages who have become famous. If anyone has information on such people, please contact me at the address below. Many thanks.

Sunny Carmel

445 East 80th Street
New York, NY 10028

May 27, 2005

It was a great lunch made even more so when Pete Peterson came over to the table and told my dear Margot that he and I go back farther together than anyone in the room. We put a new radio station on the air in 1948. Pete was the first engineer and I had a show called "Collins Carousel." The station was WVNJ in Newark, NJ, and at the opening ceremonies, I had the thrill of a lifetime! I interviewed HELEN KELLER, and when we were introduced, she asked if she could "see" my face. She then proceeded to lightly touch my face and said "You are a handsome young man." No one since has called me handsome...and for about fifty years or so, no one has called me "young". Looking forward to the next one and will be in touch with our bunch in the mean time.

Fred Collins

June 9, 2005

Dear PN,

Two comments about the last issue:

#1 - a nice picture of "Tip Top" Mulvaney.

#2 - about the photo from McCartney (Apollo 1965 Crew): that's Phil Falcone between Randy and Scotty. The guy on the left is obviously in the witness protection program - otherwise, why the shades indoors?

Enjoyed the luncheon. A word of caution for next year: use parking garage on 51st Street - they have a deal with the restaurant - you'll save half.

My best to all,

Bob Van Ry, Class of 2000!

Just returned from the northeast (college graduation) and back in Florida thawing out and hitting the e-mail circuit. Since my last note appeared in PN, I have heard from both the great guys I commented on. I said both Mel Brandt and David Rush (25 million dollar lottery winner) would like to be in better health....and that was true last time I talked to either one. In the interim....Walt Ryan even told me he had heard that Mel had died. Then, just weeks ago...calls from both. Mel, in typical fashion, said the rumors of his death were greatly exaggerated, that he is on chemo, but faring well and in no hurry to leave at the chipper age of 86. Rush said his bout with sleep apnea had been dealt with and he too was feeling just dandy. Great news on both accounts....and a lesson learned. Before you comment on anyone about anything...call them first and get it cleared by the source. As for me....I'm still on the right side of the grass and I haven't seen my name in the papers so I guess I'm okay.

Keep up the good work. You look absolutely terrific!

Don Blair

We Get Letters

Hi people:

I received the spring edition of Peacock North today, and thanks again for a most informative piece of mail. I was very sorry to read of Ted Brown's passing. Yes, he was on "Monitor" during its last two years of life. I was one of the correspondents who anchored "Monitor News on the Hour" in one of his segments.

I noted with interest the letter from Don Blair, and thought I should clarify something. He said "Dave would be glad to trade his Lotto winnings for better health". I'm happy to report that better health has arrived in the form of two new knees. Surgery was February 18th. Years of hopping off Press Trucks and Press Platforms took their toll last year, and I spent quite a few miserable months. Four weeks after surgery, I tossed the walker, never could master the rhythm of a cane, also resumed driving then. Last week, I went back to the golf course, pitching and putting. This week, I'm back to playing for real. So, lest some who remember me fear that I've become a hobbling old man, let me ease your minds...I'm currently a gimpy old man, but that too shall pass. Sorry I can't make the reunion lunch. If Bobby Friedman is there, ask him about the night a hooker tried to pick him up with two cops nearby. He may not remember telling us about it, but I do. And my best regards to all who may to all with whom I worked back in the 60s, 70s, and the mid-80s. Life is good here on Marco.

Cheers, **Dave Rush**

Dear Joel,

I surely remember you! A good voice from my happy past.

I am terminally ill with chronic Lyme disease that I contracted in 1991. A byproduct of my success as [an electronics] designer. I had a few good contracts and with the proceeds I bought a nice house on a lake in Newtown, CT. There I contracted "Lyme" mowing my lawn. Had I remained a humble technician at NBC I would be still in good shape and I would be at your side at that luncheon.

I am recently wheelchair bound. I affectionately refer to it as my chariot. While my body rapidly decays my mind is still very active. I work 6 to 10 hours, seven days a week alternating from 2 laptops to a desk top computer. I have 2 pending patent applications in the fiber-optic industry. I am completely dependent on my wife and one good lady helper for everything. I forget recent things except things relating to work.

My company, Multidyne Electronics, never made it big, but I managed to make a fair living since 1979. I have a very agitated sleep and I always dream of being at NBC. That probably was the best time I ever had amongst so many good friends.

Take care and good luck,

Vincent Jachetta

Hi to all,

I hope the accolades keep showering on you. We are ever so thankful to you for bringing us news about the people with whom we have worked for many years. It is always heart-warming to read. The luncheon fills me, and I'm sure all who attend, with great joy to be once again sharing moments with old friends. We look forward to the next one.

I have had a thought that could encourage the members to write articles for the newsletter. I thought of an appropriate title: "Toot Your Own Horn." I'm sure that all of us have experienced working moments that, if shared, would delight the members. As a personal example: My crew was assigned to the Martin and Lewis Telethon.. Dean was setting up to sing "Moon Over Miami." I started in on a close-up of the moon. I was dollied back to reveal a tree out of focus and then come to reveal Dean, in focus as he started to sing. My camera began to go in and out of focus. The Director and the TD were screaming that this will cost me dearly. I asked them to look out the control room window to see what was going on. They quickly had the other cameras show me and Jerry, who was spinning my focus control. Dean was at a loss and was asking what was going on. We all had a good laugh.

I hope you think kindly of my suggestion. I do have more to offer.

The best ever, **Gary Iorio**

We Get Letters

Hi Joel

The subject of Color TV brings back many fond memories. I was part of the group that did "Howdy Doody" with Tom Smiley as TD, The Oldsmobile Nightly News, WNBT Presents, "The Black Robe" and many more. Also Perry Como and the Steve Allen "Tonight" Show after the great Dagmar and Jerry Lester's "Broadway Open House" left the air. Film-wise, color video for airing of almost all of the Bonanza series (and visited the soundstage in Lake Tahoe in 1978 - accorded all privileges). Of course we could go on and on--They were great, great days.

There were good and bad times, for as you know TV and/or Radio are cruel businesses. They hired and fired at will unless you were protected by a strong Union. The hiring and firing still continues.

I am waiting for Murray Vecchio to make his move. It will be to the village of Sayville, East of Oakdale, LI, I think, some time around August 1st.

Tony Romeo

Tributes to Silent Microphones

Mark de Groat

By Bill Freeda

On March 24, 2005, Mark de Groat passed away from liver cancer. He was 47 years old. His wife Terry, daughter Emma Lou, and son Hal survive him. Mark was born in Brockport, New York, and went on to earn his Bachelor of Science Degree at the University of California at Santa Barbara

Mark joined NBC in 1983, and was an Emmy Award-winning engineer, whose work included the 2000 Sydney Olympics, 2002 Winter Olympics in Salt Lake City, Utah, and the 2004 Athens Olympics. Mark had become one of the experts on the Avid editing system at NBC.

Mark loved music, fishing, and of course poker. NBC has lost an invaluable employee, and his family and friends will dearly miss him.

Lou Giacchetto

By Bill Freeda

My friend Lou Giacchetto passed away suddenly from a heart attack on January 8, 2005. It was just 20 days before his 65th birthday. He is survived by his wife Carol, daughter Gina and his two grandchildren, Melissa 7, & Justin 2. Lou started with NBC in 1972 in the Newsfilm department and made the transition to Electronic Journalism in 1980. Lou worked on many documentaries while in Newsfilm, and became a Supervisor for the Today Show in 1987. Lou retired in January of 2000. In his retirement his grandchildren became the center of his life.

Lou loved woodworking, and working on the computer. He left his family a precious legacy by transferring over 3000 pictures to CD's, thereby assuring that he will forever be in his family's view, as well as their hearts and minds.

On a personal note, what made his passing so difficult for me was the fact that Susan and I had lunch with Lou and Carol just a few months earlier. We met with a group of NBC retirees from our Newsfilm days, at a Long Island restaurant when one of our former NBC co-workers was in town visiting. Lou will be missed at the get-togethers at Cabana Carioca where he and his colleagues from the over night shift met semi-annually to reminisce about the good old days at NBC. Lou was respected and admired by all who grew to know him at NBC.

Tributes to Silent Microphones

SEN LOUIE Remembered by Bill Melanson

I would like to take this opportunity to say a few words about the loss of a great friend, Mr. Sen Louie. Sen and I, along with many other people, started with NBC in 1967. We were hired into the Electronic Maintenance Department, to help with the changing technology being used. Vacuum tubes were going out and solid state electronics were on the way in. Since neither one of us knew much about TV, we decided to work in the "Equipment Room" to learn the business from the ground up. This was truly the "Boiler Room," - not many signs of other human beings around us, but tons of equipment to work on.

After paying our dues there, we then went into video tape maintenance, and started traveling on Sports and other field events. Sen was a top field maintenance man for over 20 years, there being nothing he could not repair, especially under pressure.

In the late 1980's, Sen and I became partners on Mobile Unit N-8, and worked together until the trucks were sold in 1994. We then both retired from NBC. Sen worked one summer for ABC Field, and then took a job with Fox News as it was just getting started. No one ever imagined what that would turn into. In the ten years he spent there he built another illustrious career— with Fox, .

I have many fond memories of working with Sen over the years, most of them having to do with restaurants. We always had to go for Chinese food. When we would ask Sen how to get to Chinatown, no matter where we were, he said "go downtown and turn left". Sometimes he would borrow the car and go off by himself. He would stumble on to some family Chinese restaurant, and have a meal. The next day he would tell us about this great place he had eaten. When we asked him how to get there so we could try it, he could never remember how to go back to it..

Over the years our families became good friends. I attended the weddings of his three sons, and my wife Terri and I have visited Sen and Rubi on many occasions. He will be sorely missed, and I will miss our phone calls about who was doing what these days.

I have spoken with Rubi a couple of times, and she is forever grateful for the friends that Sen made while working for NBC. He had a good life, a good family, and a great career, but he left us too soon.

Dear PN,

After many years of reading hand-me-down copies of Peacock North, I have decided to shake the dust off my checkbook and send in my check for membership. I retired officially from NBC Electronic Maintenance in the Field in February of 1995, when the mobile units were sold. I then worked freelance for NBC News in Long Island City, did video on golf, and worked as a Tech Manager on various other venues. I stopped working completely at the end of 2001.

Terri and I still have a home in New Jersey, but spend most of our time in Jupiter, Florida in an oceanfront condo. We love the beach and spend most days walking along the ocean. It's a good life.

Bill Melanson

Tributes to Silent Microphones

Donald Carswell

From Variety...

NBC executive Donald Carswell died March 25th in Brooklyn, NY of leukemia. He was 75.

Carswell spent 36 years with NBC and was Senior Vice-President for Finance from 1979 to 1992, managing the network's budgets as it introduced shows like "Cheers," "The Cosby Show" and "Seinfeld." In 1990, Mr. Carswell also assumed the new title of chief financial officer. In his hometown of Brooklyn, he started Brooklyn Community Access Television, for which he also wrote and developed the public service program "HealthWatch."

Born in Brooklyn, he graduated from Harvard and joined NBC in 1956 as a financial trainee.

He is survived by his wife Lois, a daughter, two sons, a brother, and four grandchildren.

David J. Gardam, Jr

David J. Gardam, Jr, 76, of Pinehurst, NC, formerly of Short Hills, NJ, died on June 3, 2005. Mr. Gardam spent nearly all of his career with RCA. He worked as a Training Manager in Harrison, NJ, as Personnel Manager in Marion, IN and as Administrator, Labor relations, on the RCA corporate staff. In 1966, he became Director, Personnel for NBC, was named Vice-President, Personnel there in 1986 and was later promoted to Vice-President, Industrial Relations. In 1977, he was elected to the NBC Board of Directors. He left NBC to become a Vice-President with RCA Electronics in Princeton, NJ. He is survived by his wife Lynn, sister Betty Nurse, three daughters and eight grandchildren.

Al Wasserman

Documentary filmmaker Al Wasserman died of lung cancer in Manhattan on March 31. He was 84. An early movie documentary he wrote, "First Steps," about physical therapy for disabled children, won an Academy Award in 1947 for the United Nations Division of Films and Visual Education.

After working at CBS-TV from 1955 to 1960, Wasserman moved to NBC in 1960 as the founding producer of NBC's "White Paper" series, for which he did reports on everything from civil rights events to railroad travel to two hourlong films called "The Age of Kennedy."

Born in the Bronx, he started his career as a freelance film writer and made several films, among them a pilot for the NBC News series "Wide Wide World," of which he was the co-author.

After leaving NBC in 1967, he became president of Wasserman Productions, an independent filmmaking company. In 1973, he directed "The Making of the President 1972," an hour-and-a-half film based on Theodore H. White's book of the same name, which was not shown until 1975 because of the unfolding Watergate scandal.

After returning to CBS where he was a producer on "60 Minutes", he left and in 1986, took up still photography and had exhibitions of his work in New York and Provincetown.

He is survived by his wife Barbara, a daughter, a son, a stepson and four grandchildren.

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Dues were due—
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