

Peacock North

Spring, 1997



Volume 6 Edition 1

PN Spring Luncheon Set for June 8

10th Annual Peacock North Reunion to be held at La Maganette Ristorante.

Members, spouses, their guests, family and friends are cordially invited.

A sure sign that Spring is at hand, even before the first robin makes its way to your garden, is the announcement of Peacock North's Spring luncheon. It's always a memorable day for all who attend. If you haven't made one, this is the year to to do it. Take a plane, train, car, boat or bus to the La Maganette Ristorante at 825 Third Avenue, NYC. That's on the northeast corner of 3rd Avenue and 50th Street, just a few block east of 30 Rock. ***Festivities begin at 12 noon.***

Enjoy, food, wine, short speeches and a large

helping of friendly schmoozing with your old work mates.

Pete Peterson has signed the contract, now it's up to you to make your reservations. Please make them by ***May 15th.***

Join the fun. Send in the coupon on page 47 with your check. If you don't wish to cut up this keepsake edition, send your check along with the particulars mentioned on the coupon.

See you there!

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by Dan Gabel

at 30 rock

What's the future of investigative journalism in America? Probably shaky, for the moment.

TV newspeople were aghast, we presume, when a federal jury in Greensboro, North Carolina, handed down a decision that ABC-tv had trespassed and committed fraud when it did an under-cover investigative piece about the Food Lion chain stores. No comment from the 12 men and women tried and true that perhaps, Food Lion was selling lousy meat and produce. **Roone Arledge**, the ABC News president, of course, is appealing the decision that the net pay \$1,400 in actual damages and \$5.5 million in punitive damages.

We decided to check around at 30 Rock to get reaction about possible changes in reporting technique. A WNBC source told us they were unaware of any meeting on the issue. We checked with Nightly, and there too, no meeting or edict issued. But at "Dateline," it was all hush-hush. That show does a lot of its own gum-shoeing so there must have been an intensive meeting on the issue. When we phoned, our source said nervously and repeatedly "I can't discuss it! Don't ask me about it!" Is management tapping staff phones there?

Well, we knew we were on to something. It was confirmed that same day when we heard "Dateline" reporter John Hockaberry on NPR radio admit

there had been a meeting. However, he shared no details with the audience. The NYTimes quoted "Dateline" producer Neil Shapiro who said the program would not change its policies because of the ABC verdict.

Two of ABC's producers, Richard Kaplan and Ira Rosen, were ordered to pay punitive damages of \$35,000 and \$10,750.

ABC was shocked to discover that Rupert Murdoch's Fox network used several minutes of its outtakes which it got from Food Lion.

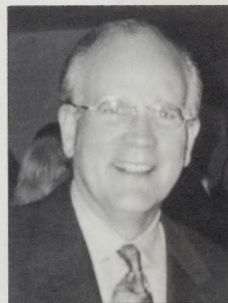
The clever (?) members of the jury didn't take issue with investigative reports. But one suggested, "They should do them legal."

Another said networks should "gather news in a different way," but did not suggest how to get those revealing expose scenes.

Oh, by the way, Food Lion never contested the facts in the ABC report which showed supermarket workers re-wrapping old chicken and masking out "sell by" dates with nail polish!

Be sure, there's more to come on this one. And watch out where you shop!

Integrity



CEO Bob.

CEO **Bob Wright** sent out a reminder to all employees about NBC's corporate policies on integrity. While Wright's late 1996 note referred to an NBC guide,

Integrity: - The Spirit and the Letter of Our Commitment and stated that the principles dated back to 1993, the company was committed to such ideas long, long ago. In the 1986 company book titled **Who's Who at NBC News** (we still own a copy!) News president Larry Grossman outlined "Professional Principles of NBC News." The opening excerpt, "NBC News is dedicated to fair and honest

presentation of the news." In that day, too, the company had a Policies Manual, and as I recall it we all had to sign a form acknowledging we had read and agreed with it.

History

While browsing through that 11 year old directory it said that in 1928 NBC covered the political conventions and the November election. **Lowell Thomas** was described as the one-man news department who simply read AP wire copy. In

1933, when the newspapers were concerned about upstart radio news stealing their thunder, wire service copy was withheld from radio news rooms

and that's how NBC News was born. In 1986, pre-GE, the world wide news staff numbered 1,309 people.

Memory Test

We don't want to milk this source all in one go, but as we read through it we spotted once-familiar names and we're going to print a few here to jar your memories :

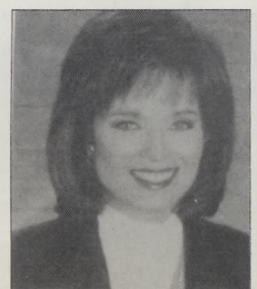
John Lane, VP...**Steve Bogart**, assignment desk...**Morrison Krus**, desk assistant...**Kenley Jones**, Atlanta (he's still there)...**Roy Neal**, Burbank...**Ike Seamans**, Miami...**Ken McBride**... **Jim Gaines**...and **Tom Wolzein** (still in NY).

Talent

Michele Marsh, that beautiful news-reader, who spent 17 years at WCBS until that "Saturday Night massacre" when station manager **Bill Carey** cleaned house, is now brightening up the local WNBC



"So long until tomorrow" was Lowell's sign off.



picture....**John Johnson**, another CBS victim, who had been a 25 year fixture at ABC, is another highly visible



Johnson



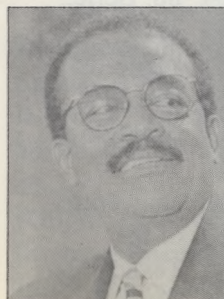
Guida

addition....**Tony Guida** didn't do quite as well. The ex NBC-er who tried his luck at CBS is now on Channel 31, a new station with the call sign WBIS. Tony is the lead anchor person, on from 6 to 7am solo, and then an additional 2 hours with Mercedes Woods. As the call sign might indicate, WBIS daytime will deal heavily with business news and investing information. Evenings, and presumably weekends, the station will be heavy on sports. ITT and Dow Jones own the operation and in time it's expected to be a national cable service. And **Norma Quarles**? We heard her the other day on CNN.

And did you say **Mary Alice Williams**, she of those beautiful light blue eyes an NBC exec once wanted her to darken so they wouldn't be distracting? Mary Alice, now a commercial pitchwoman for Nynex, is, or was, hosting a weekly Sunday night celebrity show -- "Quiet Triumphs" -- on the Odyssey cable channel.

O.J. Fallout

O.J. Simpson's lead attorney in the double murder trial, **Johnnie Cochrane**, does an evening show on Court TV.... John Johnson, O.J.'s



Cochrane

DNA specialist, is now a legal analyst for MSNBC...**Robert Shapiro**, another member of the Dream Team, had a very short career as a tv commentator for

CBS. He made only 2 appearances and found himself in difficult positions because of the attorney-client privilege. And for the prosecution...**Marcia Clark** will host her own talk show, "Lady Law," which will be what they call "reality-based." The focus will be on extraordinary women in law enforcement. Winners, we trust. The show will be syndicated next fall. Viking publishers has advanced Clark \$4.2-million for a book to be titled, "Without A Doubt." Local Newsman **Phil O'Brien** is the new managing editor at WNBC, overseeing assignments, field producers, bureaus and the reporting staff. He was news director at New York 1 News and earlier with WNYN. He's described as a "people person," a plus, compared with — we hear — some local managers who can be described as a minus....**John Muller**, ex Tampa and Ft. Myers, is a new local general assignment reporter. He's won 2 AP awards and one from the National Academy of Television Journalists.... Reporter **Dave Browde**, who has bounced around several local stations, ankled WNBC after 3 years and is now with WCBS.... And **Edie Magnus**, formerly of CBS, has joined NBC to anchor MSNBC's daytime programs and do spots for "Dateline."

In our last issue we reported on a lady viewer of WNBC who wrote her own scathing report on the talent, or lack of same, among the tv news staff. **Andria Hall** was one of the anchors the viewer put on the wrack. Hmmm, she proved to be a good evaluator. Ms. Hall is no longer with the station. The company called her performance, "error-prone.".....



Roseanne

Roseanne Colletti, who was a consumer reporter at WCBS until that Saturday Night massacre, is now at Channel 4another addition to the

local staff is **Mary Ann Wright**, ex WABC.....**Carol Jenkins**, ex WNBC, who moved to Fox 5 to do an interview show, is back in straight



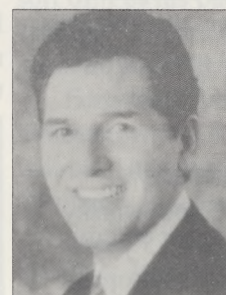
Jenkins

news. Her Neilsons were punk so the station will use her as an anchor for an hour long news show at noon....NBC, by the way, is now starting its half hour noon show at 11:30am,

asserting it is a good time for such a show. What it really means is that station general manager **Denny Swanson** wanted to put a new drama, "Sunset Beach," in at noon — a strong time — and had to come up with a reason for the switch. One new actor added to the cast of that show is **Randy Spelling**. His father is **Aaron Spelling**, producer of the show. Thanks, Dad.

Not one of our alumni, but a big name on the local scene for a long time is now back at work in New York.

Ernie Anastos is part of the growing big name staff at WWOR. Anastos



Ernie Anastos

worked for 16 years at WABC and WCBS. He once got a reported \$7-million contract for a 5 year stint at Channel 2....And another pair on the WCBS-to-WWOR trek, **Storm Field** and **Reggie Harris**. Storm had only been at the Big Eye for 18 months. Twenty-four hours after he and the station split, he was over at WWOR.



Reggie

(Continued on next page.)

Station manager **Bill Carey** was the guy who wielded the axe at WCBS. Columnist **Cindy Adams** did a report on the massacre and closed with "CBS is in the toilet in N.Y., L.A., Chicago, ...this is not the end of the putsch. ... Mr. Carey doesn't know it, but he too is about to be history." Certainly sounds like a lot of musical chairs. But, heck, that's good for the locals since they have a lot of places to job hunt in the New York market.

Subtitles

Almost the entire News Four broadcast day is covered by Closed Captioning, those subtitles that run along the bottom of the screen to assist and hard of hearing. New tv sets have a built-in decoder to put the captioning on the screen, if desired.

Número One

CEO **Bob Wright**, in a note to the staff, said "There are few things more satisfying and impressive than to end a tv season at the top of the charts. NBC had a spectacular 1995-96."

It dominated the 52 week season in all young adult demographics and showed growth every night of the week. While ABC, CBS and Fox took a nosedive with the 18 to 49 crowd and the 25 to 54 homebodies compared with the previous season, NBC was up 13 percent with the first group and 12 percent with the second. Hurray!

Bottom's Up

In 1948 the liquor industry voluntarily decided not to put whisky ads on telly. But in the past 15 years hard booze consumption has dropped 29 percent so the beverage people would like to get on the tube. The industry argues alcohol is alcohol whether it is in beer, vino or gin and that is so when motorists get stopped for a breath test. However, the four major tv nets are against it.

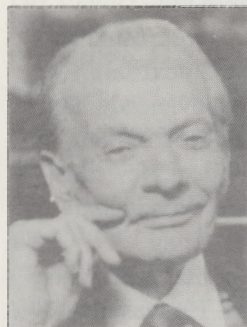
Job Resumes

We can help you get a leg up on a job at CBS. General Manager **Bud Carey** says he looks for 3 things in his news talent: "human integrity,

credibility and humanity." Well, we don't think you'll find the first and last in animals. But, wait, maybe in Joe Camel? Does Bud need a writer?

Brinkley

David, if we may use a first name, has always been a succinct writer and he was ever thus in



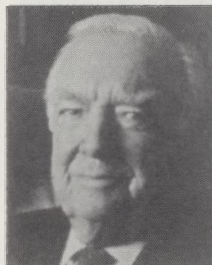
Apologizes

describing Bill Clinton while on the air, ".....he is a bore, and will always be a bore." Shortly after Brinkley apologized, saying "I was impolite and unfair. I regret

it." Nothing like an open mike to catch a pithy phrase. Brinkley's second book, a re-tooling of his closing comments over 15 years on ABC, and other cogent thoughts, quickly went to the top of the best seller list. The title, "Everyone is Entitled to My Opinion." He is 76 and, of course, has retired from "This week with David Brinkley."

Cronkite

We enjoyed Walter Cronkite's "A Reporter's Life." It is well worth reading, especially if you've been in the writing part of the news business.



Cronkite

He had a really exciting career before he got to broadcasting, and he recalls half a century of experiences in vivid detail. As the Times said, "The personality that comes through is true to his image; unassuming about his accomplishments, clucking over his gaffes, and never unduly stimulating."

The Times reviewer (Walter Goodman) also says the book is "generous with Journalism 101 exhalations....(and) Cronkite never

claimed to be Walter Lippman. But how many Americans ever heard of, much less trusted, Lippman?"

Cronkite is quite unhappy with the present state of journalism. What's worse, he told **Stone Phillips** on "Dateline" that he is a "pariah" at Black Rock, never gets invited to company parties. Cronkite's advice to



Stone Phillips & Jane Pauly, their "Dateline" snared eight Emmys

Dan Rather, "Don't retire prematurely." Cronkite was 65 fifteen years ago when he left CBS, where they had a policy of terminating grey-haired types.

One story we heard was that Cronkite actually wrote his autobiography as a 3-volume epic. Knopf decided better and edited it down to one book.

The Senior League

Back to Cronkite and that age 65 business. Hey at that age, Gloria and Don Pardo were just getting into their strides at NBC! And happily today both still are going strong. Happy 53rd anniversary, guys!!!

This must be the proper place to mention that **Uncle Miltie**, Mister Tuesday night, Mister Television, is



88. Berle has suggested that NBC could do a 50th anniversary of the Texaco Star Theatre

which debuted in 1948! Well, there was no tape in that day but kines were just starting in 1949 and kines (if any of them still exist) would bring back Berle in all those drag outfits and Miltie horning in on every class act that did the show. We think it would be a hit.

More Sports

In an era when it is tougher and tougher to get a job in television it is nice to see that the new 24 hour a day sports network created by CNN and Sports Illustrated hired 118 people to create the round-the clock budget of news. The net will not present any live events but there's already a lot of taped stuff on ESPN and the NewSports nets so that should not be a drawback.

Sportscaster **Ed Ingles** was not an NBC veteran, but he was a 23 year fixture on WCBS radio, so we were sad to hear the new Westinghouse management eased him off the air. The station apparently now gets its quarter-hourly sports report from MetroSports, a national service. Onetime WNBC sportscaster **Don Gould** also works there with Ingles.

Not a NBC-er, but too big name in local sports to pass up without comment — **Warner Wolf** — has returned to the big apple. He's back at WCBS-tv, which fired him in 1992. It wasn't too much of a loss. Wolf went directly to WUSA, Washington, S.C. for a \$4-million deal. Apparently life was not serene there either. They took him off the air in 1995. When his contract formally ended, **Bud Carey** snapped him up. Wolf has got to improve ratings there. People will tune in just to hear Warner say, "Now, let's go to the videotape!"

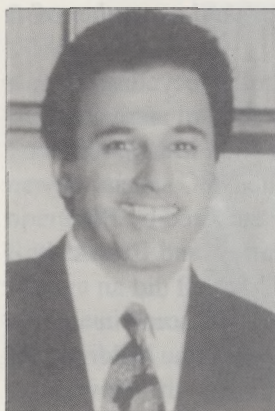
The Sporting News has named **Dick Ebersol**, president of NBC Sports, as "the most powerful person in sports." There were no athletes among the top ten, only movers and shakers. Number two on the list is **Phil Knight**, chairman of Nike, followed by **Steve Bornstein**, president/CEO of ESPN and president of ABC Sports.

Inexactitudes

They call it show business because its very showy: Like movie grosses, commercial time charges on the super bowl and talent salaries. Or sudden job severance (don't call it a *firing*) when the biggie announces he's "investigating other opportunities." You want the truth, the whole, and nothing but the truth? Come, come, let's be realistic.

When NBC broadcast the super bowl in 1996, the word went out that 30-second spots went for \$1.1-million. Not to be compromised, Fox announced in January 1997 that they sold a few for \$1.3-million. However, they said most spots went for \$1.2-million and total income was \$69-million. Of course, the super bowl on Fox was longer than any other super bowl since they started broadcasting pre-game shows at noontime! You only had to wait 6 hours and 18 minutes for the kickoff!

Goodbye & Hello



Matt

America did half as well with a 3.3 and a 12 share. Apparently tears do better than cheers, since Bryant Gumbel's farewell show on Friday, January 3, garnered a 6.8 rating and 30 share nationally and did considerably better in Gotham.

For the first full week, Lauer generated "Today's" second highest weekly average, a 5.5 rating and a 23 share. Strangely, the show's highest rating ever came in the same January week in 1988.

Did we say kickoff? Well, **Matt Lauer's** kickoff as co-host of the "Today" show pulled a 5.6 rating and a 24 share nationally. ABC's Good Morning

More Goodbyes



The torch is passed.

Bryant Gumbel had a 15 year run on "Today," the show's longest host. The farewell was a 2-hour salute packed with memories, drop-in visits by **Muhammad Ali**, poet **Maya Angelou**, performer **Prince**, **Willard Scott**, **Jane Pauley**, **Joe Garagiola**, and **LeRoy Neiman**. There were taped greetings to Bryant from dozens of celebrities and news-makers, including George Bush, who is also out of a job, and Hillary Clinton, who is employed, sort of. For his part, a tearful Gumbel said the 15 years had been a real pleasure and a genuine privilege.

Forty-eight year old Bryant has not indicated what his next career move will be. The announcement will come "Probably in a few weeks," he said.

I didn't see it, but apparently show producer Jason Raff put together a spectacular montage of Gumbel at work.

Seinfeld

We were talking salaries a few paragraphs ago, so we'll continue. One of GE CEO **Jack Welch's** favorite programs is **Seinfeld**. Good thing for Jerry Seinfeld because we can assume if Mister Welch did not like it, it would not be on our tube. Anyway, as tv show columnists are wont to do, the guy at the NYPost came up with these

(Continued on next page.).



Going up?

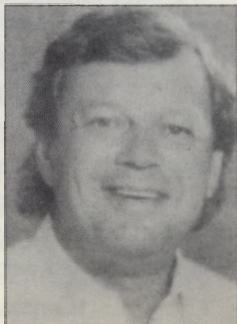
figures. This 24-show season Seinfeld gets \$500,000 per episode. Next season, he wants NBC to double that. Three of his cohorts, **Jason Alexander**, **Julia Louis-Dreyfus** and **Michael Richards** get \$145,000 now and yes, they also want one million per episode next season.

When "Seinfeld" was sold into syndication, the star pocketed \$40-million. The best he could manage on the Forbes Top 40 entertainers list was 11th place with an annual income of \$59-million in 1996. Of course, that was an especially good year. 1997 will be just a normal year, 24 mill, or so. NBC's revenue for the show is estimated at \$200-million. One report claimed that NBC gets \$550,000 for 30 second spots on the show Seinfeld is single and lives in a 6,500 square foot residence in the Hollywood Hills. Now, there's a good case for a pre-nuptial agreement if ever we've seen one.

Finally clicker. Six years ago he was wowing the audiences at comedy clubs like the Giggle Shack and the Laugh Factory.

Other People, Today & Yesterday

Don Ohlmeyer, NBC's west coast president and sports boss, checked himself into the Betty Ford Rehabilitation



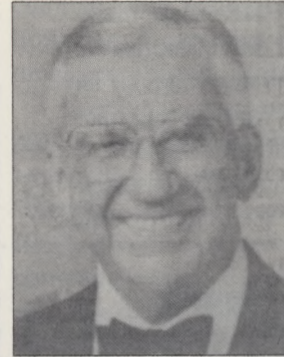
Center in California in December. It was hush-hush but CEO **Bob Wright** said the ailment was "not life threatening and we look forward to having him back soon." Don is 52 years old.

Writer **Joan Konner** worked for NBC eons ago and took a job at Columbia University, ending up as dean of the the School of Journalism. Now 65 (the Times reveals ALL the facts), she retired in December but remained there as publisher of the Journalism Review and a member of the faculty.

MSNBC is in the recycling business and on the 33rd anniversary of JFK's assassination last November they pulled out the NBC special on his death. It was anchored by **Bill Ryan**, **Chet Huntley**, and **Frank McGee**. **Robert McNeil** did an update from the Dallas scene in Deally Plaza. To mark the historic incident, MSNBC aired the show at the exact time it was aired on November 22, 1963. That's really "You are there!" as they once said on those old CBS specials.

Did we say recycling? There's an FM station that goes by the call sign "Buzz 105.1 FM" and they are snipping a one minute highlight from the Jay Leno show each night for replay the next day. The quip is syndicated nationally.

Ed Newman has signed for another season with "Executive Forum," the syndicated financial-technological magazine show. It is



Still going strong

seen on CBS. **Ed McMahon** has denied news stories that he is ailing and had a heart operation. He admits he had hospital tests — probably stress — he's

now working out with a trainer.

Honors

Chuck Scarborough was named by the Juvenile Diabetes Foundation as its "Humanitarian of the Year." And **Maury Povich** was honored by the National Tourette's Syndrome Association for his efforts in its behalf. **Connie Chung** made the presentation to spouse Maury. Connie's going to Harvard! No, not to matriculate. She'll be a fellow at the Joan Shorenstein Center on Press, Politics and Public Service at the JFK School of Government. Boy, try to get all of that on a business card. **Marvin Kalb**, who was one of Connie's colleagues at CBS long ago, is the director. Hey, if you've gotta hire somebody, might as well hire an old chum.

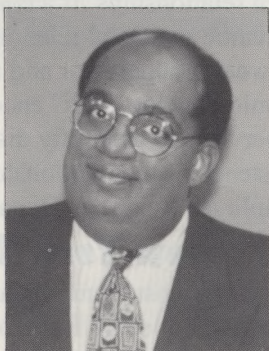
Futures

A business news story we've read said 54 year old **Gary Wendt**, CEO of GE Capital, will be the favorite contender when **Jack Welch** steps down as chairman of GE. Welch is only 61, but he had a triple by pass heart operation last year, and GE has a 65 and out policy. In his 15 year reign, Welch took GE from a modest-size industrial giant to its massive size today. 1996 earnings were \$6 and 1/2 billion. This business report said GE is bigger than some small-to-medium sized nations. We might add that another biz news story we read said that the two biggies are not exactly that friendly. So, shall we say the jury is still out.

Roker-itis

The way the omni-present weather-caster is spread around the tube you'd think he'd been thinning out physically. He's not. But **Al Roker** seems to be a hot property. Ubiquitous. In addition to his schtick on "Today," he hosts a thrice-weekly trivia show on MSNBC cable and he hosts an interview show on CNBC.

Additionally, he did a guest shot on the opening edition of NBC's "News Radio" tv show and he's producing a series of docs for PBS.



Al Roker

Forty-one year old Roker is married to Deborah Roberts of ABC's 20/20.

In the earlier days of tv almost none of the weather-casters had a degree in meteorology. Today, many do, but not Al. However, experienced and glib of tongue, he seems to pull it off.

Co-op

For many years tv nets and the press have cooperated in news-gathering, especially during election campaigns for polling, and on election day for the exit polls. NBC and **People Magazine** have carried that one step further. NBC's "Dateline" will produce segments based on stories being developed by People and will run them on Sundays. The mag will publish the same material on Monday.

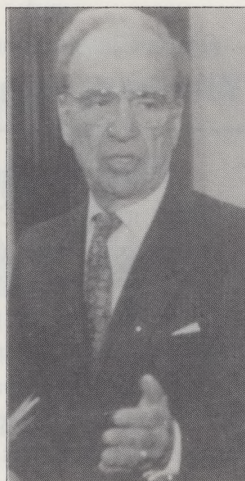
Jewel of the Olympics

Richard Jewel, the Georgia security guard who was named one time by the FBI as a suspect in the bombing at the AT&T installation at the Olympic games, is doing very well with his libel suits. First he took on NBC for remarks made by Tom Brokaw. He said, "They (FBI) probably have enough to arrest him

right now, etc." One report says that flip cost NBC half a million bucks. But NBC is not required to issue a retraction or apology. Jewel's lawyers, who are suing a number of news organizations, including the Atlanta Journal-Constitution, said they are satisfied. Half a mil? Why not.

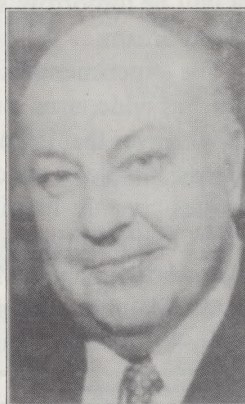
Stars in the Window

Rupert Murdoch knows a good idea when he sees it, so he's put a news studio in a storefront on Sixth avenue and 48th street — not too far from NBC's old RCA Exhibition Hall where Dave Garroway and "Today"



Rupert

debuted in a storefront 45 years ago. Not too far, also, from "Today's" new storefront studio. It's for Fox's 24 hour news operation. Rather a strange comment from **Roger Ailes**, once of NBC, now Fox News chairman. He criticized the opposition for "an over-reliance on breaking news and developing stories." Hey, Roj, you may have been a great politico, but if that quote is correct, it doesn't sound like Fox will blow away the competition.



Ailes

For Insomniacs

We're not up at 5am, but NBC was running a show at 5am on Saturday's titled "America's Dumbest Criminals." What kind of bumbler,

you ask? Well, one item was about a night-time robber who left a trail by wearing sneakers with those blinking red lights in the heels. Another was about a woman who altered a lottery ticket to get a \$20 winner, only to discover that the ticket was worth \$5,000 before she tampered with it!

Wedding Bells



Andrea Mitchell and Alan Greenspan.

Washington correspondent **Andrea Mitchell** and **Alan Greenspan**, boss of the Federal Reserve Bank, have a date for a springtime wedding. It was no sudden romance. They've been dating for 12 years. Can we call that bonding? Or a merger, for the Fed's boss?

In Their Own Words

The president of CBS News, **Andrew Heyward**, speaking to the Radio-TV News Directors Assn.: "Today's news broadcasts are imitative, predictable and over-hyped, scaring away legions of viewers.... We're highly competitive, but we're doing just what the competition is doing. ... We don't give viewers enough credit for understanding nuances of news. ... We reduce complicated debates over policy to political slugfests, which we cover as if they were sporting events.... We've exaggerated so much that we've eroded our own ability to convey what's truly significant." OK, Mister Heyward, and what about local news? The above would sound like praise if he got his scalpel out on the locals.

Continued on next page.



Jack and JFK.

And:

Jack Paar, host of "Tonight" from 1957 to 1962 — "Today's nighttime talk shows aim at demographics; I just tried to entertain everyone. Conversation has disappeared. They're putting people on talk shows who should never be on them."

Headlines We Loved

We remember half a century ago, (true) when we worked on the News-Around-the-Clock radio desk at The Daily News, the copy editors who sat around the rim and created wonderful headlines got prizes each week for the catchiest phraseology. Five, ten, fifteen bucks extra for the most imaginative heads. (It was good money if their week's pay was 75 bucks.) We were too raw, too inexperienced then to even dream of a spot on that desk. Someone had to die before you could inch your way up. Anyway, enough preamble. Here are a few of the

headlines we enjoyed reading as we went through five huge bags of raw copy clipped by editor Roy Silver as he surfed through his daily 5 newspapers looking for material for this column.

CHANNEL 2 DROPS ANCHORS

and

Even Lou Grant wouldn't

have survived

and

(From Classic Sports lineup)

"Mike Tyson's Greatest Hits"

Flat Screens

I think it was at RCA's exhibit at the 1939 world's fair, could be in '65, but anyway, they showed a bit of the future with a mock up of a tv picture screen which was hung on a wall like a painting. That was the future, then. Now, a Japanese computer company has gotten a patent for a "plasma-display panel" that will be tomorrow's version of that old dream.

The experimental screen, about 42 inches wide, uses ionized plasma gas, whatever that is, to create images on glass. An electrical charge activates crystals, lighting them up in various colors and intensities to create whole images. Most current screens, like those on lap top computers, rely on liquid crystal

displays.

Sony says it will have such a screen on the market next year for 8 to 10 thousand dollars.

The Love Boat

NBC's policy guide on harassment includes a couple of paragraphs on relations between supervisors and their subordinates. And shall we quote? "The company strongly discourages such relationships. If a consenting romantic or sexual relationship between a supervisor and a subordinate should develop, NBC encourages the supervisor to promptly disclose the existence of the relationship to the Employee Relations Department."

New York Tale

Columnist Cindy Adams comes charging out of 30 Rock one evening after a spot on News 4, signs an autograph, yells a "hello," and then still running, casts her eyes for the News 4 limo. An unmarked black sedan pulls up at the marquee. Cindy hops in. She arrives at her destination and the driver says "twenty bucks!." Wa-dah-yuh-mean twenty bucks? Aren't you the NBC car service? "Yeah, I'm a car service, but not NBCs!"

Only in New York

And so long 'til next time. □

Retired NBC Newswriter Dan Grabel and wife, Pat, live in Scarsdale, NY.

la maganette

How about lunch with a few old cronies in June? The date is Sunday June 8, the time is 12 noon. The place, as usual, is La Maganette restaurant at 50th & 3rd avenue.

Last Spring, Pete Peterson alerted La Maganette that he expected 125 retirees and spouses/guests to show up for the annual lunch. Boy! did he get the count wrong. One hundred and eighty hungry diners showed up for the usually excellent meal La Maganette has provided **PN** for the past 10 years.

If we had recorded all the old stories that were retold we could have written something as thick as Anthony Adverse, the 1940s novel. Remember that tome? I think you bought it by the weight, not the length.

Last year's guest speakers were Bob Rippen of "Howdy

Doody" fame; SNL Director Dave Wilson — "We were broadcasters;" Bob Asman — "We came into TV at the right time and got out at the right time;" Mel Brandt — "We had the best time;" and announcer/poet Vic Roby, and Lois Marino.

Pete has an equally impressive lineup for June 8th. "Be there!"

A memorable luncheon quip came from director Dave Handler, who said, "Retirement? It is the best job I've ever had!"

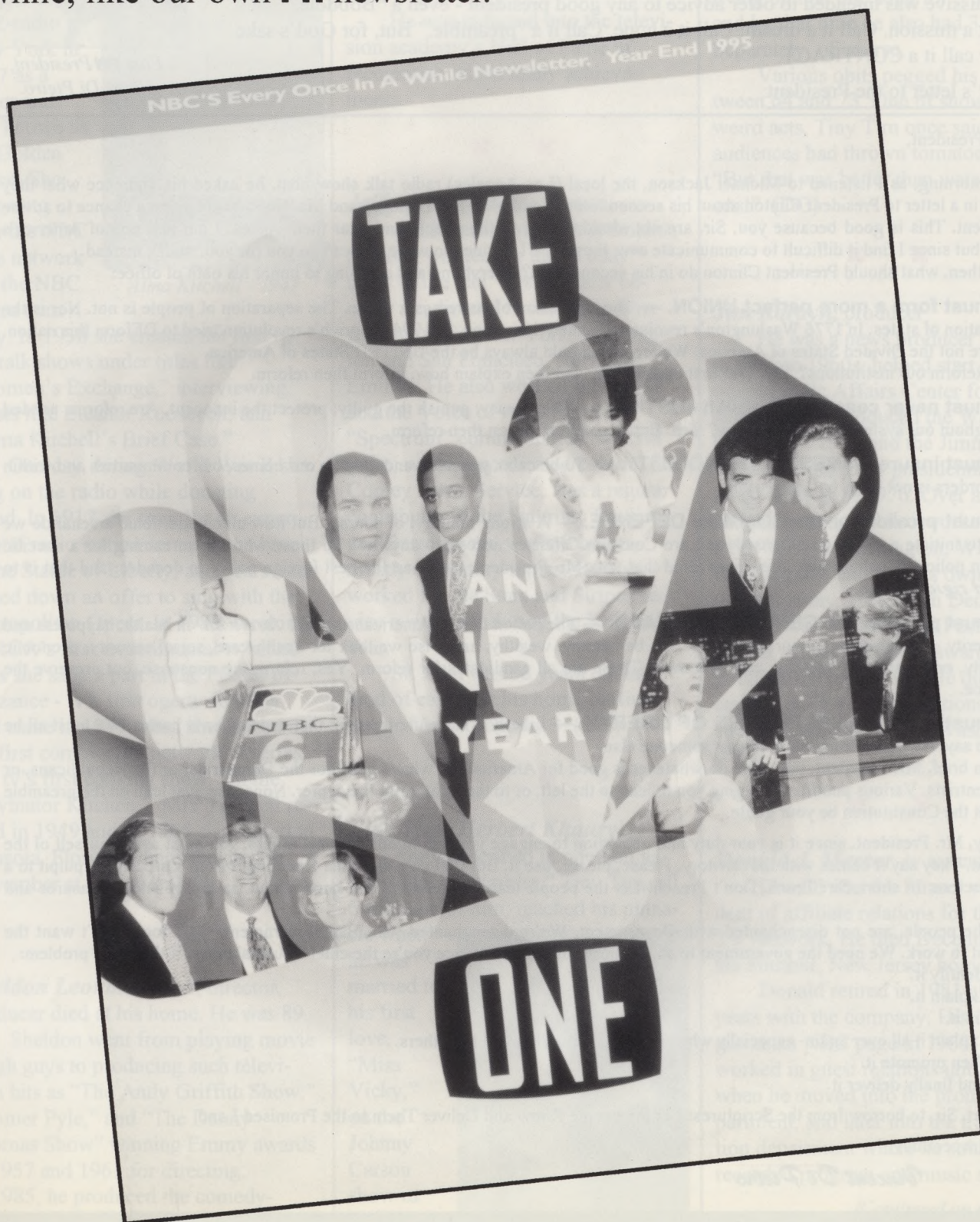
Mark your calendar

Be there!

June, 1997

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

Remember the old NBC "CHIMES"? We thought you'd like to see a cover of its latest successor, "TAKE ONE." It's a slick 1990's sort of thing, published every once in a while, like our own **PN** newsletter.



We The People write letters — well, some do.

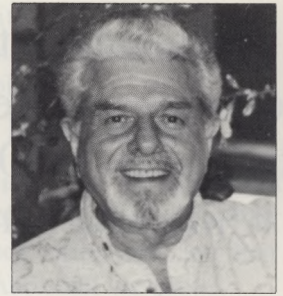
PNer Vinny Di Pietro writes to Pete Peterson from Glendale, California:

..... I am a C-SPAN junkie. Well I not only watch, I also do. Enclosed is a "do" example.

Last October, about a week before the '96 Presidential Elections, I wrote to "Bill." A few weeks ago (end of January) I finally received a White House acknowledgment. Of course we all know that my letter never got near the Pres. But I'm satisfied that it, at least, crossed the threshold. My missive was intended to offer advice to any good president - even a "Bobdole."

Call it a mission. Call it a dream. Call it a hope. Call it a "preamble." But, for God's sake don't ever call it a CONTRACT.

Vinny's letter to the President:



Past **PN** President,
Vinny Di Pietro.

Dear Mr. President,

This morning, as I listened to Michael Jackson, the local (Los Angeles) radio talk show host, he asked his audience what they would say in a letter to President Clinton about his second term. Wonderful! Mr. Littleguy and Ms. Nobody are given a chance to advise the President. This is good because you, Sir, are not afraid to talk to the people and hear their voices. I am just one of America's littleguys, but since I find it difficult to communicate over the phone I decided to write *directly* to you (or your staff), instead.

Now then, what should President Clinton do in his second term? Everything and anything to honor his oath of office:

1. **He must form a more perfect UNION.** — The separation of powers is a virtue. The separation of people is not. Nor is the separation of states. In 1776 Washington's revolution formed this nation. In 1994 Gingrich's revolution tried to DEform this nation. We are not the Divided States of America. We are and should always be the UNITED States of America.
Reform our institutions? Yes. But first explain why and then explain how. Inform then reform.
2. **He must never cease to establish JUSTICE.** — This is easy: punish the guilty; protect the innocent. Are reforms needed throughout our system of jurisprudence? Yes. But remember: inform then reform.
3. **He must insure DOMESTIC TRANQUILITY.** — To be calm, peaceful, and quiet in our homes, our communities and within our borders is not easy, but achievable.
4. **He must provide for the COMMON DEFENSE.** — A strong military, of course. But how much additional arsenal do we need to initiate a Common Offense? And are Common Offenses necessary anyway? To those who are screaming for a specific foreign policy, it's about time they discovered that you, Mr. President, have had the best foreign policy in decades: and that is to *avoid rigid policy*.
5. **He must promote the GENERAL WELFARE.** — The notion that all Americans should *fare well* in health, happiness and prosperity - is embedded in our democracy. To be healthy, wealthy, and wise we look for health care, social security, economic security, environmental security, and education. These are all candidates for reform. Yes, reform the nonsense, but preserve the essence.
6. **He must secure the BLESSINGS OF LIBERTY.** — Liberty is absolute freedom that ends when it harms. We must all be free to say, do, be anything until it hurts someone else.

In brief, Mr. President, you must do whatever is good for America not what's good for the Democrats, or the Republicans, or the Centrists. Various pundits are urging you to lean to the left, or to the right, or to the center. Nonsense, just lean on the preamble and let the Constitution be your guide.

Finally, Mr. President, since it is your duty and obligation to engage yourself in our national affairs, you must avail yourself of the Bully Pulpit. They say it comes with the territory. Please, please, use it. But first consider this: Redefine it from a preacher's pulpit to a teacher's lectern. In short, Sir: Teach, Don't Preach! Let the people learn, understand and know about issues, policies, measures and programs.

We, the people, are not disenchanted with Government. We're disenchanted with Bad Government. Only fools don't want the government to work. We need the government to solve our problems. And since you're the chief troubleshooter, if there is a problem:

- a. Identify it.
- b. Explain it.
- c. Fix it.
- d. Explain it all over again- especially why your fix is better than all the others.
- e. Then promote it.
- f. And finally deliver it.

In short, Sir, to borrow from the Scriptures: Let thy people Know and Deliver Them to the Promised Land.

Respectfully,

Vincent Di Pietro

Alma Kitchell, Radio-tv Pioneer

Mrs. Kitchell, the mother of former NBC director Jim Kitchell (who now lives in Atlanta) was a broadcast pioneer. She

got her first industry job at NBC's WJZ-radio in New York in 1927 as a singer and was known as the Golden Voice. She later sang with the NBC Blue network and the NBC Opera com-



Alma Kitchell - 1947

pany. In 1938 she created the first radio talk shows under titles like "Women's Exchange," interviewing guests like Eleanor Roosevelt, and "Alma Kitchell's Brief Case."

One day during World War II she sang on the radio while donating blood. In 1917 she sang for an experimental radio station set up at the base of the Statue of Liberty, and years later turned down an offer to sing with the Metropolitan Opera. In 1939, working on RCA's first experimental tv broadcasts she sang a part in the Pirates of Penzance - tv's first opera. Another first came in 1947 when she starred in the first commercial network tv series, and tv's first cooking show, "In the Kelvinator Kitchen." Mrs. Kitchell retired in 1949 and in 1965 she settled in Sarasota, Florida, where she died in November at age 103. (DG)



Sheldon Leonard, actor, director, producer died at his home. He was 89.

Sheldon went from playing movie tough guys to producing such television hits as "The Andy Griffith Show," "Gomer Pyle," and "The Danny Thomas Show" winning Emmy awards in 1957 and 1961 for directing. In 1985, he produced the comedy-

adventure "I Spy," which starred Bill Cosby.

One of his best remembered movie roles was the bartender who threw Jimmy Stewart out on his ear in the classic film "It's a Wonderful Life."

He was inducted into the television academy's Hall of Fame in recognition of his many achievements.



Jeffrey St. John, news man.

A print and broadcast journalist, St. John worked for the "Today" show in the late '60s. He later became a radio and tv talk show host for stations in New York, Washington and San Francisco. He won 2 Emmys. He also worked for the AP and the Voice of America, did "Spectrum" commentaries for CBS radio, wrote a syndicated column for Copley News Service, was a regular contributor to the Saturday Review and Barrons, and wrote 8 books, mostly on history topics. He also worked for the Stars and Stripes service newspaper during the Korean War.

St. John was 66 years old and died of cancer at his home in Randolph, Va. on January 3. (DG)



Tiny Tim (Herbert Khaury)

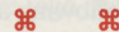
Aptly described in one obit as "The Wacky Warbler," Tiny Tim, all 6 foot one of him, reached his pinnacle when

he was married to his first love, "Miss Vicky," on the Johnny Carson show in



1963. Forty-million people tuned in and one power company said their lines were overloaded. He died in December in Minneapolis soon after singing his theme song, "Tip Toe Through the Tulips," and strumming his ukulele on a club date. He made a living on that one song for 3 decades, and by that time he also had 3 wives. Separately, of course.

Various obits pegged his age between 64 and 73. One of showbiz's weird acts, Tiny Tim once said, yes, audiences had thrown tomatoes at him. "But that was better than watermelons!" (DG)



Jim Karayn, producer

He was a news producer for NBC in the late 1960s, helped start the National Public Affairs Center for Television in 1971, produced the Watergate hearings in 1973 and the Jimmy Carter-Gerald Ford presidential campaign debates in 1976. Over a lifetime in broadcasting he also worked for PBS, WETA-Washington, WHYY, Philadelphia, and had his own production company, Projects in Democracy. Karayn won 7 Emmys, 2 Peabodys, and an Alfred I. Dupont award for his public affairs activities. He died in December at 64 of complications from diabetes. His home was in Washington. (DG)



Donald J. Mercer, tv executive.

Donald was the former vice president of affiliate relations for the NBC-TV Network. He died December 5 at his Summit, New Jersey home.

Donald retired in 1981 after 49 years with the company. His career began as an NBC page in 1933. He worked in guest relations until 1936 when he moved into the promotion department, and later into the transcription department where he sold NBC's recorded program and music service to

(Continued on next page.)

stations around the world.

Donald served in the army during World War II in the European Theatre with the 8th Division Field Artillery, attaining the rank of captain.

Back at NBC he moved into affiliate relations where, in the 1950s he helped build the nation-wide tv network. He was named a senior vice president in 1967.

⌘ ⌘

Cameramen

In a recent phone conversation, retired news cameraman Jerry Yarus brought us up to date on several of his colleagues. The following are deceased, no details: Doug Downs, Stu Ruby, Bob Donohue, and soundman Eddie Jones.

⌘ ⌘

Ann Teahan Lockhart, associate director, nurse.

Ann was married to NBC director/producer Ray Lockhart who died in 1993. During the 50s and 60s she was a production associate on many popular shows, including the Camel News Caravan, and a free-lance associate director through the 1970s.

In 1974 she received a nursing degree and worked as a cardiac care nurse and later as a psychiatric nurse. She died Oct. 26, 1996, in Toledo, Ohio. She was 67.

⌘ ⌘

Richard A.R. Pinkham, NBC television producer and advertising executive died Sunday, January 19, 1997 in Jupiter, Fla. He was 82.

Richard joined NBC in 1951 as manager of network planning and was appointed executive producer of the "Today" show in 1952. He also launched the "Home Show" with Arlene Francis and "Tonight Show" with Steve Allen. He served as vice president of network programming from 1956 to 1957.

He then joined Ted Bates & Co. where he rose to vice chairman before retiring in 1975.

⌘ ⌘

Eleanor Prescott, news producer.

Until her death, from a heart attack on February 9 at the age of 50, she was a producer at ABC News and had been at that network since 1979. Prior to joining ABC, she was a writer/producer for the "Today" show in Washington and had previously worked for NBC radio, the New York Post and Newsweek.

At the time of her death she was a senior producer on "Good Morning America Sunday." She is survived by her husband, Nicholas Garaufis, and two sons. (DG)

⌘ ⌘

Robert Lendenmann, Engineering.

Bob died January 20, 1997 at Clearwater, Florida. He was 70. He moved to Florida in 1985 after retiring from NBC, New York. He was a Navy veteran of World War II and a member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars. He is survived by his wife, Mary, two sons and two daughters.

⌘ ⌘

William Ryan, III newsman.

Born in Brooklyn, Bill served with the Marine Corps during World War II and got his start in broadcasting as an announcer for Armed Forces Radio. He joined NBC as a writer for the "Camel News Caravan," anchored by John Cameron Swayze, in 1951.

He was among the first to announce the death of John F. Kennedy. He stayed with the story for most of the next three days as the network broadcast around the clock.

During the Papal visit to Yankee Stadium in the mid-60's he told the radio listeners: "And the Cardinals are leaving the dugout."

In his 26 years with NBC he covered the civil rights movement, early space flights, and local NY news. Bill anchored the "Pressman-Ryan Report" with Gabe Pressman and network radio's "News of the World."

He died at his home in Point Marion, PA. He was 70.

⌘ ⌘

Carl Rohrer, Engineer.

Carl died February 20, 1997 after a long illness. Carl started his career at NBC in June of 1949 at the beginning of NBC's rapid expansion of the television network. Carl worked in a variety of departments, but spent most of his latter years in the Video Tape department.

Carl was an active member of Peacock North and The RCA NBC Retiree Alumni Club, New York Chapter.

⌘ ⌘

George Sozio, EJ Editor, died October 18, 1996, he was 66. George was an Emmy Award winning cameraman for NBC news. He covered the White House from 1962 to 1977, spanning six presidents, while working for the Huntley/Brinkley Report. His most recent work for NBC was as an EJ editor. From 1948 to 1952 he was a US Navy photographer. He is survived by three daughters and three sons.

⌘ ⌘

It is with heartfelt regrets that we report the passing of our friends and co-workers. The Peacock North staff and members extend to their families our heartfelt sympathy.



Robert W. Sarnoff, RCA Chairman.

The eldest son of the legendary Brig. General David Sarnoff, who, at first, shunned a career in the family business, died on February 22 after a 16 year battle against cancer. He was 78 years old. Following active Navy duty in the Pacific during World War II, Robert Sarnoff worked briefly at the Des Moines Register and Tribune, then Look Magazine, before joining NBC's sales department in 1948.

He held a variety of positions while being groomed for bigger things. He once worked as a floor manager at NBC's coverage of a hotel opening in Miami Beach. At one time he remarked that for a time he was the in-house expert on the "Howdy Doody Show."

In 1965 he assumed the presidency of RCA, then chief executive and finally, when the General retired, he became chairman.

"We are committed to color and intend to make the transition as fast as possible," Mr. Sarnoff said soon after taking the network helm. He dedicated the first all-color



television station, NBC's Chicago outlet, just four months after he became president of NBC.

Under his command RCA went into a variety of businesses that had nothing to do with its basic products: Hertz car rentals, Banquet Foods, Random House publishers, carpet weaving, etc. He chose to confront IBM by venturing into the computer field. By 1971 RCA gave up on that effort and wrote off \$490 million. Though he survived that debacle he was under siege and ultimately was forced to leave the company.

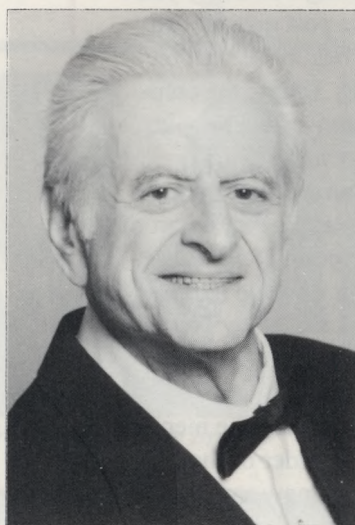
The younger Sarnoff also discarded the original corporate logo (the encircled initials RCA atop a lightning bolt), shortened the company name to its initials, and zapped Nipper, the terrier dog who listened to "His Master's Voice," and which GE has since resuscitated. The board of directors ousted him in 1975. Later, he became an investor in the movie studios in Astoria, Queens. Sarnoff is survived by his wife, opera diva Anna Moffo, and 2 brothers, Thomas and Edward. □

Arthur Kent, retired NABET president.

Arthur served as the very active president of the NABET NY local that represents many employees at NBC for 15 years until 1988. Cause of death was described as natural causes. He was 74 and died at Delray Beach, Florida.

He was tireless in his union efforts and equally so as a volunteer. He got his start in broadcasting during World War II when he trained to be a communications officer aboard liberty ships bound for Russia. But before he got to sea, he joined the Voice of America. After the war he worked successively for WLIB radio, did PR work for Abe Stark, the Brooklyn Borough president, and was a writer and editor for The Brooklyn Daily - and The Jewish Press.

Family connections actually eliminated him for a time from a job at NBC because his father was a cousin of David Sarnoff and the company had a nepotism policy. However, he did join NBC in 1953 as an audio engineer and in the "golden years" worked Milton Berle's "Texaco Star Theatre," "Your Show of Shows," and Jack Paar's "Tonight." In 1996 as president of the New York chapter



of the National Academy of Television Arts & Sciences, he presented Berle with a lifetime achievement award.

Arthur was a founding member of the local chapter in 1956. He served the TV Academy as an officer and governor, and was elected several times to represent the NY Chapter on the Board of Trustees of the National Academy.

He served on the Executive Board of the Central Labor Council of New York City, the Advisory Board of the Robert Wagner Labor Archives of NYU, was active in the reopening of the tv production center known as Astoria Studios, on the Governor's office for Motion Picture and

TV development and on the Mayor's Office for Film & TV.

He was a member of the Brownsville Boys Club, an organization of men who came from that section of Brooklyn and the TV and Radio Working Press Association.

Arthur is survived by his wife Jeannette, two sons, Stephen who works as a cameraman and Martin as a technician with ABC-TV, and a daughter, Susan Kent who is an New York City attorney. □

Veterans Honored at Service Anniversary by Dan Grabel

Employees who have worked for NBC for a quarter century, and others for having toiled for 40 years, were honored at the annual Service Award Reception at the 52nd floor executive suite on Thursday, November 7th. Twenty-nine men and women were honored for 25 years, and five for 40 years at the cocktail hour gathering which was attended by CEO Bob Wright and Employee Relations vice president Ed Scanlon. Editors who had begun their careers splicing and gluing 16mm film, and some earlier working with 35 mm film, reminisced about those days and compared them with the current magic performed in the electronic editing rooms where imagination and speed create visual masterpieces for every deadline. Likewise, personnel in engineering recalled the cumbersome cameras and daily innovations that got live shows on the air.

CEO Bob Wright welcomed the throng after they posed for their group photo, a ceremony dating back to the days when NBC honored veterans in an annual buffet dinner gathering in the grand ball room of the Plaza Hotel. Wright said "This is the best thing I do every year. So many historic events have happened here in the past quarter century. When you arrived, John Chancellor has just begun his turn on "Today," and "Huntley-Brinkley" was a new show. Today, the company is much the same. But, it is different, too. Many of the people, our strengths, and our objectives are the same. But we're bigger, more diversified, and facing greater challenges. I am proud of you."

Turning to the five 40-year veterans, Wright said they are part of our strength. Bob Caminiti, one of those who arrived in 1956, recalled some of the shows he has worked as director or stage manager: "Saturday Night Live," "Jack Paar," "What's My Line," "To Tell the Truth," and "The Doctors." At one time Caminiti worked on 60 shows a month.

Peacock North's CEO, Peter Peterson, congratulated the men and women and invited them to join PN. Wright, a reader of the newsletter, commented that it is always filled with happy, smiling faces, and reports on exciting travels by the retirees. □



The Class of 1997, and others.

❖ 40 Year Honorees ❖

Robert Caminiti Matthew Gowen
Peter Gilmore Audrey Gumo
Frank McCulloch



❖ 25 Year Honorees ❖



Carol Aerenson David Obel
Loretta Alden Arthur Parker
McKinley Branch BMelody Patterson
Michael Davi Juanita Pinckney-Garry
Delores Devaney Robert Reese
Patricia Donley Juanita Richardson
Martin Ellis Virginia Romagnola
Pauline Gibson Lilo Rowan
Hank Hamlette Charles Ryan
Joyce Hurley Garry Sausa
Patricia Lang Alan Statsky
Philip Lanz Joseph Thompson
Carol Martin Jim Unchester
Ernest Monah Slymon Walker
Craig White.



Lilo Rowan, Ed Scanlon, Joyce Hurley



Peg McKinley, Pete Peterson



Audrey Gumo, Loretta Olden

We Get Letters:

We got a note from Ed Newman telling us that he had run into some old NBC friends while attending the National Association of Television Program Executives (NATPE), in New Orleans. He was there in connection with a TV series he is doing, "Executive Forum," which is about American business and finance. It is nationally syndicated and is seen in New York on CBS. It began January 26, at 6:30 am, for you early birds.

He was greeted by old friend Fred Rheinstein, producer of many documentaries, Dave Solvan, floor manager for Meet the Press; Dennis Swanson, now head of Channel 4, who remembered working with him in 1968; Joan Voukides, who had once been his secretary; and Elizabeth Davis, who we know is married to Robert (RWD), lighting director on many of Ed's shows.

It happened that his booth was across the aisle from NBC's large area and he met Warren Littlefield. Also Dan Aykroyd, who was there with another company.

He continued with a bit of reminiscing:—

When I was NBC's Paris correspondent, one of the network's executives, Robert Sarnoff as I recall, made a tour of the foreign bureaus, which were, by the way, much more numerous in those days. Bob said that he would like to go to a restaurant that was truly French, one, if possible, that was not patronized by tourists.

A Paris restaurant without tourists even in those days, the late 1950's, seemed inconceivable, but I did my best and chose L'Escargot d'Or, the Golden Snail, in the city's market district, Les Halles.

All went well, and we were nearing the end of the meal, when a man got up from a table near ours and came over. "Say," said he to me, aren't you Mel Allen?"

Bob Sarnoff also had a question of sorts: "I thought you were taking me to a restaurant without tourists?"

Ah, the hard life of a foreign correspondent.



Another somewhat deflating experience:

I was in Algiers during the uprising against France, and was trying to cover a meeting there of representatives of both sides. A gendarme on duty would not let me in.

I protested, pointing out that I was a journalist: Mais je suis journaliste."

The gendarme was, to put it mildly, not impressed.

"Oui, monsieur, he said, et moi, je suis policier."

Translation: "Yes, sir, and I am a policeman." He added:

"Prenez la porte," meaning "Take the door. Get out."

I accepted his suggestion.



Another tale, more comforting to me:

Some years ago, I had occasion to interview Paul Newman. As we chatted, I told him that I was sometimes referred to as Paul Newman. "Don't worry about it," he replied. "For seven years, I was known as Marlon Brando."



Other Honorees and friends.



Slyman Walker, Bob Wright, McKinley Branch.



*Carol Aerenson, Frank Accarrino,
Juanita Pinckney-Gary.*



Cathy Field, Phil Lanz.



Pauline Gibson, Dennis Swanson.



Bob Wright, John Hanson, Dan Gabel.



by : Heino Ripp



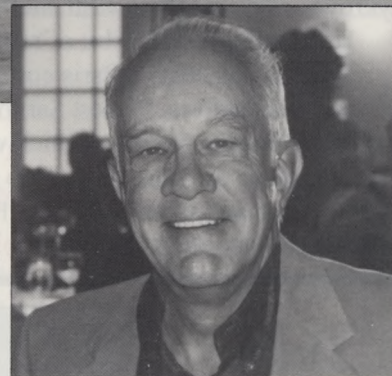
Tuttle Flies His Plane

Many have asked, "Tuttle building a plane? Had to cut a hole so he could get it out of the basement? Has he ever flown a plane? What's an ultralight? But there was no engine in the picture!" Those were a few of the remarks I heard. Well — first Pat and Rog sold their "Ranch" in NJ, then they returned to their real home in Wilmington, NC. Once settled in they made it through a few hurricanes, he installed the engine, checked it out, the only thing left was to get it into the air. One of his fellow pilots in NC, who had lots of experience in ultralights ran up and down the runway with Rog. All felt good, everything reacted OK. Roger also did high speed runs etc. His pal took it up first, then touched up a few trim tabs and cables and drove it around the airport again. Rog then was left alone and up he went. Congrats!

AND WE HAVE LIFTOFF!



Roger Tuttle, Pioneer Light
Aircraft Builder and
Ex Announcer



DICK WILLIAMS writes from Sequim, Washington State. You all probably have seen the photos of what's happening up here weatherwise. For him winter started with a nine inch snowfall. Then at night 14 inches more fell, followed by two days of rain. Carports, awnings, trees fell, disaster everywhere. Finally managed to move around a bit to remove 20 inches of heavy wet roof snow. That was "only the beginning" of his winter.

The Sequim Elk herd came into town as usual. Fifty noisy, beautiful but dangerous sight, says Dick, all munching away in the fields....During the summer, there always were 8 deer in his back yard. Now they have only six - hunters thinned out two.

Health and dental problems kept their RV trips down to a 10 day excursion to Vancouver, BC, which they thoroughly enjoyed and highly recommend.

Even now, almost February, as I tickle the keyboard, the weather station's maps show constant barrages of wintry rain or snow dripping by Washington State.

Stay warm Dick, hang in there; the sun, here anyway, is rising earlier and setting later. Some of us can even feel

the earth speeding in its orbital path toward the summer solstice. I am going out to tie down the boat lest the speed yanks it away. For those who may want to write Dick, he's at: 10 Erics Way, Sequim, Wa. 98382-5241.

Speaking about sport **BARBARA CLINE** thanks the Good Lord from Wilmington, NC, that they had a good year. **DICK** has been working for NBC Sports as well as on tennis with **MICHAEL WEISMAN** (former NBC Sports Exec Producer). They were both at the Olympics - Dick for NBC and Barbara for A.C.O.G. They wish all a healthy and Happy 1997! (All right! I can hear it already - What's A.C.O.G.?)

OLGA AND BILL MCCORD send greetings and apologize for not writing individual notes to all of you, but hope you'll make like this pertains *only* to you. "You may be sure that you are always in our thoughts, warm ones, every day of the year. That's not stretching it either as our relationships have continued throughout most of our lifetimes !!!"

We don't live exciting lives but find contentment in

all we do — such as Olga playing championship Lawn Bowling, while I cheer her on since my leg and eye problems prohibit my physical participation.

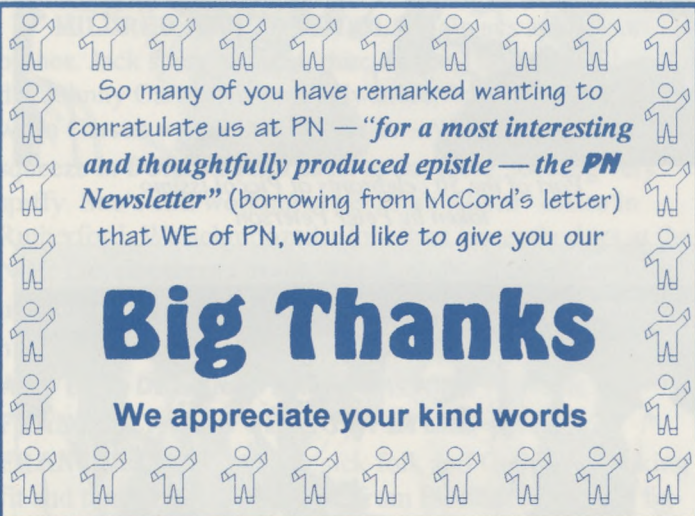
Olga did get me out of my nest to accompany her to her native Panama for a happy visit to her elderly father and dozens of other relatives from one country to another.

In addition to their warm friendship, I particularly enjoyed journeying from the heat and heavy rain in the sea-level of Panama City to the northwesterly border with Costa Rica and the 4 to 5,000 foot elevation of an ancient volcano where we needed blanket cover at night.

Returning to the USA through Houston Int'l Airport, a wonderful wheel chair fellow whizzed us through all the more than hour trip through customs and all necessary legalities, while reciting great stories, avoiding the crowds much faster than following thru the crowds on foot. A recommended *modus operandi*.

Hope you all are in excellent health - or at least mobile.

Again our best to each of you at Peacock North and old friends and readers from, - - *Olga and Bill McCord*



So many of you have remarked wanting to congratulate us at PN — “for a most interesting and thoughtfully produced epistle — the **PN Newsletter**” (borrowing from McCord’s letter) that WE of PN, would like to give you our

Big Thanks

We appreciate your kind words

WALTER BALDERSON writes on Rosy-Pink stationery from Clearwater, Florida that he awaits every new issue (of PN). “Baldy” in his 14th year of retirement, says he never thought he’d last this long. His secret? Plays tennis every morning, bridge four afternoons a week and plays with the computer at nights. So folks run out and get a racket, a computer and a deck of cards and you’ll live till 100! Also he says, sorry, no TV.

In his spare time, Baldy escorts motorcoach tours in various parts of the country. He asks, “How’s that for 14 years of Balderson info in a capsule?” Baldy visited New York prior to the Olympics, peeked in at his old haunts and was impressed at all the construction going on. (*Hey Baldy, do you speak Swedish or Norwegian, ‘cause “American Scandinavian Travel” could use a good tour guide once in a while.*)

RAY WEISS writes along with his dues, “Keep the

news flowing - it’s always great to read the latest news about “old” friends. Regards to you all.”

JOAN GIFFORD writes on Fleming Capitol Management stationery, hoping you all had a wonderful Holiday and best wishes for the New Year, and is looking forward to LaMaganette; and we’re looking forward to seeing Joan and maybe this year, seeing some of you that haven’t been able to get to the Big Apple. Make this year special and attend, and say hello to Joan. Maybe even get a hug!

ALOHA from **JON BURKHART**, from his home in Maui. (Yup Hawaii) Says he missed me in Atlanta. John was the TD at Centennial Park. Says he had a few *very interesting moments*. (In case you forgot, that’s where a concert was going on and someone decided there wasn’t enough fireworks and let go with a knapsack full of explosives.... Jon wishes everyone warmest wishes for the new year, seems as tho in Hawaii there is no shortage of warmth.

HAROLD MCDERMOTT (formerly with Electronic Mtce.) Hal delights in having a new grandson in 1996. Hal has come through radical surgery and many radiation treatments of his lungs. As of now, he says, I am “*Mahvelous*,” not as good as before, but almost. Is looking forward to some spring golf and lettuce planting. “Julie, thank God, is great!”.. (*Best wishes Hal*)

EV SHOEMAKER thanks PN for including **Marion Stephenson** in *Silent Mikes*. “Those of us in Radio were very proud of her. There were other VP’s later, but she was the first one who really *earned* the honor.”

In our last issue we had an article about **MURIEL AND JOHN MACPHERSON’S** trip to Bonnie Scotland. Here they are at a panoramic vista of Badenoch, Scotland.



“It seemed to combine poetry and music, romance, legend and history,” Muriel writes. (*“Golly be here,” poetry, music, romance, legend and history - imagine, all in one place ! I’m booking my flight tomorrow.*) Now close **your** eyes and tell me if you see all of that! But wait ! She’s looking at you-all, not the background ! (*Ba Rump Bump..*) (*I am again reprimanded, for Muriel corrects me in that Estelle was the*

(Continued on next page.)

first TODAY weather girl, not her.) The TODAY charter members had a great reunion going to the theater to see **Estelle Parsons** in her play followed by a marvellous gourmet dinner together afterwards.

CY AVNET (Cinematographer, at NBC for 34 years). He started shooting news film for the John Cameron Swazye "Camel News Caravan," then Huntley Brinkley, Nightly News, News4 and documentaries for Project 20 - (including the World Series.) Cy first heard of PN from **Ed Gender** at a picnic at a farm in New City given by the Sheriffs Dept of Rockland County in September last year.

Ed gave Cy a copy of the summer '96 issue. After reading it, Cy was hooked. Seeing the names of many of his former co-workers brought back many memories. (As Bob Dole used to say, "That's what it's all about!" Welcome to the group Cy. Come to the La Maganette bash on June 8 and see many of them in person! - H.)



A good many of the NBC colleagues had/have many different avocations. There were Naval jet pilots, like Admiral **Sig Bajak**, **Hank Folkerts**, a seaplane pilot; **Don Pike**, musician; **Steve Madrick** (audio on TODAY SHOW) was in the reed (sax) section of the Les Brown Orchestra; **Bob Hanna**, a lawyer and so on. This leads us to **ED PORES** from "Audio-Video." Ed left NBC in 1960 to become Engineering manager of Radio Receptor, a division of General Instrument Corp. After a stint as a partner in an electronic manufacturers rep company, he retired in 1992.

Ed and his wife **Anne**, went back to their first love for intellectuality — Archaeology. (Say that fast Don Pardo). Last year Ed researched and produced a 42 minute video tape entitled "Origins of Music and Musical Instruments".

Having been the past president of the Archaeological Institute of America, Long Island Society, led him to China, India, Tunisia, parts of Europe and this year they visited Vietnam and Cambodia.

Last fall Ed presented a slide lecture on exotic, culturally rich Vietnam and Cambodia with sites ranging from prehistoric 10,000 B.C. to modern times. Attendees were treated to a visit to the History Museum of Hanoi, the ancient city of Hue, the Da Nang Museum, Marble Mountain, the teeming metropolis of Ho Chi Min City, including a recording of a Cao Dai Mass.

The journey to Cambodia began with Phnom Penh, once considered the loveliest city of French Indochina and then on to the Royal Palace's Silver Pagoda. The highlight of the entire visit was to the temple complex of Angkor Wat, considered one of the world's greatest architectural gems, which covers *fifty square miles*, a glorious monument in the jungle!

In late December they met here with **Dick and Gladys Seftl**, **Milt and Norma Pomerantz** and **Frank**

Zoeller. (Frank now lives in California) (So you see, people aren't always what you see. Who would have thunk that Arne Proner was an electronic genius? H.)

ROBERT NEWMAN says "Amen" to Peter's PN message that these days Rudeness is "in." Not knocking all youth, but many of the younger generation has no concept of "civility." Bob also Amen's Pete's recommendation of Las Vegas. He and his Mrs., **Vivien**, celebrated their anniversary there, loving it, saying the production values and professionalism are all super. (Gene Martin and his Ms. trekked to Las V as well recently, visiting his son who lives there and works at the Casinos. Gene seemed quite impressed by the good sized copy of New York City. So, three votes for "Las V.")



Part of the 50 celebrants at PiccoLissimo
taken by Peter Peterson



Well, the party's over and Pete grabbed another shot before they all ran off. Ros Bigelow frames the left and Nick Ponella frames the right. Vas you dere Sharley?

Obviously anxious for a **PiccoLissimo** get together, fifty PNers turned up crowding the very sunny glassed in dining room....**MICHAEL AND MADALYN GILLIGAN** had put away their skis and arrived from Lyme, New Hampshire....**LEE PLISKIN'S** Doc said he was doing fine as long as he maintains his diet and his wife **IRENE** was improving after her harrowing Medivac flight and brain operation..... **FREDDY WAGNER**, walking quite well with his

new knees came along with **BOB HIGGINS**, both still "hamming" it on amateur radio.....**NICK PONELLA** quite happy to be able to sleep during normal sleeping hours after years of having to be in for his gig in 5E for the TODAY show all those years. Now enjoying retirement and their first grandchild.....**MARIE AND FRANK DERIENZO** joined the group. Frank still can't put down his trumpet and his love for music has now blossomed forth in his son, who has changed it to a career. He's now the lead trumpet at the Paper Mill Playhouse in Millburn, New Jersey. Frank says his son plays better than he!... **ROS BIGELOW**, who donated those pictures of PNers from the 50's and 60's arrived looking quite well with camera in hand, very proud of his oldest daughter who has been with Northwest Airlines 14 years, promoted now to Captain. She had been piloting 747's as First Officer and now is Captain on DC-10's. Now get this — she is stationed in Hawaii and flies to the Far East. In January, the Bigelows vacationed in Kona, on the Big Island where the Captain bought a home. Last June the Bigelows celebrated their 56th anniversary at their other daughter's ranch in Steamboat Springs.

MILDRED AND JACK DOLAN always attend our bashes. Jack spent as much time on the TONIGHT Show as did Johnny Carson — probably more, 'cause he was there when Carson was on his Holidays..... We managed to squeeze in **DORIS PARYLAK** at our table, looking very spiffy. She's still working at her "Fire Alarm" office in Rutherford. We schmoozed a lot about her early days at the NBC Development Group, where much of television was invented.....**FRANK VIERLING** took a few minutes out of his care-giving to drop by and say hello.....**DOROTHEA AND BILL DELANNOY** never miss the PN events.....**FRANCESCA AND GEORGE PETERS** were there. **FRANCESCA** still helping sick folk and George is looking fit and thinner, back and forth from Florida. Francesca figures, with all the brain power in this organization, PN should have a "great cause" to sponsor or endorse. She is nominating "The Alliance for the Mentally Ill of B.C." We need parity for medical bills. A young man of 20 had a lifetime cap of \$15,000 already used up. "Think about it Please...."

NANCY AND JERRY CUDLIPP managed to stay home for a while after their world wide visits. Most recently returned from Greece, Israel and Istanbul in August. Presently Holly and Danielle (daughter and grand daughter) staying with pop and mom while they're in the middle of moving from Lake Tahoe to Louisville, Kentucky. Nancy and Jerry both must have found the fountain of youth, for they "looked mahvelus." Bet they have been taking DHEA these days. ("Oh daddy, I know what DHEA is ! It's a newly FDA released mother of all glands that is rejuvenating everybody" - Dont you wish you knew, as a kid, what the

kids of today already know?).... **HELLE AND IVAR NOORMAE** trekked in from Long Island representing the Estonian contingent. They're still doing their marketing biz, and looking good. He remembers more Estonian than I do, but then *I wuz borned here*. I often wonder how did I ever manage in grammar school when Estonian *only* was spoken in our house since birth ?**BERNIE JACOBS**, who left NBC to work at CBS, currently with CBS Evening News. Son Alan's a film director, having recently completed "Nina Takes A Lover," released on video in October. Brian the other son is a doctoral candidate at Cornell...

NANCY AND TONY NELLE always show up looking great. (*Muchisimas gracias senor para todo. H*)

Picco has changed management but the food was great and the service was quite well handled despite the number of folk who filled the dining room. We'll keep you posted for the next mini lunch.

STEWART MACGREGORY writes reminicing about the fun times we had during his tenure. He laughed out loud at seeing Ed Hugh's and Perry Cross's pix. "Who can forget those after-the-show dinners or "cast parties" we used to have after the Como Road shows all over the USA?" asks he. Stewart hasn't quite finished reading the last issue cause he's been busy setting up Christmas services, plus one funeral and one wedding. Hopes 1997 brings all sorts of good things to each and all. (*Mr. Mac will reach his 80th birthday on Oct 6th this year!*)

PERRY MASSEY wanted to go West and **PAM** wanted to go East. So both went west to Hawaii and east to Scotland. Below, at the Akaki Falls in Hawaii. We find that sometimes they actually stayed home.... We have all heard of "It's a small world." Well the Massey's attended a musical concert in Thousand Oaks. Guess who conducted? **Shelly Cohen**, who used to be the assistant Musical Direc-

(Continued on next page)



Pam & Perry at the
Edinburgh Castle
We don't dare to show
you his kilt! —
or lack of.



Here they are
in Hawaii.

tor on the TONIGHT Show for 30 some years. He has formed the "Pacific Pops" and produced and conducted this concert. His credits would remind you of many musical events you have seen or heard. Cohen, a west coast Skitch Henderson, I guess.

JIM SMART writes from half way down South: "Mae and I are doing just fine - getting older with new aches and pains every day." Jim includes his internet address. **JAY SMART@INFOAVE.NET**. Suggests to Pete we publish E-Mail addresses of our members.

My old buddy **ORLANDO TAMBURRI** sends regards, also his E-mail address **OTAMBO@JUNO.COM**. (*Miss you Tambi, H.*)

BILL MILLER sends greetings from Florida. His E-mail address is **KK2L@SUNLINE.NET**.

Also from here in Jersey, **DON LUFTIG** sends us his E-mail address - **DON72827@AOL.COM**.

ANDY HAMMERSCHMIDT send his E-mail address as **74444.2422@Compuserve.com**.

REMEMBER this fellow, former Unit Manager, lastly from Washington D.C.? Well here's **JOHNNY!**

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FRED MCKINNON, Lighting Director formerly from Staten Island says: "I'm finally planning to retire. Hope to get to some of the Peacock functions this year and looking forward to see one and all!"

ANN KRAMER is "still basking in the glow of the wonderful fellowships I found at the LaMaganette luncheon. Thanks to all who made it possible - with a special bow to **Marie Finnegan** for rounding up all of us "TODAY Originals". (*I'm glad the "make-goods" of Ann Kramer on each page of our last issue made up for my previous omission. H.*)

DICK DOHERTY was impressed at the PN reunion last year, and hopes to go for it again this year.

JOEL SPECTOR still at NBC but has moved to a more creative area I hear.

TED NATHANSON: "The magazine gets better each edition."

ANDY HAMMERSCHMIDT writes, "....looking through this year's calendar reveals more doctors' appointments than anything else, actually it was a good year, much better than the calendar seems to indicate." They are mov-

ing to Tryon Estates early this year to a life-care facility in Columbus, North Carolina sometime in March. They had decided to move in 1995. Downsizing. Andy feels it will be difficult mentally and physically since the new apartment will be less than half their present living area. One reason for moving was that Andy failed a stress test in May, due to a severe blockage, which was corrected by angioplasty.

This year's big event was the celebration of their 60th Wedding Anniversary, Nov. 28th, and were "Royally" entertained by their children, grandchildren, and great grandchildren by giving them a Thanksgiving feast.

The Hammerschmidt's new address will be 621 Laurel Lake Drive b 204, Columbus, NC 28772 .

(I will always be grateful to you, Andy, for putting up with and nurturing a young kid, just out of High School, and so patiently giving me an education, with the others in the Development Group, that I could never have bought for any amount of money, anywhere in the world! I don't know that I've ever said Thank You, but allow me to say it now. H.)

CAROL AERENSON sends her first check to become a member of Peacock North. Her 25th Anniversary with NBC fell on Jan 96, and can't wait to attend PN functions. (*We're happy also that you joined us, Carol.*)

"Thanks to good friends **Mary and Manny Sternfeld** introducing us to PN with the fall 1996 edition of the Newsletter," **HERBERT BROTZ** writes from Coral Springs, Fla., "I became a new member. Herb was employed at NBC from 1952 to 1987. He worked primarily in Radio Finance, after starting with Ted Zaer in the O & O Stations Division. (*Welcome to the group Herb!*)

AL FINELLI writes from St. Augustine, FL that he's doing fine now and back to playing golf three times a week, after having a heart attack and by-pass surgery last February. Still looks forward to read about the people and places of his past in the newsletter.

BOB BATSCHE will be getting his 30 year watch next year. He's working at 30 Rock, doing video in 8G for the Rosie O'Donnell Show. Times sure have changed, for he's working 5 days a week on a hit show which isn't carried on most NBC stations, but seen on WABC - TV in NY. The studio was leased to WAD Productions, (Time Warner). They use two hard Sony CCD cameras, two hand held and one mounted on a "jib." Camera persons are non-union as are most of the audio crew. Only 6 or so staff members work the show.

HELLO to WALT WERNER AND SOPHIE who look forward to each PN issue, so he sent in his dues!

WALTER HIMMELBERG writes: "We'll be leaving Texas at the end of June to our house in Colorado. The winter here was just as cold as it was in Colorado. Midland is a beautiful city, but the outlying scenery is for the birds, flat and I mean flat, no trees, only oil wells, no lakes or

rivers within a hundred miles — so we'll be staying in Colorado from now on. My regards to everyone in Peacock North.

EARLIER I spoke of what people do outside of the work place. Right here we have a talented engineer who



Frank Vierling at Oradell's RR Station.

Record Photo by KLAUS-Porter Steitz

now is retired but keeps busy. He is the Town Historian. Last year he wrote The History of Oradell, NJ. Later he presented a proposition to the state for funds to refurbish his town's historic Railroad Station, which has been granted. This man is our publisher, **FRANK VIERLING**.

CATHY YUKOVICH was "grounded" with the flu since the Holidays. A very sick cookie sez she! However, she's on the mend and is looking forward to see the gang at the luncheon, June 8th.

ED WACKERNAGLE doesn't like to admit it, but me, the blabbermouth, is going to tell everyone. Ed is 82 years old.... (Bless you, Ed!) He's selling his house in Beaumont Calif. and moving to Missoula, Montana to be near family. ED suffers from emphysema, but feels fine. (Ed is often on the NBC Ham net, so hope that he'll be able to get on the air from Montana. Call letters are WGTWZ. Stay Warm!)

GENE FRISCH sends regards from Virginia! He is enjoying a quieter life in Virginny on his 53 acre farm of rolling grazing land with his neighbors cattle munching away. (Boy am I jealous!) Hopes to be able to make the next LaMag bash.

JESSE CRIFE, (Supr Tech Supe) writes a tiny note. Says, "PN reminds me of wonderful people and great days." (Takes one to know one Jess!)

YOU-ALL have to get to La Mag folks, 'cause **MARVIN EINHORN** hopes to be there this year!

NOEL ENGLER may be joining Peacock South next year. (Guess that means he's tired of the cold and snow! or it was something we said?)

LEE SAMBATARO has moved. "Moving and discard-

ing 42 years of "stuff" is mentally and physically trying. However despite all, she is happy with her new location by Greenwood Lake. (Sam Sambataro, her husband, you'll remember, started our first newsletter about 10 years ago all by himself.)

SID DAVIDSON sends greetings from Aurora, Colorado. Sid spent a few years as Quality Control Manager of the new Denver International Airport. He worked at NBC Engineering.

WINTER is the outdoor season for **DAN AND PAT GRABEL**, devotees of snow dancing with their short Gauer Snow Blades, a product by the way, invented by a New Jerseyan — a state not exactly a hot bed of skiing (except last year with our 18 super snow falls).

Their ski trips took or will take them from New Jersey (Vernon Valley) in the south (of N.J.) to Mount Tremblant in the Laurentians in the north, with additional visits to areas in Massachusetts and Vermont this season.

The Grabels have skied at almost every major winter resort in North America and even one way south of the border at Lenas, Argentina. (They went there one August, when it was winter, of course, in the southern hemisphere.) "Research, research," says Dan, who is a member of the North American Ski Journalists Association, and the writer of a weekly ski column for the Scarsdale, New York Inquirer.

DOMENICK BELEZZA asks for more pictures in the Newsletter. He was in the hospital from mid October to February 1st with head shunt, heart attack and lung problem. (Dom we hope that this year brings you better times and we'll try for some more pictures. Whoever has a photo that might be interesting for others to see, please send them to me. H.)

At PiccoLissimo **CARMINE & LUCY ROCCO** revealed they are looking forward to their son Carmine and daughter in law Cindy's adoption of their first grandson, born mid December. Next, Carmine and Lucy are off to Jamaica and Italy. They enjoy these retiree meetings very much and hope they will always continue.

AT Picco, VERA AND BILL AHL are getting ready for a Florida vacation. They *also* are enjoying their first grandchild.

AAVO KÖIV had visited his buddy **Richard Knapp** in Aspen, Colorado recently. Knapp just recently became General Manager of Aspen's Channel 16 TV station and he's very happy living and working there. Also sends regards to all.

I had some fun with with **MILT WYATT'S** letter. (See PN's previous issue.) I expected a non complimentary reply. Instead he wrote: Dear H. Not only are you pardoned for "toying" with my letter, I should send you a case of Chateau Neuf de Pape.

You made a very pedestrian letter sound funny and imaginative. *(You sure are a gentleman, Milt. H.)*

HOWIE STRAWBRIDGE (Lighting Director) tells of renovations going on in studio 2. A two story set, hospital, police station, restaurant and street. *(Looks like Brooklyn is going back to being a "back lot." Hollywood, Look out.)*

PN's article last issue re: William Howard's "History of Engineering" brought back fond memories to **ROSE-MARY DUBOIS** of her long time spent as secretary in that great department.

DON PIKE writes from Bushnell, Fla. where they'll be until mid April, then back to Pittsboro, NC. Says he is always interested in photos of "yester-year" operations and people he knows.

Don said he had phoned Freddy Favant a couple of times and a "voice" answered and said that they'd pass along the call to him, but he's never heard from Fred. Don wonders if Freddy is OK. - Anyone know?

Don and wife Bunny also plan to go to Arizona for a couple of weeks. *(Enjoy the sunshine !)*

HORACE RUIZ sends his regards. *(Horace, have you heard from Jack Durkin lately? I phoned his Penna home a while ago and heard that his number has been disconnected. H.)*

Heard from **BILL (W.F.) KELLY** with his dues payment. Wishes all Love, Peace and Joy. *(I'll take it, I'll take it. H.)*

MARTY HOADE sends a quick wish.

*For a fullfilled New Year
for You and Yours,
with respect,
Martin*

Deacon **JIM BLANEY** from Palm Harbor, Fl. believes the fellow working the mike boom on the rear PN cover fall issue is Joe Kane. *(Boy, he looks a lot like John Kenny to me. H.)*

If I read it right, friends of **MARY SUE JOHNSON** take note: Mary Sue is moving to Colorado Springs. 885 Pulpit Rock Circle S. Colorado Springs, CO 80918 - Tel 719-536-9814. Mary Sue was in News, TVS and WNBC from 1964 til 1994. ALSO Sue sends her **E-mail address: MSJRVH@aol.com.**

ENID ROTH keeps going and going. She must have a good supply of copper top batteries. This time it was to the Galapagos.

GLORIA RAWLUK writes she is taking care of Nick and that he is slowly declining with A.L.S..

JACK KEEGAN notes that he had another operation in November on his left carotid artery. Is doing fine now. Is

looking forward to La Mag in the spring.

DIANE AND BOB JUNCOSA also vote for "old timer" photos. Here's two that are **not** so old. Here they are in China this time.

"Our China trip started with 3 days in BEIJING visiting the Forbidden City, The Summer Palace, Tianamen Square and the Great Wall. There was a lot more seen, too much to describe here. Beijing is listing 13 million people with 8 million bicycles and I was amazed at the flow of traffic considering these statistics. For what it may mean, there were fewer traffic lights than we are accustomed to and it looks like that is a major factor in making life manageable in big cities!

The next stop was in XIAN where the highlight is the excavation of the thousands of life-size terra cotta soldiers to protect the Emperor. It was an awesome sight to gaze on the vastness of these excavations and what they represented. *(You may remember seeing great photos of these some time ago in LIFE magazine. H.)*

In CHONQUIN, the capitol of China during WWII, we boarded a cruise ship to sail down the Yangtze River through the three gorges. A very scenic trip but more meaningful was the view of the area that will be flooded starting in the year 2002 to become a huge dam providing hydro electric power for central China. This is an enormous national issue weighing several economic factors against the ecological and social displacement of some cities, a subject of intense debate.

In SHANGHAI we got a taste of the local arts and the unbelievable Chinese Acrobats. Just after WWII, I spent some time in Shanghai and other cities on the coast and I could not believe the modernization that has taken place and is still in progress. It appears that through the technique of "Joint Ventures" the Chinese have imported the capital and know how to rebuild cities and industries, NBC never billeted us in the class of hotels we enjoyed on this trip!

My photos are a collection of historical monuments,



Bob Juncosa at the "GREAT WALL."

pagodas, and magnificent hotels. All breakfasts and most dinners were western style of excellent quality. All lunches were Chinese style and partly because of our novel way of use of chop sticks, I soon lost favor in lunch.

Touring of the many pagodas and temples was a little more physical than expected, mostly since these attractions were built up on hills for the view and prestige that they acquired, but visiting the foundations of the Chinese culture was worth the effort.

Our last major stop in **GUILIN** featured a cruise on the Li River for a view of some remarkable countryside scenery, a major touring attraction of China.

From China it was on to the nonexistent bargain hunting in **HONG KONG**. It is still a very interesting City, especially in view of its uncertain future, complicated by the death of Deng Xiaoping.

In the interest of brevity, I cannot describe the many other facets of this tour, but I rate this trip the most interesting and memorable of our recent excursions.

My basic impressions are that China has come a long way, much more than I imagined. China's number one problem is people density, and I was impressed with their philosophies and techniques in dealing with this subject.

Wish I could include the videos.

Bob & Diane

GENE MARTIN had his usual Superbowl party.

Ernie de Rosa, made up the slips which indicated who were the winners. **Frank+Norma Gaeta** came in from Long Island, **Phil Hymes+Ginny** in from up North, leaving the doggies with a baby sitter, **John Russo** OK after a bout with something that sent his temp up to over 100.

Bob Van Ry was there. He's got a great schedule. First he's retired. 2nd he works SNL for a few days, then spends the rest of his time shuttling between Fla. and his NJ estate. **Tim deKime** gave us all the dirt from the Atlanta Olympics, and **Cory Leible** showed up to make it a merry reunion. **Jenny** served up quite a meal for before the game. The wives **Norma, Ginny, Mary Lou de Rosa, Ro Russo** and **Christina R.** helped fill the blanks during the time outs when Phil gave them a space to be heard. Great time and even the game was better than previous Superbowls.

To: **IRVING MESSING**. Many thanks Irv for the picture of Frank at his RR Station in Oradell. Irv says everything is OK there. He talked to Foxy last week and Mahlon says everything is OK there also. Maybe Foxy would like to come to the La Maganette Bash? We'll have to get the recruiting committee going. Hello to Dolly.

GENE MARTIN AND JENNY are off to St. Augustine, Florida to visit the Smileys and Bob Van Ry. Hopes to get in a bit of golf and feel the warmth of FL, long time

missing up here. Jenny's leaving her computer at home. She just returned from Hong Kong and Beijing. Too bad Deng Xiaoping couldn't wait to have their sked meeting.

IRV EHRlich decided to join PN and reminisces a bit to Pete in this letter:

Dear Peter,

I remember when you joined our crew on the Hit Parade and Mel Hensch and Jerry Weiss joined us from Cleveland (1951 I believe). You and Mel were the boom men. Jerry did his first camera job and I had to help him set up and do test pattern; I know, I know, the blind leading the blind. Jerry is a nice man - transferred to Calif. and became a T.D.

Since I retired 16 years ago, I've gone back to my real love, sports. I was first baseman and clean up hitter on a softball team for 7 years until I hurt my ankle and couldn't run. I played racket ball for 12 years until thinking I was still 20, dove for a low ball and injured my hip. Finally took up the "Old Man's game", golf.

I was lucky to get a hole in one at Gary Players Jacaranda Club in Plantation and recently had another here at Pompano Beach at a par 3 hole - over 170 yards, with the tee set back. (Used a 5 wood.)

I still swim laps and work out in our gym, bike, treadmill, universal etc. also work the speed punching bag! I also have my own little viewing room with a big Mitsubishi and a Zenith. On a busy Sunday, I watch my favorites - Boxing, football and golf all at the same time!

Do you know Mahlon Fox and I swam his pool five times underwater during one visit.

Please give my best regards to Rippy, Gene Martin and my old boss and friend Lois Marino and all the guys.

Sincerely, Irv Ehrlich

(So, now you all know about Irv's past 16 years.)

HERB POLAK sent a 3 page epistle in small type last fall. Herb was one of the gentlemen who actually answered my peacock postcard cry for material, since I had not spread out any "yellow" sheets at La Mag for you all to give me notes on "This is my Life." (Out of 150 cards sent out, there were 20 responses.)

Things had been relatively quiet at Lake Wobegon, says Herb. (I know who he's been listening to.) No trip to Holland nor PT Boat reunion. Still there were family events which brought him to Advance, NC (a town near Winston-Salem. Why does a town have to have two names?). Also to daughter Juliette's place in Brunswick, ME where they

(Continued on next page)

admired her house extension that turned out to be 1.5 times the original. Pop says it was quite impressive. *(Something for a father to admit to.)* But since they were in Maine, they had to attend the Maine Festival, which is one of Herb's favorite pastimes. No wonder, 'cause there's lots of music, stage performances, dancing, exotic foods, arts, and tarts, and crafts from the region — but best of all, a very pleasant crowd. Herb likes to people watch. *(Have you ever watched him at La Mag?)*

Meanwhile back in Mineola, Mary still sings with the Long Island Choral Society. Luckily they have the Garden City Cathedral as a place to give concerts. Mary seems quite busy so I bet Herb winds up making his own dinners once in a while.

When Herb returned from his previous PT Boat reunion, he went to Radio Shack and bought a small Two Meter hand held transceiver. Since he didn't have a license, he could only receive legally but not transmit. During his listening, he was quite impressed by being able to hear a fellow in Chicago talking to a fellow from Massachussets via Amateur Satellite.

(Many "Hams" started their interest in this hobby by getting a thing called a crystal with a cats whisker, a pair of earphones, a piece of wire strung up wherever you could put it. With this you could actually receive stations. Ya Ha! We all did it.)

Needless to say he checked out all the Amateur radio clubs in the area, and soon he passed the test giving him the privilege of talking on certain bands. Amateur radio moguls have made quite sophisticated equipment available for amateurs. Repeater stations on high places could let you talk to someone 70 miles away. Well, he was on his way.

Then there is something called "Field Day." On this day anyone that could assemble some portable gear and go to some location as an emergency condition rehearsal and in 24 hours the one who makes the most contacts etc. gets an award. Wife Mary had bought a Saturn, and they have an Open House in Spring Hill, TN, so, they zipped down to Tenn. Herb had arrangements with the local radio club and pow!, he was on the air on Field Day in Tennessee.

The amateur radio bug had really bitten Herb. Soon newer licenses with more privileges, better equipment, more exciting contacts from diverse places, having your own QSL card you exchange with other Hams, interesting people, some they meet and a bond is made, all from buying this little hand held walkie-talkie from Radio Shack! With apologies for heavy editing your letter, Herb, otherwise known as **N2XXP**, radio amateur. *(French for something nice. H.)*

Looking Back
Looking Back

By Doc Potter

While talking on the NEMO net 3845, Mon, Wed and Fri, I happened to mention to Ted Seiter, W2FJH in the Bahamas, how much I enjoyed the NBCFR and Peacock News Letter. He said, "You have been there, I bet you would have some anecdotes that the other folks might like to hear about."

My first studio show was Howdy Doody as a TD. *(Mine too Doc. H.)* They thought I knew how to "do" audio and sat me down in front of a lot of field amplifiers. Little did I know that you don't put a mike on a boom over the Sound Effects guy. When the Lion roared, the needle went over and stayed there. When MCR said, "You're On The AIR 8G." Howard Eitelbach said, "You sure are!"

While I was doing audio (my first love in Engineering) on "One Man's Family" with Bert Lytell, Marjorie Gateson, Russel Thorsen and last but not least the "enginue" *(my spell check writes it ingenue, wiz a fransh haxont.)* Eva Marie Saint (before she won an Academy Award for "On The Waterfront." Russel was having trouble with a Murphy bed on the set. He said, "I can't get it up, I can't get it up." Mercedes McCambridge, who was now playing Claudia Barbour, countered with, "in that case we'll sit and talk." We lost about half an hour's rehearsal time on that one.

Another event that almost defies solution was again on O.M.F. Claudia and Johnny Roberts were to ride a stationary bicycle facing a rear projection screen of traffic going by. Eddie Kahn, TD on the show said, "Doc, I don't know how you're going to get a mike in there, we have 10 to 12 feet of headroom. The solution was simple. Set an 88A mike on a stand and put it directly in front of the riders, warning them not to lean to the right or left. It worked.

After having done my stint as an audio man at 106th Street doing "peanut butter" shows and a few night time ones like "The Clock" and "Lights Out," I was promoted to video. Eventually I went down to "The black hole of Calcutta," which I believe was the first film studio to serve television.

When I was promoted to TD group 5, I was assigned to shake down the then starting "TODAY" show. It was fun and very rewarding. We had our problems and the solutions were not always easy. One was trying to be a service studio to the Exhibition Hall where Dave Garroway, Frank Blair, Jack Lescoulie and many others were to hold forth. The Ex Hall group didn't know that you can't "swing" a film studio. They expected changes at the drop of a hat. After 2 days of frustration, Bob Corwin, the film AD and I closed 5E (the film service studio) and went over to the Ex Hall for a conference. They were quite upset and we explained that we had to have advance time to load 16mm or 35mm projectors. We told them that no story was that urgent and if they wanted fast service, they would have to break up the reels. Stories 1, 3, 5 on reel one and stories 2, 4, 6, etc on reel two. By



hedge-hopping the projectors and their associated stories, we were able to service the studio on a moment's notice.

Needless to say, it worked like a charm and the system that the 2 Bobs had suggested remained in effect for many years. Bob Corwin and I made a good team.

After the format was set, Tommy Lyman was assigned as Film TD and I was shipped to 106th Street to do Kate Smith commercials and John Cameron Swayze's "Camel News." Then the Midnight Movie after the 11 o'clock News and home by 2:30 or so.

67th Street was a lot of fun. (*How nice, Doc had fun everywhere he went!*) There I TD'd the first Shari Lewis Show. I had a new crew and they had to be told what to do. John Fenger was the producer and he overheard me briefing Jim Kneeland who had just left Empire (State Bldg xmtr.), to do live TV. Fenger was appalled when he heard me say - "this is A camera, not this is the THE camera." I had some qualms myself at training two cameramen, Doug Neilson was the other inexperienced one. Needless to say, my fears were unfounded. They both turned out to be two of the best cameramen that I ever had. Not only did they listen but they performed perfectly and made my job easy. I never had two minutes trouble with either. It got so we tried to break them up while they were on the AIR.

We eventually parted company when I was assigned to 5H, but we remained friends and I kept in touch with Jim via my Ham station on 20 meters. He was W4MFH in Cocoa, Fla. and I am W2LJQ in Dumont

I think back on my time at N.B.C. and wouldn't trade any of it for the world. - - - - 73, 88, Robert (Doc) Potter

(*I'm auctioning the original manuscript of Doc's life at NBC at La Mag to the highest bidder. Pounds Sterling only!*)



ETHYL & PHIL BERGE (ex audio man) celebrated their Golden Anniversary June 23rd. They enjoy church activities, family get togethers and Phil is a Ham Radio operator. Ethyl is retired as an administrative assistant. She's a member of the Central Presbyterian Church's "Jubilation Ringers," a handbell group. (*She plays F sharp and G, I'm only kidding. H.*) They both enjoy traveling to Ireland. (*I hope they love it once they get there as well.*) The Berge's have two children and six grandchildren. They attribute their long and happy marriage to "Our love for each other and our Christian faith." (*Bless you both, H.*)

Whatever Happened to - - -

JUDY MURRAY sent a long letter from Fort Meyers, Fl. from her 2 bedroom condo, where she's been living since last March. Decided to see what life would be like in Florida. She left Ohio after closing her studio (Dance and Exercise) because most moms are working and the hours left in the day to teach aren't really enough to make a good living as it did in Princeton where there are over 600 students now.

In Florida, TV pays very little. She found out that too many retired people there are willing to work for nothing.

Eventually she did find a better paying job producing/marketing the Southwest Florida Fair since July. The Fair just closed and Judy says it was a nightmare. She started not only to recruit sponsorships, but gather community organizations, book talent, plan contests and attractions etc. as well as market and advertise the whole gamut. She was working with folks with mush for brains.

After losing 10 pounds, during the month and no help, needless to say, she doesn't want to do that anymore.

Here's another "secret." All her life Judy has wanted a horse and ranch. (*She notes that all girls wanted that, thanks to Elizabeth Taylor.*) So what has this to do now? Well, a family that came to the Fair with their Paso Fino horses are from Ocala, FL and own rest homes. The horses were a hobby and now have developed into a business, and they need someone like Judy to help market and plan shows etc. Also she's looking into the South West Florida Film Commission. Keep tuned for further developments. And better yet, drop her a line at: Judith Murray, 17593 Island Inlet Ct., Fort Meyers, Florida 33908.



And lastly — **DICK DUDLEY** has been invited by the Mississippi Department of Archives and History to the dedication of a marker at the birthplace of pioneer television producer **FRED COE** in Alligator, MS, on March 24.

Dick writes: Fred and I became friends at the Nashville Community Playhouse in the early 30's. **Delbert Mann** was there too and we all ended up at NBC. Small world.

A Day Off for the Cook

If you hadn't noticed, we're pushing a day's outing in New York City. Come to La Maganette at 12 noon on June 8 and schmooze with your old buddies.

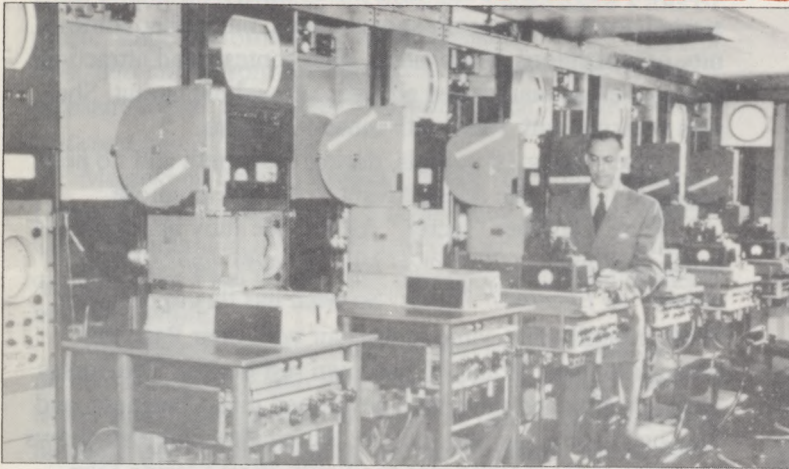
If past luncheons are any indication, you are guaranteed a great afternoon. We have the letters to prove it.



"Camera 2, You're 'on.' Pan left to show the La. Did you level that camera?"

(More on the next page.)

GOLDEN OLDIES



Herb DeGroot, Supervisor of Kinescope Recording at a bank of recording cameras in Radio City. These cameras recorded TV images off of 5 inch high intensity kinescope (picture) tubes..

Some of you may remember **Harry Getting**. He was a group 5 in Kine Recording. (Earlier in the column I mentioned other things besides work that NBC'ers did). Harry was a pilot of a B-24 who had flown long missions to the Ploesti Oil fields deep in Roumania. These missions lost many planes, many due to enemy action, anti aircraft and fighters, as well as running out of fuel, bombing the wrong place, getting lost, crashing into each other in the clouds, turning back or having to bail out due to mechanical problems. These were one of those massive "1000" bomber flights.

These photos came from NBC's CHIMES magazine of 1953.

Felix Ghirlando, below, at the Master Control switcher. A long time audio engineer from radio, he was transferred into TV when TV started heating up. He worked in TV Field until a heart attack felled him. Needing a less physically demanding position, he moved into Master Control where they did the video transmission and switching of originating TV programs to the networks.

In the background is the transmission engineer. He set the video and audio levels from the studios and remotes, patched video to studios as required and a host of things TV could not do without. □



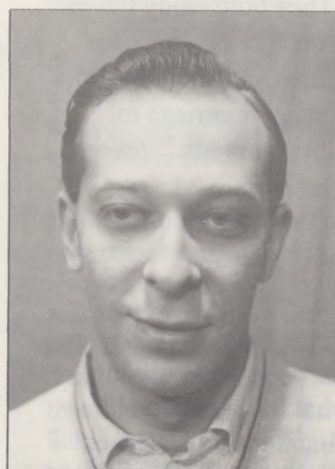
Did someone say, "More pictures?"



Frank DeReinzo



Dave Hubby



Lee Kramer



Bob Hill

1950's 67th Street Studio crew photos by Ros Bigelow



THE EAR BENDERS

By Dick Dudley

The Age of Discovery

The age of discovery is not over. New planets and forming suns are being found in the universe with the aid of the Hubble telescope.

Recently I made an important discovery of an unknown book of apocrypha in the cabinet of an antique Atwater Kent radio which I bought at a flea market in Cairo, Egypt. It is "The book of Sarnoff." I offer a portion:

In the beginning there was nothing, save the phonograph, and God created Radio and the waves on which it rideth. He then taketh a tube from Radio and maketh from it Teve as a companion for Radio. "Go," sayeth the Lord and be of service to all, but eat not of the money tree that groweth here in the Garden of Madison.

And it came to pass, that a CEO Serpent crawling in the tree sayeth to Teve, "Why should thou not eat of the fruit of the tree? It will open your eyes and show you the way to laugh tracks, sex in afternoon soaps, brutality and three hour lunches and martinis at the Four Seasons Restaurant. And Teve ate of the fruit and gave of it to Radio.

When God saw that they had eaten of the fruit of the money tree in the midst of prime time, he ordered Noah, the head of FCC [Flood Control Commission] to drown out their signal. But Noah, himself, hath fermented the fruit of the tree into a wine of high rating which he doth enjoy the partaking of, and Noah owneth much stock in the agency of Ham, Shem, and Japeth which hath the successful Heart Burn remedy account which payeth to Noah much wherewithal which affordeth him more fruit for the wine he desireth.

And the wish of the Lord was for naught and lunches at the Four Seasons lasted 4 hours, the same number as the martinis.

The Lord was not pleased and so he created Don Pardo who transplanted the money tree to his own garden.

And now — And now, let me speak of my hip replacement operation. It seems that the telling of one's operation is part of the convalescence.

On January 10th, without breakfast, I reported to the hospital where I was quickly gowned and gored with needles and tubes. In a nonce I was put to rest by the anesthetist and under the surgeon's knife. I had done quite a bit of pre-

research and discovered a doctor who would take time off, from prescribing Tylenol, to perform my operation.

When I awakened in the recovery room, my voice had lost its bass tone because of a tube that had been inserted into my throat and my mouth was dry as a AAA battery. This problem was slaked by a caring nurse who fed me orange juice, made from concentrate.

I longed to be put into a comfortable bed in a private room where I could sleep, perchance to dream, but all private rooms were being repainted and I was assigned a semi-private room with Fred Flintstone as a room mate. He didn't yell "Abba-Dabba-Doo," but he had a cough which was #20 on the Richter Scale, which frightened children and shattered glass for miles around. It also disturbed my attempts to nap by causing me to hit the ceiling.

When Fred was released, Gabby Hayes was brought in during the night, just as I was dozing off. I couldn't see my new roomie, but he had a voice like Gabby, and used it continually. Because of the voice, I pictured him to look like the old codger who is always the sidekick to John Wayne in the westerns, but when I saw him next morning, he turned out to be built like Sidney Greenstreet, but ceaselessly droned on like Gabby, even in his sleep, between snores.

When I would drop off into a rem state of sleep, a nurse would wake me to draw blood to test — then in would come another Florence Nightingale to have me bathe out of a plastic bowl. My desire, bordering on lust, was to crawl painfully back into bed and sleep to noon but then a volunteer would arrive with a wheelchair and drive me down to therapy where Tina, Erica and Linda would give me TLS (Tender Loving Sadism). This occurred twice a day and after my second torture, I was ready to become the second Rip Van Winkle. But no. My room mate had lots of visitors who were endowed with the vocal power of a combination of Ethel Merman and the McLaughlin Group.

After 10 days, my pain ebbed but my eyelids were growing heavier. Hospitals are noisy places and constant traffic kept me from keeping the door to my room closed. Another sleep disturbance was a loudspeaker in my room that kept informing Sonia that her light was on.

In my eternal waking hours, I began to think of more comforting things than what I was going through — like crucifixion, the Chinese water torture, listening to a two hour speech by Ross Perot or a 10 hour speech by Bill Clinton.

After 11 days, I was freed and when I got into my own bed, at home, I slept for 14 hours. With the arrival of Lent, I decided to give up hospitals and have my next operation at the Public Library.

I am doing well now, improving each day and glad I went through the whole mess. Sorry to have bored you, but operations have high ratings on TV — "ER" for example. I will gladly sell the rights to the highest bidder. □

Dick writes from the comfort of his own pad in Willow Street, Pennsylvania.

CHANCELLOR REMEMBERED, Laughs But No Tears

A career from copyboy to network anchorman.

By Dan Gabel



July 14, 1927 - July 12, 1996

"I've always believed the news is more important than you are. Being good at journalism does not mean being a showoff or hot dog, but finding ways of making the substance of news interesting to people."

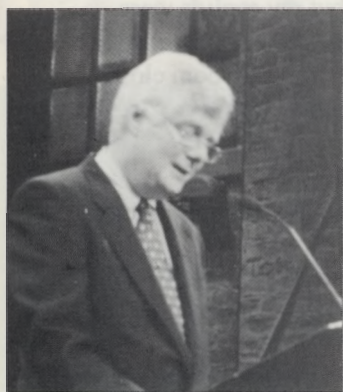
His first job in journalism was at age 17 as a copyboy at the Chicago Tribune. Forty-three years later, in 1993 he retired as commentator on "Nightly News."

His bosses, his peers, and the staffers who worked for him remembered John Chancellor on a November day last Fall in a memorial service that filled NBC's studio 8H, a place where John - or Jack, as some knew him - sat on the other side of the tv screen on many an election night as he pursued his favorite experience, reporting.

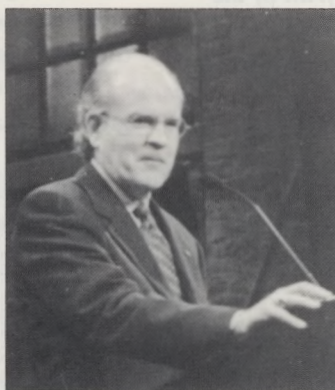
Alphabetically, for this report, David Brinkley, Tom Brokaw, Walter Cronkite, Les Crystal, Reuven Frank, Edwin Newman, Bambi Tascarella, Bill Wheatley and Bob Wright recalled experiences they witnessed or shared with Jack.

All had been deeply impressed by excellent performances, clear expression of word, and thoughtful fairness as he went about the daily routine in his chosen craft. Several speakers regretted that the warm humor he could display off the air was not more evident on the air.

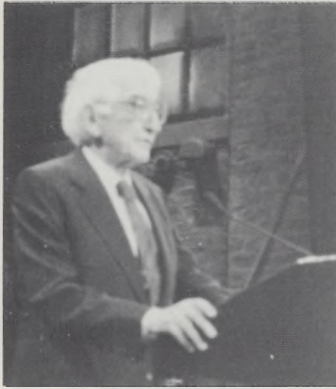
This hour of remembrance was a celebration of a wonderful life and lighthearted moments far out-weighted somber ones. There were laughs but no tears.



Vice President Bill Wheatley, who called Chancellor a role model, a mentor and a trusted adviser and friend, said that the subjects of his news stories could expect a fair shake. Not always easy treatment, but always a fair shake.



CEO Bob Wright remarked on how NBC had benefited from John's service. He recalled accompanying Chancellor and his wife Barbara 3 years ago, almost to the day of this memorial, where he was inducted into the Television Academy's Hall of Fame. Wright repeated the words that had been used in inducting Chancellor: "For being a first generation leader and pioneer in the communication revolution of television. For coverage of the political and social sides of the news spectrum, both nationally and internationally. For impeccable style, insight and fairness and for often Sharing your boyish and inward sense of wonder with the world at large."



Reuven Frank, who was his producer on Nightly News, recalled the 1960 presidential election, Nixon versus Kennedy, when the outcome continued uncertain until noon of the following day. NBC, traditionally the last network to close down coverage, was still on the air, and it was Chancellor's turn in the anchor chair. Nixon was about to concede. Kennedy, up at Hyannisport, was about to face a battery of cameras and reporters with his victory statement. The monitor in front of Chancellor went black! Crisis. But, at that moment correspondent Sandor Vanocur walked into the 8H control room. He knew Hyannisport well, and Frank dragooned Sandy to describe the picture since he, Frank, had never been to Hyannisport. So Vanocur described the picture to Frank. Frank - through the IFB going into Chancellor's ear - relayed Vanocur's words, and Chancellor extemporized to the NBC viewing audience for one and a half hours, commenting on a scene he could not actually see. A tour de force, said Frank.

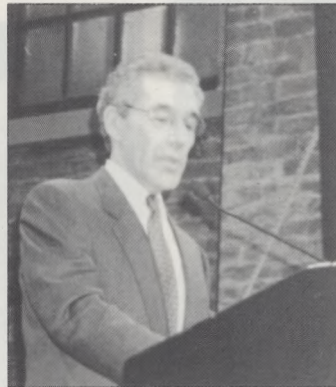


Walter Cronkite noted that in this day when everything around us, even our language, is being so debased, "John Chancellor could truly, truly, truly, be called a star shining brightly and distinctly in the universe of television journalism. He twinkled with the warmth and luminescence of his personality, his great sense of humor, and his perpetual good humor." Cronkite called him a tough competitor. A journalist he admired.

Edwin Newman, who contributed via a letter to Bill Wheatley, said, "It was clear, even at the beginning of his career, that he would go very high and very far."

Brinkley, via video tape, said "He was a delightful man and a first class journalist."

Brokaw, who followed Chancellor into the Nightly News anchor chair, called him a comfortable presence in the American living room. He recalled that John often reminded his producers that the lead story of the day would be the one Americans would talk about around the dining room table, so better be sure we had it high in the show.



Les Crystal said Chancellor set a high standard which is still used as a measuring rod today for reporting excellence.



Speaking for the staffers, "those in the trenches," Bambi Tascarella, who had arranged the memorial service, thought of Chancellor as a teacher and friend. "The entire show crew revered him."

Continued on next page



Tom Brokaw, Suzanne Wright



*Paul Friedman (ABC), Les Crystal (PBS),
Bambi Tascarella*



Joan Corrigan



Frank DeMeo, Sander Vanocur



No Tears.



Peter Flynn, Harry Fleetwood



Ken Donoghue, Al Robbins



Walter Cronkite, Bob Wright



Walter Cronkite, Reuven Frank



Catherine Faulconer, Betty Corrigan



Allan Statsky, Roger Sill



Otto Pfeffer, Jane Pauley



Ted Elbert (Chicago), Joe Angotti



Chris Brown, Bryant Gumble



Roberta Spring, Dan Grabel



*Front: Bernice Frank, Barbara Chancellor.
2nd Row: Gordon Manning, Paul Friedman, Gillian
Friedman, Marilyn Schultz, Richard Wald.
Behind Wald: Alex Kazanjian, Chancellor's Secretary.*



Brian Williams (right)



Richard Wald



*Bill Theodore
Boston Bureau Chief*



Tim Russert, Shel Gawiser, Judy Farinet

A final note, John Chancellor on John Chancellor:

"I got into journalism because I thought I'd have fun. I also found years later that it was socially useful work." □



TO TRAVEL WITH THE LUGGAGES

My wife Sandy and I love art. One of our favorite artists is Claude Monet. When Sandy suggested we visit France again, we made Monet's home in Giverny a must-see destination.

We planned to spend about two weeks driving around northern France. From there we were to pick up a cruise ship in Dover, England that had an interesting itinerary. The cruise required more and different clothing than our French trip and we wound up with two small suitcases and two large ones. Our problem, what to do with the large cases until they were needed. We didn't want to drive around and have them exposed whenever we parked the car.

We thought we would be able to store them in the Paris airport. We were wrong. The airport had eliminated any baggage storage area due to the threat of terrorism. No baggage lockers. No storage rooms.

We thought they could be stored at a hotel. Wrong again. They, too, were terrorized. At the last minute, Sandy noted that a new Sheraton Hotel had just opened up at the Charles DeGaulle airport. Sandy, a travel agent, called the hotel representative in New York. She explained our dilemma. The rep knew her and gave her written permission to leave the luggage at the hotel.

Terrorism has changed our society. Now, we have to get to airports hours in advance, have a picture identification and our luggage is searched. Then, of course, when you're on board the plane, they give you a sharp knife with your meal.

Giverny is a small town in northern France about an hour's drive from Paris. Monet, born in Paris, spent his early life in Le Havre and his later years in a lovely home in Giverny. He devoted the last years of his life to the famous series of lily-pond pictures. We stayed overnight at a nearby



Monet's gardens at Giverny.

chateau and arrived at Monet's home at 8:30 AM the next morning. About forty tourists and locals were already lined up to view the famed gardens. The entrance fee was about four dollars in U.S. money. It is one of the best buys in France.

The grounds are ample and well cared for. Flowers are in bloom all year long. The French government maintains the house and grounds. After walking around the immediate gardens, we moved to the far corner of the field where stairs led us down to a tunnel and across the road to a beautiful pond filled with lilies. Magnificent trees and flowering bushes surrounded the water. We could picture Monet setting his easel in a thousand locations here to capture the incredible scenes on canvas. The sky was gray but it hardly diminished the pleasure of the setting. If you ever get the chance, visit Monet's Gardens in Giverny. It is a trip that leaves your mind filled with color, beauty and immense satisfaction.



Sandy and Don at the pond where Monet painted his water lily canvases.



The view of the gardens from the bedroom of Monet's house.

Our next destination was Rouen. We made a side trip to see the ruins of Gaillard Castle which was built in 1196 by Richard the Lion-Hearted. The French roads are all well



Cathedral Notre Dame, Rouen.

marked, well paved and easy to drive. The only problem is the cost of gasoline. When you pull into a gas station and tell the attendant, "Le plein, s'il vous plait," — fill it up, please — you'd better have a full wallet. Filling up the tank cost about fifty U.S. dollars!

Rouen is famous for its beautiful Cathedral Notre Dame. It is a masterpiece of French Gothic architecture built in the 12th century.

Monet painted a series of haunting pictures of the cathedral. The city of Rouen was a tourist's delight. Cobble streets and low buildings date back to medieval times. Some of the timbered houses lean precariously over the streets. The Rue du Gros Horloge is famous for the giant Renaissance clock dating back to the 14th century.



Rouen's giant Renaissance clock.

Traveling from Rouen to Honfleur, we paused at the small town of Entretat, known for its unusual cliffs and an

incredible opening in the rocks carved by time and nature. When we left Entretat, we were looking for a particular Manor house where we had reservations to spend the night. While we knew we were on the right road, we had difficulty finding the Manor. We drove into a rest stop where several cars had parked. I showed our map to one man who told me that he was not from the area and couldn't give me directions, but he added, "Attendez." He went back to his car, took out his cellular phone, came back to our car for the telephone number, called it and we were on our way. The Manor was closer than we thought.

While we don't always agree with the politics of the French government in their dealings with the United States

foreign policies, (they wouldn't let our planes fly over their territory when we bombed Libya, they didn't approve of our recent actions against Saddam Hussein) the people we met were very friendly and smiled as I spoke my totally present-tense French.

Honfleur, a colorful port on the Seine estuary, epitomizes Normandy for many people. Its 17th century harbor has lovely two story stone houses with low, sloping roofs. We walked around the cobbled streets enjoying the



Honfleur harbor.

many art shops and cafes. The chocolate crepes were delicious. On weekends, this port is jam-packed with tourists.

Sandy and I enjoy traveling by ourselves. We set our own time limits and destinations. It gives us a chance to make side trips to interesting places like the small town of Dives sur-Mer. The names of 600 Norman soldiers who accompanied William the Conqueror in the Crusade in 1066 were inscribed on one wall of the 11th century church in this town.

Our next stop was the Normandy Cemetery at Omaha



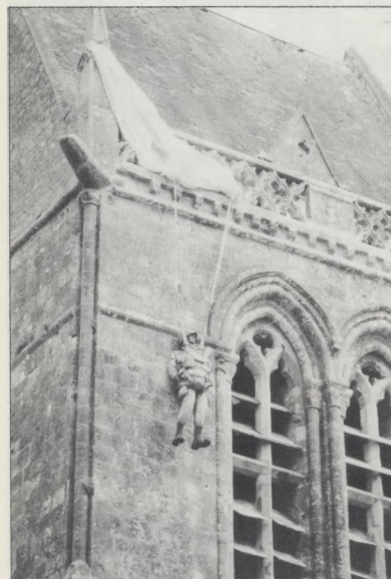
The church at Dives sur-Mer

Beach. The cemetery site covers 172 acres. It is the final resting place for 9,386 Americans. The grave markers in symmetrical rows were sadly touching. We were there just a couple of weeks before June 6th, the Allied invasion date. Many young French students were visiting and studying the event that changed their lives and ours. The American Museum in the area is devoted to the war, the invasion, and

(Continued on next page.)



The Omaha Beach Cemetery.



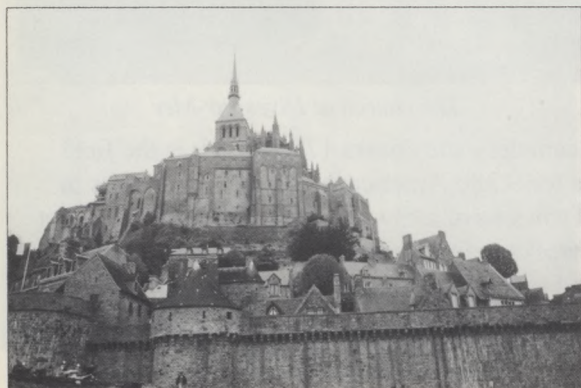
A D-Day reminder.

our subsequent victory. Here, too, we were surprised at the large number of young French people in attendance. The films and displays were decidedly pro-American.

We then drove to St. Mer Eglise, the site of the first parachute drop on D-Day. If you saw the movie "The Longest Day," you will remember Red Buttons portraying the soldier whose chute wound up caught on the church

steeple. To this day, a dummy of the parachutist who did land there remains as a symbol of that event. Over fifty years after D-Day, the town still does a remarkable business selling pictures and memorabilia about it.

Before heading back to Paris, we visited the Abbey of Mont-St.-Michel. It stands at the top of a 264-foot mount of rock. It is only a few hundred yards off the coast and is cut off from the mainland at high tide. It took more than 500 years to build this Abbey. It was started in 1017 and finished in 1521. C'est la very slow vie. A special tour at a



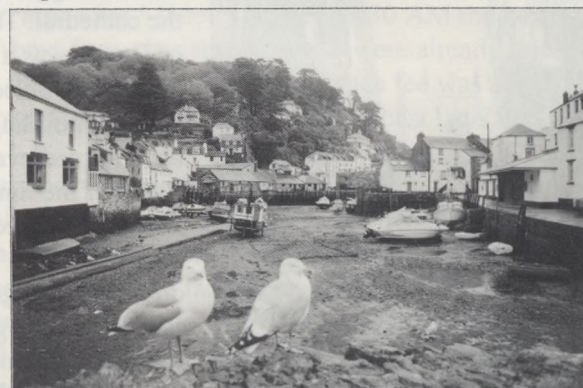
Mont St. Michel — 500 years to build.

cost of seven U.S. dollars is worth it to see the many rooms and chapels, examples of the evolution of Gothic architecture. Our hotel on Mont St. Michel was small and unique. The rooms and halls were completely lined with photographs signed by the many world-famous visitors who had stayed there. Everyone from astronauts to kings, queens, actors, generals and business tycoons had made this a must-see stop. They did not have any pictures of local television directors from NBC.

Paris is just about our favorite city in the world. Despite one of the coldest, rainiest months of May in sixty years, we enjoyed two wonderful days and nights there. There was a wonderful sculpture exhibit at the end of the Champs Elysee that was fun to see until it started to rain.

From Paris, we flew to London. Then we motored by bus to Dover and boarded the Royal Princess for a two week cruise. After almost two weeks behind the wheel, it was a welcome change to relax and leave the driving to the captain. Our first stop was Falmouth where the harbor at Polperro was an odd sight. The tide comes and goes every twelve hours. Boats and birds are left low and dry. It's really unusual to see.

Next stop was Cork and a visit to the Blarney Castle.



Low and dry when the tide goes out

The tourists line up to kiss the Blarney Stone. A guide holds you as you lean backwards and down. Kissing the Blarney Stone is supposed to make you more loquacious, but I think that's a lot of Blarney — as well as being unsanitary.

In Scotland, we visited Edinburgh Castle. In the 16th



Lining up for the Blarney Stone.

century, Mary, Queen of Scots, gave birth here to James VI of Scotland who was also to rule England as James I. The tour guides (free, on the half hour) are dressed in costume and are well informed. The castle rooms are king-sized.

Our ship docked at Oslo, Norway and we had a



Oslo fishermen — net sales.

delightful day. Local fishermen sell their catch at the dock. We took a small boat to one of Norway's best-known attractions — the Vikingskiphuset — the Viking Ship Museum. Each of the three ships on display are nearly twelve hundred years old. Nearby is the Fram-Museet, an A-frame structure in the shape of a traditional Viking boat house. Inside, we toured the actual ship that was used by Roald Admunsen in his famous voyage to Antarctica. Museums are the order of the day and the Kon-Tiki museum was special. The actual ship that Thor Hyerdal sailed from Peru to Polynesia in 1947 was a highlight. Hyerdal made the trip to confirm his theory that the first Polynesians came from Peru. Basically, the Kon-Tiki was just a covered hut on top of a papyrus raft. No midnight buffet on that cruise!

There isn't anything anywhere else in the world quite



Hyerdal's famous Kon-Tiki.

like, Vigelandsparken in Frogner Park in Oslo. Sculptor Gustav Vigeland began his career as a wood carver and his talent was quickly appreciated and supported by the people of Oslo. In 1921, they gave him a free house in exchange for which he began to chip away at his life's work which he would ultimately donate to the city. His figures are all nude but not erotic and it includes a 470-ton monolith. There are



Frogner Park



470-ton monolith.

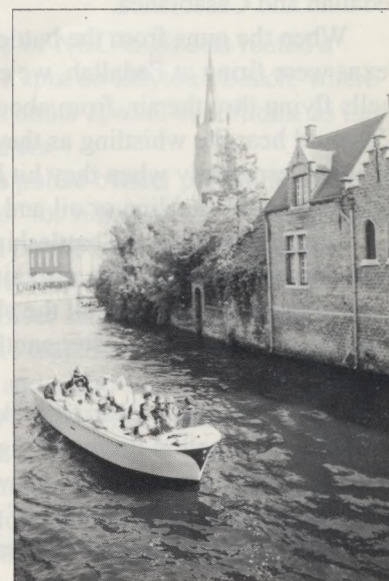
hundreds of sculptures representing the varied forms and stages of human life throughout the park.

The cruise continued to Hamburg and then to Amsterdam where we enjoyed a wine and cheese evening cruise through the canals of the city. Amsterdam, however, was a disappointment. We had been there before and now were distressed to see dirty, overcrowded streets filled with junky tourist shops, hippies and fast food stores.

Our last stop on the cruise was Brugge in Belgium. The town was delightful. The sun bright and warm. We took another canal ride and later had a wonderful lunch at a restaurant alongside the canal. Our cruise ship took us back to Dover. We bussed back to London and caught our flight home.

We've been retired from NBC for over eight years. We've been most fortunate to have spent those years seeing many parts of the world before war, politics and fanaticism has made many of them too dangerous for tourists.

Our next stops - Australia and Fiji. We hope the natives aren't too restless. □



Belgium canal boat ride.

Don is a retired TV writer-producer-director. He and Sandy live in North Caldwell, New Jersey.

KEN'S

CORNER



by
Ken Arber

**NOVEMBER 8th, 1996,
FIFTY FOUR YEARS AGO TODAY.**

It was fifty four years ago today that I landed in the invasion of North Africa, the start of World War II. We landed in the town of Fedallah, Morocco. It was a very exciting time, what with three of the troop transport ships being struck with torpedoes from a German submarine that was not supposed to be in the vicinity of our landings. The reports were that the Germans were waiting for us at the port of Dakar, which is a great many miles south of Fedallah and Casablanca.

When the guns from the battleships Massachusetts and Texas were firing at Fedallah, we could see the sixteen inch shells flying thru the air, from about ten miles off the coast. We could hear the whistling as they went over us and struck the town, especially when they hit large Shell Oil tanks that apparently held gasoline or oil and went up in flames.

I understood that the battleships had been aiming at those targets all night. They also hit a local hospital, and put it out of business, because all the electrical power went out. Then the destroyers, one after another, came in to attack the bay area.

One of the convoy carriers, like our Thurston, carrying hundreds of 55 gallon drums of high test aviation gasoline on deck, was hit by a torpedo. I saw the torpedo pass in front of our ship. All the drums of gasoline exploded and shot up like rockets and into the sea, causing the sea to be all aflame.

Several of the men fell into the blazing sea. They had been working on the ship chipping and painting over the rust spots, when the torpedo hit. They were blown up into the air from their Jacob's ladders and the painting platforms which were life boats.

They were all rescued by the many "Higgins" boats in the bay, and were then sent by "6x6" trucks to Casablanca

where there was a large hospital and the battleship Texas was later berthed. The Texas had a complete hospital aboard, and many doctors to treat the badly burned men.

I might add that when it was time for our members of the First Broadcasting Group to go ashore, as the first wave and beach party number 9, we loaded onto a small ship that pulled up along the Thurston. The ship was flying a Nazi Flag, and as to be expected, it was immediately captured by the Thurston, and ordered to take down the Nazi flag, which the French captain was so pleased to do, that he stepped on it and spat on it to show us that he was flying the flag under orders of the German Armistice Group. The Thurston then lowered a cargo net that we stepped into, and we were loaded onto the captured ship and sent ashore.

I must admit, I had mixed feelings as to whether I wanted to go ashore where the fighting was going on, or stay on the ship where the torpedoes were going by, but when I set foot on the "dry land" I proceeded to kiss the solid earth. From Fedallah we went to Casablanca, where we set up shop in a ship's chandlery. That story in a later edition of Ken's Korner.

A Name From the Past

Recently my son Ken, Jr. called me and said he had a question to ask that would check my memory. Did I remember the name of Peter Alan Teicher, I assured him that I did, and that he was a fellow member of the engineering crew at the "World's Fair" in Flushing, Long Island in 1965. My son said that I had passed the test. He said he recently ran into Peter at the Los Angeles airport. Peter happened to hear his name and asked if he was related to the Ken Arber he had worked with in New York. Ken, Jr. said he was his son. Peter then asked if his father might remember him.

Teicher remembered some of the other engineers he worked with, especially Al Camoin, who was the cameraman on the RCA mobile unit at the Fair. Of course, my son pointed out that I have been retired for the past 22 years, but that I still keep in touch with many employees, thru "Ham Radio" and the two retiree organizations, NBC Florida Retirees and Peacock North.

In writing this, I began to think of the many other fellows who worked at the Fair, such as Carlos Clark, Mike Rosar, Frank Belding, Walter Dibbins, Billy Stone, Dick Edmonson and many more.

Hank Folkerts worked there as a vacation relief Technical Director. One day while switching, the switcher ceased working. All the buttons and switches lit up: it was bright enough to read by. Hank called on the "SOS" phone that went to the electronic maintenance shop and the video section, saying that the switcher had "Hung Up." The electronic maintenance engineer, who had worked with Dick Edmonson on the design of the switcher, responded to the call. He came to the control room and corrected Hank,

by saying the switcher had not "Hung Up." It had experienced a "Seizure." Hank and I used that expression for a couple of years after that.

Alma Kitchel Remembered

How many of you "Old Timers" remember Alma Kitchell?? (See her obituary on page 11.)

She first came to work at WJZ in 1927. It must be remembered that the National Broadcasting Company was only formed in 1926 and when Alma came to the company, the studios were located at 711 Fifth Ave., NYC. As I remember it, NBC moved to Radio City in about 1933, because I was employed by the company in 1934.

In later years, just before transferring from radio to tv I met Jim Kitchell, Alma's son, a director in TV.

When Jim learned I had a tv set at home, back when his mother was broadcasting in the 30's, (a 5 inch set that had the only three TV stations in New York, CBS, NBC and Dumont), he asked me if I ever saw his mother's cooking show. My answer was yes, and I said I had a small criticism about the subjects that she covered. I felt they were beyond my needs, such as "pheasant under glass," truffles, Caspian Sea beluga caviar and other exotic foods.

Jim agreed with me and said his mother felt the same way and went to NBC management to see if she could change the type of foods she cooked, but management said they wanted it to stay exotic, an audience that could afford a TV set, at that time, must be affluent enough to warrant that kind of program. Out of 55 Studio Engineers in radio, I was one of two who had a TV set. The set was a Deandria, made by Frank De Andria, the original manufacturer of FADA Radio Receivers. He used the letters from his name to spell FADA.

A Few Humorous Items.

While working in Studio 8G many years ago, I had the pleasure of working as TD with director Lou Tedesco. I do not recall the show, but I remember one of the cameramen was the late Harvey Belair — a great guy.



Glass or Plastic?

The guest on the show was Peter Falk who was then playing the part of Lt. Columbo on his own show, where he always wore a raincoat, and solved the crime, as he was leaving the suspect's home while going out the door. When he appeared as the guest on our show, Lou asked the cameraman for a close-up of Falk, and then asked for an extreme close-up. Harvey said to Lou, Peter Falk has a glass eye. Lou said, no he does not have a glass eye. The other two cameramen agreed with Harvey, saying they also felt that Peter Falk did have a glass eye.

Finally the crew came into the control room and disagreed with Lou, so he gave in and said, "It is not glass, it's plastic."

Lou had a thing about not using the control-room chair and had his own "Stool" that he directed from. One day when he came into the control room he could not find his stool, and said that he would not direct without it. Eventually stage hand Matty Kroniak found the stool and Lou started the rehearsal. Later I found out that Lou considered the stool a "Good Luck" omen. In later years I heard that he flew out to California to do a show and that he bought an extra seat on the plane for the "Lucky Stool." This is just hearsay.

♦♦♦♦♦♦♦♦

A lot of directors consider certain things as "Good Luck" items when they were directing. One director was Ted Nathanson, who insisted on wearing his "Lucky Deerslayer's" hat while directing "Startime Kids" at the 67th street studios. I was the TD. A Deerslayer's cap looks like the one that Sherlock Holmes wore, with a peak at the front and the back. I might add that this was the show on which Connie Francis started her career, at the probable age of ten or eleven years.

♦♦♦♦♦♦♦♦

When the "Daytona 500" Race Track opened, an NBC crew was assigned to cover the opening race. The late Jack Irving was the TD and the video man was Warren Winterhalter, who was affectionately known by his fellow workers, as "Eagle Eye Fleagle," the Dick Tracy comic character.

After the show, a group of NBC engineers rented a convertible, and took it for a spin on Daytona Beach, where automobiles were permitted under special conditions, as the beach was primarily for bathers.

As you might expect, a police officer pulled them over, and criticized "Fleagle" for riding on the folded top of the convertible with his feet on the back seat. The officer asked him if he had been drinking, and of course he said he had not. At this point the officer said that Fleagle had a "Glassy look." At this point Fleagle reached up to his face, and removed his glass eye, and asked the officer if that was the eye that had the "Glassy" look. The officer apologized, and told them to be on their way.

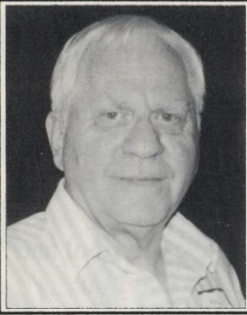
This story was told to me by Warren Winterhalter when he returned to New York and work with me at the Center theater as the operator of the video projector for the audience of the "All Star Review." □



*Ken and Jaye Arber live in
Boynton Beach, Florida.*



**Sign up for the June 8 La Maganette PN
Reunion. Coupon on page 47.**



DOES ANYONE HERE KNOW THE NUMBER FOR 911?

by Hal Alexander

One of the most successful and certainly one of the most popular Television programs of the early 60s was the JACK PAAR PROGRAM. The show premiered on NBC shortly after Jack gave up his hosting chores on the TONIGHT SHOW. Broadcast each Friday evening from Studio 6B in the RCA Building, it remained on the air from September, 1962 to September, 1965.

The program was very hard to define. It consisted of a happy mixture of comedy sketches, celebrity interviews and musical segments. On a number of occasions, it featured home movies of Jack's travels with his wife Miriam and their teenage daughter Randy. Jose Melis and his orchestra were the only regulars on the program at the time.

I was assigned to the show as stage manager from time to time and thoroughly enjoyed working on it.

Jack and his producers were constantly on the lookout for new and unusual guests to book on the program. Someone on the staff informed Jack of a young female singer by the name of Lisa Minnelli who was appearing at the moment in a small off-Broadway musical production somewhere downtown. Lisa was perhaps sixteen or seventeen at the time and a complete and total unknown.

Jack was very anxious to have her on his program. The plan was a simple one. Lisa would be booked for an upcoming show and a new name would be invented for her. She would be brought out to sing a song or two, then chat innocently with Jack. Then, and only then, would he reveal to the audience that his young guest was none other than the daughter of legendary singing star, July Garland. (It wasn't necessary to disguise her appearance as no one at that time knew what Liza looked like.) Everyone on the show was anxiously looking forward to the Liza spot.

All progressed nicely until the final rehearsal before the actual telecast. Liza arrived at the studio precisely on time. Only this time instead of bouncing in in her usual manner, she was slowly being pushed along in a wheelchair.

We were told that the poor girl had met with an unfortunate accident and had fractured a small bone in her left ankle. Wearing a plaster cast on her leg, she was unable to walk or even stand.

Suddenly my heart went out to this gallant young performer. This was to be her first real exposure on national television. After much deliberation it was reluctantly decided that her appearance would be rescheduled for a later date.

Just as the spot was being cancelled, someone came up with a unique plan.

Lisa would be pre-set on a high-stool just behind the curtain. Jack would simply introduce her as usual from out front. Then as the music began, I would cue the curtain open. When the song was over Jack would join her center stage for their little chat before revealing her true identity. It seemed like the perfect solution.



Jack, Liza, and cast.

The prop department was sent searching for a high wooden stool.

Once again everything seemed to be ready. Since there was still approximately twenty minutes left before showtime, I decided to take a short break. I walked out of the studio and onto the 6th floor hallway just in time to see Kitty Dalton, our wardrobe mistress hurrying toward me.

"Hal," she began, "you better come quickly."

"What's up?," I asked cautiously as the two of us started down the hall away from the studio.

"It's Liza."

"Where is she?"

"In the ladies-room. She said she had to make a quick stop before the show started so I wheeled her down."

"Go on," I said.

"Well when I got her there, I couldn't hold the door open and push her through at the same time."

"So what happened?," I asked.

"I got her hand caught in the door."

We were now at the ladies-room. Without waiting for an all clear, I simply flung open the door and burst inside.

Liza was seated in her wheelchair in the center of the room. She was crying hysterically as she held her injured right hand.

She was rocking gently back and forth in the chair as I rushed to her.

"Liza, are you alright?," I asked anxiously.

She looked up at me and stopped her crying just long enough to utter just four little words.

"I want my mother."

Again my heart went out to this poor helpless young girl. At this moment in time, there was not the slightest hint of the giant superstar this frightened young lady was soon destined to become.

I left Liza with the wardrobe mistress while I raced up to the commissary on the 7th floor for some ice. Kitty and I stopped her crying while I gently placed her crushed and swollen fingers in a cup of ice.

Liza recovered sufficiently to appear on the JACK PAAR PROGRAM that evening and ended up capturing

the hearts of all of America. (Beginning with mine.)

It has now been well over thirty-five years since I last saw Liza in the 6th floor ladies-room of the RCA Building but that moment still haunts me. Every time I see her in a movie or on television, the memory of that day comes flooding back to me. Sitting in her wheelchair - her leg in a cast - her fingers in the ice - and that sad little upturned face with those four pitiful words that say it all - "I WANT MY MOTHER." □

Hal is a retired stage manager and lives in Woodland Hills, California with his wife Pat.



Inauguration of Film Studio 5H, about 1956. At console, front to back: unknown audioman cueing record, John McGinty at the switcher, and Bob Corwin directing. In announce booth (L to R): unknown, Ernie Theiss, Bob White. Unknown at monitor wall.

(Photo courtesy of Jack Weir)

Don't forget to mark your calendar for June 8.

Meet your friends at La Maganette for a day of memories.

PN's 10th Annual Reunion. Be there!

NBC CHIMES

May
June 1958

"See you at the Fair-if you're over there," was the cry from Frank Merklein

and Walter Vetter. Frank and Walter, both NBC Studio Engineers, will be working with RCA and an NBC Production Unit at the Brussels World's Fair — bringing 20,000,000 Europeans their first look at color television this summer. Plans call for eight hours of live and filmed color programs daily to be viewed on closed circuit over color receivers in various parts of the U. S. pavilion. Frank and Walter have been fellow travelers before, as last year they both went to Germany with the USIA for an exchange of ideas on TV operations and equipment. As a result of that trip they compiled a fourteen page

report which was widely circulated throughout the USIA offices of the State Department, both here and abroad. The fact is that Frank and Walter are far from strangers, as they have known each other for most of their lives. Both are graduates of RCA Institutes and have worked side by side at NBC for ten years. They are also both married and have two children apiece. Traveling to Brussels will be no novelty to Walter, a veteran of twelve Atlantic crossings, however they both agree on their enthusiasm about the prospects of using their education and skills in this international exchange of ideas and the opportunity it affords them in the increasingly important field of world-wide communication and dissemination of information. As a side interest they are also anxious to put into practice some of their language skills. By combining talents they should have no trouble in reading a menu in either French, German or Dutch. □



Walter Vetter (left) and Frank Merklein discussing plans for their stay in Brussels.

Lillian McNaughton sent us two copies of the 1958 NBC CHIMES. Are there any others out there? Send them in. - we'll return them to you.

More from NBC CHIMES — 1958

- ◆ Robert W. Sarnoff awarded honorary Doctor of Laws from the Pennsylvania Military College.
- ◆ \$3,000,000 Net revenue in Spring sales on NBC Radio Network.
- ◆ NBC signs TV affiliation with WGR-TV, Buffalo.
- ◆ NBC wins 4 Peabody Awards: "Know Your Schools," "The Dinah Shore Chevy Show," "Hallmark Hall of Fame," and Bob Hope.
- ◆ 150 managers go to Princeton for an advanced management course.
- ◆ Chickie Redling crowned Miss NBC New York at annual Spring dance. Crowd was entertained by Steve Allan, Dorothy Olsen and Fred Collins, and Johnny Carson. Among the awards Chickie received were an all-expense paid Bermuda cruise, a gold medallion, pearl necklace and diamond wristwatch, bracelet with matching



The Spring Dance evening of fun was climaxed when Ed Helihy announced the crowning of Chickie as Miss NBC.

earrings, and a wardrobe of dresses.

- ◆ NBC secretaries honored on National Secretary's Day.

- ◆ NBC N.Y. bowling team wins Tri-Network Trophy.
- ◆ NBC Blood Bank replenished as NBCers poured through studio 8H.
- ◆ Two new Vice President Elected: B. Lowell Jacobsen (Personnel) and William R. McAndrew (NBC News).

NBC Births:

- ◆ To Ray Lockheart, a daughter, Mauria Clair
- ◆ To Mort Hochstein, a daughter, Kate Sylvia.
- ◆ To Walter O'Meara, a daughter, Sharon Patricia.
- ◆ To Bill Wendell, a son, Christopher Eustace.
- ◆ To Mort Aronoff, a daughter, Mitzie Jean.
- ◆ To Lee Pliskin, a daughter, Patricia.
- ◆ To Jack Bennett, a son, Michael.
- ◆ To Ben Franklin, a daughter, Jean Colleen. □



BILL'S RED HAT

We were doing by Frank Vierling

NBC had landed the NCAA football contract that year. The usual drill: Mondays and Tuesdays were the crew's days off. Wednesdays were taken up with voucher writing for the previous week, and picking up our advance money for next Saturday's game. Thursdays we flew to the host city; Fridays we set up the equipment; Saturdays we rehearsed, did the game, and struck the gear; Sundays we flew home.

This particular week we were down in Alabama. It was Saturday. We gathered in the hotel lobby after a coffee-shop breakfast. The late Bill Patterson was our TD. He announced he was checking out of the hotel and would see us down at the stadium.

Bill was married to a Southern Belle who was south visiting her folks, he said. He was leaving right after the game to spend the weekend with her and his in-laws. He had arranged to have a taxi meet him after the game. We took off for the field, four to a rented car. He returned to his room to packed his bag and check out.

It was still dark when we arrived at the mobile unit. The eastern sky was beginning to show first light. It was foggy, cold and damp. The sun would soon burn it off. We went about our work, uncovered the cameras in the stands, setting up the announce booth, turning the equipment on, etc., etc..

As the gear warmed up, we warmed ourselves in the sun that had now cleared the horizon. Patterson arrived and parked his car, along with ours, under a Live Oak tree. He was wearing a bright red fedora hat that glowed as he stepped into the sunlight. In his one-piece green coveralls he made me think of Will Scarlet in Errol Flynn's Robin Hood. You can imagine the whistles and remarks that hat elicited from the guys. He immediately took a defensive stance, arms akimbo and fists clenched. "Anyone touches this hat is dead!" Bill had the stature of another Robin Hood film character -- Allen Hale -- strong, stocky, and with a sandy mustache. Bill fended off a few feeble parries at his hat; it was evident he was serious in his warning.

We finished our setup, camera test patterns, announce booth checkout, and tested our audio and video circuits to

the local phone company. This completed the setup and took us up to our lunch break.

In town we passed an Adam Hat store (there's a tip off to how long ago this was). In the window was an identical red hat! A diabolical plan was hatched. We bought one.

Lunch over, we gathered under the oak tree to wait for production to arrive for rehearsal and the game. Bill had relaxed his guard. He failed to notice that Frank Gibbs, our newest, youngest, and fleetest crew member, had circled innocently behind him. Snatching Bill's hat Frank headed for the truck. Bill was in hot pursuit. By the time Bill reached the truck door, Frank had switched hats and headed for the rear doors. Frank exited and ran back to the front of the truck and grabbed the fire axe (remember those little fire axes by the front door of busses?, ours had one). Bill came from the rear of the truck and almost caught Frank who was now heading for the oak tree, there he impaled the hat to the oak's trunk with the fire axe!

Bill's blood pressure rose just below vessel bursting level. He could kill!

Frank was only saved by his speed and the timely arrival of our director.

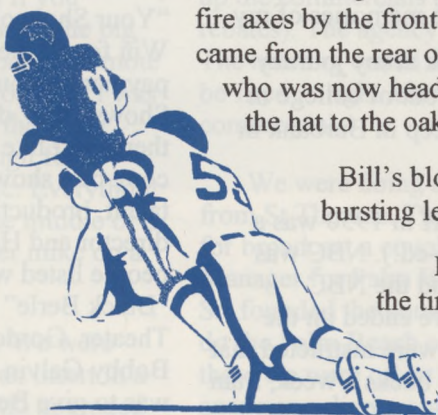
Bill seethed throughout the rehearsal and game. The game ran late, adding to his troubles. His cab was waiting, and he feared missing his flight. He was out of the truck as soon as we signed off. He grabbed his suitcase from the rear of the truck and got into the cab. Gibbs ran up and handed him his hat! Bill took it in wonder and shouted as the cab bore him off, "You bastards!"

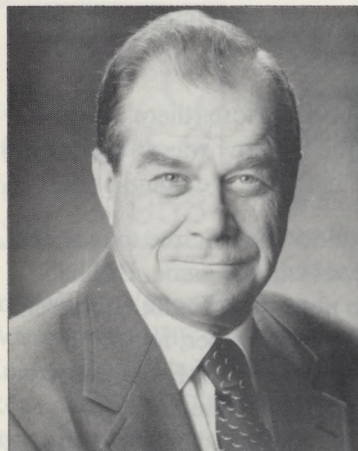
That's not the end. Not really believing Bill was off to see his wife, we had emptied his suitcase and filled it with spare electronic cables.

In New York the following Wednesday, Court Snell, our supervisor, asked how the game went and if Bill had gotten off to see his wife. *He really was seeing his wife!* We retreated to the maintenance shop. Sometime later Bill appeared in the doorway, blood at the boil, fists clenched. "You bastards," were his only words!

We were all friends again by the next game. We never heard a word about his missing clothes, and never saw that red hat again. □

Frank Vierling, our publisher, worked in TV Field for 18 years, moved to Radio City as a Group 6 supervisor in Master Control and ended his 34 year NBC tour as Video Engineer on the Doctors soap. He took early retirement in 1983 and lives with his wife, Lois, in Oradell, New Jersey.





31 at 30 Rock and 10 at 3000 West Alameda

by Perry Massey

When Pete Peterson asked for some memories of my 41 years at NBC, it was fun looking back at my journey from the Page Staff in New York, fresh out of college in 1950 to early retirement as a program veep in Burbank in 1991.

Being a guide on the NBC Page Staff in 1950 was a great way to get started. (guides were co-ed!). NBC was still doing radio and Arturo Toscanini and the NBC Symphony were in studio 8H. Tours were ended on the Mezzanine (no longer there) and guides were instructed that tipping wasn't allowed. Well at a fast 35 bucks a week, Stan Zabka and "others" worked up closing spiels that really tugged at the heartstrings ... and opened the purse-strings (Apologies to Pete Tintle). Stan (who was best man when Pam and I married that fall) and I shared in an old brownstone on East 56th Street (I can still hear the EL trains). When Gene Wood and Bill Szathmary, my Emerson College roommates, came from Boston to find work, Stan and I smuggled them into our place until they got jobs on the page staff ... and a room of their own. Bill and Gene went on to successful performing careers. Bill is better known as Bill Dana (Jose Jimenez) and Gene has spent several decades announcing a whole slew of Goodson Todman game shows.

It was exciting that June when Stan Parlan hired me from the Guide Staff. Sig Morganstern was the boss at Broadcast Film at 45th Street. Armed with my degree from Emerson College my job as a film apprentice was to lug 35mm film cans from 45th street up to the NBC film studios at 30 Rock. In the next couple of years the department moved from 45th street to the Center Theatre projection booth and then to a film building at Broadway and 50th. By then I was an editor splicing film commercials together. Right next door to our cutting room a unit was editing "Victory at Sea." In 1953 Sig gave me an assignment to edit background footage for a live drama Del Mann was directing. It was the only real editing job I every had. A few days after the broadcast Del came over to the cutting room to ask how he could thank me. I said I would

like to work in studio production.

Soon after Bob Garthwaite hired me as a floor manager (later called stage managers). Win Mullen assigned me to "Your Show of Shows" and the "Buick Berle" show. (Bless Win for all the great overtime. We saved it as a down payment on our first house in New Jersey.) "Your Show of Shows" was done live from the Center Theatre (no longer there) just like a Broadway variety show. We have a framed copy of a show program, dated January 2, 1954 listing the talent, production and technical staff including Bill Hobin, director and Heino Ripp, Technical Director. Many of the people listed went on to great fame in the business. The "Buick Berle" show was also done live from the Center Theater. Gordon Rigsby was the other stage manager and Bobby Galvin was the TD. On Buick-Berle one of my jobs was to give Berle his closing cues. I had cue cards indexed at the back of my script book. When Greg Garrison (great director and practical joker) gave the cue I would flip my script book to the appropriate card. In addition to time cards there was a cue for Berle's theme song "Near You." One night Greg called for "Near You" and automatically I flipped my book to the card. Milton looked like he's been hit by a brick. Checking the card I found someone had made a substitution. Instead of "Near You," the card read "F--- You." (I always suspected Greg did the dirty deed.)

The mid-fifties saw me working as an AD and later a director of "HOME" up at 67th Street. The crew included Frank DeRienzo, TD, Marcel Theinpont, Audio and four "killer" cameramen.....Ernie DeRosa, Gene Martin, Frank Gaeta and Frank Badami. The studio was circular, specially designed for "Home." One of the cameras was suspended overhead at the end of a telescoping arm with controls on a small balcony which Frank Badami ran. One time there was a tech glitch and a stage hand was pinned against a display counter by the "Monkey" camera.

Eddie Hugh, one of the wilder people we ever worked with was stage manager. One afternoon we were rehearsing a commercial for bathroom fixtures. Half of the circular studio was set up with display bathrooms. One camera followed Arlene Francis as she walked from room to room describing the features. When Arlene got to the last room a curtain parted and there was Eddie Hugh seated on a "throne" reading a paper. Eddie got a big laugh for us all.

However, the next morning when we did that commercial live, you could see Arlene start to tense up when she came to that final bathroom. Fortunately, Eddie behaved himself.

We were doing a week of live remote "Home" broadcasts from Washington DC. One day was devoted to a pickup from a "typical" home in Georgetown. Al Morgan wrote and produced the show. Sometime between rehearsal and air that morning a fire marshall showed up and asked for our permit. Whoops, we didn't have one and it looked like we were not going to be able to do the show. Thinking fast, Al said he would get the required permit if the Marshall would just wait until we did a rehearsal at eleven. The Marshall agreed and we went ahead and did the AIR SHOW. Then we got out of town ... *FAST!*

There were always extra assignments even if you worked one show. Remember the "Cadillac Unit", the big caddy outfitted with tech gear, forerunner of today's remote truck? One Macy Thanksgiving Day parade broadcast I was the AD in the Caddy and Hugh Downs was in the street doing commentary. Our shot was to follow Hugh for several blocks while he described the floats, etc. Everything worked swell until the caddy broke down in the middle of a sequence and Hugh, who was wearing a lavalier mike on a long cord, almost hung himself.

Elmer Gorry is one of my favorite people. We were doing a remote pick up from Central Park for an insert in a symphony on "Wide Wide World." I was an AD upgraded to director and Elmer was the Unit Manager. We had a one camera shot of a couple getting into a hansom cab and driving into the park. Elmer had cash to pay off people as needed (remember, this was in the fifties). Rehearsal went perfectly. The cops held up traffic, the couple got in the hansom cab and the camera followed them riding into the park as the symphony played. Then came the live air show and unfortunately a changing of the police detail. Elmer was out of money ... so traffic didn't stop, the hansom cab couldn't move ... and our shot never happened. Ah, live TV!

In 1957 when "HOME" was cancelled I had a brief stint as a writer at META doing educational TV shows that were broadcast on the Local CBS station. Our stage manager at the time went on to great fame as a producer ... Joseph Papp. That fall Dick Jackson offered to bring me back to NBC to do the commercials and handle things between the clients and Jack Paar on "TONIGHT." Directing commercials looked like a salary bonanza, but in the words of the producer, Perry Cross ... *WRONG!* (Perry is now selling real estate here in the valley ... we had lunch recently.) Anyway, the commercial job was to do everything but call the camera shots. The show director, Kirk Alexander, did that. Well, I needed a job, since we had a new house in Old Tappan NJ and our second son had been born while I was out of work. It wasn't a union job so Dick Jackson could set the salary and title. That's how I

became the first network "commercial producer." The next year Win Welpen on the TODAY Show got that title.

It was a great job for nine years, five with Paar and four with Carson. In 1957 the TONIGHT Show was live from 11:15PM to 1AM. We reported to work at the Hudson Theatre on 45th Street at about eleven each morning. When I left the show in '66 we were pre-taping the show early evening in studio 6B at 30 Rock.

Jack Paar got a bum rap from some critics for a number of firings on the "TONIGHT" Show. One time I was called up to his dressing room on the second floor backstage at the Hudson. There were execs from NBC and Y&R. Y&R wanted Paar to do their live Postum commercials. I wanted Hugh Downs to do them, reasoning that Jack might screw up the commercials (and NBC would be stuck with rebates). The agency insisted on Paar and wanted me fired. The meeting ended abruptly when Jack agreed that I should be fired ... right after they fired him. P.S. Hugh did the commercials!

We were doing a week of taped "Tonight" broadcasts from St Thomas. The shows were flown back to the states for broadcast a couple of days later. Bob Ward was Ad Manager for Palm Beach clothes. (His Dad, Elmer Ward, Sr. founded the company). My wife Pam had been hired to do the Palm Beach commercials with Hugh Downs. So there we were on an island doing commercials with no agency or client people to "help." However, Pam didn't like her copy. I explained I was the producer and she had to do the commercials as written. At tapings Pam and Hugh did the commercials their way. I was worried until we returned to New York, figuring that Bob Ward would want make-goods because the copy was changed without his okay. NOT so, to my relief, Bob got a kick out of the rough time the "talent" had given me.

In those days most of the commercials on "Tonight" were done live in a small area behind home base at the Hudson Theatre and later in 6B at 30 Rock. Hugh Downs (and later Ed McMahon when we did Carson) would go around back and we would send two cameras, one for cover and one for closeup. One night during the Paar era I saw Hugh Downs was having a lot of trouble with his copy. That wasn't like Hugh. I ran out of 6B control room on the seventh floor and sprinted down the backstairs into the commercial area ... to discover Charlie Weaver (Cliff Arquette) standing by the camera "mooning" Hugh.

Paar and the "Tonight" staff went to London in 1959 to tape a week of shows. We were going to do most of the commercials live on location so we packed up all the commercial props and products and took them with my luggage. The customs folks at Heathrow stopped us when they saw all the stuff and gave us a bad time getting into the country. That was before they had commercial television

(Continued on next page.)

over there guess they thought we were smuggling.

Where were you during the famous New York blackout? I was on the 7th floor of 30 Rock, down the hall from the 6B control room in the men's room, sitting on the john when the lights went out! We got a "Tonight" show on the air that night by putting together a kine of the show by candle light and sending a motorcycle courier to Philadelphia.

Ed McMahon is a great announcer and in those days a super party person. The first time the Carson Tonight show traveled to LA, the cast was invited to a party at a private home. It was a late party but most of us bailed out and got back to the Hollywood Roosevelt. The next morning Ed McMahon called asking me if I could come to the house where the party had been held and pick him up. It seems he had stayed real late at the party and the hosts had already left for work. I agreed and asked him for directions. There was a very long pause before Ed told me that he didn't have any idea where he was! Obviously we found him.

Ed did most of the "Tonight" commercials live with the exception of Budweiser. I campaigned with the agency to try Ed in a live commercial. However, the director of their film commercials was opposed. Then we got lucky. We were in Burbank doing a week of shows and the agency rep invited Ed and me to tour the Van Nys Brewery. We thought we'd died and gone to heaven! At the end of the tour, driving to the studio the agency rep agreed to try Ed in a live commercial. They loved Ed! From then on he did Budweiser live. He also ended up doing their national film commercials. Ed got "healthy" and I got a case of beer.

Skipping ahead, in 1966 Bill Storke brought me into the program department. On June 18, 1966, the eve of my 39th birthday, I was standing off to the side of home base on "Tonight" as Carson did his monologue. The next thing I knew John dragged me on camera and explained that I was being kicked upstairs. That was my one minute of fame in forty-one years. Marge McGlynn tried but was never able to get me a copy of the kine. Later that year Carson asked me about my new job as a network programmer. I tried to explain what it was like in the program department. He smiled and gave the best description I've ever heard.

Johnny said, "The Program Department sounds like the peace time navy."

As manager of nighttime programming it was my job each Friday during football season to prepare "Join In Progress" copy and instructions with Joe Iarici, a veep in

sales administration. In the event a football game ran over BOC (Broadcast Operations Control) was instructed when to join the regularly scheduled Prime Time program "in progress" and the specific copy the booth announcer should use. One Friday I met with Joe who explained that the Network was running a special single sponsor program that Sunday. The program could not be joined in progress. The contract called for NBC to air the complete program. When I asked what to do if something unforeseen happened Joe explained Julian Goodman, President of NBC

was the only one who could make that decision. Sunday afternoon rolled around and I received a number of panic calls at home from BOC asking about leeways. I explained I was "out of the loop" that they had to call Julian Goodman for instructions. I watched with other viewers when it hit the fan on "HEIDI." (or when the flashcaster ran over Heidi's butt.)

Needless to say there was a "POST MORTEM" meeting that Monday and for a while I thought I was going to take the blame. It didn't happen. However, I did make a suggestion that stuck. That's when we started including instructions to "slide" the prime time schedule in extreme cases.

Skipping ahead again, I joined the program department as a manager in New York during the Mort Werner era in 1966 and retired as a veep in Burbank during the Brandon Tartikoff era in 1991. There are more memories, but they'll have to wait until another time. Brandon Tartikoff got me pretty good at my "wrap party." He gave a short speech and then called me up to present me with a check. When I joined him at the podium and reached out for it, Brandon dropped the check. As I quickly bent over to retrieve it, Brandon said, "That's the first time you ever saw Massey pick up a check!" PS it was a phony check. □

*Perry and Pam Massey live
in Calabas, California.*



Jack and Charlie Weaver.



The Airwars Over New York

By Dan Grabel

[Excerpted from a Daily News feature.]

When I think of helicopters my usual vision is of the formation of olive drab planes flying into the landing pad on the old MASH tv show.

There's a daily war in the air over New York between the tv stations to get pictures first, stories first, and prove they are best in the market. The fact that the stations have copters is drummed into listeners in the frequent promotional spots. WABC tv, in fact, points out that it has two copters. (One of them actually belongs to Metro Traffic Service which provides road information to ABC and Fox. Never mind, its just a little exaggeration, fluffery.)

WNBC can claim its plane flies faster, has more cameras (a total of 6) and has a larger seating capacity (7). Two of those cameras are outside the copter and 4 are inside the cabin. It also has 10 color monitors. News director Paula Walker pointed out that NBC's copter, even hovering at 625 feet altitude and half a mile from the scene of an event, can pick out the badge on a policeman's shirt. (Paula did not say she could read the ID numbers). Gyro stabilizers provide camera stability for those shaking copters. Every plane has them, except WCBS.

The copters cost from \$600 to \$1,000 an hour to run and it comes to over one million dollars a year to wage the air wars.

Another news-gathering innovation that has helped local stations are the "sky-cams," cameras mounted atop the Empire state building and other buildings, and also at the bridges and tunnels to provide constant traffic information.



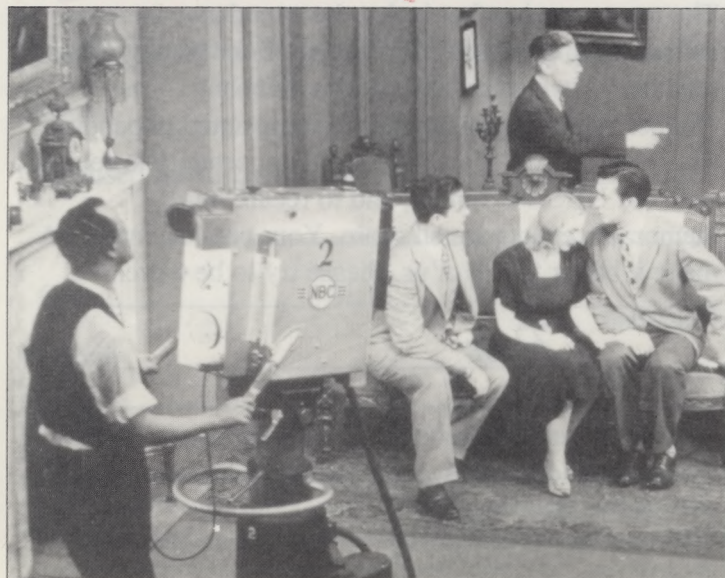
JOHN ROCA Daily News

CHOPPER Z!

It's a wonder someone had not thought of them eons ago since remote operated, zooming cameras have been around for at least a decade.

[Editor note: When I worked with the color creepie cameras following the 1972 political conventions, I met with Bill Trevarthan, Vice President of Engineering, to discuss an idea he had of wiring lamp posts throughout New York City back to TV Radio City with video and audio cables. There would be no need for microwave links and cameras could be dispatched to almost any point in the city for "instant" news events. I'm sure, if nothing else, that the cost would have been prohibitive. I never heard it discussed again. Frank Vierling] □

Another Oldie, oldie - -



Studio 3H, 1947 Kraft Theater production of "Double Door."

LATEST BULLETIN FROM THE INTERNET:

A recent magazine story by Ken Auletta, author of "Three Blind Mice," reports that an important GE executive would consider linking Dow Jones & Co. with GE's Television news operations. It was reported that after discussions between the principals they departed amicably. The speculation was that GE could buy a 20% or more stake in Dow Jones & Co. and then tie the Dow Jones business news operations into NBC, CNBC, and MSNBC. The move toward global business news is advantageous. A spokesman for GE declined to comment on the article. Other parties that express interest in Dow Jones are Reuters and Bloomberg. □

NEW MEMBERS

Carol Aerenson — New York, NY
 Simon Aznet — Floral Park, NY
 Herbert Brotz — Coral Springs, FL
 Renee Cahn — Woodmeer, NY
 Patricia Dalton — New York, NY
 Robert Dreier — Stanford, CT
 Irving Ehrlich — Coconut Creek, FL
 Don Ellis — Osterville, MA
 John Griffin — Hilton Head, SC
 Alfonse Grimaldi — New Rochelle, NY
 Gino Guarna — Brooklyn, NY
 Audrey Guno — Malverne, NY
 Herbert Herzner — Valley Stream, NY
 James Hill — New York, NY
 John Isabella — Queens, NY
 Robert McKearnin — Westwood, NJ

The Peacock North staff
 and membership extend a
 warm welcome to our new members.

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— ♦ —
 And a special thank you to
 Peg Peterson and Lois Vierling

Join the Fun

I/we will attend La Maganette luncheon on June 8.

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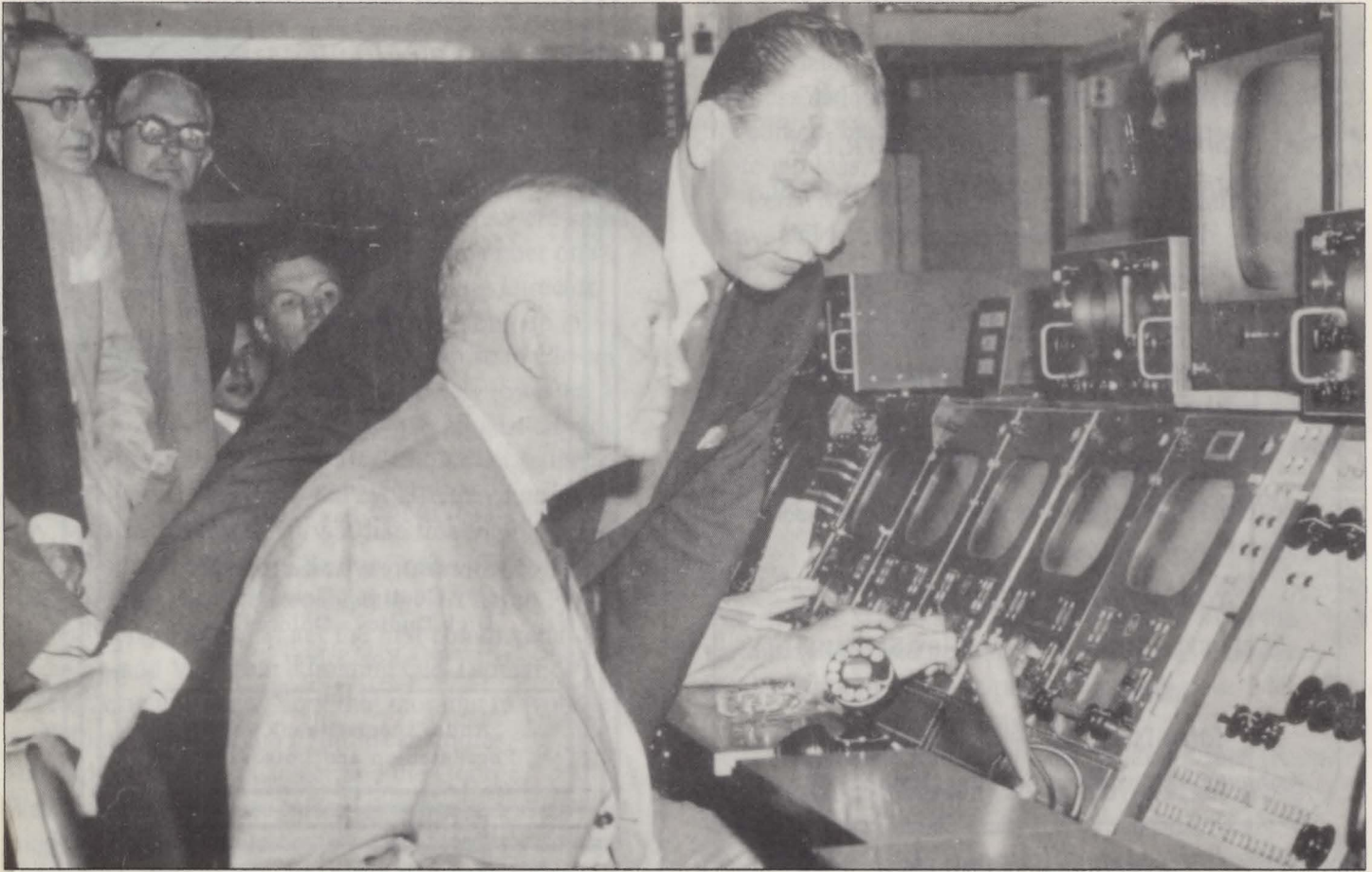
At NBC from _____ 'til _____

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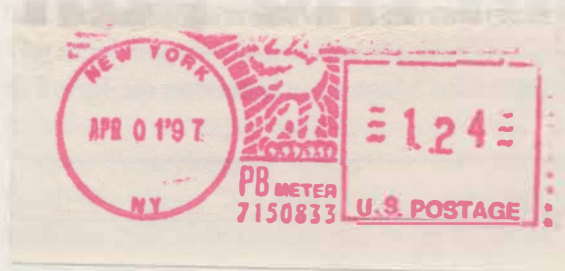
A PICTURE FROM OUR ARCHIVES.....



President Eisenhower seated at a control panel in the new home of WRC-TV in Washington. Robert W. Sarnoff, President of NBC, explains some of the controls. U.P.I. photo from NBC Chimes, May/June, 1958. (Sent in by Lillian McNaughton.)

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First Class Mail



**Spring Reunion Luncheon
La Maganette Ristorante
June 8, 12 Noon
*Be there!***