

Peacock North

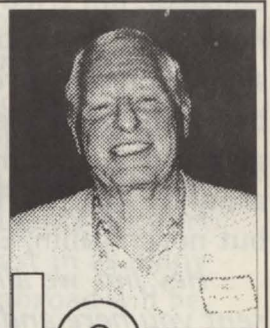
Spring, 1999



Volume 8 Edition 1

PN Sets May 23 for Spring Luncheon

Join **P.N. People** in a gala event. No one goes home disappointed - meet those old coworkers - meet new friends - swap your grand memories. Fill out the coupon on Page 47 - *see you there.*



P.N. People

Hope you all celebrated and had happy holidays! Hope that you don't need psyching up to attend the upcoming La Maganette Bash. If the attendance turns out as well as last year's, prepare your schmooze notes so you don't forget half — then remember as you are driving home. So gobble up the Ginko Biloba, exercise to get the Oxygen gushing thru all your cells, knowing that all the bad things thrive on an anaerobic atmosphere, and all your necessary body parts thrive only because

of the O-2. You might then know the names of a few more of your old buddies when you see them. Also I don't know of anyone that is getting younger, let's savor the moments while we can.

Here's a photo of our illustrious stage manager showing how to play hopscotch at China's Great Wall. One had to hop forward, holding a full glass of scotch, for 5 slates, then rotate without spilling, and then return for 5

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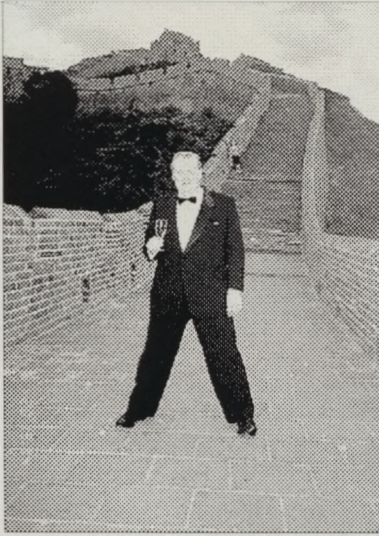
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blocks. Since Jim's June 20th visit, hop-scotch at the Wall is now growing to a national past-time, but it's mandatory that one only use Chinese

Scotch. **Jim O'Gorman**

did. Jim notes in an Epistle to the Peacocks from Deerfield Beach, Fla. that he's still alive and kicking after 59 trips to Ireland since early youth, only 4 to Russia, 2 to India where he worked for Mother Teresa's group for a while in Calcutta. Jim tried hopscotch there, but



The Great Jim on the Great Wall.

slipped on a by product of the holy cattle, but broke the glass. Teresa offered Holy water in a glass, but he declined. Jim certainly has gotten around — did Turkey, Berlin, Paris, London etc. but never Tallin, Estonia.

Hey Jim, we all love you, and no wonder NBC sent you here and there, 'cause you were good at what you did! Coming to the Spring Bash I hope Jim?

Bill Goetz has moved. I hope I can get it right. Now at 4920 Fairways Drive, Brighton, Michigan - 48116. Phone 810-228-7858. They are busy getting settled. It's much closer to Dee's daughter, for they can always count on her for help. Bill says he's slowly adjusting to his life as it is. Being a stroke victim takes a lot of mental adjustment, but is progressing. He adds — "Our home is on the Oak Pointe Golf Course. It's in the little town of Brighton." They enjoy getting the Peacock and read it end to end. Give him a call, now that we have it right. *(Billy and I used most of any leisure time we had at the Seoul Olympics roaming around the town using the subway and testing the Korean gourmet dishes - even found a MacDonald's in our complex. H.)*

Cal Shadwell pencils on a photo of what looks like a field of purple heather, foregrounded by a

birdhouse in the spring. Says he can't wait for the next issue of PN to arrive. Each story of the Golden Days brings forgotten incidents in his career. Cal says, "Don Ellis' story of the 'Greatest Game Ever Played' (NY Giants and the Baltimore Colts in Yankee Stadium, December 28, 1958) reminded me that I was there! For the political Convention in Chicago in 1956, someone had come up with the idea of mounting a camera on a pram audio boom dolly. It could be raised up to look over 8 foot plywood walls of the States' caucus meeting area in the basement of the Chicago Stockyard Convention Center. The same contraption was the first football sideline vehicle. As I reecall (that's not a typo, that's southern), **Arnie Gold** was my dolly man. We moved up and down the sideline on sheets of plywood. When my viewfinder went black, I yelled into my PL, which also had gone dead. I turned around to look at the mobile unit, in time to see every door fly open and bodies flying out the doors.* The game resumed but the throngs of Baltimore fans remained on the field and when the game ended, the mob descends on us. I locked the panning head, pulled out the panning handle and prepared to do battle. Fortunately the battle never occurred. Every time I see a mob of fans yelling and pawing a sideline camera, I think of that day. **(In our Fall issue, Don Ellis wrote that some fans climbing out of the stands and used the mobile unit power cable to lower themselves. In so doing power was disconnected. What Cal saw was a frantic crew exiting the mobile unit to restore power. With referee cooperation the game was delayed until power was restored. H)*

Via a Christmas Card, **Betty Moyer** wishes all a Happy New Year....**Max E. Buck** does the same... **Jay Roper**, former Director, NBC News, West Coast would like to let everyone know when around the San Fernando Valley that a group of retirees meet the last Tuesday of the month at Billingsly's Restaurant in Van Nuys at noon. 15 to 30 lunchers get together to go over those great memories of NBC back when. "All are

welcome to join the festivities. The restaurant is at the south end of the Van Nuys airport, near the golf course."

Jay says he takes his latest copy of Peacock North and passes it around during lunch. They do enjoy it and thank PN for publishing it. If time weren't flying by so fast, Jay promises himself that he'll sit down and write of some ex-Burbankite's happenings. (*Hi, Jay, last time I saw you was in a Bull Ring in Barcelona, wasn't it? Enjoyed the Olympics, but I think my ears were permanently impaired from the sound system they had setup. Yikes! H.*)

Martin Hoade writes, "Gentle people — Many Thanks for your work — I am, with affection and respect," MH

KOIV PRODUCTION, Producer/Director **Rayo Koiv**, from Arlington, Mass, writes he plans a trip to Spain and Estonia in May and will try to get back in time for the La Mag luncheon.

♦ ♦ ♦

My sincerest condolences to Rose M. Seiter, as her husband Ted Seiter joined the Silent Microphones — Oct 20th, 1998.

♦ ♦ ♦

Catherine Deeb shouts out, "I'VE BEEN TAKEN! -back to the good old days by Peacock North." But she can't tell us just how much she enjoys the Newsletter." *We can guess by the Shouting! Catherine, your note makes it all worth while. Keep those notes and cards comin.g H.*

Russ Tornabene sent us the following:

"Yes, we went flying with John Glenn, and a few days later, went flying with the birds." Russ explains: "We were invited to the TV coverage of the shuttle launch with Glenn aboard, by the Chicago Museum of Broadcasting, which had the new High Definition TV by Harris Company, all ready to go on their 3' x 4' screens. 10 - 9 - 8 - 7 on the count on the closed circuit feed from the Cape (with Mary Alice Williams, recently of NBC and CNN anchoring) 6 - 5 - 4 - 3 - 2 - 1 - blast-off."

He continues: "I had produced NBC Radio Network's coverage of Glenn's 1st flight 36 years ago. This was easier and more enjoyable,

because Glenn's 1st flight came after 10 delays over almost a month. Remember the liquid oxygen fuel, which had to be dumped within a few hours delay if the weather was not just right for lift-off?"

"On those huge screens, sights and sounds were awesome. The definition is the clearest picture of anything I've seen...objects in front (such as Mary Alice interviewing a former astronaut) stand out almost in third dimension from the background which was also in sharp focus. One sees every tiny hair of any eyebrow. The colors are richer too, than on my home cable-feed. It's easy to see why high definition will become as enchanting to consumers as color was over black and white in the late 50's."

"Another "lift-off" for me, stems from my contract with a Catholic missionary to produce a half-hour video for the Order's 100th anniversary this year. After shooting here and in some of the 64 countries, where the Order has missions, I'll lay down about 10 different language track narrations, and go "full court press" to get the video broadcast in as many countries as I can. The videos abroad will be shot professionally. I'll select what they shoot and will edit it all together.

Now to the "birds" part, I did the first taping aboard a six-seater Cessna, piloted by a friend. With my wife Audrey at my side — she wouldn't miss the chance to fly — we flew out over the Chicago loop and along the north shore, right over our condo in Evanston, then west to the church site for 20 minutes of dipping and turning for various shots. I'll only use 15 to 20 seconds of it, but it's fairly dramatic, with the tall church spire pointing skyward from the flat countryside."

"So much for my in-flight adventures. By now you all know and saw how Glenn enjoyed his space adventure. After having the guts to be the first, he deserved this ride, and ended safely, and I'll get to my task of finishing my video in time for the centennial celebration." (*Many PN's stories remind others of their*



*similar adventures. I rented a Cessna (172) out of a small airport located close to Jack Benny's home town, Waukegan, got checked out just before dusk, and made one of the best landings ever. Next day, on a day off from our chores at the convention, cameraman **Dick Williams** and I "sight saw" around Chicago, then flew down to Evanston for almost two hours, on a beautiful clear — blue-sky day. The flight ended with another perfect landing, all of which charged my battery, ready for the wear and tear of a political convention TD. Another advantage of Those Golden Years in TV. H.)*

Noel Engler e-mailed us his new Englewood, Florida address. For those making e-mail address lists, Noel's is nolfie@aol.com.

If any of you have any news that you think folks would like to know, e-mail it to me, Heino, at hchripp29@aol.com

Dan and **Pat Grabel** were on the road last fall. They did Turkey in October and discovered that in Turkey they spell it *Turkiye*. Istanbul, Ankara, Capadoccia, and Anatalya. Most fascinating spot in this biblical land was in Capadoccia where they went down into the underground city. Built around the first century, early Christians dug down 20 stories to build this hutch of tiny tunnels and cutouts in the volcanic ash walls, seeking protection from enemies.

The Grabels spent the Christmas-New Year season in London, which, as expected, was damp and cloudy, and lived through days with about 8 hours of light. Shopping was exxxxx-pensive, so they did none. Holiday taxi rates would be the envy of those foreign-speaking car-jocks at Kennedy airport. For instance, Christmas Day, double fare. One 30-minute ride cost 45 pounds, about \$72. New Year's Eve, double fare, a 25-minute ride, Kingston to Weybridge, \$123. The alternative — walk, mit luggage.

Jim Geraghty writes a wee note: "Some of those 'Old' Great Stories sure bring back many memories. I was on that Pearl Harbor 25th anniversary (that **Joe Meehan** wrote about) with

Frank Defelita, **Joe Meehan**, **John Rich**, cameraman **Joe Vadala** and Super-on-camera guy **Frank McGee**! I was the soundman. I should write you a story." (*Folks! don't be a shudda, wudda kudda writer. Write it! You probably could do a better job than those that call themselves writers! H.*)

Bill (W.f.) Kelly about to reach the status of an octogenarian, sends us a short essay called *Life Begins at Eighty*:

I have good news for you. The first 80 years are the hardest. The second 80 are a succession of birthday parties. Once you reach 80, everyone wants to carry your baggage and help you up the steps. If you forget your name or somebody else's name, or an appointment or your telephone number, or promise to be three places at the same time, or can't remember how many grandchildren you have, you need only explain you are 80. Being 80 is a lot better than being 70. At 70 people are mad at you for everything. At 80 you have a perfect excuse no matter what you do. If you act foolishly, it's your second childhood. Everyone is looking for symptoms of softening of the brain. Being 70 is no fun at all. At that age, they expect you to retire to a house in Florida and complain about arthritis (they used to call it lumbago), and you ask everyone to stop mumbling, because you can't understand them. (Actually your hearing is 50 % gone.) If you survive until you are 80, everybody is surprised that you are still alive. They treat you with respect just for having lived so long. Actually they seem surprised that you can walk and talk sensibly. So please, folks, try to make it to 80. It's the best time of life. People forgive you for everything. If you ask me, life begins at 80.

Written by author Unknown. (Guess the author was 80, and forgot his name.)

♦ ♦ ♦

Ray Weiss, now in Boca Raton, Florida. E-mail address: rweiss9191@aol.com sends regards to all. Is happy we keep PN alive — **William Howard** and his wife **Opal** wish you all well. His E-mail address: bilhow@worldnet.att.net — **Ken Arber**

E-mails us news that **Ed Stolzenberger** fell and broke his hip, and thinks he had to have it replaced. — **Ann Kramer** sends us all the word "Peace," and is already waiting for the next issue of the Newsletter. — **Jean Fitzpatrick** (wife of Jack, the L.D.) pens us that she has sold her Bergenfield house and now has a co-op in Fort Lee living with her daughter. Hopes to get to a La Mag Bash once they're settled in. — **len**

Stucker E-mails from address:

LennyStucker@premiere.de that he has been made Program Director of European Television. He chooses the programs for most of the channels in Europe. He has an office in Germany. Call him. His phone No. is - 011 49 40 66801400. — Another E-mail address:

(**Vince Vacca**) vaccav@nantucket.net — Vince's observant bride said, "How come your address printed in PN is incorrect?" So, Sho nuf, 'twas. Above is correct. The address tells you that Vince is spending time in Nantucket (in a house that was just finished) which they love. Spends half of his time in Wash. DC. Is hoping (at Nov. writing) to find a condo or co-op apt there. We see that they read The Newsletter, which they say is always a pleasure to receive and read end to end. *All PN staff says, "Thank You."*

Don luftig is, or by now has been on another sojourn. He mentioned The British Virgin Islands. *(Sailing in that area and being able to anchor at the ritzy-est vacation spots is my number two after St. Barths. In St. Barths you have much of the place for yourself. One beautiful cove, owned by the Rockefellers, was accessible only by going through Rocky's private property, which doesn't happen, or you sail in by yacht, which anyone can do. Many times there might be just one boat there, otherwise it would be all yours. H.)* Don wanted us to publish his E-mail address. Get your pens out. Don8008@aol.com — It was nice to hear from

Rick Berman via rberman@rlc.net on e-mail. Rick says the Ham band nets seem to have diminished in size, so E-mail is a nice alternate way of keeping in touch. He still manages to talk to guys up North on 75 meters. They meet

every Mon., Wed. and Fri. at about 8:15am on 3845 mgh. Also he's on an ABC net each Tues. am on 40 meters, 7820 mgh. where he kept up on the lockout news. Rick has a new gig now. The U of VA put a new big screen and audio system in their football stadium and asked him to do the PA mix. Hear this, 21,000 watts of really clear audio. The screens consist of all the features that Network Broadcasting Companies put on, and other bells and whistles. Boy how the equipment has developed since retiring 11 years ago! Rick stumbled upon the ABC Ham net because ABC covered a game there in Oct., and two of the crew were hams -- Rich Gelber, K2WR and Stephan Barredes, K2CX. After schmoozing a bit Rick joined them on the air, all retirees, some of whom know people at NBC... "Small world, isn't it," says Rick. Story goes on that **Gene Frisch** visited Rick soon after he arrived at Charlottesville. He flipped over Rick's house. Two weeks later Gene and his architect came back. Recently the Bermans went to a house warming at Gene Frisch's — an elegant first class copy of Rick's home. Gene tells us that his neighbors are very quiet. He's right next door to a church cemetery. No props to arrange on Halloween. **leo farrenkopf** also lives in Charlottesville and Rick's been trying to reach him but to no avail — E-mail discontinued — no one answers the phone — evenings phone is always busy — no answer machine. — The only thing Rick misses in Charlottesville is not being near the water. He loved being out on the water on L.I. Sound. So he's built a big pool, where they can swim from June to mid Sept. Says he'd keep it up in the fall except he can't keep ahead of the acorns. No it's not a misprint. You see the pool is built under two 175-year-old Oak trees. He adds, "It was great to see you all at the reunion last spring." *Thanks for the E-mail, Rick.*

Bob Hill writes: "Just came back from NJ, to see daughter Kathy. She's expecting her first child - a girl." *(This modern age, no surprises and nervous anticipation left. H)* "While in NJ I did some fly fishing and enjoyed the autumn



colors of the trees. I hope **David Iallicatto** is doing OK. Ask **Roz Bigelow** (an LD) if he remembers "the Goddess of Light" looking for her "Key" (light). I spent Christmas with son in Tulsa, OK, and start teaching my grandson the art of fishing." A special "Hello" to **Bob Juncosa**, who did a great job in keeping my camera in good shape when we worked together at Glassboro.

Speaking of Bob Juncosa, he sent us three pictures taken at the November PN mini lunch at the Green Olive Cafe (formerly Picco Lissimo). He and Diane were east for Thanksgiving to visit with friends and family.

Frankie
DeRienzo,
Pete
Peterson.



Russ Ross,
Tony Nell,
Gary Iorio,
Irv
Messing,
Bob
Van Ry



Buddy
Shadell,
Bill
DeLannoy,
Bob
Higgins,
Bob
Juncosa,
Jim Sunder.

Guess who's moved to sunny FL? TV Director of such long ago, long running hit shows as "What's My Line" and hundreds of others, our good friend, **Lloyd Gross** (and his lovely better half, **Ginny**). They plan to move out of their rental in Dunnellon, FL on March

12th to what Lloyd calls a modest house with a pool. His new address will be 10053 S. W. 192nd Circle, Dunnellon, FL 34432. New Phone is 352-465-3972. Says weather is fine, lots of tennis, time to read and watch the grass grow. Give them a welcome call.

We recently heard that **Joe Zurcher** is in a Nursing Home in Burlington, NJ. Sorry we have no other details at the moment....**Reuven Frank**, retired president of NBC News, has turned commentator doing business news spots for Public Radio International. He can be heard, intermittently, on many PBS radio stations on their business reports.

Bob Asman, Producer, Director, Member of the Titanic Society at midnight, author, etc. etc. an interviewee and expert on Space and politics, married to an ex NBC Guidette and things I haven't found out yet and a nice guy, sent us a voluminous epistle. So here's the best of —

My son, David, who was with the Wall Street Journal in New York for 12 years and was a Features Editor for the Editorial Page, did a bit of TV as a 'pundit' and was spotted by Roger Ailes who runs the FOX News Channel. That was more than a year ago and David is now anchoring at FOX Monday through Friday between 9 AM and 5 PM. He is enjoying it and for me the big kick came during the recent John Glenn shuttle flight. I got a call from a FOX producer in New York who ask me to be on the air the next day from Washington to talk about how press coverage of the space program had changed since the first flights in the '60's. Since I was lucky enough to have worked on NBC's space coverage and was at the Cape for almost every launch starting with MA-9 (the Gordon Cooper flight) right through all the Gemini and Apollo flights, I said sure, I would be delighted to be on. The producer then explained that my son would be hosting during the time I would be on. This made me even more anxious to participate.

So, sure enough, on Friday, October 30th I was on the FOX News Channel with my son as host AND joined by Cmr. Jim Lovell (of Apollo 13 fame). FOX had hired him to be their space

expert for the coverage of the Glenn shuttle mission. It was a three-way conversation with David in New York, Jim Lovell at the Cape and me in Washington. We were on for about 12 minutes between 12:30 and 1 PM and it was a real joy! It went well enough so that FOX repeated that segment again later that same afternoon!

About 15 seconds before air, David suddenly said to me (via IFB) "say, what do I call you?" I told him to call me 'Dad' or 'Pop'. However, he ended up calling me 'Bob Asman' during the segment. He admitted to the audience that I

was his father, however.

Being on with Jim Lovell, who is a real hero of mine, brought back wonderful memories of those exciting days down at the Cape, which I'm sure you remember as well.

Those were wonderful days. The space program and our race to fulfill President Kennedy's declaration that we would get men to the moon and safely back before the end of the decade (the '60's) was a great story to cover. I'm sure all the folks who were involved with our coverage would agree, yes, another reason to have worked in The Golden Age of Television.



Max Liebman Spectaculars crew.

- | | |
|---------|---|
| 1st row | Jim Blaney, Bill Stone, Carmine Piccioccio, Joe Carridi, Frank O'Keefe, Milton Butz. |
| 2nd Row | John Ward, Nick Bruno, Art Zarakas, Carl Ricca, Heino Ripp (T.D.), George Weisz, Walter Serafin, Roy Olsen and Joe Bascietto. |
| 3rd Row | Walter Werner, Gene Cronin, Fred McKinnon, Sonny Perlmutter, Bob Sullivan, Tom Williams, Don Mulvaney, Ernie Thiel, Lauren Jaycox. Dave Byrnes and Arnold Rand aren't shown, 'cause they were playing Ping Pong behind the set. |

On October 23, I think 1952, Max Liebman's Spectacular "The Follies of Suzy" had a dress rehearsal. Director, Bill Hobin, always wore a bright red shirt, so he could be found amongst the 150 plus folk that could be on the floor at one time in the giant Brooklyn Studios. This day, just before the dress rehearsal, the entire tech crew came out; each dressed in a red shirt, on my "Man the gear" cue, as Hobin was to meet us for some final notes. Everyone had a good laugh about this. The next week everyone came in with the red shirts again, but Hobin popped in wearing a bright Yellow shirt!





Bill Stone



Merritt Roesser



Roy Robbins



Billy Knight

These four talented men, all pro's in their area, left NBC many years ago and went to Europe to work with the Intertel Company. They did quite a lot of programs from all over Europe, including Joe Cates' Circus shows.

I know Bill Stone has passed away, but what has happened to the rest of them? Does anybody know?

After I had participated in a survey for Perry Como's London show I took some days off and went to Amsterdam, where my brother was working with Phillips Company, visiting them and their new Holland born daughter.

A few days later, I flew to Paris to see Billy Stone. Unfortunately for me, they had not returned from a gig, so I meandered all around. I had a Paris map in my pocket, but I never took it out, remembered it from my French Class. (How different today! Oh boy, where's my glasses?)

At home, I had talked via amateur radio to a fellow in Paris, an airline pilot for Air France, who I had Bill Stone contact. They got to be friends and I had arranged to call the pilot's home. His wife said he hadn't returned from Algeria yet and Bill hadn't return either. Well, "O for two." I had never seen the pilot. But I told her what flight I was to take, then taxied

to Les Invalides terminal (from whence transportation is available to the airport). Once there, I wandered. Then heard the P.A. voice say in French, please Pan Am passenger Ripp go to gate 5. My first thought was I had been bounced, I had to be in Radio City the next day. Went to gate 5 - Gate locked, no one there, thought I flunked my French lesson. Then I saw a fellow approaching the gate. He called, "Heino?" I came back, "Roland?" A few more minutes and I'd have missed him. Timing is everything! Yes, it was the pilot. We schmoozed over coffee, then he drove me to my flight at Charles de Gaulle airport. Orly wasn't built yet.

Some weeks later, we were taping a Como Show from Brooklyn; Roland called me from "Idlewild." He had just come in as the co-pilot of a 707, getting checked out, on his way to being a Captain. He came to the show. I drove him to Connecticut. Had a late supper, stayed up half the night talking. Next morning took him to the train and he was on his way to Paris. Where else could one enjoy experiences like this but in those Golden days of TV, also how amateur radio played a big part making real friends. 🦋

Sign up for La Maganette Luncheon

May 23, 12 Noon. Fill out the coupon on page 47. See you there.



THE EAR BENDERS

By Dick Dudley

This 'n That

In case you missed it, William Safire in his NYTimes column on language wrote on the subject of old time radio. He cited the inspiring voice of Edward R. Morrow saying, "This - - - is London," which once heard, will never be forgotten.

I had the pleasure and honor of working on VE Day with Ed had the great spot in London — Piccadilly Circus. Doug Edwards and Chet Morrison were in other spots. I had the most interesting location, "the Feathers Pub" in Lambeth Walk, which stood unscathed amid the bomb damage surrounding it. It stands alone the way the Farben Building was left standing in Frankfurt, Germany which the US Army wanted to use for a headquarters when they captured the city on the Main River.

There was a doubt about whether to do the VE Day broadcast at all — the British government wanted to down play the German surrender because the war in Asia was still unresolved.

At a meeting at Morrow's office, we were debating what to do, when I said, "Ed, the BBC and Parliament has no control over Times Square and every square in every small town in the USA and with the reaction I see going on here in London, I think we need to celebrate this marvelous occasion." Ed paused the way he did between "This - - - is London" — then said, "OK, let's do it."

The Feathers Pub was filled to overflowing — it would be impossible to fall down in case you had too many pints of "mild and bitters." I was fortunate to be behind the bar where I tried to hear my cue from Ed Morrow. I listened to my headphones, but the noise of Piccadilly and the people in my pub made it difficult to hear Ed. I heard a sort of lull on my earphones and felt he had passed on the remote to me. Not quite sure, I held my mike to capture the noise of the pub's jubilant crowd and said, "Do you hear that noise America?" I let the noise drink in, then, "It's the voice of a happy people." Fortunately, I had guessed right and the continuity of the broadcast was preserved.

Standing at the bar in front of me was a bobby — a British policeman. I asked him, gazing at the throngs of cockneys celebrating, "This is quite a night, isn't it?" He said, "It's just like any other Saturday night here." To the British, England, Scotland and Wales, the local pub is their Shangri La, their psycho couch, their throne of kings and during the blitz their island set in an exploding Emerald sea.

There was a story of two old Cockney women sweeping the debris of the previous nights bombing raid from their front steps. One said, "It's an awful bloody war ain't it?" The second said, "Well, I guess it's better than no war at all."

I spent 3 years there during the war and felt the uncertainty of the blitz, V-1's and V-2's and saw how the English showed their spunk. When I first arrived in London, Art Feldman, who had been second to Abe Schoctor the then head of NBC news, was now head of ABC News London. He took me to dinner in SoHo and on the way an alert sounded warning of an air raid — "What do we do?" I asked. "Run to a bomb shelter like everyone else," he said. But everyone seemed to be ambling along unconcerned. When we got to the restaurant, a little lady who owned it was outside raising her fist high and cursing the Luftwaffe. In the cafe, Robert Donat was eating at the next table and I felt safe, because I felt no bombs would rid the world of such a fine actor. The food also gave me faith because it was far superior to army mess. The German bombing not only preserved Robert Donat but also failed to destroy the House of Parliament, St. Paul's, Westminster Abby, the BBC's Broadcast house and Ed Morrow — cigarettes did him in.

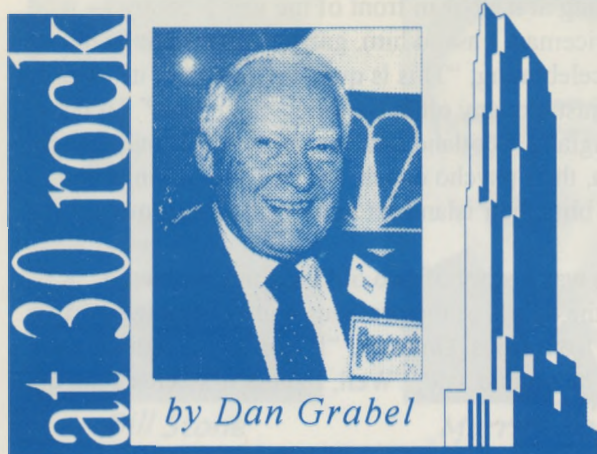


Our announcer friend and PNER Dick Dudley is recovering from his fall in Willow Street, PA.

Attention Golden-Voiced "Ear Benders"

*There must be a thousand stories yet untold that can be aired to our **PN** members through these pages. The stories need not be polished prose. Send your funny, complimentary, happy, sad, firsts, embarrassing or heroic stories to Dan Grabel, he, of the Golden-Pen, can make them into epics. Give it a try.*

And to all: We would like to chronicle some General Sarnoff anecdotes — so, get them down on paper and send them in, again to: Dan Grabel, 31 Cohawney Road, Scarsdale, NY 10583, or via E-mail: dangrabel@aol.com — save your golden stories in **PN** — for posterity.



by Dan Grabel

GLOOM & DOOM AHEAD?

Standby for more heads rolling at the top programming levels! The NYTimes had a sizzling analysis by Bill Carter in which he gave his view of why network viewing is down and cable viewing is up. Overall, in mid-November, major net viewing was down 9.9 percent for the industry while cable was up 10 percent. At the Peacock, it was down a searing 15.5. UPN was worse — down 39.4 percent over last year, ABC 6.6, CBS 5.2, while just two were up — Fox by 1.4 and WB by 13.3. That network drop translates to 575-million viewers per week.

Carter attributed NBC's collapse to the disappearance of *Seinfeld*, and then listed other reasons: the sameness of programming on all the nets. That sameness was attributed to a thinning pool of imaginative writers and reliance on "old hat" creations.

Why is cable attracting the audiences? He says they're going for wrestling, football, and something titled "Walker, Texas Ranger," — blue collar fare, while the nets are going after the 18 to 49 crowd and yuppies.

How to turn it around? Carter notes that two guys from cable moved into big net programming jobs: **Scott Sassa**, ex Turner, replacing **Warren Littlefield** at NBC and **Doug Herzog**, ex MTV, replacing **Peter Roth** at Fox.

GRIM PICTURE

The LA Times did a forum among top programmers in tv and had a preamble with this grim note: Some 30 years ago, during the Nixon presidency, the tv audience watching the big 3 nets was 90 percent of viewers. Today with 196 cable channels out there too, that viewing audience has slipped to 47 percent.

Reasons? competition from videocassettes and the internet. One expert noted that a fundamental change is that the audience no longer stays glued to one channel all night. Why? The invention of the remote control zapper. Viewers no longer have to get off the couch to change the station!

Seeking an optimistic future, one expert said tv must once again seek a new opportunity and get more mileage out of its original programming. One possibility — take a property, say a new mini-series, and show it on regular tv,

simultaneously have the news department do a doc, and then create a web site to milk the program further with interactive usage.

"HEIDI" REMEMBERED

The "Heidi" episode occurred 30 years ago, and that anniversary was recalled neatly by columnist Richard Sandomir in the Times. For those who don't recall, NBC was broadcasting a Jets-Oakland game with New York ahead in a final minutes, and NBC set to program the kids' movie "Heidi" at 7pm. In 1968 games rarely ran 3 hours, so the net figured it was safe programming the movie at 7. Today, of course, if a game runs long, the programming automatically slides back. Not then.

Dick Cline was the net's broadcast ops supervisor. His basic instructions were to cut away at 7pm, but Cline phoned his boss to make sure that was still the order of the day. His boss went higher, got permission to keep the game on, but the switchboard was jammed and he could not reach Cline. (That was well before the advent of cell phones).

Came 7pm and Zap!#*@!! on came "Heidi" to the delight of the 'lil ones and to the consternation of the football fans. In the final minute, Oakland scored two touchdowns and won.

Recalling the day, Cline said he would have been fired if he kept the game on without permission to do so. Ironically, he was promoted the following week.

Where is Dick Cline now? Working on CBS's NFL games.

It was a sizzling moment in tv history. (See page 20.)

DOLLARS & SENSE

NBC, as all know, re-signed to run ER. How do you make a profit from a show that now costs \$13-mil an episode? (Last year it was, perhaps, one tenth of that cost). Well, NBC is charging \$565,000 per 30-second spot and with 11 minutes of commercials, according to Advertising Age, that brings in \$12.4.

POTPOURRI

NBC has sold its stake in Court TV to fellow-partners Time Warner and Liberty Media....credit writer **Larry Gelbert** with the Home Box office movie title, "Weapons of Mass Distraction"....What ever happened to that rumor that NBC and Turner Broadcasting were going to start their own football league?....Now there's talk that CBS, Time Warner and CNN are going to merge their news operations....**Rosie O'Donnell** can sleep nights now that she's been resigned through the year 2002 season. Nationwide she's seen on both NBC and ABC stations.....**Conan O'Brien** can feel secure, too. He has marked his fifth anny as host of the Late Night Show....The State of Florida now has its own news channel and seven NBC stations in that state each own a five percent stake in the op. Some 23 cable stations are carrying the new

service....WNBC-New York must be wondering about the former Florida cop it hired to give its ambulance-chasing local staff a pseudo-expert aura. Turns out **Scott Weinberger** had to resign from two Florida local police departments. He was hired after **John Miller**, once NYPD's flack, left the station.....In recreating Rockefeller Center as an upscale mall — maybe that should read 'maul' — the landlord has squeezed out 75 retail shop tenants with lease hikes or cancellations. The contractor, **Jerry Speyer**, wanted to rip out the marble wall behind the Prometheus statue but the NYC Landmarks Commission would not allow it.....NBC has a piece of the Titanic — the movie, that is. The network that wouldn't be caught dead on a sinking ship, has bought the rights to broadcast the film ten times, beginning in the year 2,000. The price — \$30 million!!!

SELF-ANALYSIS

Every once in a while tv's personalities and organizations step back from the screen and comment on what they're doing right, what they're doing wrong. At a Radio-TV News Directors gathering, **Jane Pauley** and **Carl Bernstein** offered these views. Jane: "As a news consumer, I am one of those who has no real respect for the media. *Sometimes it is no better than talk radio.* The danger is when you can't tell the difference between the reporter and

the pundit."

Said Bernstein, "Good journalism is the best obtainable version of the truth ... too often we lose sight of that ideal...instead we pander...we're allowing our priorities to become bastardized into the triumph of idiot culture." (and finally) .. "Increasingly, the picture of our society as rendered in the media is misleading, illusionary, disconnected from the true context of our lives.... We too often tell our readers that the trivial is significant, more important than real news, so that we condescend to them."

THE TRUTH, THE WHOLE TRUTH, ETC

Mike Barnicle's fiasco, while not tv, was news dept stuff, so we comment here. When the Boston Globe (a NYTimes property) columnist was fired after he got caught with too many in-exactitude's in his copy — the Times noted "our culture argues that a good yarn justifies cutting corners, imagining dialogue, inventing characters and otherwise torturing the truth." We must point out, however, the paper did not agree with that warped position. It was commenting on it and other falsehoods in today's media.

Other recent lapses of the truth: CNN producers and that falsely story of US troops war atrocities...the movie "Shine" false depicting pianist **David Helfgott** as 'mad'...the NYTimes Bestseller book list including

"Midnight in the Garden of Good and Evil" as non-fiction even though the author admits inventing dialogue.

After getting fired, Barnicle wrote an op-ed letter, which his former employer, The Globe, rejected, and then he tried to buy a full page ad, for \$20,000, to explain his side of the story. Both ideas were rejected — "They didn't add anything new to the issue" said Globe management.

BRYANT GOES TITANIC

When **Bryant Gumble's** "Public Eye" CBS show collapsed, one producer revealed just how the staff got the news. Since many of us have been through similar debacles, we report how this one went: (we excerpt)

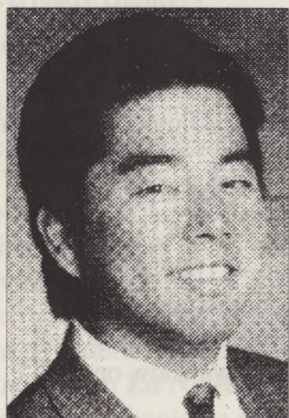
"You know a tv show is doomed when the entire staff gets 10 minutes notice to meet and you spot the arrival of the news division president (**Andrew Heyward**). His eulogy was short, not sweet. 'We are shutting down this production and disbanding the staff. You're free to compete for other positions elsewhere at CBS News.'

Heyward was followed by a VP who was equally succinct: 'if you have

Scott Sassa -- mini profile

By Dan Grabel (rewriting the tv columns)

The man who will succeed Warren Littlefield as head of NBC



Scott

Entertainment, and eventually replace Don Ohlmeyer as president of NBC West Coast, obviously has winning ways and a persuasive personality.

A former college cheer leader, Sassa caught Ted Turner's attention in the early 1980s when Turner hired the Southern California University's marching band for a party. Sassa was hired and put in charge of Turner



Warren

Broadcasting's music-video programming. Next, he was moved into other cable operations and in seven years created seven new channels, including TNT and The Cartoon Channel.

Fox tv spotted him and he was among the first people hired by the fledgling network which has fooled the industry and burgeoned into a considerable success. Next, entrepreneur Ronald Perelman hired Sassa to revive Marvel, the comic-book company. (Opps, it soon went into bankruptcy).

A year later, he came to NBC and was running the stations' group when tapped for the new job. Now 39, Sassa is described as "a great innovator and a smart manager, he has a feel for programming."

questions about benefits, there's an 800 phone number you can call.' So much for the warm and fuzzy approach.

HONORS

Jane Pauley was the 1998 winner of the RTNDA's Paul White Award for setting an example for all news professionals.

HDTV

The FCC has ordered broadcasters in the top markets to begin offering digital signals this year — high definition tv. It is an expensive new way to transmit tv signals, one which one promoter of the system calls "a complete theatrical experience at home." That's hardly likely, since the lights will not go down in the living room, and people will not stop conversations as they do at the movies.

One question is — does the public really care about better pictures if one has to go out and buy an expensive new receiver? Also, it is expensive for show people too, since they'll have to convert films and existing re-run shows on tape to HD.

Sony says it will make its HDTV sets in a conventional-style table top model. Every other maker plans to sell large, rear-projection sets.

Prices? Off the wall. Sony's 34 inch will sell for \$9,000. I'll repeat that — \$9,000. Comparison: In 1953, RCA put the first color sets on the market at \$1,000. In today's money, and accounting for inflation, etc, that is the equivalent of \$4,500 worth of 1999 dollars.

FYI there's one tv channel in Japan already broadcasting 20 hours a day of HDTV. One know-it-all says the Japanese are more "technophilic" than Americans.

WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

Marvin Kalb, once a correspondent at both NBC and CBS, has moved back to Washington from Boston as executive director of the Washington office of the **Joan Shorenstein** Center on Press, Politics and Public Policy at the JFK School of Government at Harvard. Boy! Try to get that on a business card...**Marv Albert** has returned, like he knew he would. On his opening show on Madison Square Garden nightly sports, that show's audience increased 57 percent!! Usually garnering a .27 rating, it zoomed to 43. Can it last?...**Joe Coggins**, retired newsman, who we last heard from 15 years ago gave us a hoot on the phone. Had found us on the world wide web. Joe, always a colorful character, and occasional management whipping boy — meaning he took the licks, not gave them — lives in Belmar, New Jersey. You may say "strangely," but nevertheless, Joe once had a fellowship at Harvard, based I think, on a visit he made to China. He tells us he has since been invited back three more times!!!! Joe Coggins, scholar? Show me the papers!!!!...news writer **Herb Gordon** and travel agent wife **Gail** continue at their townhouse on West 101 street in Manhattan, with his pair of red-headed twins at Bates and Colby. Herb is still leading canoe trips into the Canadian

wilds each summer, when you'd think, instead, he'd be lolling in a hammock on tar beach. Gordon's typewriter still clicks away and the past three years he has created: Essential Skiing, a revised edition of The Complete Book of Canoeing and the Joy of Family Camping. The guy must go through gallons of citronella while in the back country!!!!.....

GREASEPAINT

Rick Kelly, who never got a shot in front of the camera while he worked at NBC, has been getting his applause for six decades in amateur theatre and we caught him in two performances in recent months at the Greenville Theatre group in Westchester. Most recently in "Noises Off," and earlier in a curtain raiser titled "I'm Herbert." He was entertaining in both. Early in his stage career, he toured the ETO in army variety shows. Since then, Rick has played in some 90 productions from Shakespeare to "On Golden Pond."

He came to NBC in 1943, joined the page staff, off to WWII and college and returned to be the first (along with **Grant Tinker**) radio executive trainee. On to Unit Manager and East Coast Casting Director, and finally, to RCA, to become "Keeper of the General's (Sarnoff) Podium." The final assignment, for a decade, takes some telling, so we'll leave that to Rick in a future PN. Tis un-believable. Hey, Pete, be a good story for the next LaMagnet luncheon.

RETIRED? DON'T BELIEVE IT.

One news writer retiree thinks maybe he should go back to work to find free time. He does not have much free time in retirement. In 1998, he had four articles published in NYTimes Westchester section, three in Westchester 60 Plus Magazine, currently has four more assignments from 60 Plus, is researching two others, and this is the 14th winter that he is writing a weekly newspaper ski column. Oh, and a few pieces regularly in **Peacock North**.

Will that writer please stand up. Okay, its me.

WEBSITES

First there were street-corner orators (like at 14th Street, Union Square, Manhattan), then there were town forums, then radio talk shows, and now, anyone with a computer and a little skill can have his own show on the Internet.

I remember as a kid living in Washington Heights (upper Manhattan) during the Depression days. There was a busy intersection at 157th street and Broadway that always attracted Friday night and Saturday night thinkers, loquacious hoboes, and pitchmen. Hey, this was the 1930s, before tv, and for some, radios were a luxury. But talk was cheap. Any one with an idea and a soap box could speak out, as certainly they did as far back as Roman times. Maybe even Barney Rubble got up on a rock in caveman days.

The latest version is NBC retiree **Joe Coggins**, mentioned earlier in this column. He has a website

(www.newsforum.com), and when you punch it up it will say The Grafton Forum. Why Grafton? I'll have to check.

Those who remember Joe before he left NBC in the mid 80s knew him as an argumentative, opinionated and a garrulous cronie. Those are all pluses — we're friends. A frequenter of Hurley's (say, he's Irish, gotta meet your "lansmen" somewhere) and a place called The Coffee House.

Then, he spoke to one or two people at a time. Now, he's a king (there are lots of Irish kings, so its no big deal). We spent a little time at Joe's site and his discussion topics varied from Palestine, to Burma, to Kosovo, to Bill Bradley. And the site warned that it is updated daily, so Joe can keep on writing, and writing and writing, like the Everready Bunny!

AUTHOR! AUTHOR!

Just in time for Christmas, two anchormen put out books and announced them with full page ads in the NYTimes Book Section — **Tom Brokaw** and **Peter Jennings**. Brokaw authored "The Greatest Generation," which according to the jacket blurb (PN writers don't get review copies) "They came of age during the Great Depression and the Second World War and went on the build modern America." Well, we didn't check with grammarian **Ed Newman**, but we think the G in Great Depression should be lower case, and the same for Second in Second World War.

Jennings got assistance with his tome from **Todd Brewster**. That jacket blurb says, "The remarkable story of our grandparents, our parents, and ourselves comes alive in The Century, a magnificent keepsake volume of the last one hundred years." The Jennings book is a "companion" to a 12-hour prime-time ABC-tv series coming in 1999 which, somehow, gets expanded to 15 hours when it is later played on the History Channel. The subject matter deals with eyewitness accounts of people who witnessed history. Something like half a million copies were in the first run. Brokaw's publisher started with 200,000 copies.

Jennings' book quickly landed on the best seller list. A

P.R. guy for Brokaw's publisher noted that Tom researched and wrote his book himself.

NOT THE GRAND CANYON

Retired director **Marilyn Jacobs Furey** recalls a story from her early days in tv when she was working on the "Martha Raye" show and **Herb Ross** was the choreographer. When the producer sent a note to Ross

saying "there is too much cleavage on one of the dancers," Ross replied, "If there's any cleavage, she painted it there!"

WE NEVER MAKE ERRORS

Peter Flynn, ex radio, points out that we referred to his son "Jack." Peter and spouse Laura never had a son, but they do have a dog, a Jack Russell terrier, and his name is.....Jack.

POTPOURRI

Fox Sports and ESPN are planning to open a chain of sports-theme restaurants. Wadda-day-no-about-cookin'? Remember when RCA went into the food business with Banquet Foods? Didn't last long...The Screen Actors Guild and AFTRA

voted to combine. A move like that between NABET and IATSE forty years ago might have kept the unions stronger in television....**Joan Rivers** was a guest on the Today show and when Rivers talked about her late husband she burst into tears. Consoling her, **Katie** suggested she use waterproof mascara!....**Matt Laurer's** new bride, model **Anette Roque**, helped him garner bad press when she asked for press credentials to the **John Glenn** space journey. Four thousand applied for press tags, 3,000 got 'em, including Laurer's wife who was designated a makeup artist on the NBC roster at Cape Canaveral. Actually, she was neither hired, nor paid — just put on the roster. And this story would never have seen the light of day if the gal was the wife of, say, a no-name producer.

SPLITTING AIRS

With the development of cable, there probably are at least 150 television stations putting out programming on a given day and they certainly have split the audience. Now, several entrepreneurs are trying to split it even more by catering to very specific audiences. Several experienced female producers, including **Oprah Winfrey**, are planning



wings for the station breaks. And now, the final blow! Gloria Clyne has opted out. Going, going, gone....on March 5th after nearly 56 years at 30 Rock.

The diva of local news...the gal who has a satchel full of company secrets...the researcher who could dig out that story no matter how secretive the personalities....she has taken Denny Swanson's offer of a buyout and will depart. It is probably not enough....she's worth a bundle, what with her energy, her dedication, and her capability.

When Glo is gone, they'll first realize what a real gem she was.

Retired, but not idle. She has plans, we know them — but we'll let her disclose them at the Peacock North LaMaganette luncheon!

Gloria Goes!!!

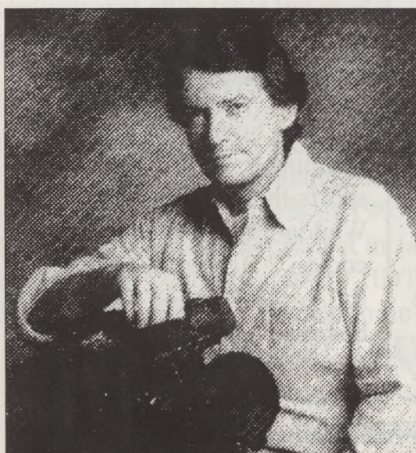
The General is gone. You don't see Nipper in the ads. The Peacock no longer spreads its

to put a cable network for women on the air January 1, 2000. It will be called the Oxygen Channel. Another group is creating two entities called the Boyz Network and the Girlz Network.

Additionally, Disney is into programming a children's radio network that would run all day with a story-hour for pre-schoolers, along with music and games for the under-12 set. We have two thoughts on that one: how long is the attention span of a pre-schooler who is set before a box with a voice coming out of it. And other youngsters who are 5 to 12 years old should be in school most of the day while all this creamy programming is aimed at them.

PEOPLE

Denny Swanson, general manager of WNBC, and former president of ABC Sports, has been named co-chairman of NBC's Olympic division. He'll share the title with **Dick Ebersol** while continuing with the local station....Correspondent **Arthur Kent**, who split with NBC after the Gulf war, was back on the tube in November with a



Correspondent Kent.

documentary "Wedding in Basra," on PBS. Commenting on NBC's hiring Geraldo Rivera as a correspondent, Kent labled him a "tabloid clown."....another former NBC Newsman, Robert MacNeil, has written his third novel, "Breaking News." The novel closes with a disheartening comment on the national news media.

LABOR PAINS

When 1,600 NABET staffers at ABC staged a one-day walk out on November 3rd in a quickie strike to protest the network's refusal to explain changes in its health plan coverage, the Disney network struck back, locking them out. When the issue dragged on, ABC cut off their health care coverage, explaining it was "standard procedure."

In order to keep some weekend news programs on the air without glitches, ABC has been flying Elizabeth Vargas, ("World News Saturday") **Carol Simpson**, ("World News Sunday), and **Juju Chang** and **Anderson Cooper** (overnight's "World News Now") to its London bureau to do their live broadcasts from there. That gives the managers, who are filling in for the locked-out engineers, a weekend off to rest and possibly check the instruction book on how to throw those switches.

This two month nationwide lockout of **NABET** employees at ABC television ended Jan 15 with the dispute

over hospitalization issues still un-settled.

NET GURU

Ever heard of **Deepak Chopra**? The man described as a "self-help mystic" was the speaker when 50 NBC programming staffers gathered for a two-hour seminar last October. According to a report in the NYPost — (one of the world's authoritative journals ???) Chopra discussed the impact of tv on the world and suggested that the execs use their minds to help get the net back on top. The seminar was part of a regular series when a variety of people are invited to talk to the programmers.

Chopra, a spiritual author, also ministers to the needs of **Demi Moore**, **Donna Karan**, **Liz Taylor** and **Michael Jackson** — none of whom has to worry about Neilson and Arbitron ratings. One of his books is titled "Seven Spiritual Laws of Success."

OLYMPICS SCANDAL-BREAKER

Chris Vanocur...no not Sandor...Chris Vanocur, son of the one-time NBC correspondent, and himself a newsman at a Salt Lake City tv station, is the guy who broke the story on the bribery that lead to the revelation that the International Olympic Committee is not as holy as it depicts itself.

Chris got an anonymous letter in the mail with some facts about hanky-panky that assured the winter games to Salt Lake and quietly started asking the questions that lead to the bold, across-the-front-page headlines we read in the papers soon after in late January.

Our source, a Salt Laker, describes Chris as a quirky, eccentric newsman with a style of his own. That, of course, is one way to be recognized and remembered, so it could lead to Vanocur's jump to a bigger market.

SQUEEZING OUT THE LAST BUCK

Remember, they use to say that those slaughter houses in Chicago used every bit of a pig, except, perhaps, the squeal as they prepared it for market. **Rupert Murdoch** of Fox goes one further, as Newsweek depicted recently. It figures Fox could reap a \$1.5-billion dollar profit over the expected 8-year life of the show "X File," which cost \$60-million for 24 episodes.

First it goes on the Fox Network, bringing in \$139-million. Next, it goes into syndication, generating \$35-million. Neh-xxx! Fox cable where it pumps out another \$69-million. Add that up and multiply by 8.

FIRE!!!!

This one will be hard to believe. Late in January a computer sitting on a desk top at a 4th floor office in the East wing of NBC burst into flame and actually gutted an office!

Seems a transformer or other electric device overheated, burst into flame, set the plastic computer afire and then set fire to the wood table it was on. There's more. The walls of that room are covered with fabric and poof!,

that went up in smoke, too.

Hmmm, there's sure to be some kind of directive telling people to shut off their computers. We know of some people who just leave them on all the time, explaining that turning them on and off is not good for the machine. Well, how about a fire as the alternative?

NEWSMEN & OTHERS

WNBC marked **Gabe Pressman's** 75th birthday with a special program on the local station about his colorful career on February 14th. This certainly was a rare honor and we can recall no similar dedication to a local personality. This sort of thing generally ends up as an after death memorial, or ten years later on Biography on the A&E channel. (See page 45 for more on Gabe.)...**Bill Theodore**, a 25-plus veteran of NBC News, and most recently the bureau chief in Boston, was celebrated by his chums in January at the Pig & Whistle near 30 Rock when he took his retirement....**Dale Curran**, longtime fixture at Today show, has taken his retirement and now lives in a flat in Knightsbridge, London. Dale will be back to the states for Spring, maybe Summer, and he may be reachable through **Joe Coggins**, if anyone wants him...**Al Robbins** who spent years on docs, specials, and the like, took his retirement six years ago. He was only idle a short while before he was back behind his keyboard — now as Sports Editor for the Riverdale Press. The paper won a Pulitzer for its editorials last year...**Dick Dudley**, the squire of Willow Street, Pa....that's a town, son, not just a street, is ailing and probably would appreciate a phone call from old chums. Don't have a phone? Write! Just before Christmas he fell in his home while alone and police had to break in to get him to a hospital. He later suffered another fall and is now mending, slowly. Dick lives in Amish country but he told us he does not ride around in a horse and buggy. Being the trouper he is, he still sent us his column. (on page 9)...Associate Director **Randy Wands** spent his Christmas, as he has done for lo these past 19 years, chatting with the Pope in Rome — in person — and directing the NBC coverage of the Pope's Christmas blessing.

DIMAGGIO LIVES

Enterprise....that's the clue to staying ahead in a competitive business like television news, and that is part of the reason NBC's Dateline erroneously reported the death of baseball immortal Joe DiMaggio in late January.

When the wire services reported that a Florida hospital had sent Joe home to die, someone at Dateline prepared a bottom-of-the screen horizontal crawl with a short bulletin — not exactly, but something to the effect — “Joe DiMaggio died today after a long bout with cancer.”

As we pieced together the story — that was prepared early in the day and put on an automatic pre-set. Apparently, the word about that message's existence was not passed to all parties and during the show an engineer in switching central accidentally pushed the button that started the crawl.

In a flash it was on the screen and in a flash it was off, when someone quickly saw the bulletin.

Obviously, all hell broke loose and a lynch party looked for the culprit. Apparently he was easily found. At a company hearing the engineer faced firing, but he has an otherwise good record and was suspended for 30 days without pay.

We do not think it is fair to disclose his name....so we won't. He probably feels horrible enough without us adding more abuse.

RETIREES

With a few calls into the GE Building — remember, there's a new name on the wall down there — we've got the names of some recent additions to the retiree list: From EJ: **Al Danuff, George Huppert, Ken Bauer, Peter Gilmore, Gordon Taylor, Donna Oricco** and **Louis Giacchetto**. Okay, former film editors, turn in your scissors and glue pots!! Gosh, remember those days? Guys would pose holding up a yard of 16mm film to the light as if they could actually pick out the details!! The writers could, but the editors?


CULLIGAN MAN!

Usually, as we recall the commercials, that phrase was shouted — “Culligan mannnnnn.” We didn't shout when we saw another man named Culligan at a Dutch Treat Club Tuesday luncheon at the National Arts Club in Gramercy Park. This one was Joe, or as it reads on his business card “Matthew J. Culligan,” and the sub-head “Author - etc.”

Joe Culligan, a real biggie at NBC in the 40s and 50s was at various times President of the NBC Radio Network, executive vice president — television, a member of the RCA Executive Council, President of Mutual Broadcasting, and President of Curtis Publishing. Culligan departed NBC in 1959, and perhaps you'll best remember him as the guy who wore a black patch over his left eye...like Moshe Dyan and the Hathaway shirt model.

Now 80, Culligan is still busy, creating tv specials and writing books. He had a doc on PBS titled “Historical Odd Couple -- MacArthur and Hirohito,” and another on illustrator Norman Rockwell. It was interesting to discover at the Arts Club that there was a Rockwell oil portrait of Culligan hanging on the wall — a remembrance, I'd guess, of Joe's days at Curtis Publishing (Saturday Evening Post) which was where most of Rockwell's illustrations appeared. Culligan has authored 14 books. No idle one he.

THANKS

Thanks again, to Roy Silver for the supply of material he researches for this column. 

*News writer Dan Grabel and wife,
Pat, live in Scarsdale, NY.*

ABC-TV VS. NABET

The ABC-TV NABET contract dispute is unresolved for the engineers, but seven other bargaining units have accepted the company offer, and in an odd situation, the dispute is partially settled. Engineers make up 80 percent of NABET-ABC's 2,200 membership and they don't like the offer which ups the number of daily hires from 14 percent to an eventual 45 percent. Also health care providers would be switched and the company would lower the amount it contributes to pensions.

Units that approved the contract include news writers in Chicago and L.A., phone operators, and maintenance workers. Those rejecting, in addition to the engineers, are desk assistants, couriers, talent coordinators and producers and newswriters in San Francisco.

You may recall NABET called a one-day stoppage and ABC replied with an 11-week lockout. The contract has been in dispute for 24 months. The union wants to go back to the bargaining table, but the NYTimes labor reporter said ABC could try to have "impasse" declared and force its terms on NABET (DG)

Gloria Clyne writes: "Belated dues enclosed — \$20 — and I might add the Best 20 bucks a woman could spend." Love, Gloria.

Al Rice, with great economy of words, wishes all a Happy New Year and

Dom Salviola informs us he has moved to a new address: 2021 Sunderland Ave, Wellington, FL 33414. Tel 561-33300773. And adds: "I look forward to receiving the PN bulleting with great expectation...it's great." He and Nancy are expecting (at this writing) visits from **Gene Waldstein** and **Deborah, Dave and Cynthia Handler** and **Lois Morino**. And adds "Keep up the good work."

In **Rochelle Richilson's** note, she says: "I would feel just terrible if I no longer received the PN newsletter. It is always so interesting to read and keep abreast of industry happenings. Happy & Healthy 1999.

George Cox sent his dues with a note: "Sorry I'm late, must have forgot to take my memory pills."

Roz Bigelow sends a sent short note with his dues — "I would be very unhappy if I missed the PN newsletter. It's the best!"

Brevard, NC's **Ed Leddy** pens us a letter we will paraphrase: Sez he, "I don't recognize many of the names in PN, but I enjoy reading it from cover to cover." He and his wife, daughter and granddaughter had an inside tour recently of the NBC studios, led by Elizabeth Davis. "They certainly are unrecognizable from the 50's."

He sends regards to NJ, He grew up in Tenafly and lived in Paramus before moving to Florida where he worked for GE. 73's Ed

We Get Letters

Don Pike sends regards from Bushnell, Florida:

Don has 15 black angus cattle and a grandson (husband of his granddaughter) to help him keep an eye on them. Their two daughters ride their own horse over the country side — "How's that for a couple of great-grand-daughters."

He and wife Bunny will return to their "cozy" home in Farrington Village (near Chapel Hill, NC) mid-April

He still plays the cornet with and writes numbers for a 64 piece band and does the same with a NC band.

He adds he has lost track of Bud Lambert, a guy he grew up with. Can anyone help?

And a tiny note from **Mildred Bracco**: "Thanks for the dues reminder — The years fly by too fast.

Thanks for all the kind words — the PN staff.

OLD TALES

by Frank Vierling

There are endless stories of pranks being played on the stars of radio and TV and also on the behind-the-scenes dwellers. Your newsletter would like to hear from readers who can pepper the paper with memories of such hi-jinks. Send them to Managing Editor Dan Grabel. Here are some we recall.

Years ago Peter Roberts was a major name among the announcing staff, and he was also a raconteur and probably pulled a few pranks of his own. This one was on him — the place, the old 106th street studios, way up there on the East Side of town. Peter was the standby announcer while a Saturday afternoon movie was running. All of a sudden, the engineers patched a “Stand by” slide on Peter’s monitor — the movie, of course, was going out everywhere else. A director told Roberts to ad-lib over the slide because there was a film problem at 30 Rock. What a dilemma! Roberts, alone with little copy — perhaps a few station break announcements and some commercials. The movie kept on running...the “Stand By” slide stared at him, and he kept talking...what a baptism of fire!

Ben Grauer...another historic name in broadcasting was out doing a remote...something like an early-day “Ed Morrow — Person to Person show.” Ben was ad-libbing, as cameras flowed him throughout the house. Reaching the master bedroom the verbiage spewed out.... “and here is where the master of the house gets his calm and peace.” Well, the listeners in studio and at home didn’t know whether he meant *peace*, or *piece*!

After the show ended, an embarrassed Ben said, “I can’t believe I said that!”

Another Peter Roberts story:

NBC was doing a “Today Show” remote at a tall building under construction in lower Manhattan where Roberts was describing a new “invisible” window. It had a special type of curved glass and you would swear there was no glass there. It really was invisible! To prove the point, Roberts was positioned behind the glass and a bucket of water was tossed at him. The window got drenched, but Roberts remained dry.

The show returned for the site several times during the morning and for the last insert the skulduggery began. Peter was moved to an adjacent window frame — with the excuse that the background was better. Roberts assumed that same invisible glass was there, too. Everyone, however, knew there was no glass at all.

Unsuspecting, Roberts went through his pitch

again....curved window, invisible, blah, blah, blah. The man with the bucket returned. Roberts waited. He was calm, as before, and unsuspecting. Then, WHAM!@#, he was hit with a bucket of water. His expression was priceless.

Announcer Dick Dudley recalls:

Roberts was endowed with the gift of laughter and we all tried to break him up while he was on the air. I succeeded one Easter Sunday morning.

Peter had his own 15-minute program and I was assigned to introduce him. I read the script up to a point and then, deliberately, I said.... “Here is Peter Rabbit...err, I mean, Peter Roberts.”

That broke him up and he laughed for a full two minutes — on the air. He tried to read his script but he heeded and haw-ed on and off during the entire 15 minutes.

TV Field did a lot of crazy pickups in the early days of the Today Show. One was the opening of the mid-town Port Authority bus terminal’s bowling allies and rooftop pad to accept helicopters (now used for parking). A terrific snowstorm was in progress that day so that the helicopter bit had to be cancelled. Peter Roberts stood inside and pushed the door open to show the heavy snow falling and described how the weather was so bad that nothing could fly in such a blizzard. Unseen by the camera but seen by Peter was a crewmember running around the heli-pad flapping his arms. Needless to say, the audience had no explanation of Peter’s on the air “crack-up.”

Another early Today Show remote was from Piel’s Island. As a commercial gimmick, many will recall, the beer company outfitted a barge as a jungle and had it float around Manhattan Island. Peter Roberts, dressed in jungle gear, pawed his way through the foliage looking for human habitation. He stumbled onto a deserted cabin. Pushing open the door he said, “Hello! Is there anyone here?” He made the mistake of looking inside and saw the afore mentioned crewmember munching a banana. You can guess Peter’s reaction to that. 🌸

NEW MEMBERS

Frank Accarrino — Belmar, NJ
 John Belzel — Framingham, MA
 Shirley Galvin — W. Palm Beach, FL
 Alex Geisler — Jupiter, FL
 Francis Hill — Largo, FL
 Mark Jankeloff — New York, NY
 Arndt Jensen — Menomonee, WI
 Harriet Lau — DeLand, FL
 Patricia Millman — New York, NY
 Alfred Robbins — Bronx, NY
 Joe Rothenberger — Ocala, FL
 Edward Williams — Levittown, NY

A Breed Apart

By Win Mullen

What a pleasure to think that my years spent in breeding and showing Pugs (the largest of the Toy Group) might be of interest to some of my good friends in Peacock North. I am so enthusiastic about this particular breed of dog that I have definitely deserved the criticism of my sister-in-law who once complained that my habit of pulling pictures out of my purse on every occasion was positively "boring." She was probably right, but I haven't changed, and haven't even tried!

It all started in 1973 when my mother and I lost our pet Pug, Cupid (born on February 14). We were devastated and, after checking unsuccessfully with all the breeders in the neighboring states, we fell for a puppy at a nearby pet shop. It was a most fortunate choice. Even his naming was unusual and fun. We were having a small party, and I was sitting on the floor playing with him when he took a sip of my martini. He would have had another if I hadn't put the drink on the table. Everyone laughed and a friend suggested that we name him Dinty Moore. I said no, but it would be Dinty M. for Mullen. He turned out to be the start of Jesswin Pugs.

As Dinty grew he obviously became "show quality" and I entered him in the puppy class at a Long Island Show. There I was extremely lucky to be noticed by Tom Okun, who was an all-breed handler and himself a breeder of Pugs and Dachshunds. He was kind enough to cut Dinty's whiskers and give me some quick pointers about showing. We didn't win, but a year later Dinty won his first major at the Progressive show. He was entered in the Novice class all by himself and dragged me around the ring disgracefully, but the judge liked him and he actually became "Best of Winners." Evidently this was quite a feat from the Novice Class. Obviously, I was the real novice. I was so shaken that I missed the opportunity of having a picture taken with the judge, and I didn't even know enough to pick up his trophy!

That was the start of my determination to get some training so that I could show Dinty with dignity and hopefully achieve his championship. I entered a handling

class in White Plains taught by Ruth Kayser, a judge herself, who became one of my best friends. Dinty made very slow progress with me as his handler (he was the boss), and at the age of four he still needed his second major. I was advised to let a professional handler show him, so I asked Tom Okun to take him into the ring. After a couple of tries, Tom told me that Dinty was dejected, and, if he were to become a champion, I would have to do it myself. Believe it or not, it finally happened when Dinty was six and a half and still in condition.

In the meantime, I wanted a clone of Dinty's to do it right. Impossible! Who would breed to a male who wasn't a champion? That was the beginning of Jesswin Pugs. Tom was the brain of the breeding. He knew the pedigrees and qualities that were desirable to improve the breed. He recommended a puppy bitch with the same background. They both went back four generations to Ch. Pugholm's Peter Pumpkin Eater, a famous Pug of the fifties. I fell in love with and bought "Dinty's Sweet Bridiell, who was a gem. She became a champion at a year and a half and was the mother of our line. Our object was to produce sound healthy dogs with legs that were capable of jumping and moving without fear of injury, which is probably why I couldn't keep them off the desk or the kitchen table. (I do admit that a



Champion Dinty M. — Best of Breed at the 1977 Glens Falls Kennel Club. Judge Ruth Turner and Winifred Mullen (owner/Trainer) with Dinty Moore.

handy chair or bench was the necessary step.)

It was then that I realized that every dog of a particular breed may have the same general characteristics, but each one has a different personality. Dinty was extremely smart and always watched TV if there was a four-legged animal on the screen. He would even leave the screen and go to the bottom of the stairs a few feet away and look up past the barrier to see the creature behind the screen. He was also very aware of the helicopters overhead and would twist his head around to follow their path. Bridie was more aggressive than he was. They both slept on my bed. When Bridie joined the family she drove Dinty down to the bottom of the bed, and he sweetly accepted the situation. She behaved beautifully in the ring, but on our daily walks she insisted on being on my right and ahead of all the rest. She was a wonderful mother and he was a wonderful loving father.

Over the years, with Tom as my partner, we produced fifteen champions and many wonderful pets that were never shown but brought a lot of joy to us and those who bought them. I also made many good friends through this hobby. (It

never became a business because it always cost more to show and care for all the Pugs we couldn't bear to sell than the income from the ones we sold.)

One of the highlights of my years in this occupation was when I was actually interviewed by Bob Grant and answered questions from his listening audience. One of my good friends in NBC Radio Engineering taped the show and it's very precious to me. Tom and I also appeared once on TV as guests of Warren Eckstein. I'd say the only bad thing I can recall about those years is the fact that the dog shows always scheduled Pugs at 9 AM or earlier because of their concern for the breed's susceptibility to heat. Of course, it's best for them, but very often it required getting on the road long before daybreak. Not much to complain about, but I'd rather not do that any more!

Dear Pete (Peterson),

Often when I turn on CNBC to learn if I am richer or poorer, I think of the hundreds of talks we had over the years concerning the stock market. We each had an intense interest in and enough invested to warrant our on-going dialogue.

My first job at NBC was managing the 106th Street Studios - the year, 1952. The studio was located on the Main Street of Spanish

Harlem. On day Number 2 of my NBC employment, I opened the front lobby door and stepped outside. Two guys ran by the door dropping suits as they ran. Two overweight cops were being out run so were firing at the thieves. Bullets do sing as they fly by. I ducked back in the door. I was disappointed to learn that working at 106th Street did not include a pay differential for hazardous duty.

All present members of PN worked at 106th Street at some time. Trying to remember the shows we did there in the 1950's brought back a lot of memories to me. I thought listing them might bring back some memories to others, too.

Hamlet, Amahl and the Night Visitors, Armstrong Circle Theatre, Follow Your Heart, Three Steps to Heaven, Henry Aldrich, The Kathy Norris Show, Josephine McCarthy Cooking Show, The Eve Hunter Show, I Am A Camera, The Camel News Caravan, The Gabby Hayes Show, The Sandy Becker Show, The Knickerbockers Beer Commercials for Jerry Lester's Broadway Open House, Garroway At Large.

I probably forgot a few of them, but since it was more than 45 years ago, I should be excused.

Some of the contributors you publish in PN talk about what they have done since they retired and also what their most exciting day or period was at NBC. I will follow that formula.

I retired in 1986. Shortly thereafter I joined two other ex-NBC'ers in attempting to buy and operate NBC's Brooklyn Studios.

We had combined television experience in production, engineering and. staging of over 100 years. During the period we negotiated with NBC, Proctor and Gamble

Tom and I had the great thrill of winning at the specialties of the Pug Dog Club of Greater New York, of America, of Maryland and the Yankee Pug Club. We have won at Westminster and other all-breed shows in New York and the neighboring states in the east. I now live with three darling females as my family — a far cry from the peak number of eleven. They are my pride and joy, all intelligent and loving and each an individual. When they are all gone, I'll have to find something else to fill my life. Maybe I'll really clean the house and get together more often with the many good friends I'd made over the years. I might even go to the races! But I bet I'll get another dog. 🐶🐶

Win and her dogs live in New Rochelle, NY.

(parent of Another World) endorsed our proposal to NBC. We would upgrade the studio and save P&G a million dollars a year in production costs. NBC's asking price was too high.

The fact they would not drop the price indicated they were ambivalent about selling. Since they still own

Brooklyn, I guess they decided not to sell.

Our next stop was negotiating with Silver Screen Productions and P&G to build

soap studios on the Chelsea Piers. We gave Silver Screen the required studio specs. The President of Silver Screen said that if P&G would guarantee three years of occupancy, he would go for five million a studio to equip according to our specs. P&G would not go along. As we know, Silver Screen built studios, an entertainment complex, a climbing mountain, a skating rink, etc.

Our last effort was with a friend who leased the two piers adjacent to the "Intrepid Pier." Again with P&G interest we planned a five-studio complex called Riverside Studios. We would have complete post-production facilities as well as an elaborate shopping mall. Again, P&G would not make an occupancy commitment that would ensure our financing.

The July 11th New York Times reported that a developer would build five large studios on the border of Greenwich Village in SoHo. P&G had signed a 15-year lease for two of their soaps, "Guiding Light" and "As The World Turns."

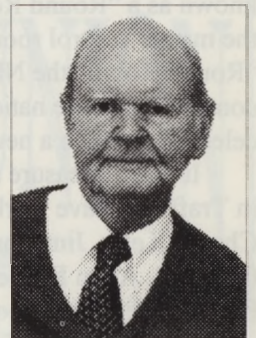
Ultimately the pursuit of studio space for P&G soaps ended in frustration. The ten years involved in the chase, though, were exciting.

I had said I would tell you of my most exciting day at NBC. It was when I fired the entire stagehand crew at the Hudson Theatre. I figured at that time I had probably fired myself, too. That's for another day.

Joe McShane

Joe wrote to Pete Peterson in December from Hicksville, NY.

WE GET LETTERS



letter from: charles a. mangano



Just before last Thanksgiving I received a surprise call from Pete Peterson. He explained that he would like PN members to write about their careers and memories of their NBC years. I gladly accepted. So here goes.



began my career in the mailroom. As most of you know the only means of employment was to start in either the mailroom or Guest Relations. Most of the mailroom employees came from Ivy League and other prestigious schools, a far cry from my background of City College and the New School for Social Research. The mailroom was a great experience exposing you to all the departments of NBC including the Executive Area.

After a year or so I was transferred to the International Division rising ultimately to traffic supervisor. We broadcast in 10 languages via 7 RCA shortwave transmitters located in Boundbrook, NJ. John Gullens was engineer in charge. Those transmitters were a pet project of David Sarnoff. NBC coordinated their transmissions with the Voice of America as part of the World War II effort. After the war the transmitters were taken over by the U.S. State Department. I was given a 6-month hiatus by NBC to aid in the transition.

Returning to NBC, I was employed as a traffic coordinator under the venerable Jack Hilton. My fondest memories at NBC were during the 20 years I spent there. At that time the NBC television network was still in it's infancy with only about 6 or 7 interconnected stations. The NBC television network (as well as ABC and CBS networks) were interconnected by AT&T leased microwave circuits. Eventually the network connected New York, to Chicago, to Washington and back to NBC New York. This circuit was known as a "Round Robin" and put control in the hands of the master control rooms in those three cities. From the "Round Robin" the NBC network spread its tentacles to connect the entire nation. It was always a cause for celebration when a new city was interconnected.

It was a pleasure and honor during this 20-year period in Traffic to have worked alongside Al Frey, Russ Strebel, Charlie Kelly, Jim Connor, Tony Gianetti, Bob Flynn, Joe Caldwell, Allan Baeder, Dom Bellezza, Andy Gallo, & Bob Ferlito. We were responsible for processing the orders for

all video and audio lines, private lines and phones as requested by the Sports, News and Special Events areas. These orders controlled programs like NBC Nightly News, Inaugurations, Conventions and all sports including the Olympics.

It was an honor to have worked with the legends of NBC News, Julian Goodman, Reuven Frank, Eliot Frankel, Shad Northshield, Robert Mulholland, Lester Chrystal, Joe Angotti, Russ Tornabene and so many others. Under their direction all special events were carried to their conclusion - many times after the other networks had gone off the air.



My favorite memories were—

♦ The famous "Heidi" football game. I was on the conference call with Scotty Connal, Steve Flynn, (V.P., sales) and Dick Cline (BOC). I was on another phone with AT&T personnel at the AT&T tech centers in New York and Chicago and gave the order to switch control to NBC New York to feed "Heidi." As we all know -- the switch to "Heidi" infuriated football fans but it also made **60 million children very happy** — including my son and daughter.

♦ Football Sundays — NBC broadcast 8 AFL Football Games each Sunday. Each market was fed a Pre-game Show, the Game, and a Post Game Show. Three games started at 1:00 PM — two games at 2:00 PM and three games at 4:00 PM. Each game was fed to its respective split network of stations. The switching of lines and stations was a tremendous operation. We had to "marry" each of the 1: 00 PM & 2:00 PM games to different 4:00 PM games. All switches on our instructions were made by the NBC TV Master Control rooms and AT&T tech centers. The operation was so complex that each Friday (during TV net test period – 1 to 1:30) we had a closed circuit broadcast to the network explaining Sunday's operations. Jim Connor and I alternated Sundays. Let me tell you, each Sunday was an exercise of personal survival. Later Tony Gianetti, Dom Belleza, and Allan Baeder joined the fray. As a postscript — with today's satellites the switches to the split network is made by the individual stations.

♦ Wide Wide World — Jim Connor and I alternated Sundays in ordering and processing orders for 4 or 5 remotes. Stewart MacGregory covered this in detail in a previous Peacock North article.

♦ Nightly News -- Each evening there were 3 or 4 remote pickups. The switches to and from each remote were made by AT&T personnel on cues and timings provided by Traffic. Many times these switches had to be made very close to the actual broadcast time. I am sure that Ann Kramer and Lois Marino remember this all too well. They were responsible for delivering the cues & timings to us.



My career at NBC concluded with a succession of jobs, Broadcast Operations Supervisor (BOC), Special Facilities


Coordinator and Manager Radio & TV Traffic & Communications.

I enjoyed my term as a member of the NABET Executive Board representing TV Control, Empire State Transmitter, Traffic and Communications.

Since my retirement I have been employed as the Satellite Coordinator for the "Miss USA," "Miss Universe" and "Miss Teen USA" pageants. It has been a great experience travelling with my wife, Katherine, all over the world as well as many cities in the U.S.A. It has been a pleasure to

work on these pageants with Al Camoin who is the ace cameraman for these shows.

Please permit me a personal note. At one time I had need for many blood transfusions. Thirty-seven of my colleagues at NBC gave me a pint. They know who they are and to whom I am eternally grateful.

I want to thank Pete Peterson for the opportunity to write this article. I believe that many members of Peacock North should write about their careers & experiences. So, when Pete calls, pickup a pen & reminisce! 



Members of Traffic Operations — about 1958

Front: Russ Strebel (seated on desk), Bob Flynn, Tony Gianetti

Back: Charles Mangano, Jim Connor, Al Frey, Charles Kelly, Joseph Caldwell

PEACOCK NORTH'S SPRING REUNION

Join Your Friends

May 23 - LaMaganette

For a day to remember see coupon on page 48.

Washington Recollections

By Sherman Hildreth

I was asked by Pete Peterson if I might provide some NBC Washington background and history for publication in Peacock North. Having enjoyed reading PN, I dared not immediately turn him down. My initial reaction was, I'm not a writer. With 19 years of retirement behind me, time constraints still continue and worst of all, how could I surpass what's taking place here in the Capitol at this time. (Reference is to President Clinton's impeachment hearings and trial.) So, I'll bow to Pete and to the presidential proceedings and move this page along.

Having spent over 35 years with NBC I perhaps should note how a failed communication within NBC Management provided me an intro to NBC employ. During the early '40s I had twice been rejected by the military, once at Camp Jackson, S.C. and again at Camp Blanding, Florida. With my 4-F card in tow my incentive was to explore a career in broadcasting. While looking for my first job I was advised by a friend, who's uncle was a bank president, to seek employment in a bank. I didn't press the interview, but I could have become a teller. Fortunately I was advised of an opening at radio station WCSC, Charleston under the Chief Engineer Jim Weaver who later joined NBC Washington.

At WCSC Charleston I learned the many aspects of a radio station's technical operations along with the many expected "side" jobs. Transmitter, studio and field operations were each a rewarding experience and in order to make a living most of us pulled a shift seven days a week. The Charleston Navy Yard was going full blast at that time and one experience had me providing a remote broadcast with announcer Russ Long from one of two destroyers being launched within the same hour. My never expressed concern was whether a German U-Boat might be off shore ready to sink us. Russ Long was a prominent announcer at the station and city-wide popular. He became a dear friend with whom I

continue corresponding.

Upon our declaration of war in December 1941, I was directed to immediately remove the station's call letters from the roof of the transmitter building as a precaution against potential enemy observation. With gallons of roof paint and an improvised ladder I mounted the roof while on duty and hoped the transmitter would continue while I was atop the building doing my "side" job.

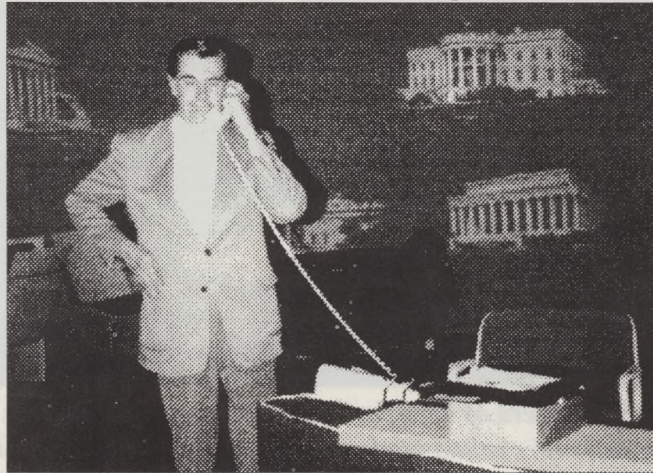
In 1942 I joined Radio Station WJAX in Jacksonville and similarly experienced war-time broadcasts of launching liberty ships, reporting on submarine landed spies, carrying a 38 revolver while going to and from the transmitter. Thank all, I never had to fire it and even in practice it "kicked" to the extent I'm not sure that I would ever have hit my target.

In early 1944, Jim Weaver, now with NBC Washington, advised me that an opening existed at NBC Washington. I applied and was accepted. I submitted my two week resignation and was shortly called into the manager's office. He was boiling, not at me, but at NBC for he had just returned from an NBC affiliates meeting at which NBC had promised not to hire any technical personnel from its affiliates. The Manager, Jack Hopkins, got on the phone and really blasted someone for failing to adhere to their policy. My heart sort of sank, I felt that this opportunity may not arise soon again. However, Hopkins and I had a good relationship and he told me he would not stand in my way

for going to NBC. Upon arriving in Washington I was, among others, greeted by the Manager Carleton Smith. He told me he had caught hell for hiring me away from an affiliate. He winked, and noted that he had not been advised of any hiring prohibitions, and so with the right hand not knowing what lefty was doing, I joined NBC and I've been grateful ever since.

Joining NBC radio was indeed "big league" and I found the vast technical plant

and technical jobs a meaningful and interesting experience. The NBC Red and Blue networks had split — the Blue was then the forerunner of ABC and NBC technical personnel provided technical services for the Blue Network. In becoming acquainted with the varied operations I quickly picked up on the jargon surrounding Master Control. A.T.&T. was the supplier of long-line transmission connecting and serving our affiliates and NBC's owned stations. There was the Red and Blue "Round Robin" circuitry, the routing for NBC was NY to Chicago to



Sherman Hildreth, Director of Engineering and Facilities for WRC, Washington, DC.

Washington and back to NY. To avoid feedback when switching the Round Robin from one city to another, it was essential that the switches be made simultaneously to open and close the Robin. Such functions were generally provided by the announcer at their "Announcer's Delight" console. A private line was maintained between NY Master Control and Washington Master Control for coordinating services and for reporting when service was interrupted or wrong. West Coast discrepancies were most always reported as "problem west of Denver."

Bill Chew, Frank Fugazzi, Speed Clark, Bob Terrell and Ralph Hamill were Master Control assignees with the latter two becoming popular Radio Managers. Providing pickups from the four Armed Service bands was always a delight. The Army, Navy, Air Force and Marine bands were wonderful to hear and to work with. The ARMY HOUR was a weekly show from our studios. At that time the local NBC station, WRC, did not permit recorded music, live musical groups accordingly filled the music requirements. Numerous patriotic programs were aired.

Bill McAndrew was the popular News department head. Julian Goodman, Dave Brinkley and I each began our NBC career within six months of one another and coincidentally each of us were married the same weekend in October '46. Julian and Dave obviously surpassed me over the years.

Newsmen of both networks were interesting, among those was the Dean at that time, Mr. Earl Godwin. Others included Bob McCormick, Leif Eid, Baukage, Morgan Beatty and occasionally "all the ships at sea" Walter Winchell and of course, "it's 8:55 and time for Elmer Davis."

Our radio studios were within walking distance of the White House from which newsreels were long established as the news gathering tool. Radio became highly interested in tapping the White House as a source of live broadcasts of speeches and happenings. Our initial effort to move into the

array of newsreels met with much rebuff from them in that we were encroaching upon "their territory." Obviously, there was serious concern that radio with its live capability was a threat to newsreel film. As a result the first couple of years found us surprised at times to find our microphones turned away or pushed aside at the pickup point. In some cases when we were employing the initial delicate audio recorders the tables or floors were bounced upon so as to interrupt our effort. It was natural, radio was going live with news stories which heretofore were seen in movie houses days later. How things have changed hits me straight between the eyes. I recall awaiting a Presidential broadcast at the studio control and overhearing the banter from the White House — it frequently included friends of the President coming in to wish him well. Sometimes there were remarks by either the friend or the President that were embarrassing and yet never commented upon by the reporters that were present. Today the media comment would be everlasting.

In 1947 John G. Rogers, Mac McLelland, Sam Newman, Bill Simmons and Jim Weaver were sent to New York for television training. They later returned along with Harold See, Charley "Joe" Colledge and Howard Gromberg to form the nucleus of Washington's TV Station and Network operation in an abandoned theatre at the old Wardman Park Hotel. I, along with others from the radio group and along with outsiders began to fill the new and expanded operation called TELEVISION.

If time permits in the future, I'll render some recollections of how NBC Washington applied picture to sound over the past fifty years. I'll seek assistance from a young lady, Helen Gaul, currently in the Business Affairs Department and speculating upon retirement. Also, Joe Donohue who came to work for NBC about the time I did, served as a respected NABET representative and maintains communications with many retirees.

My best to all, *Sherm Hildreth*

Sherman Hildreth writes to us from Washington, DC.

More Time Addresses

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Shapiro, Arnie	arneshap@aol.com
Yoakum, Judirh (Darcey)	brotherdel@msn.com

Corrections:

Vacca, Vince	vaccav@nantucket.net
Ripp, Heino	hchripp29@aol.com

We thank Jay Roper, former director NBC, West Coast, for the West Coast addresses in the list above.

We Get Mail



Robert Lee Garthwaite.



Bob on tour.

Bob Garthwaite sent us a complimentary note thanking the PN staff for “keeping the Spirit and Good Old Days of NBC alive and well.”

He mentioned attending PN’s Spring lunch — “I was there because Peter Tintel hired me.... the enclosed may be of interest to the many other former NBC employees who started in Guest Relations.”

The enclosed was a copy of *The Metropolitan host* for August 1948 with its cover featuring, as it says, “Young Men of Distinction!...are these nine of the thirty members of the famous N.B.C. Guided Tour Staff.”

The *host* was a weekly guide to what’s going on in Gotham. In addition to the particular interest in the cover, some of the magazine’s contents on the next page may also stir your memory juices.

TAKE A GUIDED TOUR OF ROCKEFELLER CENTER

It's the only way to see the thousand-and-one wonders in the fascinating "city within a city" - including the 70-story Observation Roofs with their inspiring 50-mile sky view.

Hours - Daily Tours 9 A.M. to 9 P.M.

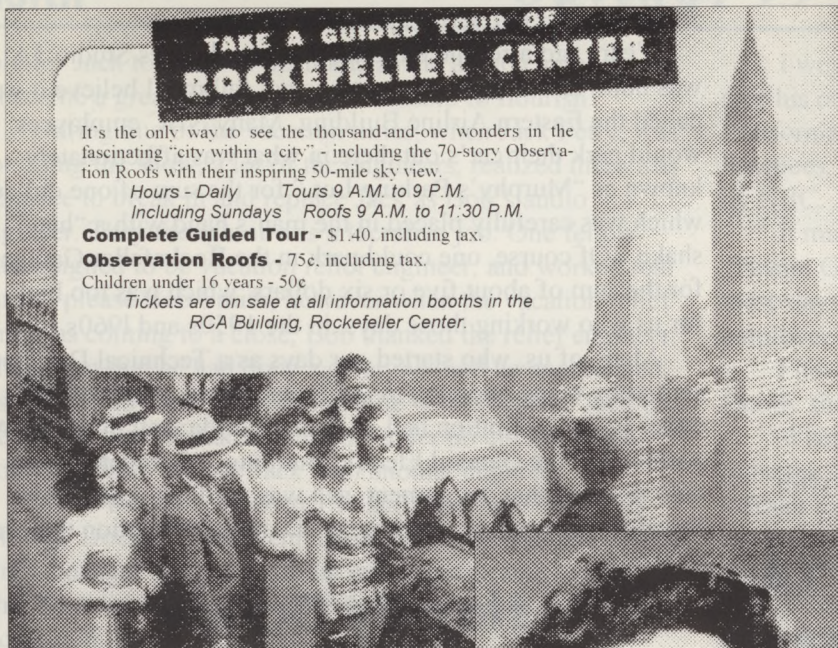
Including Sundays Roofs 9 A.M. to 11:30 P.M.

Complete Guided Tour - \$1.40, including tax.

Observation Roofs - 75c, including tax.

Children under 16 years - 50c

Tickets are on sale at all information booths in the RCA Building, Rockefeller Center.



Fred Allen says: "There are *TWO* things in your future: The new Ford Forty-Niner and NBC's 1-hour escorted tour." You'll get a peek at the world's most modern television studio where Hollywood and Broadway stars make their video debuts - and you'll have a chance to be televised, too! See sound effects demonstrated . . . enjoy NBC's comfortably cooled "controlled weather" - all under one roof. Tours every 20 minutes, NBC Mezzanine, RCA Building, Radio City, New York, 9 A.M. - 11 P.M. daily. Admission 70 cents.

NATIONAL BROADCASTING COMPANY
30 Rockefeller Plaza, New York



Milton Berle, returns to the Broadway night club scene for the first time in about two years when he premieres at Lou Walters' Latin Quarter Sunday, Aug 22nd for a limited engagement of two weeks.



Arlene Francis, one of the entertainment world's most sprightly wits, contributed much added sparkle to Mutual's new romantic series, "There's Always A Woman," when she became the permanent star of the program starting with the broadcast of Friday, Aug. 20 (8 to 8:30 p.m., EDT).



"Mr. (Henry Fonda) Roberts" continues his tenancy at the Alvin Theatre.



"The Velvet Touch" with Rosalind Russell arrives at the Rivoli on the 25th of the month.

The Latin touch is provided by Carmen Miranda in "A Date With Judy" at the Music Hall.



A few items from
"The Metropolitan host"
August 21, 1948.

KEN'S

ORDER



by
Ken Arber

The use of the studio 1A and Rockefeller Plaza

I usually watch the "Today Show" each morning, and after seeing the way the show is produced, with the use of the Plaza area, it is no wonder that NBC is heads above the other networks, like CBS and ABC, who do not have access to an outside production area, similar to the Rockefeller Plaza. As I remember it, the Plaza is the property of the Rockefeller Center, and is not a city street, even though it looks like one, and to prove it, it is necessary once a year to put up barricades to prevent the use of cars driving through. Thereby, indicating the ownership of the Plaza, except for the use by the police, fire department, and ambulances in the case of an emergency.

Further proof that it is the exclusive property of Rockefeller Center is brought forward with the erecting of the famous Christmas Tree on the Plaza at the front entrance to 30 Rockefeller Plaza, above the sunken garden where the famous Prometheus Statue and fountain is located.

For any of the other broadcasting organizations, to use a street, it would require a city permit, and police protection, because the setup would then be on public property. I remember these problems when we were doing the Steve Allen show from the theatre on Columbus Circle, and we had to clear the use of the street every night with the Police Department, and then lay out the camera cables protected with boards, so the traffic could pass down the street.

The other day when watching the Today Show, with Katie Curic, Matt Lauer and Al Roker together with Ann Curry, there must have been a thousand or more out of town visitors on the Plaza from 48th Street to 51st Street all watching a special show of Broadway entertainers, all listening and watching the show. Not only are there cameras on the ground, but there was "Chopper Four" helicopter with a stabilized camera shooting the scene from way up in the sky above Studio 1A. With a zoom, it is capable of

zooming right into close ups of the talent.

Years ago after the building that now houses Studio 1A, was built, and if my memory does not fail me, I believe it was called the Eastern Airline Building. Many NBC employees would park their car's out there in what was affectionately known as "Murphy's Parking Lot," for the sum of one dollar which was carefully placed in the man's hand with a "hand shake." Of course, one could park in the Rockefeller Garage, for the sum of about five or six dollars, which was too high for us who working those days, in the 1950s and 1960s.

Many of us, who started our days as a Technical Director, started by being assigned to the Today Show, when it was either in the Exhibition hall or in the Florida Hall in the RCA, pardon me, the General Electric Building. I fortunately, was able to avoid that assignment, as I was working at the 67th Street studios, where I became a TD. I might mention that was in 1951.

Howdy Doody



Over the many years working on the shows at NBC, both in Radio and in TV, I was able to meet the characters that worked on the above shows, and knew many of them by their names, both as stage names, and given names.

For instance on the Howdy Doody show, and the Bob Smith show in radio where he was know as "Buffalo Bob," and of course as Howdy Doody and as the many other characters on the show.

When NBC announced it was going to have a new morning show on radio, a lot of the engineers, who did not have a full schedule of daily shows, were afraid that they would be assigned to this new show, that would, necessitate their having to report to work at an early hour, but their fears were eliminated, when Paul Gallant assigned a rather new engineer to the show, named Jack Petry. We never learned if Jack requested the assignment, because he did not have a regular daily group of shows, and was delighted to get a steady assignment. I might add that Jack's real name was Gerard Petry.

Jack worked the show for a long time, and he and Bob Smith got along just fine, and due to Bob's generosity, Jack told me that he was able to purchase his own home, near where Bob Smith lived in New York State. As the years went by, Bob no longer cared to travel to Radio City, and prevailed upon the powers that were there, to do his Buffalo Bob Show from his own home, and of course it was now

able for Jack to come to his home as the audio engineer, and it became a great time for their friendship to flourish.

During one of the vacation times, when Jack Petry, was not doing the show, a lot of the engineers, realized there was a chance to break in and replace Jack as Bob's audio engineer. They thought it was a lucrative job. One fellow was assigned to be vacation relief engineer, and worked real hard to please Bob Smith, however when the vacation relief time was coming to a close, Bob thanked the relief engineer, telling him that he had done a great job, and he appreciated his efforts, however, if he thought he would replace Jack on the job, he was mistaken, because under no circumstance, would he, Bob, replace Jack with another engineer.

When the show went to TV, and it became known as "Howdy Doody," Jack went along, not as an engineer, but in some manager type of position, and I never came to know what his function was, however I am sure that Bob felt more secure with seeing Jack in the control room.

Over the years I became familiar with the crew on the Howdy Doody show. One such was the primary cameraman on the show, the late Harvey Belair, whom Bob came to know and appreciate because of his always jovial attitude to all the funny material that was used on the show. At a recent Florida Retiree's reunion down in Florida, Bob mentioned Harvey's name, and told the group that when Harvey laughed, Bob was afraid the he would shake the camera. He also said that he wanted to "God Bless" him.

Others, that I remember, were, Daten Allen the primary "puppet operator," Bob Keeshan, who played the part of Clarabelle, the mute clown whose only audio response was a blowing of a rubber bulb horn, that was fastened to his waist. He would respond to questions, by blowing the horn once indicating "yes," and twice for "no," and several times if it was, "What do you mean???"

Bob Keeshan, made a serious mistake, when he decided to have a personal manager. His manager told Bob Smith, that if Bob did not go along with his demands, that he better have a new Clarabelle the following Monday. Bob apparently heeded this threat, so to most everyone's surprise the next Monday, believe it or not, there *was* a new Clarabelle. Bob Keeshan was out of work for a long time until the Captain Kangaroo show came along and he became a real success.

The music on the Howdy Doody show was played by the organist Doc. Whipple. I never met him on any of the shows that I worked.

There must have been many TDs on the show, but the only one I remember is Tom Smiley, who I believe, came on the show a few years before it was taken off the air.

Many of the engineers would stop in during rehearsals, before the kids came in for the "Peanut Gallery," to watch and listen to the frivolity, of the puppeteers, and their puppets. Sometimes it would get off color, and Bob would have to bring it to a stop.

I would like to add that the last I heard of Jack Petry (see his obituary, page 32) was when he moved to Burbank California, and was in charge, as I heard, of "Standards and Practices," more or less a censor of material that is broadcast by NBC.

It must be remembered that the kids, who attended the "Peanut Gallery" in those days, are in there 50s or older these days. Many of the kids were the children of NBC employees, and we as they say, "Remember it well."

I have one humorous story to relate about the Howdy Doody show, that I would like to recall.

When a new man came on the show, and was assigned to be the boom operator for the audio, the crew would not instruct him how to operate the boom, and would let him work it out for himself. He would extend the boom over whoever was speaking, as in a normal show. When the dialog came from someone on the set, it was necessary to position the boom above their head to pick up the audio. So, when Bob Smith was talking to Howdy Doody, who was at the other side of the stage, the new boom operator would instinctively swing the boom mike to Howdy Doody, anticipating Howdy to speak. He didn't know that all the voices came from Bob Smith, and he should have stayed where he was. This had happened to more than one boom operator, and this was the easiest way to learn how to be the boom operator on the Howdy Doody show.


Match Game

Many years ago in Studio 8-H there was a show called "Match Game." It was directed by Ira Skutch, with whom I had done many other shows. The regular Technical Director, the late Jack Irving, had called in sick and I was assigned as his replacement.

When I arrived in 8-H I met Ira Skutch, the regular engineering crew and some of the cast. They were seated at a conference desk on the studio floor. After a while, a middle aged woman arrived, and sat down at the table. I was standing near audience seats.

Ira greeted the new member and she asked how things were going? To which he responded, everything was OK, however, Jack Irving had called in sick. We have Ken Arber to replace him. She asked, "Who the hell is Ken Arber?"

At this point, I decided it was time for me to introduce myself to this person who wanted to know "Who the hell is Ken Arber?" I calmly walked over to the desk and I said that I would like to introduce myself. I did so by saying, "My name is Ken Arber, and in the same vein, as you referred to me, I would like to know, "Who the hell are you?" Everyone at the desk was surprised, as was the woman. To my surprise she broke out in laughter, saying she should not have asked in that way. Of course, I expected her to be upset when I spoke to her that way! I did not know that she was the show's producer. I realized the worst that could happen to me was that I would be taken off the show.



Everything worked out fine, and she and I became good friends when she saw that Ira and I had worked together before. Later she said to me that if Jack ever decided to leave the show, I would be welcome to replace him.

Ira told me that she respected anyone who had the guts to stand up to her, even if they, the cast and crew did refer to her as "The Dragon Lady." Every morning when she arrived in the control room, seated next to Ira, there was one long stem rose in a tall thin vase in front of her seat. As you can see the cast and crew admired her. Unfortunately, I never had the opportunity and pleasure to work with her again, which I would have enjoyed.

Shari Lewis, Lamb Chop and Charlie Horse



only worked a couple of shows with Shari Lewis, but I found her to be the best ventriloquist ever and the other was a young fellow named Paul Winchell, who worked on another network as well as NBC. Of course, Edgar Bergen, was not a ventriloquist, but a great actor. He was great with

his puppet Charlie McCarthy, and others.

The first time I worked with Shari, the director was Danny Peters, and we met in studio 8G, and discussed the show, before we went on the air. Shari was telling us how the show should go and she laid down "Lamb Chop." I made the mistake of reaching over and picked the hand puppet up to look at it. Shari immediately stopped talking and asked me to please not handle the hand puppet. Of course I put the puppet back on the table. She explained the reason was that she has several copies of the two hand puppets, as spares, but none of them work as well as the one she was using at that time, because it is well worn in and responded to her actions with such ease. Of course, I understood, but it brought back a memory of seeing a movie with Erick Von Stroheim, who was a ventriloquist, and began to think his puppets were all live and could not bear seeing them put in a trunk. I have always thought that ventriloquists think their puppets are alive in some way or other.

Shari was the greatest, and we shall miss her.



Howdy Doody's picture (pg 26) is from the letterhead of Nicholson • Muir Production, Buffalo Bob Enterprises. It was sent to Lillian Russo by "Howdy" when she retired. Howdy's letter to Lillian:

March 9, 1982.

Dear Lilly,

Congratulations on your retirement — I retired a number of years ago, and I think it is just great!

The whole Doodyville gang enjoyed working with you, back in the early days of television, in Studio 3H, and they all join me now in wishing you the very best for the future — that includes Mr. Bluster and Roger Muir.

Love,

Howdy Doody

LA MAGANETTE

THINK SPRING ♦ THINK LUNCHEON

FILL OUT THE COUPON ON PAGE 47 - SEND IT IN EARLY.

MONITOR

THE NBC WEEK-END RADIO SERVICE

Reflections

By Jim Holton.

(Ed: Note: Jim was at NBC during the ups and downs of network radio and was a vice president when he retired.)

Having shaken up the TV world with the creation of Today and Tonight, programs that revolutionized tv watching at both ends of the broadcast day, NBC's visionary president Sylvester "Pat" Weaver turned his attention in early 1955 to radio. The senior medium was in a shambles, a handful of venerable soap operas were still being pumped out by the networks, with the rest of the broadcast schedule devoted half-heartedly to tired versions of outdated musical and entertainment programs that should have died with vaudeville. Radio, especially network radio, was desperately seeking its identity in the new communications world dominated by the upstart television.

Word began getting around that Weaver was working on a wild scheme for a new kind of program, a "last gasp" to save the medium. Weaver had conferred with former colleagues in the ad world and executives familiar with radio ops and station relations. One dominant voice was that of Mike Zeamer, an all-round veteran of both media, who was responsible for many of the on-air characteristics of the new program which the planners decided to call Monitor. Jim Fleming, an NBC News correspondent, was named Executive Producer.

Shortly after that the NBC News president, Bill McAndrew, who had been involved in the early sessions, announced that the News Department would run the new program in cooperation with the radio network. Legendary "Buck" Prince, then Night Editor of Today, was named Managing Editor, and I was switched from supervisor of the Central News Desk to be News Editor. That was the start of an extraordinary — sometimes uproarious but always journalistically aggressive and appropriate — partnership that lasted three years. Monitor, of course, continued on for another two decades after we moved to other jobs.

Other News people were drafted as continuity writers

— chief among them Fitzgerald Smith, a former NYTimesman and world traveler, and Bill Bales, a fine writer who was chomping at the bit for something better to do while turning out local radio scripts. We expanded the staff to include Gordon Fraser, a former ABC war correspondent, who did some air work, and "Cappy" Petrash who handled feature assignments in the field and later became a full-fledged writer.

A whole passel of other writers joined the staff: Cathy

Falconer, Charlie Garment, Roy Silver, and John Kieran, among others. The original segment producers, many being veteran tv directors temporarily on the beach, included Fred Weieh, Marx Loeb, Bud Drake, Murray Burnett (recently deceased) and Parker Gibbs.

The first air date for the new show was set for the weekend of June 18-19, 1955. Initially our schedule called for programming on Saturdays from 7am to midnight, and Sundays from 10am to midnight. Leading off each hour would be a news

package that could run short or long, depending on what was happening. This frazzled the nerves of the seven segment producers who tried to keep up with sudden changes. Finally, the news length was set at five minutes.

We had a one-day dress rehearsal on the Saturday before our opening weekend. A terrible crash at the Le Mans automobile race in France, which killed 80 people, gave us a formidable test of our ability to concentrate on one major news story. We did well, although the coverage did not go beyond the NBC internal audio system. The day had physically drained us and we all wondered how we would fare handling a full two-day broadcast.

During all those weeks in which program planning had occupied the staff, the fifth floor at 30 Rock was undergoing a substantial physical transformation to accommodate the new program. The old horseshoe-shaped Master Control board near the Studio elevators was ripped out and a bright modern complex of studios, announce booths, control



As a Monitor Communicator, Fitzgerald Smith, interviewed some of the greatest thinkers and creators of our time - Frank Lloyd Wright, Bertrand Russell - but the lighter side was fun. Here he is talking with Monique Van Voorhen and Jane Mansfield.

rooms and tape editing rooms was installed in its place.

The first on-air weekend was a grind. There was virtually no news, and we had an awful time filling the five minutes at the top of each hour. There were just four of us to write and patch up all 30 newscasts over the two days. In that day, the staff announcers were news readers. It also was before the days when Writers Guild employees were paid overtime!

Undoubtedly, there were myriad goofs.

One, I particularly remember. It was Sunday morning and Jim Fleming came dashing into Prince's office. "We shifted things around for this morning's segment and left one whole hour unprogrammed. And it starts in 15 minutes!"

Fleming's face suddenly brightened when he spotted on Buck's desk the Sunday paper with the colorful comics section wrapped around it. He shouted "Remember Mayor LaGuardia? He read the funnies on the radio during a newspaper strike. We're going to fill that hour with the funnies," and he looked pointedly at Prince.

Buck Prince was a red-faced, tough-talking, chain-smoking character right out of "The Front Page." A native of South Carolina, his southern drawl made his origins obvious to anyone in range of his loud voice. He had learned newspapering on "The Providence Journal."

For one hour that Sunday morning Monitor featured the gruff bark of Buck trying to sound grandfatherly. It filled the hour but it was never repeated.

Buck's favorite neighborhood haven from the rigors of broadcasting, as was the case for many of us, was Hurley's Bar & Grill. Mr. Prince found that keeping in touch with his secretary during his occasional pilgrimages to the establishment run by Messrs. Connie, John and Danny Hurley and Mike Daley was difficult. So he simplified that problem by having the NBC Traffic Department install an NBC phone extension at the end of the bar.

One of Pat Weaver's pet ideas that he introduced to Monitor, was coining a name for people who hosted shows. He called them communicators, instead of anchors or hosts. Some were film stars, others came from NBC: Dave Garroway, Frank Blair, Ed Newman, David Brinkley, Chet Huntley (working separately) Clifton Fadiman, Gene Rayburn, Morgan Beatty, Hugh Downs, Don Ameche, Eddie Albert, Barry Nelson and Walter O'Keefe were among them.

Interspersed with oddball news features and patter of the communicators were regular features by such memorable stars as Bob and Ray, Mike Nichols and Elaine May, Fibber McGee and Molly, Mort Sahl and Miss Monitor (Tedy Thurmond) a red-headed ex-model who reported weather conditions with a sexy whisper "...the tempa-toor in Mobile is..." Lindsay Nelson delivered the sports.

Show biz, sports and political luminaries always dropped by the "fishbowl" for live conversations with the communicators. When big news broke, Monitor was there, providing breaking news from all over the world from the huge corps of NBC News correspondents. One exciting incident was a police shootout with a bank robber in Chicago. John Chancellor reported from ground level —

taking cover underneath a police patrol car, but delivering his report.

Possibly the most dramatic moment in the show's history was the slowly weakening radio signal out of Radio Budapest when Soviet tanks put down an uprising. Live and in broken English the Polish announcer cried out for help against the Soviets, and then the radio went dead!

Finally, there was the intrepid corps of indefatigable free-lancers who kept the show supplied with off-beat features — rattlesnake hunts in Texas, running down alligators in Florida. The champion was Jay Miller, who operated out of Tucson, Arizona, although staffer Jerry Smith used his vacation time to produce a cache of material.

And that was only the first three years!

Roy Neal Remembers.....

Yes, I worked Monitor from the very first show when we did several remotes...places like Disneyland, Knotts Berry Farm, Las Vegas, and even the then, new, Universal Studios tour. I did frequent interviews with Hollywood stars. I recall one with Alfred Hitchcock explaining his wonderful dieting system. He took off several thousand pounds on a diet of meat and potatoes...and put the weight on, every other week.

Don Blair Remembers...

It was a privilege to come in to the announce booth to do my hourly news casts and watch the stars come in for their drop-in interviews — Uncle Miltie, among them. And the communicators — I remember Bill Cullen, John Bartholomew Tucker, Big Wilson. And I still have a pristine RCA Red Label 45rpm with the monitor beep, beep, boop electronic theme. I'm going to give it to the University of Maryland broadcast museum. 🦚

Jim Holton sent us this piece from Rinholds, Pennsylvania. The title graphic is from Monitor stationary sent in by Peter Flynn, Sr. of Durham, New Hampshire.

Monitor Press Release, June 1959

Roving reporters have displayed ingenuity in tracking down unusual stories throughout the world:

- ♦ Dick Jennings flew to the South Pole to cover the Navy's "Operation DeepFreeze." With temperature 65 degrees below zero, Jennings swaddled his tape recorder in wool underwear to keep it warm.
- ♦ Fitzgerald Smith conducted an interview with Danny Kaye while they were both stretched out at a steaming sauna at a Finnish bath club.
- ♦ Announcer Harry Hensen was about to call a horse race at a Chicago racetrack when the fog rolled over the starting gate. Hensen lost sight of the nags but broadcast an exciting ad lib account and to his surprise the horses actually finished the race in the order he called. (DG)

the golden years

by mort heckstein

When we were traveling with children two generations ago, I dreaded the idea of packing and schlepping of kiddie foods, fruit juices, treasured toys, frequent changes and all the other paraphernalia involved in moving a young family around. I looked forward to the time when it would be just me and she and we could travel light. Ah, the joys of old age. Little did I know. The freedom of modern maturity brings with it medicines, pills, vitamins and gadgets, new impedimenta to untrammelled travel. Medicines? From talking with my colleagues, I think I get off easy. I carry with me on my travels pills to control my cholesterol (they work, too) and pills called hytrin which seem to do double duty. One MD prescribed it for high blood pressure and another prescribed it for old man's problems. You guys who have to make all those trips — bed to head, know what I mean. The most recent addition has been eye drops which, somehow, were excluded from my generous GE drug program, but that's another story. Then, of course, you have to remember the aspirin, the ibuprofen, the antacids and all those other non-r/x drugs.

My wife, fortunately, was never a woman for beauty products. She doesn't carry perfumes, oils, lotions, powders and hair dryers. I've seen women traveling with separate cases for each of those items. Her job is to bring along all the vitamin baggage, and her-own-for-women-only pills. Let's see, she's got glucosamine chondroitin, which is for aching joints, vitamin c, vitamin e, calcium, niacin and zinc. She's carrying for two, since she has converted me to taking all those healthful pills. It's a joint effort. The gadget is the real bother. When I sleep, wherever I sleep these days, I'm wearing a facemask attached to what I call a breather. I look like a football player sucking up air, except that I'm on a bed, not a bench. The breather's medical name is cpap, and I've never learned what that means. It is a light 10" x 12"

gadget looking like an oversized portable CD player, and I've never looked inside. It seems to be little more than a fan and motor attached to a length of rubber hose and the face mask which pumps oxygen into my body while I sleep.

The cpap came along because my wife objected to the sound of my sleeping. My snoring, that is. So, about five years ago, I drove down to Newark to what was then a new institution, a sleep clinic. The sleep clinic concept must be a moneymaker for hospitals because they are everywhere now and had I waited a year or so, I wouldn't have had to travel so far from Teaneck.

I talked about snoring and breathing and medical history with a doctor who told me that I had a problem. He was more interested in Walter Cronkite and Dan Rather and though I reminded him I'd been at NBC, he kept on about CBS and Barbara Walters. When I finally got him on track about my problems, he told me that I had the smallest throat aperture he'd ever seen and I was lucky to be breathing. He invited me back a few days later to stay overnight, wired up to a couple of consoles while I slept. All that monitoring told the doctor what he already knew, that I didn't sleep well, that my snoring and sudden sharp intakes of air that woke me up at night could be dangerous if I didn't catch my breath fast enough. So, thanks to the sleep clinic and Medicare my traveling gear now includes that cpap machine in a lovely canvas carrying case, easily mistaken for a laptop. That's my second unit. The original breather was three times as heavy and bulky. Once I left it in a hotel lobby in Macon, France and it eventually caught up with me in Italy via the French version of FedEx at a cost of \$86. The breather travels alone like the laptop it resembles, and it occasionally puts me over the limit for carry-on baggage on the airlines. The pills and vitamins may be dispersed or all in one bag. They're not heavy, but, like the breather, they're easy to forget

and there have been brief trips when we neglected to take them along. Well, we often did the same thing with the kids and we all survived.



Mort and Rolaine
live in Teaneck, NJ.

Ed Herlihy, announcer — A man whose voice was better known to Americans than his face, Ed died in New York on January 30 at 89. Many of you may recall he was a guest and one of the speakers at PN's LaMagnet luncheon last June. After receiving a standing ovation from 200 members, he recalled some of his lifetime of contact with stars of radio and tv. He joined NBC in 1935.

Before tv and radio, Ed voiced the twice-a-week Universal Newsreel we all watched at the movies. That was the way we used to get our news of America, the world, and the water skiers at Cypress Gardens.

For endless years he was host of the Horn & Hardart Children's hour, first on radio, then tv. Ed also was



Ed led the PNers in singing.



heard on "America's Town Meeting," "Just Plain Bill," a radio soaper, "Mr. District Attorney," Tallulah Bankhead's "The Big Show," Sid Caesar's "Show of Shows," among many others.

On the stage he appeared in many road versions of Broadway shows, including "Camelot," "Damn Yankees," and "Good News." Among his films, "Radio Days," "King of Comedy," and "Pee-Wee's Big Adventure."

On his funeral day, the Dutch Treat Club diners heard a recording of Ed reciting "Danny Boy." For his closer at the PN luncheon Ed led the crowd in "May the Good Lord Bless and Keep You," the tune Meredith Wilson wrote for the Tallulah show.

Ed was a treasured PN member and friend who will be sorely missed by all. (DG)

Don Meany, newsman. Don, who had been employed by NBC News in New York and Washington for 33 years, died in mid-November at the age of 78. He lived in Brielle, NJ.

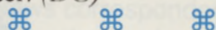
He started in journalism at WCTC, radio, in New Brunswick, switched to WNJR in Newark, and then joined NBC where he worked on Today and Nightly News and also as the Domestic Film Assignment editor in the Bill McAndrew days. As a vice president of news he headed News Program Service and was also VP and bureau chief in Washington.

At various times Don was involved in election and space coverage. He served two terms as president of the North American News Broadcasters Association, and worked with the World Press Freedom Committee.

After retirement, Don taught in the Washington Semester program at American University in the capital. He was a volunteer with the New Community Corp. in Newark, a group dedicated to rebuilding the lives and community structure of the residents of the city's central ward.

In 1961 he received the Outstanding Community Service award from North Plainfield, and was a member of the high school's Hall of Fame.

Don graduated from Rutgers in 1943 and served in the navy during World War II. He is survived by his wife Ruth, and a son and daughter. (DG)



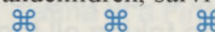
Gerard B. (Jack) Petry, a 39-year veteran of NBC who retired in 1982, died November 28. He was 82.

Petry joined NBC-NY in 1941 as a guest relation page and shortly transferred to the engineering department. He served in the U.S. Navy as a heavy equipment operator with the Seabees during World War II. He returned to NBC as a studio engineer, and worked with stars from that era, such as Bob and Ray and "Buffalo Bob" Smith. In 1954, Petry became an associate director and was made a director one year later. He directed "Howdy Dodder" for three years.

In the late 1950s, Petry moved into production management working with Perry Como and Skitch Henderson among others. He transferred to NBC Burbank in 1970, where he became Director, Broadcast Standards, a position he held until his retirement in 1981.

After retiring he began a second career in the parking management and consulting business, working for Century Parking and Modern Parking in Los Angeles.

An alumnus of the University of Michigan, Petry was born in Long Island, NY. His wife Barbara, a son Jerry who is Executive Vice President of NBC Enterprises, a daughter Maureen and four grandchildren, survives him.



Robert (Doc) Potter, 83, of Dumont, NJ, died January 1, 1999. Before retiring in 1981, he was a Technical Director for NBC Television, NY, where he worked for 20 years. He served in the Army during World War II. He was a member of St. Luke Episcopal Church, Haworth, NJ, and a member of its choir. He was a member of the League of Amateur Radio Operators. Doc will ever be remembered for the

"Potter Tool" used in TV's early days to attach a television camera to the tripod panning head.

Art Poppele Engineering Management passed away in mid-December, 1998 from colon cancer complications.

E. Dudley Goodale, Engineering Management, died in Leicester, Vermont, November 7, 1998, at the age of 92.

During the 1940s and 1950s, he was part of a team of engineers at NBC, NY that gave birth to the technology of television. In 1961, he transferred to the Astro-Electronics Division of RCA and was active in space communications projects until his retirement in 1971.

He was a graduate of Union College in Schenectady, NY, and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

His wife of 53 years, Elizabeth, two sons and their wives and three grandchildren survives him.

Warren Zito, NY Engineering died on November 27th. Warren suffered a heart attack and passed away shortly afterwards. He was 75 years old.

David C. Adams, 85, a former chairman of NBC and a member of its board, died in late December. His dry wit and lack of pretension made Mr. Adams one of television's most popular executives.

In 1947 he joined NBC's legal staff and retired in 1980 having served under seven company presidents.

By 1969 Mr. Adams was a senior executive vice president. He had been responsible for the network's legal department, its Washington office, program standards and practices, research and planning, advertising, publicity and promotion, and relations with affiliated stations. When the problems of a job become too familiar he subscribed to the need for "repotting." He took an open-ended "repotting" sabbatical.

He returned to NBC as a member of its board and as executive vice president of its corporate staff. Less than two years later he was appointed chairman of the company, and from 1975 until retirement he served as vice chairman.

After receiving his law degree from the University of Buffalo he joined the legal staff of the FCC in 1941. After WW II service in the US Army, he returned to that position in 1945 and joined NBC two years later.

Mr. Adams is survived by his wife, Ilyana, a stepdaughter, a daughter-in-law, two grandchildren and two step-grandchildren.

(Reported by Agnes Sullivan.)

Leland Frederick Cooley, 89, author of 16 novels and non-fiction books and a radio and television pioneer who wrote and produced "The Perry Como Show," died of prostate cancer in November 1998. His work on "The Perry Como Show" earned him a Christopher Award. He worked on that show for six of its 15 years.

Adrian Spies, a New York journalist who moved west to write for television, including such series as "Climax," "Dr. Kildare," and "Star Trek," died during heart surgery October 2, 1998.

Before switching to radio and television writing, Mr. Spies wrote for the New York Mirror, PM, and The Washington Post. He was a native of Newark, NJ, and studied journalism at Columbia University.

Mr. Spies wrote scripts for the popular series "Playhouse 90," "Climax," "Ironside," "Dr. Kildare," "Marcus Welby, M.D.," "The Defenders," and "Hawaii Five-0." For "Climax," he won the Robert E. Sherwood Award.

Drawing on his newspaper days he created a one-season series, "Saints and Sinners." Later, Mr. Spies concentrated on TV movies and miniseries such as 1979's "Hanging by a Thread." In the 1980s, he wrote scripts for the series "Fortune Dane" and part of "In the Heat of the Night."

His wife, Martha, two daughters from an earlier marriage and four grandchildren survive him.

Flip Wilson, comic. Flip Wilson, the first successful black host of a TV variety show, died of liver cancer at his Malibu home Nov 29. He was 64.

An improvising comedian, his character "Geraldine," probably was his best-known creation. Her phrases "The devil made me do it," and "What you see is what you get," became part of the language.



Geraldine with guest Tim Conway, "The Flip Wilson Show" in 1973

He made his TV debut on the Johnny Carson "Tonight" show in 1965, made frequent appearances on the "Ed Sullivan Show," and "Laugh-in" and became the host of NBC's "The Flip Wilson Show" in 1970. He was number one in the ratings four times that year. The show expired in 1974.

In later years Flip hosted "People Are Funny," and he was in the sit-com "Charlie & Company." He earned an Emmy for

performing and writing in 1971.

Christened with the name Clerow, Flip earned his nickname while he was in the Air Force and entertaining the troops with irreverent humor.

He is survived by five children. (DG)



Virginia Graham, 86, pioneer radio and television talk show host died December 24 of complications from a heart attack. Ms. Graham began her career in radio in the 1930s, replacing Margaret Truman as host of "Weekday." She was best known for two television talk shows: "Girl Talk," which ran on ABC from 1963 to 1969, and "The Virginia Graham Show," which was broadcast from 1970 to 1972. Her recent television appearances were on "Roseanne," "Rosie O'Donnell," and "Tom Snyder" shows. Ms. Graham also was a frequent substitute host on NBC shows including "Strike It Rich," "The Big Payoff," "Today," and "The Jack Paar Show."

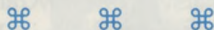


She graduated from the University of Chicago with a degree in anthropology at age 18 and got a master's degree in journalism at Northwestern University.

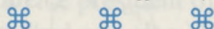
She wrote five books, including her autobiography, "There Goes What's Her Name," and "Life After Harry: My Adventures in Widowhood."



Arnold Auerbach, comedy writer. A prolific writer who wrote for Fred Allen's radio show, Milton Berle's "Texaco Star Theatre," "Sergeant Bilko," and sketches for Broadway shows, including "Call Me Mister," died in New York in October at the age of 86.



Len Gordon, Plant Operations died November 20, 1998. No details. (Reported by Joan Gifford.)



Mary McAndrew, newswoman. Mary, daughter of one-time news president Bill McAndrew and sister of Billy, a one-time NBC publicist, died of cancer in Glenview, Illinois in January. She was 53. In December, when she felt that the end was near, Mary had the idea of attending her own pre-death wake in Orlando, Florida. It was not to be.

Her father, who headed the news department in its heyday, once vowed Mary would never be a journalist. She had other ideas. After graduating from Marymount College in Arlington, Va., in 1963 she went to work for United Press International and two years later switched to the Associated Press in New York for three years.

Her career included some exciting moments. For the AP, covering a sniper in Central Park, she herself was shot at while dictating the lead to the story to a newsman at the bureau. Part of the phone she held in her hand was blown away.

In 1968, the year she joined NBC, she covered the Yuppie riots for the network during the Democratic Party

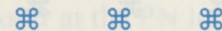
convention in Chicago. Police

ordered Mary and her 3-man film crew to clear out, forcing them to jump over a railroad embankment. Mary broke a leg in the jump, was hospitalized, but was back on the scene a few hours later...on crutches.

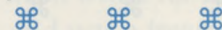
Mary spent 18 years at NBC in radio and television and worked her way up to local bureau chief in Newark and in Connecticut.

In 1988 she relocated to Chicago where she worked for WBBM-FM, the Chicago Bureau of USA Today on Television, and WGCI-AM/FM. In 1993 she became a publicist for the American Red Cross and later, the American Medical Association.

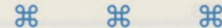
She is survived by Bob Roberts, her companion of 15 years and a reporter for WMAQ-AM, Billy, daughter Carroll McStowe, and other relatives. (By DG, edited from *Chicago Tribune*)



Thomas Himmelberg, son of Water (Engineering) and Anita Himmelberg died of a heart attack. He was 49 and awaiting heart surgery.



James R. (Russ) DeBaun, Burbank Engineering, died last June. Russ started his NBC career in NY and transferred to Burbank many years ago. He is survived by his wife, Jayne.



Margaret (Maggie) Snider Protzman, a pioneer in radio and television died at her home in January. She was 77.

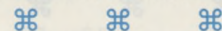
She studied music and dance from an early age and sang in the Central City Opera Chorus, Colorado. She studied radio broadcasting and music at the University of Denver.

During World War II she worked in the FBI crime lab in Washington DC. She came to NY in 1942 and worked in radio and then in television at NBC. She made a film for NBC about Central City — "The Richest Square Mile on Earth."

Maggie worked in the Program Department as supervisor of music programming and was associated with the Arturo Toscanini radio and television broadcasts.

In 1948, she married Albert Protzman, NBC's manager of Technical operations. He died in 1981.

She left NBC in 1952 and was active in the Bronxville League for Service. In 1957 she became the music librarian at Sarah Lawrence College, a position she held until 1992 to continue a part of her job as assistant to the Music Department. She retired in 1997 after 40 years service.

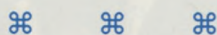


Lucille Kallen, comedy writer. Lucille Kallen, the only woman who worked in the legendary stable of writers who created Sid Caesar's NBC "Your Show of Shows," died of cancer at age 76 in January at her home in Ardsley, NY. The show was one of the top attractions on TV from 1950 to 1954.

Prior to "Your Show of Shows," she was a writer on "The Admiral Broadway Revue," with Caesar and Imogene Coca, and subsequently she worked on "The Imogene Coca Show."

Kallen worked with and competed with such super stars as Neil Simon, Mel Brooks, Carl Reiner, Woody Allen and Larry Gelbart. Four of them went on to become successful comics themselves. She actually began her own theatrical career by performing as a comic at the Tamiment resort in the Poconos, famous in the 50s as a breeding ground for all kinds of performers.

Aside from her comedy writing, Kallen wrote six novels. (DG)



Doris Steen Williams, Executive, died at her home in Tryon, NC, January 7, 1998. (1998 is correct) Mrs. Williams was employed by the NBC for 43 years, holding, among other positions, that of contract administrator for the network; cofounder and manager of both network Standards and Practices and Compliances and Practices.

She was a member of The Broadcast Pioneers and an honorary Kentucky Colonel.

Mrs. Williams is survived by her husband of 62 years, David R. Williams; a daughter, best-selling novelist, Beatrice Small; a grandson and a great-grandson.

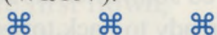


Richard C. Welsch, 83, Executive, guided the design and construction of the NBC studios in Burbank died December 10, 1998 of pneumonia.

Welsch retired in 1979 as vice president for production and business affairs. His career began in the early development of color television. As head of operations and technical services, he oversaw the development of the vast studio complex In Burbank.



George Dlugos, 85, Engineering, died February 18 due to heart associated problems. George worked at the Empire State building transmitter for many years in addition to Master Control, a position he retired from. He was an active Ham Radio operator (WIJRV).



Recent Notables

Esther Rolle, 78, actress known for "Maude" and "Good Times" died in November. She won an Emmy for her roll in "Summer of My German Soldier." She was the housekeeper in "Driving Miss Daisy"...**James Hammerstein**, 67, theater director, producer, and son of celebrated lyricist Oscar Hammerstein II, died in January of a heart attack....**Iron Eyes Cody**, the "crying Indian" whose tearful face in the 1970s tv commercials became a powerful symbol of the anti-littering campaign, died in January. His acting credits included silent films....**Alan Pakula**, 70, director of such classic political and legal dramas as "Klute" and "All the

President's Men," died in November in a freak car accident....**Weeb Ewbank**, 91, in November, football coach of the NY Jets when Joe Namath predicted and then led the 1969 Jets to the upset victory over the NFL's Baltimore Colts in the Super Bowl....**Mary Millar**, 62, actress, British tv star and veteran of the London musical stage, died of cancer. She was known in the US as Rose in the BBC TV comedy series "Keeping up Appearances"....**Red Holzman**, coach of the New York Knicks basketball team passed away in November. He won the only two championships the Knicks have won in their half-century....**Michelle Thomas**, 29 of cancer. She had rolls in "The Young & The Restless," "The Cosby Show," and "Family Matters"...**Johnny Roventini**, 88, diminutive actor, was one of the best-known figures in American advertising, died in late November. At 4 feet tall he was touted by the New Yorker Hotel as "the smallest bellboy in



"Heres Johnny."

the world." An advertising man with an idea for a cigarette ad gave Johnny a dollar "to locate Philip Morris." Johnny strode through the hotel, shouting, "Call for Philip Mor-rees." Johnny later said, "I had no idea that Philip Morris was a cigarette." That began a career that brought him a lifetime contract and a salary of up to \$50,000 — fabulous pay for that time.... **Henry Hampton**, 58, created "Eyes on the Prize," the acclaimed tv series on the civil rights movement. ...**Adelaide**

Hawley Cumming, 93, television's original Betty Crocker died in December. From 1937 to 1950 she was host of the "Adelaide Hawley Program," on NBC radio and then on CBS....**Anthony Salvatore**, a master recording engineer for RCA records, died November 18, just short of his 78th birthday. Mr. Salvatore shared two Grammys: in 1966, for Wagner's "Lohengrin," and in 1979, for the musical "Sweeney Todd." In retirement he was part of a team winning a Grammy for the "The Heifetz Collection,"... **Frances Gershwin Godowsky**, 92, in late January. She tried out songs for her brothers George and Ira Gershwin and sang in a few Broadway shows in the 1920s. She later became a respected painter. Her husband, Leopold Godowsky, Jr., son of the Austrian pianist, was the inventor of Kodachrome slide film. 🌿

We extend our sympathy and condolences to the families of our departed friends and co-workers.

John Glenn Flies Again ... and So Does Roy Neal

Note: In late October, after much hype, John Glenn, now Senator, but formerly John Glenn, astronaut, and the first American to orbit the earth, climbed back into a space ship for a monumental flight. Back to Cape Canaveral to watch him again came Roy Neal, an NBC retiree, whose name was synonymous with the early space flights in the days he worked out of NBC Burbank (1952 to 1986). He has kindly recalled that week for PN. Roy now lives in High Point, NC. (DG)

By Roy Neal

I was a guest on TODAY and MSNBC (in late October) remembering those crazy days in the 60s, when John Glenn became our first man in orbit, and relating the then and now of it. I dusted off flight books and pulled out a few old pictures and the fun began!

Oh the memories! Of the "A" team of engineers... Warren Phillips, Clay Atkinson, Jesse Cripe, Phil Falcone... who built a special mobile unit just for space shots (Rippie might remind us of THAT team some time). Of Jim Kitchell, our fearless Producer/Director and Dick Auerbach, who was such a great Stage Manager that the company wouldn't let him go on to bigger jobs for much too long. (He wound up being a VP of Sports some years later.) Frank McGee... Peter Hackes... and the troops in New York and Washington ...ghosts, now, but they were very real then, when NBC captured all the ratings when Glenn flew that first time. Yep, we outpointed Walter at CBS and Jules Bergman at ABC, better than 2-1.

We had a crude stage, a desk with microphone and monitor, set in a field of palmettos and scrub brush, with the launch pad in the distance behind me and a large sign that said NBC News.

This time, the Press site was incredible. Never have I seen such a



A crude setup.

concentration of satellite dishes, hand held cameras and young reporters who didn't seem to know what was going on!

His first flight was frightening. John Glenn was truly pioneering.

The engineers and scientists

literally did not know what to expect. They didn't even know, reliably, what was going inside the missile that NASA adapted to boost him into orbit. And while he was going around the earth 3 times at 17,500MPH, they found out that his retropack was not securely fastened and the heat shield might disintegrate during re-entry. They took a chance and somehow it all worked out.

NBC dug up some footage of my coverage from those days and aired it on MSNBC. Even in glorious black and white we looked pretty good...and VERY young!

This time, Glenn was part of a crew of 7 that took off in a relatively modern design space ship that had flown a hundred times. The ship had ten windows. His Mercury had one. He was able to fly around like Peter Pan during a flight that lasted nine days in orbit, where 36 years ago, he had been strapped in for four and a half hours.

When I interviewed John after his first flight, he told the world that he was ready to back to work...ready to fly into orbit again. By edict of President Kennedy not to endanger an authentic hero, he was earthbound.

So he became a US Senator from Ohio, and some 30 years later with enough clout to talk NASA into a second chance. At 77, John Glenn proved that old folks are not tapped out. A lot of us had a very good time....covering and remembering.

His Mercury backup in 1963, Scott Carpenter, worked for NBC on this one and I can testify that he enjoyed every minute of it. So did I.

God speed John Glenn, and a lot of us went flying with him. 🦋



Roy interviews John Glenn in 1961 following Glenn's flight his triumphal tour.

BIOGRAPHY

Roy Neal

(Editor's Note: We all worked in one of the culture's most interesting mediums — a 20th century invention that is part of everybody's life from the Bronx to the Bosphorus -- and our colleagues were some of the most inventive, most charismatic, and most informed people anywhere. So, we ask, why not tell PN readers about some of those special people. This issue we start with a most illustrious exponent — Roy Neal, long NBC's expert on space. A pioneer, he started with NBC in 1952 and retired in 1986. Correspondent, Producer, Writer, Executive. Now, his life is in your hands. DG)

When Alan Shepard flew the first sub-orbital Mercury mission, Neal was Pool Producer, in charge of coverage for all networks. On that and several other flights, he set up international as well as domestic coverage for the electronic media.

Roy Neal also worked in aeronautics. For more than twenty years, Roy emceed the prestigious Honors Award Banquet for the Society of Experimental Test Pilots. He covered the historic feats of the jet age pioneers at Edwards Air Force Base from X-1 to X15s. When commercial jets were first flown, Neal reported their flights.

Roy was born in Pennsylvania, graduated from the University of Pennsylvania. His news career began at radio station WBIG in Philadelphia. He was a combat infantry officer in World War II and, after the war, went on to become Program Manager for the Armed Forces Radio Network in Europe.

After the war, he went to work in early television at WPTZ, Philadelphia, then moved to California to set

up NBC's West Coast news bureau. He was based there for 35 years!

Neal reported a wide range of stories for NBC's Nightly News and TODAY, while anchoring or participating in hundreds of the network's special events and programs. For three years he was Science Editor of NBC. He also was in charge of NBC's western radio operations and frequently was heard on the radio networks.

Roy was active at 12 national political conventions as the Producer in charge of video tape and mobile unit operation.

After retiring from NBC News, Roy Neal moved to North Carolina, where he established his own company, Talent Connection, as a base of operations. In that role he has produced, written and anchored programs for Douglas Aircraft, The Mercury Seven Foundation, the NBC Owned and Operated stations, Station WXII, and for the New York firm of Videospec (anchoring the annual Tournament of Roses Parade from California). His clients include

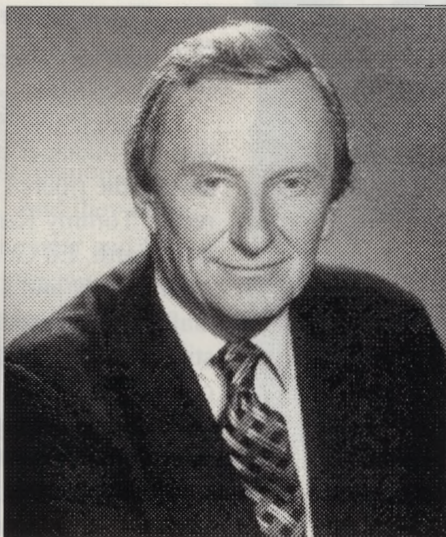
AMSAT NA and the American Radio Relay League, for whom he has made several video tapes about amateur radio. For two years, he was a consultant for the Winston-Salem based public relations company of James A. Fyock & Associates.

With those credentials, he was well-qualified to teach television for several years at High Point University.

Roy Neal lives with his wife, Pat, in High Point, North Carolina.

They have two grown sons. David Neal is a producer for NBC Sports, whose credits include Coordinating Producer of the Olympic coverage in Barcelona and Atlanta. Mark Neal is an independent television producer, currently working on several productions in North Carolina. 📺

(Readers: If you know of any PN member who would be a good subject for this feature please contact them, and us. Dan Grabel)



Neither Rain nor Sleet nor Gloom of Night...

By George Cavaliere as told to Dan Grabel

In the days before microwaves and satellites up in the sky, NBC News, and the rest of the local stations, got their news clips from the cameraman to the studio by way of motorcycle couriers, and later by couriers in cars.

The motorcycle days, perhaps, were more colorful and at 30 Rock we had a platoon of 15 or 16 men who dashed home with the film to the developing machines on the 7th floor. Later, we did our dashing with half inch videotape and the system, of course, was speedier without the hour or so delay going through the developing machines.



George with camera covering TWA crash on Long Island.

I was one of that group and retired just a year ago after 35 years of service. In 1977 I was given a chance to switch from the bike to become a NABET sound man and live truck operator. A few years later I became a cameraman in the Long Island Bureau. A number of couriers switched careers, including Tommy Kane, who was the first to join NABET, and also Joey Gafa.

"My NBC career, like that of most of us, was a dream job. I loved to ride a motorcycle, my hobbies included photography, electronics and ham radio. All those factored into the work.

The couriers as a whole were an upbeat crew and they enjoyed keeping their mates alert. I clearly remember one gambit: When I was new on the job, Bob Nardi and I were going to JFK on our bikes and I said I'd follow him. On Grand Central Parkway we got tied up in traffic. That's a tight highway and Nardi asked if I could keep up with him as he threaded his way between the cars. 'I'll be on your butt all the way,' I told him.

Nardi thought — 'I'll teach the kid a lesson.' As we

started through the heavy traffic I was on his tail, until suddenly a driver opened his door and I had to hit the brakes to avoid hitting him. Another quarter mile, I was still on Nardi's tail, and suddenly I had to slam on the brakes because another driver suddenly opened his door. I survived that one by inches. This actually happened about a dozen times. I was amazed, and thankful for good brakes.

At the airport Nardi explained that as he drove past those cars he yelled to the driver, 'Your door is open!' The drivers invariably would then open it, and slam it closed."

I rode a full-dressed Harley-Davidson, some of the others rode BMWs. (Back in 1973 Harley-Davidson awarded George a pin noting that he had covered 100,000 miles on his bike. Tommy Kane and Bob Nardi got a similar award.)

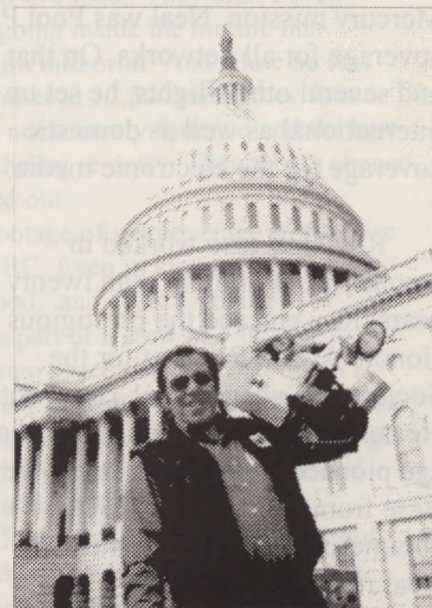
"Bob Butterfield was our manager and among the riders I recall: Tommy Kane, Bob Nardi, Ed Gender, Tom Roach, and Joe Gafa — all retired, and still working as couriers — John Isabella, Gill Holson, John Gandini, Charles Tyrell, Tony D'Elia, Richard Focarle, and George Balock. Jay Rizzo quit NBC and John Rodnite passed away. 🦄

Dan Grabel note: I know I've told this before, but I recall one ride I had on the back of Nardi's bike. I suddenly was assigned to get to JFK to interview Mandy Rice Davis who was one of the femme fatales in the Profumo scandal in Britain in the 60s. The bike was the quickest way there, despite the fact that I was overdressed for the ride — shirt, tie, silk summer suit.

George & Joyce Cavaliere live in Bellmore, NY.



George with wife Joyce



George getting ready for a DC pickup.

Field Crew Holds First Annual Lunch

It is sad to say, but as many of you are aware, the group of engineers known as *The NBC Field Crew* is now pretty much "History." There is only one major "Sports Event" left — golf. All the talented people who set up these complicated operations and manned the technical equipment, have been scattered to do many and varied studio assignments.



Mike Noseworthy & Jerry Valdivia.

About the 15th of January, Art Parker, Mike Noseworthy, and Sam Sambataro, Jr. got together and in a little over a week managed to get over 90% of the regular Field Crew and their spouses together for their first reunion.

And they came from near and far — Pittsburgh, Ohio, the Jersey Shore, and New York.

The "ex" crew met for lunch on



Bill Tobey, Sal Benza, Jack Bennett, & Art Parker by a nose.




Joe Thronley, Dick & Julia Sanservere.



Bill Melanson, Bill Tobey & Murray Vecchio.

January 23rd at the Duck Cedar Inn, Tuxedo, NY.

The heart-warming friendship and camaraderie we experienced is beyond mention.

A Grand Ole Time was had by all. After the delicious lunch and the swapping of memorable sports experiences, we all promised to meet again next year. 



George Ciliberto & guest, Mr. & Mrs. Jim Marshall.

WE GET PICTURES

Here's
an
undated
oldie
from
a
newspaper
clipping.

Soldiers, Radio Star Hold Reunion



Signal Corps Photo

Dinah Shore, nationally known radio singer and star on the Eddie Cantor show this past season, talks over old times with three former associates from the National Broadcasting Company, now stationed at Fort Monmouth, during her visit here on Monday night, Aug. 18, when she appeared in the show at the Replacement Center outdoor theatre. All of the men have worked with Miss Shore on the popular radio program, "Society of Lower Basin Street." Left to right, there is Cpl. Philip Falcone, former technical director; Pvt. Joseph Thompson, producer; Miss Shore, and PFC Alfred Scott, former sound director with NBC. Cpl. Falcone and PFC Scott also worked for over a year together on the Aldrich Family program.

This bit of history contributed by Philip Falcone, Jr.

LET'S HAVE A PARTY

When? — May 23, 1999

Where? — La Maganette

Address? — 825 Third Avenue

What time? — 12 Noon

Who's Invited? — YOU ARE!

Let's all meet at La Maganette Ristorante on the corner of Third Avenue and 50th Street for a grand *Love-In* with all those great gals and guys that pioneered the Golden Age of Radio and Television. *See Coupon on page 47.*

Be There!

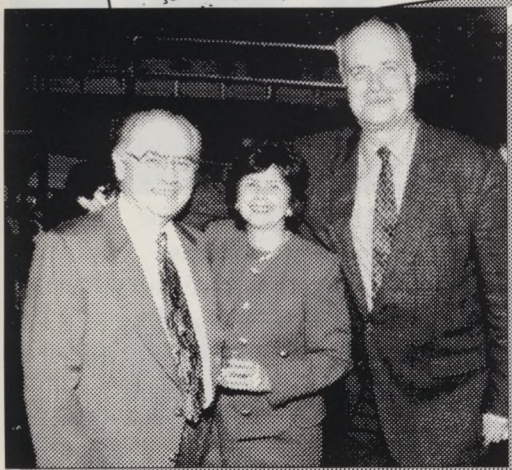


Curtain Falls on a Class Act

Joe Dicso Retires



Tom Brokaw, and the Dicsos, Joan & Joe.



Honoree with Judy Farinet & Randy Wands

After 44 great years with NBC, Joe Dicso has retired. A party organized by Judy Farinet and Randy Wands was held in 8H this past October to celebrate the event. There was a great turnout of co-workers past and present.

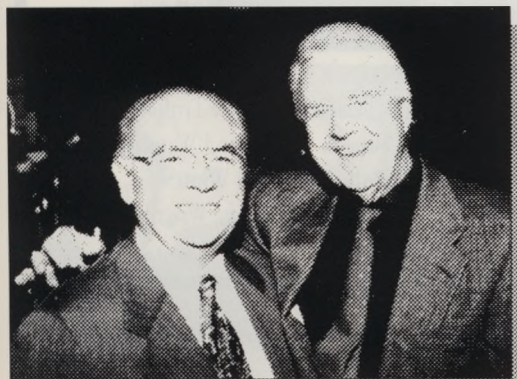
Tom Brokaw spoke fondly about his working association with Joe and entertained everyone with some amusing anecdotes that he recalled from his many years working with Joe.



Triumverate Bob Caminiti, Joe & Bob Van Ry

After serving as a combat photographer during the Korean War and while completing his degree from Parsons School of Design, Joe started as a page in 1953 on the Tonight Show with Steve Allen. He soon became a Stage Manager and went on to work on NBC shows and live events such as conventions, elections, space launches, The Tonight Show with Johnny Carson, Howdy Doody, Saturday Night Live, Kraft Music Hall, Ringling Brothers Circus, The Grammy's, Tony's, Emmy's, Superbowls, Nightly News, Today Show, Dateline and many other shows and specials too numerous to mention. In 1997, Joe was honored by the DGA with the "Franklin J. Schaffner Life Achievement Award" for his work as a stage manager.

Joe, PN wishes you all the best.



Joe with "Saturday Night" himself, Don Pardo.

Photographs by Chris Garcia.

47 NBC VETERANS INDUCTED INTO 25 YEAR CLUB

by Dan Grabel

A small army of greeters welcomed NBC's newest batch of veteran employees to the 52nd floor Executive Dining room on November 5th at the invitation of CEO Bob Wright and Employee Relations Vice President Ed Scanlon.

It was a small army of honorees, too, with 47 of them marking their 25th anniversary, one at 35 (Ron Hitzler) and six their 30th (Hilda Ayal, Carlton Gourdine, Stan Leefatt, Bert Medley, Rochelle Richardson and Beth Skobel). *(For some reason these 30 and 35 year honorees were not listed on the program, so we mention them here.)* Two reached their 40th (Dorothy Keto and Loretta Sabella), two more at 45 (Louis Bauer and Gerald Savitch) and one, announcer Howard Reig, celebrating his 55th year with GE.

The setting was beautiful — New York's skyscraper horizon, the view one usually gets from an airplane window, with a big orange moon slowing rising in the East, making it all look like a stage set in 8H rather than reality.

Bob Wright greeted the throng and remarked that 25 years is about half the time that commercial television has been broadcast to American audiences. *(Editors note: Some in the audience, including Reig, Peter Peterson and this scribe had actually been working in the medium half a century ago! Howard in Schnectady, Peter at 30 Rock and Dan at WPIX.)*

Wright said "NBC does not have a hard product to offer its audience — but it does have people, talent, good ideas, good skills to produce shows and we often do it better than others. For that, it is thrilling for me to congratulate you." He said that "Bonanza" and "Little House on the Prairie," were the big shows when they joined NBC.

He added that the past quarter century had been a challenge to bring the company and keep the company in the forefront of the tv business and similar challenges lie ahead. The CEO said that he had every confidence NBC will do real fine to weather the business cycle.

Wright pointed out that the "Today" show, now 45 years old, is enjoying the biggest national audience in its history — 50 percent of the viewing audience.

In noting the honorees achievements, Wright singled out IATSE electrician Gerald Savitch who had worked all the big shows — Milton Berle's "Texaco Star Theatre," "Play Your Hunch," "Lucky Strike Hit Parade," and "Tonight," starting with Jack Paar.

Howard Reig was a high school English teach back in 1943 when he took a summer job with the finance department of GE's WRGB-tv in Schnectady. He stayed on to work as an announcer, writer, and actor. In 1947 Reig won a national NBC contest for staff announcers and was invited to join the network staff under the legendary Pat Kelly.

Howard noted that his time was not all NBC and that Don Pardo and Gloria Clyne share the honors for longest NBC employees still on the job. Nevertheless he got a watch to commemorate the day.

Pete Peterson then took the mike and described Peacock North's place in the their future: the comraderie, the annual LaMagnetite luncheon, the newsletter and friendships that continue after they move into retirement.

The stars of the evening all went home with a huge "goodie bag" with gifts from Michael Fina, the silver shop, and other mementos of the occasion.



The Honorees

— 55 Years —

Howard Reig

— 45 Years —

Louis Bauer

Gerald Savitch

— 40 Years —

Dorothy Keto

Loretta Sabella

— 25 Years —

Glenn Arber	Irma Nadal-Martinez
Cheryl Beecher-Zeldin	David Naggjar
Michael Boland	John O'Neill
Paul Boos	John Pinto
Stanley Bosill	Aida Quintyne
Joseph Carbonara	Branko Radulovic
William Catalano	Melanie Rock
Jean Dietze	Merle Rubine
Carl Eckett	John Russo
Tobie Gabriele	Joseph Saraceni
Timothy Gorry	Nicholas Schiavone
Patricia Haynes	C. Michael Scholes
Mark Jankeloff	Susan Schwartz
John Jewczyn	Zenaida Silva
James Johnson	Howard Strawbridge
Imogene Jones	John Sullivan
Karl Kaessler	Alan Thiel
Surendra Kumar	John Thomas
Barbara Lopez	Richard Truglig
Vincent Lucchese	Jeffrey Trullinger
David McCormick	Gerard Wendle
Helen McMahon	Paul Winter
Irene Hanks-Medina	Lessie Wrenfro
Maria Morin	

Enjoy some reception pictures
on the next page.





Photos by
Dan
Grabel



Sermonette

by Jay Miller

I very much enjoy reading in Peacock North about all of the wonderful people who I have known and worked with during my 37 years with NBC. Every time I read a "name," a memory, a story or a happening pops into my mind and I very comfortably slip into the past.

It was with particular pleasure that I attended my first Peacock North luncheon last year, saying hello to friends and acquaintances was most gratifying and I look forward to our next meeting.

One of the joys, besides getting paid on a regular basis, was the opportunity to meet and work with a large variety of professionals. I never dreamed, years ago in Indiana, that I would have the opportunity to be in New York, work at NBC, meet so many wonderful people and even shake hands with three Presidents of the United States.

I, like all of you, have many, many memories and stories. I would like to share one of my favorites with you.

One of my first assignments when I became a director at WRCA-TV was to direct "Sermonettes." Every week a member of the religious community would come to the studio and record seven sermonettes, which would then air at sign-on every morning.


A Reverend, whose name and denomination I can't remember, recorded a sermonette I have never forgotten:

Many years ago, somewhere in the Middle West, there

was a farm community consisting of some 20-25 families. They farmed the land and the work was hard. Planting had recently finished. A few weeks went by, and although no one gave it much thought, it didn't rain. It didn't rain for many weeks and now the community was desperately worried. The ground became parched, the cows were dying, the wells had very little water in them and disaster was near. Everything the community had worked so hard for was about to be lost.

One Sunday the Reverend said to the congregation, "If there is no rain during the week then we should ALL gather together next Sunday morning here at the Church. Maybe if ALL of us gather together and pray together, God will hear our combined prayers and give us rain."

Everyday for the next week the sky was blue with not a cloud to be seen. And so that Sunday everyone put on their Sunday best, got into their wagons and came to Church. At times it was hard to breathe because the clouds of dust were like a plague. Soon the wagons arrived and the people slowly entered the Church in the hope that God would hear their voices in unison and grant them rain.

But of all those people that Sunday, only ONE little guy about, 10 or 11, brought an umbrella. 



Jay Miller, retired
NBC director, lives in
New Rochelle, NY
with his wife, Alvia.

The General Rewrites History *By Russ Tornebene — Edited by Dan Gabel*

(Editor's Note: In 1968 newsman Russ Tornebene and engineer Joe Sturniolo occasionally were assigned to putting the remarks of the RCA Chairman, General David Sarnoff, on audio tape. Russ recalls one taping session. DG)

Joe Sturniolo set up his gear in an ante-room of the general's Rockefeller Center suite and when he walked in he looked every inch the general. He put us at ease and then pulled out a script, prepared in large type. Sarnoff explained that during the Flushing Meadow World's Fair in 1939 — nearly 30 years earlier — he introduced television transmission with a public demonstration at the RCA exhibit. News coverage showed him speaking at the event, but there was no sound on that particular take.

Today, he explained, he is going to read those same remarks. The quality, of course, would be world's apart since the 1968 technology did not exist in 1939.

The general looked at his script, edited a word or two, and then gave it a good reading. No fluffs during the 3 or 4 minutes. "How did I do?" he asked. Joe rewound the tape, and reported, "Sounds good."

Around 1984, some 16 years later, I was watching PBS tv when on the screen came General Sarnoff at the 1939 World's Fair filming — *not silent, but talking*, and his lips seemed to be in sync.

A little oversight in history, corrected by the general.

A Message from

Pete Peterson



Our membership continues to grow. We are pleased that new candidates continually join our group. Their names are listed in another section of the newsletter. Welcome to all!

This issue brings us stories from various facets of NBC life and underscores the diversity that raised

NBC to the successful levels it has achieved.

Our in-house columnists, Heino Ripp and Dan Grabel, continue to bring us news of members in retirement and news of what is happening in the industry. Heino, (who is a pilot and a ham radio operator), also writes about a personal incident he had with someone with parallel interests in a chance meeting. Danny covers 30 Rock by digesting reams of material Roy Silver provides him. Dan's research enhances his ability to give us the best of "yesterday's" scoops, but with enough lag time to give it a thumbs up or down reaction and if it affects us directly. It's nice to have someone who can decipher the antics of the media God's with their control over the nation's viewers, and the strange behavior and bizarre lives of some of the stars we've come to know personally. PN'ers are by far living a better life of tranquility, just worried about important things like, "if the toast was burned."

Dick Dudley's account of the last days of the war are very timely, as the "Saving Pvt. Ryan" movie is prominent in our minds. We hope that Dick recovers from his damaging fall, and is able to join us in May at our LaMag luncheon.... Tom Brokaw's book, "The Greatest Generation," long on the best seller list, is MUST READING for our generation. It interestingly covers the personal stories of the wartime heroes. I've been beating the same drums about our PN group being heroes too. It's nice to have confirmation from a recognized source. We have some combat vets and medallists within our PN ranks. If any of you wish to write about your stories, we'll publish them, so send them in please!

Amiable members provide us with their "memory lane" stories. Among which are: Roy Neal's space accounts, past and present... Win Mullen (I worked with her in the Radio Ops Area back in the '40's — always a very polite lady) writes about her hobby of dog breeding, and the ensuing victories, very different, and very engrossing.... NBC network Producer/Director, Bob Asman's account of being interviewed by his newscaster son on FOX news, was an inspiring achievement for a dad!.... Charlie Mangano takes

us into the world of wires, satellites, and switching systems in the network hookups in the traffic area. It's the area below the line of visibility, but important, as it gets the stuff on the air that makes the BIG bucks that provides the enterprises sustenance.... The professional management of the Radio and Television networks owes much of their engineering success to folks like Sherman Hildreth who headed up NBC Washington for a time. Thanks to Sherman for graciously giving us an insight to the travails of earlier years putting things together on the networks. We hope that he will soon give us additional material. Thank you, Sherman, SIR!.... Bob Garthwaite provides us with a nostalgic piece to bring back memories of earlier times, thanks Bob. *(Many of you have pictures and memorabilia hiding away in closets and drawers. I know that's true as I hear those muffled voices from afar crying "yes, get me," "take me out, and send me to PN")*.... Then there's Jim Holton's piece on MONITOR. Now THAT'S THE TOPS! Boy, can he make it professionally interesting! I'd love to sit in on a class he would teach on how to say things clearly, concisely and coherently.... Mort Hochstein gives us a humorous and amusing review on the variations of travel (first with the kid's and now with the accouterments of advancing age).... Former WNBC-TV Director, Jay Miller gives us the benefit of a lesson to be learned from one of the programs he directed. Always something to learn, isn't there!

Milestone days for the following: Joe Dicso, a fun, nice guy to be with anytime, has retired. His son Mark provided us with a short bio and pix. Good luck and happy retirement Joe. There's an event that will happen while we're getting this issue out. Peacock North's GLAMOUR GIRL, Miss NBC, Miss New York City, fashionable, knowledgeable, lovely, eternally young at heart GLORIA CLYNE retired from NBC after 56 years of service. What dedication and perseverance! How many NBC management changes has she survived! I guess Gloria might have been a messenger, next to David Sarnoff as he got the message of the TITANIC sinking as the radio operator in the radio room atop the Wanamaker's Department store building. This too is a TITANIC event. Her departure will cause a whirlpool and a vacuum trying to fill in all of her dedicated capabilities! We wish her the best in retirement, and please Gloria, stick close by — we need your continuance at PN!

Gabe Pressman celebrated his 45th year with NBC. He's now well into his seventies, and going strong. There was a grand party for Gabe. The NY newspapers did a nice piece on his interesting career. We wish Gabe continuing success.

What more can be said about the sadness we feel for the losses we read in the Silent Microphone pages. Last May we had a special treat in having Announcer Emeritus Ed Herlihy with us. At the conclusion of his remarks, he asked all to join him in singing, "May the Good Lord Bless and

GABE

By Dan Grabel

Editor's Note: This piece was based on profiles written by Joel Siegel of The News and Elizabeth Blumiller of The Times as well as our own recall.

Although it is not a major anniversary — only his 45th year at NBC, reporter Gabe Pressman has been getting some print of his own in the local press. The Sunday News did a big two page pix and comment piece, and the Times did a “Public Lives” profile, so, perhaps, its time for PN to recognize this icon. Nipper...the Peacock...Gloria and Don...and add Gabe, as the people and symbols that mean NBC to those of us on the inside.

Gabe came to WRCA back in 1955 from the World-Telegram (I arrived that spring too, from the Daily News and WPIX).

Pressman started in radio and quickly moved to tv. He was and is a newshound, and the city has been his beat since the day he picked up a microphone — first, bringing along a NABET engineer carrying one of those 20 pound tape recorders!

He was among the first few reporters who dashed to the scene of a local event, did his spot, and then reported, live and on film, on that event. John Tillman, at WPIX, I believe, pre-dated him, since Tillman (and this writer) started at PIX in 1948 reporting for Tele-Pix Newsreel.

Gabe's major break came during the newspaper strike in 1963 when local tv became the medium for bringing news to the public. Gabe was paired with the late Bill Ryan in the Pressman-Ryan Report, an extended program beyond the usual 15 minute roundup — and they, to use a cliché, were ‘gangbusters!’

In 1972, Gabe had a tiff with local news management and went off to do his schtick at Channel 5. Eight years later WRCA realized its mistake and brought him back. Now, age 75, he has a lifetime contract — probably the only one in television!

I well remember when, occasionally, I worked as a local tv reporter on weekends, when Gabe was usually off, that if you got to the scene of a crime, the cops would be looking for Gabe to be fronting for the NBC camera crew. No thug was officially dead, 'til Gabe was on the scene.

He admits some of

his interviewing technique was more print-press than tv technique when he poked the mike into the face of a crime victim's family member and bluntly ask, “How do you feel?” Gabe explained that newspaper guys ask that question all the time but, of course, the answer and not the question ends up in the print story. Its softer that way.

Pressman met his current and second wife while covering a Columbus day parade in 1967. She's from Norway and they have a 14 year old son. Gabe has three older children, including a son, Alan, who is a doctor and has a call-in radio show on WEVD.

Gabe lives for news, considers the job fun, not a chore. NBC management says he has never missed a day's work because of illness. When NBC does surveys, probably those mysterious “Q” ratings, Pressman is ranked by the public among the most popular and respected reporters in the city. The profiler at The News described him thus: “rumped corduroy suit, bulldog growl and black hair that, well, sometimes appears more freeze-dried than blow-dried.”

Energetic as ever, he is president of the New York Press Club.

Modestly, he describes his longevity as “a matter of luck.” *Don't think so, Gabe.*



Gabe has always been on the move — shown here in 1955 in the WRCA Radio Mobile Unit.



Go, go Gabe once caught up with former President Truman and on a St Pat's Day with Gov. Pataki.

Keep You." Two hundred people stood and sang along with him! It was wonderful. Everyone should have been there to share in that heartfelt moment! A few days after attending each of our LaMag events, Ed would call me at home and tell me how much he appreciated the opportunity to be in such enjoyable friendly company. His recent departure is a profound loss to us all.

As to the feelings of our membership, let me take this opportunity to thank the hundreds of members who send in Holiday greetings along with their annual PN dues. Peg and I, and all of us here at PN headquarters get to see those cards and letters as we circulate them around. We thank you for your dedicated involvement and support in the continuing success of Peacock North.

Our thanks to Frank Vierling who puts in untold hours at his computer making this newsletter easy to read and enjoyable. The professional printers, who print this newsletter, have told me, "This work is superb... it facilitates our printing processes and makes it easy to replicate." We are indebted to Frank for this dedicated work. Thanks Frank — from all the PN membership!

Once again we approach that big event — our Maxi-Luncheon Gala at LaMaganette. Every year we have the grandest times together. Folks from near and far show up to be with the crowd on this Super Sunday. Many of the greatest Radio and Television workers ever assembled are in one place at one time. It's the only place to be on Sunday May 23rd. You can relive your vibrant youth, swap those great tales and see those beautiful faces once again. No one would ever want to miss that opportunity! Please Be There!...

And, once again, just thanks for being.

Regards, *Pete*

Must see TV and Radio friends!

I/we will Attend La Maganette luncheon on May 23.

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Gloria Clyne Tony Nelle
Dick Dudley Roy Silver

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*And a special thanks to
Peg Peterson and Lois Vierling*

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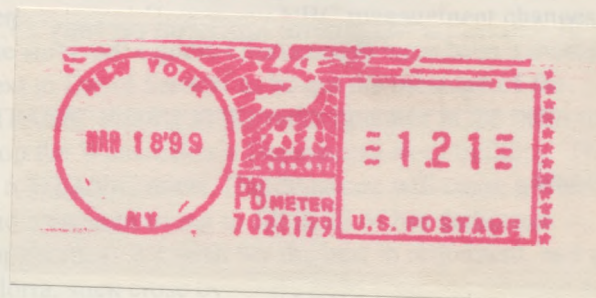
Picture courtesy of Bob Asman

NBC NEWS. . .Decision '92 — Tom Brokaw, moderator.

Hopefuls — Bill Clinton, Paul Tsongas, Tom Harkin, Bob Kerrey, Jerry Brown and Doug Wilder.

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First Class Mail



Let's all meet at La Maganette
for PN's Spring Luncheon,
12 noon, May 23rd.