

Peacock North

FALL, 1995



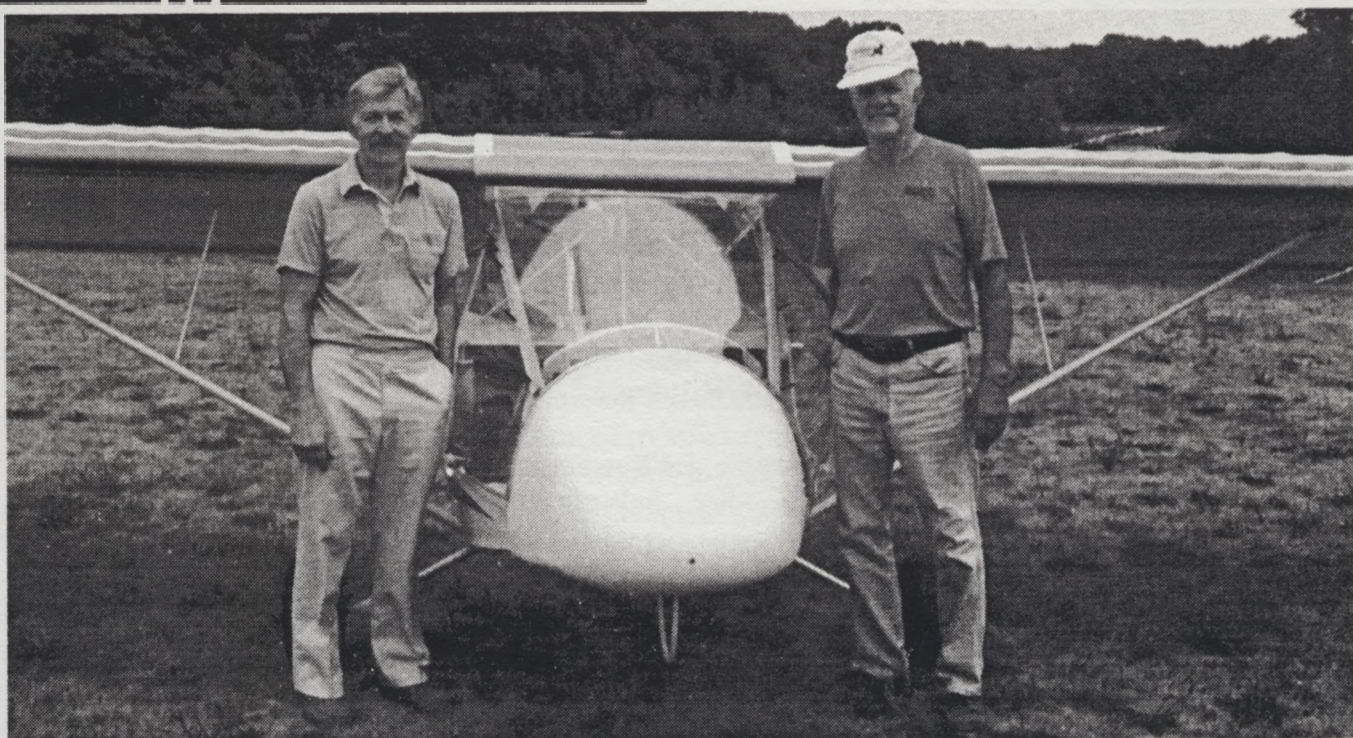
Volume IV Edition 3

PN
PEOPLE
by heino ripp



Our First Glimpse of Roger Tuttle's Farm-Built Aircraft !

It's a "KOLB" - *do-it-yourself* - honest to goodness
flying machine! *Quite an accomplishment....*



HEINO AND ROGER POSE WITH ROGER'S FABULOUS CREATION

We had talked many months ago about visiting Pat and Roger Tuttle at their farm in Colts Neck, N.J. to see this aircraft with my own envious eyes. Finally on the 13th of Sept. I awoke to rain finally falling. Thinking that Roger shouldn't get the plane out in the rain, I went upstairs to call him. I was reaching for the phone,

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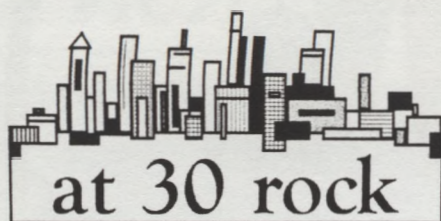
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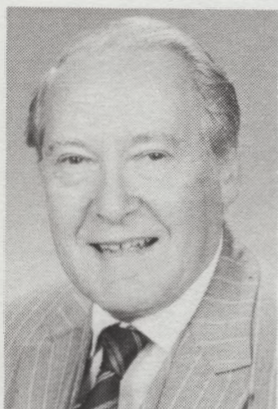
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Happy Thanksgiving



at 30 rock

By Dan Grabel



A return to the scene of the crime: I had occasion to visit the GE/RCA building in June and was surprised at what I thought was a new look. The place looked like a college campus, a ladies campus at that, since most of the people seemed to be gals in their 20s. Walking through the Today and Nightly newsrooms I got the same impression. Walking through the commissary the only people I recognized were a few of the hash slingers. Yes, it was a hot day, but I was surprised to see young women in cut-down, frayed-edged denim shorts. Spotted many a bottle of imported spring water on work desks in the office area.

Explanation. After discussing the "children's hour" at NBC (above) with one long time staffer, we were told that many of the young ladies who we thought are part of the new look at the company probably were summer interns. They come cheap, like no pay, so there are lots of them

around. Plausible.

Oh there was still a few old timer writer/producers around during my perambulations — a few. At Today, **Pat Dalton**, and **Sy Pearlman**. We reviewed the past with Sy. He's got to finish putting his girl through college before he can ankle the place. Pearlman had an interesting recent assignment. **Mrs. Joe Oexle** in Germany informed the News Dept that her late cameraman husband had cans of 16mm film in storage in their garage. Did anyone want it? Joe, who covered the European scene, was perhaps best known for the **Reuven Frank** documentary, *The Tunnel*, which was an on-the-scene report of the East German freedom-seekers digging their way under the infamous Berlin Wall. Sy's job was to review and catalogue the footage. How much was there? Well, it was a 27 day job!

At Dateline, **Ed Bowers** is among the oldies... he's not 60 yet but he's a senior member of that staff. He likes the idea of being on the air and meeting deadlines three times a week instead of once, as originally planned. The show has a national staff of 225 people, using most of the 4th and 5th floors. **Neil Schapiro** is the Executive Producer and the other wheels include **Paul Greenberg**. Also on the staff: **Frank Shanbacker** and **Avrom Zaritsky**. Dateline has gone from being a show which was in Jeopardy after the General Motors truck fiasco, to now accounting for half of the News division's \$50-million dollar a year profit.

At Nightly, **Janet Pearce**, **Sandy Goodman**, **Bambi**

Tascarella are still on the job.

Walter Millis has retired after 16 years in London. Now, as a retiree, he is doing duty as the weekend News Room manager.

News Four. In local you'll find **Gloria Clyne**, who produces the daily **Al Roker** spot, "Do It Right," on a local do-gooder chosen to be honored on News Four, and Gloria also scouts the news for upcoming events and prepares a poop-sheet for the assignment editors. We recall that years ago, net news had a staff of four (including Shanbacker and **Mrs. Bill Weatley**, whose single name I do not recall) putting out a weekly 10 to 12 page Green Sheet to clue writers and producers of upcoming events and anniversaries, etc., that might provide possible news stories. As far as we could see, that little unit is long gone. Also, still in local is **Rita Satz**.

In EJ we understand the company has hopes of filling staff needs with 67 percent of the engineering staff as daily hires. Among the retirees doing a few days a week on the 4th floor, **Eddie Portillo**. Recent retirees include **Bill Lockhart** and **Richard Crawford**. Still among the regulars: **Beth**, **Kumar**, **Ken Bauer**. In the local EJ area, **Bernie Braun** still presides as the Group 6.

The NABET newswriter's seniority list once numbered 200 (I remember when I was number 3, after **Jim Aldrich** and **Roy Silver**). Today, there are just 45 NABET writers. Silver's son **Jonathan**, by the way, is now the AP/Dow-Jones bureau chief in Caracas, Venezuela. Prior to that

Jon was the City Editor of the Madison, Wisconsin, daily.

Jeff Pond, who held down writing and management posts in local news in the 50s and 60s, is now living in South Royalton, Vermont and working as a copy editor of a newspaper somewhere in New Hampshire.

The city scene: 49th street Today studio has news "ribbon" at the old NYTimes building in Times Square, with the current news flashes. Huge open-top London buses carry the tourists. No 3-card Monte dealers this day on 46th street. And looking longingly for cheap bistros like Sagers, The Champlain, Bickfords, Pearls, and Walgreens we traipsed for lunch to the 50s.

The Exodus

There's been a hemorrhage of talent from NBC local to CBS, including **Pablo Guzman**, **Lou Young**, **Tony Guida**, **Magee Hickey**, and most recently weatherman **Ira Joe Fisher** who expected to replace the **Fields**, father and son, who may have run out of networks to switch to. Local's art director also has defected, **James Cunsolo** moved to CBS. At his departure, the company acknowledged that Cunsolo had been instrumental in giving the station a much improved on-air look.

Among the additions to the local staff: **Andria Hall**, as new co-anchor for weekend editions of "News 4 New York" at 6 and 11pm, with **Ralph Penza**. She replaces **Peri Peltz** who returns to co-anchorship, with **Ken Taylor**, of the weekend "Today in New York" programs. Hall, a

Brooklynite, has had 16 years in the tv business, with stops at Fox, WCVB-tv in Boston and WDSU-tv, New Orleans.

Also, **Paul Montz** comes aboard as general assignment reporter, ex WTNH, Hartford, and prior to that he saw service with CBS London as a field producer. Two CNBC anchors joined local for the summer: **Ted David**, and **Janice Lieberman**. And off-scene, **Anna Carbonell** became Director of Station Relations. She's out of the ABC stable, having done p.r. and producing at Channel 7. **Joel Goldberg**, who is Executive Producer, Sports, now adds another hat. He's also Executive Producer of Morning Programs (Today in NY, and Weekly Today in NY). He was with the **George Michaels** Sports Machine. Michaels, I think, is responsible for the current generation of sportscasters using the word "would" to make a sports action that was past tense sound like its future tense. Such as: "He would next come to bat and hit a home run." And **Glen Walker** has joined local sports from Prime Sports Network in LA. Glen saw prior duty at WIVB, Buffalo and stations in Macon, Georgia.

News Four management was happy with the July Neilson ratings. It is number one at 11pm, up 15 percent over the previous reading. CBS-NY was up 3 percent and ABC-NY was down 13 percent. However, the OJ trial took its toll; Live at 5 and the 6pm show both lost viewers.

Al Roker has exchanged wedding vows, again.

Seniority

Someone kindly sent me a copy of the NBC NABET Engineering Seniority list dated February 1968 and we're going to pop in a few names from it to jog memories among PN people:

Dorson Ulman (1927), **Einer Johnson** (1929), **Mel Lewis** (1937), **Ken Arber** (1942), **Louise Malcom** (1943), **George Peters** (1945), **Orlando N. Tamburri** (1946), and **Arthur Zacks** (1947).

Olympics

The big news this year has got to be the Olympics deal. Wow! One billion, two hundred and seventy-million bucks for Summer at Sydney, Australia, in the new century, the year 2000, and five hundred and fifty-five million for the winter at Salt Lake City in 2002. When the games were first televised from Squaw Valley, California in 1960, the price was \$50,000.

The key to the purchase, according to Rudy Martzke in USA Today, was the advertising world's attraction for NBC's coverage in Atlanta next summer. The NBC brass figures it can provide viewing on 3 networks - the regular NBC operation, CNBC (55 million homes) and America's Talking (30 million homes), and a weekly Olympic show from now until 2002 to attract sponsorship dollars.

It was a gamble. Offering to buy not one Olympics, but two, and by giving the International Olympic committee a deadline to say yes or no — that, to avoid a

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bidding war. No long distance schmoozing for this one. The NBC negotiators used the GE Gulf-stream jet. First they flew to Sweden to speak face to face with Juan Samaranch, the IOC president, and Samaranch told them to see the IOC lawyer, Dick Pound, in Montreal. Back in the jet, and off to Canada to wrap it up. Sports prexy **Dick Ebersol** comes off as the hero of this one.

Freebees. There's still free lunch. An intellectual free lunch. **Peg McKinley** of Employee Benefits reminds staffers that many local museums are free to NBC employees because of corporate donations. Included are: The Museum of TV & Radio, The Children's Museum, The Whitney, MOMA (Modern Art), Pierpont Morgan, and at Coconuts Music store there's a 20 percent discount. Finally at 1-800-Flowers, there's a \$5 discount on \$30 bouquets. I think retirees are granted the same freebees. Mention the NBC referral code: 78E.

Quads & Other Muscles

And can you imagine, dear veterans, NBC's Health and Fitness Center recently offered an "In Line Skating Workshop, Level II" at Central Park's Wolman rink? After business hours, of course. The cost was 20 bucks a session with Joel Rappelfield, an expert on skates, who taught **Katie Couric** in a "Today" show segment.

More fitness: NBC has a Running Team and members participated in three 3 1/2 mile races in Central Park last summer during the evening.

The Yugo Mess

Local news is local no more. Evidence of that was the July trip of News Four's **Ti Hua Chang** who spent a week reporting from Bosnia, Herzegovina, etc., etc. in the "Balkanized" former Yugoslavia. He hitched a ride with an Americas charter and was joined by cameraman **Sebastian Rich** at Split. Local really put him to work. He did spots at Newark airport as he departed, another from Split airport as he arrived, and then visited such household names as Mostar, Zenica and Tuzla. He did promo spots and phoners — with **Gloria Clyne** handling the NY end. Gloria told us it was like old times on the Editorial Assignment Unit under **Mac Johnson** when NBC operations sometimes seemed to be like a scene out of "The Front Page." In those days NBC had cameramen, producers, and contact people all over the world, and the Johnson unit was shipping film and equipment to every venue where the news broke. We had that jiffy film developing equipment in a few crates and could rush them to the scene. One time we had a producer named **Abdullah Schiefler** who worked Cairo, Beirut, etc. and Gloria stuffed a pair of requested blue jeans in with the shipment to Lebanon.

Diversity, diversity

It seems to be one of the new euphemisms. Anyway, CEO **Bob Wright** notes that the "demographics of our society

and viewing population continues to change, and if we are to remain competitive grow our business, we must pay close attention to the issue of Diversity." Anyway, NBC employees are subject to an annual performance appraisal and part of that appraisal will be a discussion of "diversity as it relates to your job performance and the work environment.

"Grow our business." There's a new usage these days for the word "grow." And I don't think the people who use it in this manner could pass sixth grade grammar because it is improper usage for this verb. Make it "increase," or "advance," or even "growable." Maybe we can get **Ed Newman**, our favorite grammarian, to elucidate on this. Hey, maybe we should get Bill Safire of the Times on to this.

State of the Union

Local News wants to make sure staffers are informed when there's information to be dispensed. For example: **Bill Bolster** recently held "State of the Station" meetings to provide staffers with information on ratings and on-going projects. Company threw in food and refreshments, too.

And here's a great segue...the NBC commissary now puts out a week-in-advance menu so you can plan your lunches for a week! Try this for a recent day in July: Pasta A Fajoli, Roast leg of Veal, Arroz Con Pollo, or a Dijon Buffalo chicken sandwich. Ugh, so you still want baloney on rye? And wow, the menu also lists the amount of fat: Chinese cabbage salad, 0.24 per ounce.

Go West, Young Man

In June, CNBC-Asia was launched as a 24-hour a day world business news channel, with headquarters in Hong Kong. After the Asian markets close, the scene shifts to CNBC-Europe, and when the ETO markets close, the scene shifts to CNBC coming from Ft. Lee, NJ, where NBC has a 5 story building packed with many of the new operations. **Alan Horlick**, who is the Asian manager, says sponsors had to make a "leap of faith," because unlike the states, there are no reliable audience figures or profiles. The service is initially in English, but CNBC-Asia hopes to add Hindi, Mandarin and Japanese. In September, NBC planned to launch Super Channel Asia, which will provide a mix of news, entertainment and sports, with excerpts from Today, Tonight and NBC News. Really sounds like the company is zooming ahead by utilizing all of its new budget in many areas. Of course that is something NBC started to do more than 30 years ago when it established New Program Service (NPS) with **Buck Prince**, **Jim Aldrich** and your's truly in NY, which later became Affiliated News, and now I am not sure what it is called but the operation was moved out of NABET-covered New York to North Carolina.

NBC has picked **S. K. Fung** to be president of NBC Asia. He has extensive experience in tv and marketing on the continent. He'll be responsible for NBC programming services there.

We Grow the Network

That could read (correctly)

"We've expanded the network". Anyway, NBC has acquired 3 tv stations from Outlet communications as part of its "long-term strategic objectives" — **Bob Wright**. The stations: WCMH, Columbus, WJAR, Providence, WNCN, Raleigh-Durham. Already announced is a switch of our Salt Lake City station for WCAU in Philly. NBC net now has 9 owned stations covering 24 percent of US households. It also has an ownership position in 17 cable network services

Wright also said, "We are in the best shape we've been in over the past decade and we are looking forward to an outstanding 1995-96 season."

Black, White & Angry

The entire net was invited to get into the act and join the company in dedicating itself to the issue of tension between blacks and whites for an entire week during July. The objective was to "uncover racism, promote understanding and listen to America's private thoughts on black/white relations." In a day-by-day breakdown, here's how the 5 daily show ideas were laid out: Race at work, Separate worlds, Myths and Race, Politics and Race, and The New Generation. Network correspondents produced 5 stories for affils. The net backed up the project with a national poll, and provided affils with research, story ideas and graphics. Sounds like a massive undertaking and 4 of the people involved were **Janet Pearce**, **Lloyd Siegel** and **Pat Walker** in New York and **Sharon Houston** at News Channel.

More Sports Scene

Phil Simms, the ex-NY giant quarterback, will be calling signals this Fall for NBC Sports. He's never worked as a game analyst, but he'll be in the booth with veterans **Paul Maguire** and **Dick Enberg**. However, this is not Simm's debut on the air. Last season he worked for ESPN's "Game Day," a studio showNBC's first US Open golf championship coverage in 30 years was a big success, drawing 13 percent more viewers than last year when the Open was on ABC-tv.....**Mel Allen**, once a familiar voice on NBC, had a pacemaker installed in June. 81 years old Allen is still doing his "This Week in Baseball" show. Recalling **Mickey Mantle** — who certainly had the most widely covered sports-figure funeral in my memory in Mid-August (WCBS-tv dropped soap operas to run it for one hour) — Allen said Mick's one-handed catch that saved Don Larsen's perfect game is his standout memory of the Yankee outfielder. We were surprised that only WCBS and cable's New York 1, carried the 3pm service with Reverend **Bobby Richardson** handling the clerical duties and NBC's **Bob Costas** delivering the eulogy that was moving and brought back memories to even those of us who are only casual baseball fans...And baseball has taken another step backward because of the strike. NBC and ABC, which created Baseball Network last year as a means of sharing coverage, had a tiff with Commissioner Bud Selig about adjusting the agreement because

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THE EAR BENDERS



by Dick Dudley

Often while settling in bed waiting for sleep to come, my mind begins to open up its book of memories and takes me back to the time when Radio was in its golden days. It is then that I wish that one of you gifted Peacock engineers would leave your "ham" sets long enough to invent an electronic mental recorder to tape these sleepy brain images before I forget them by morning. But before one of you comes up with a déjà vu C-Span I'll try to bring back some precious memories, the hard way -- thinking.

If all of this seems to be personal, it's because it is. Radio and I came along about the same time. Poison gas was introduced on the Western front in WWI on the day I was born and now we have: "I've got gas" commercials on TV, eighty years later.

My first acquaintance with the media was at my grandparent's house. They possessed one of the first big boxes which was filled with tubes and fitted with three big dials. It was called DAYFAN, which as far as I could determine, had nothing to do with daylight or ventilation. There was no loud speaker; only one set of earphones. One had to fiddle around with all three dials in order to bring in a station and the Blue Ribbon went to anyone who captured KDKA Pittsburgh or reached even more westerly for a mediocre orchestra called "The Kansas City Night Hawks."

Later, my father, gave me a crystal set fashioned out of a cigar box. By patiently dipping around with

the "cats whisker" I could bring in WSM, NBC's Nashville affiliate. Every Saturday night I would listen to the "Grand Ole Opry" with Uncle Dave Macon, Deford Bailey, The Fruit Jar Drinkers, The Gully Jumpers, etc. Nine years later, I was on the Opry, every week, as "Ole Bill the Duck," quacking away for Duckhead Overalls.

One of my greatest pleasures, in those early radio days, was listening to the comedy teams. "The Sisters of the Skillet" (Ralph Domke and Ed East), Stoopnagle and Bud and "Sam 'n' Henry" (who later became: "Amos 'n' Andy." Little did I know then that I would someday work with all of the above, except Stoopnagle.

Ed East, with his wife Polly, became the morning man on WJZ and Ralph Dumke teamed up with Budd Hulick for a program called: "Studio X" which was supposed to be way down the bowels of the RCA Building. (There is another world down there which you could reach via the delivery elevator next to the 49th Street door.) This was a real fun show. I was the announcer and everything was ad-lib. Bud was good at voices and played various characters; one was "Blithe Spirit" an evasive Genius who had made the arrangement for the NBC Chimes and designed the line down 5th Avenue. Another was "On Too Long," a Chinese laundry man who cleaned up dirty scripts.

One Friday morning, Ralph announced that I was the Sports Editor, for the program, and would give my prediction for the winners of the Saturday games. My oracles would go something like this: "In the Army-Navy Game the winner will be (Big noise by R. and B.) None ever got to hear my predictions. At the end of the season, the rascals announced that, tomorrow, I would produce the names of my All Star Team. That left me with the problem of producing something different from the usual, ironic Polish names on "The Fighting Irish." Bill Stern gave me a book containing the names of every college player and from it I picked my All American Team. Everyone on it was names SMITH, except the coach who was named SMYTHE.

They were truly golden days back then — some, perhaps, only gold plated, but they were gratifying and called for some talent and imagination.

...But now the laughter dies down.

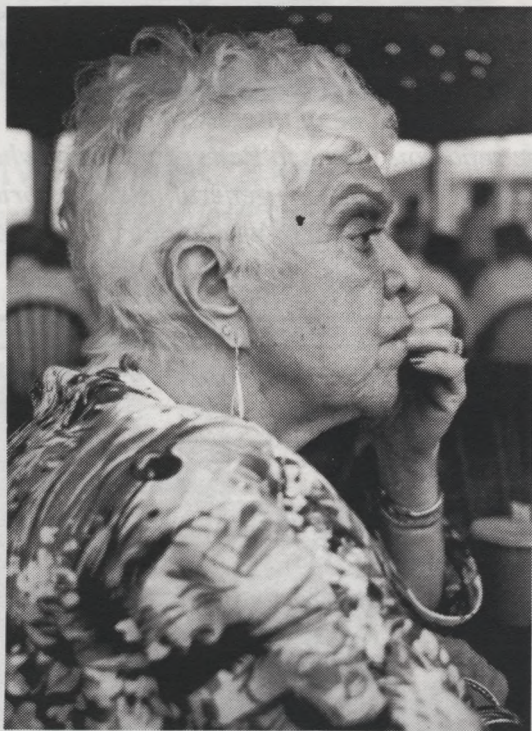
It was a pleasant day. The sun had just broken

out in a burst of glory and I was being amused by my revelations in "The Secret Life of Bob Hope," which I was reading, when a call came from Don Pardo. His voice seemed to have dropped from Mezzo-Tenor to Messo-Baritone which forewarned me that there was something wrong.

"I have some bad news," he said, "Fox passed away last night."

The sun disappeared, at least in my heart, because "Fox" was one of my favorite persons. (I have never called her Kay.) We always sat next to each other in the latest events of our lives.

A little over a year ago, while visiting my son and granddaughter in Pomona, NY, we met halfway for dinner and repaired to the Pardo house for post prandial sipping and conversation. It was then that Kay told me that she had the big "C." The way she handled her condition was not unlike the stoical acceptance of the early Christians to their martyrdom. When she attended our get-togethers, no one would have guessed how much she was suffering...until the pain became too great to bear. The Lord then eased her pain...but not ours. □



Fox (Kay) Pardo

Dick Dudley lives in Willow Street, PA



*From Bob
&
Diane Juncosa*

The following commentary is a brief summary of our impressions traveling south of the equator to New Zealand and Australia. We started our trip with two other congenial couples, but on the minus side it was a long 13 hour flight and for various reasons my stomach was showing serious signs of rebelling against this trip. Arriving in Auckland, New Zealand at a lovely hotel across from a rose garden park, such thoughts immediately subsided and spirits lifted. The initial and constant impression is of a country with very friendly people and exceptionally clean surroundings which contributed to a pleasant and relaxing journey.

Auckland is a city of about 1 million inhabitants in a country of 3 million people and about 80 million sheep! Although the citizenry declared New Zealand "Nuclear Free", in the minority they must be grateful the sheep are not armed and have no voting rights!

Auckland is modern and picturesque with a beautiful harbor. We made friends with our airport cab driver and we used him and his van for a tour of the city and also a day's tour of the countryside. It is the most comfortable, congenial, informative, and less expensive way to visit the area.

After 3 days in Auckland we boarded the M/S Marco Polo for a seven day cruise down the east side of the North Island, through Marlborough Sound, then south along the west coast of the South Island, around the southern tip and back up to the city of Christchurch. Geographically the southern most excursion is not quite as far south as rounding Cape Horn, South America, and the temperature was surprisingly moderate at this time of the year. The strongest impressions are of a land of rolling hills and very steep striking fiords formed by the movement of ancient glaciers, and the delightful accent of its very friendly inhabitants. There is also a very strong influence and presence of the Maori Indian culture among

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The Bible on Our Lips

WE USE PHRASES from the Bible, especially the King James Version, more often than we imagine. Princeton Seminary scholar Bruce Metzger creatively shows us one way the Bible has subtly influenced Western culture:

A person may be said to behave like a great I am (Exod. 3:14), or to have "the mark of Cain" (Gen. 4:15). People are tempted to eat forbidden fruit (Gen. 4:15), desire the fleshpots of Egypt (Exod. 16:3), and give up something worth having for a mess of pottage (Gen. 25:29-34).

Yet "one does not live by bread alone" (Deut. 8:3), and finally each must go the way of all flesh (cf. Gen. 6:12; Josh. 23:14) and return to the dust (Gen. 3:19). For the moment, those who find themselves "at their wits' end" (Ps. 107:27) may still escape by the skin of their teeth (Job 19:20), but others find themselves in the position of a scapegoat (Lev. 16:8-10). Nevertheless, "a soft answer turns away wrath" (Prov. 15:1).

Unfortunately, a leopard cannot change its spots (Jer. 13:23). The wicked sow the wind and reap the whirlwind (Hos. 8:7, and because they ignore the writing on the wall (Dan. 5:24), they are fated to "lick the dust" (Ps. 72:9). Inevitably "pride goeth...before the fall" (Prov. 16:18), and anything that hinders success is a fly in the ointment (Eccles. 10:1). The wise know that "you can't take it with you" (cf. Eccles. 5:15), and that "there is nothing new under the sun"

(Eccles. 1:9).

Who has not known a "good Samaritan" (Luke 10:30-37), a person who will go a second mile" (Matt. 5:38). Some seek the "pearl of great price" (Matt. 13:46), while others, like the Prodigal Son, waste their lives "in riotous living" (Luke 6:24). "A house divided against itself will not stand" (Mark 3:25), nor can "the blind lead the blind" (Matt. 15:14). It is useless to "cast pearls before swine" (Matt. 7:6).

In antiquity a "talent" was a unit of weight or money, but because of Jesus' Parable of the Talents (Matt. 25:14-30), the word has come to mean natural endowment or ability. To disregard these abilities is to hide one's light under a bushel (Matt. 5:15). Even those who have never opened a Bible recognize the Golden Rule of doing to others as we would have them do to us (Matt. 7:1).

Finally, expressions from the letters of Paul: "The letter kills, but the spirit gives life" (2Cor. 3:6); "The love of money is the root of all evil" (1 Tim. 6:10); "to see through the glass darkly" (1 Cor. 13:12); and "a thorn in the flesh" (2 Cor. 12:7).

(From OUTREACH / Summer 1995)

This was contributed by Pete Peterson. Your editors know there are many items our readers come across that would be of interest to all of us. Please send your items to Peter: Pictures - what you have been doing - or general interest stories. Doesn't anyone out there write poetry or prose? Display your "talents" in your PN newsletter.

Texico Fire Chief Ed Wynn pushes "Gasoloon" on NBC radio. (see Wynn tv story on page 28)

HAVE A FRIEND JOIN PEACOCK NORTH

*It is only through membership
dues that we are able to bring
you this PN Newsletter.*

Dues are due January 1, 1996



Radio's Golden Age

Will Rogers - *The famous humorists lived in an era that launched radio broadcasting. His memorable broadcasts over the NBC network mad his voice - as well as his thoughts - a cherished thing in American homes.*



Live on NBC - *When the German Vessel GRAF SPEE was scuttled off the coast of South America during World War II, NBC commentator James Bowen gave an eyewitness account from a nearby vantage point.*

A sidelight of this event involves our own Peter Peterson. For whatever reason, the Germans did not sink the SPEE's tender, a large special refrigerated cargo carrier. It was taken in tow by the US Coast Guard and War Shipping Administration and refitted for our cargo service. It was renamed the Tacoma and Peter became her Radio Communications Officer.

Officer Peter in 1945 ►



John Cameron Swayze,

Newsman. One of America's first television evening news anchor men, Swayze died at age 89 in August, at his home in Sarasota, Florida. Born in Wichita, he broke into journalism at the Kansas City Journal-Post and got his first taste



of broadcasting at a local radio station there. In 1949 he became anchor of NBC's 15 minute news show, "Camel Caravan," which was produced by Reuven Frank. He was good looking and his voice was described as folksy. Although viewers with black and white tv sets (we all had B&W in those days) could not see the color, they could always see a carnation on his jacket lapel. Of course those NBC personnel who saw him before he sat down at his desk beyond the big window studio then on the 5th floor near the central bank of elevators, sometimes saw a pair of chino pants on the man in the Saville Row jacket, with a patterned tie and the British-spread shirt collar. He created 2 famous broadcast

slogans — "Hopscotching the world for headlines," and his closer, "That's the story, glad we could get together." On CBS radio newscasts, Swayze, Jr. often uses "glad we could get together." John, senior, also appeared on an early panel show, *Who Said That*, and a children's educational show, *Watch the World*.

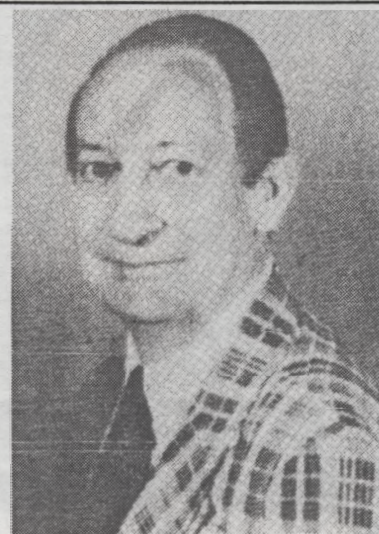
When the Caravan news show folded in 1956, Swayze started doing commercials for Timex watches, and again delivered an ad-man's line that has become popular, "It takes a lickin, and keeps on tickin." He continued those Timex spots for 20 years. (DG)

**Lindsey Nelson,** — Broadcaster.

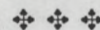
Nelson, the man with the psychedelic sports jackets and the Tennessee drawl, spent his life time in sports broadcasting including 1957 to 1961 with NBC. He died from complications from Parkinson's disease in June in Atlanta at the age of 76. In his NBC years he reported major league baseball with Leo Durocher, Fred Haney and Joe Garagiola. In '62 he joined the Mets and called their games for 17 years with Ralph Kiner and Bob Murphy.

During World War II, aside from serving as an army captain in North Africa and Europe, he played on the army baseball team managed by Harry Walker.

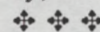
Richard Sandomir, reporting his death in the NYTimes in June, said Nelson owned 350 garish sports jackets, "all of them dreadful." On his induction in the Baseball Hall of Fame in



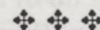
Cooperstown, he contributed a jacket to hang there with the uniforms and other memorabilia. (DG)



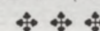
Art Fleming, longtime host of NBC's *Jeopardy*, in June.



Kay Pardo, Wife of announcer Don Pardo of Demarest, New Jersey, died of cancer, July 1995. (See Dick Dudley's *Ear Bender* column, page 18).



Wolfman Jack, AKA Robert Smith out of Brooklyn, and one of America's best-known radio personalities, died of a heart attack in June at his home in Belvedere, NC. He was 57 years old. He started his radio career in 1963 at a station in Mexico, just south of the boarder, and several years later he moved to New York, working on NBC radio for a year before he moved to LA. His gravelly voice and wolf howls created a cult following in the 60's and 70's and his popularity continued to the present. Wolfman Jack's current "oldies but goodies" show was carried on 55 radio stations at the time of his death. (DG)



Michael L. Wilson. — A memorial service was held last spring for Michael (Mike) Wilson, a news writer, whom, I think, served NBC for just short of 25 years. Mike died prematurely at age 49. We remember him well — and honest, energetic, intelligent personality who always displayed an even temper. Mike was much too young, too worthy, to depart this earth when he did. NBC friends, including Sharon Fisher, Ray Smith, Mike Jensen, Bill Freeh and Robert Abrami, recalled how his life touched theirs at the Memorial service. And we'll add ours here, — "So long, Mike."
(DG)



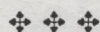
Silhadi Alami. A communications specialist and supervisor in the News Department, 37 year old Alami died of injuries sustained in a Westchester car crash. At NBC since 1988, he supervised computer operations. A Briarcliff Manor resident, his survivors include wife Shauna and 2 young children. (DG)



Sammy Herman, 91, renowned xylophonist, and a long time staff musician at NBC. He died at Fishkill, NY at the age of 91. NBC hired him in 1928 when there were many music shows on radio, and a demand for live music on the soaps and dramas. Sammy was a member of the Lucky Strike Orchestra, and played shows including "Hit Parade," "Manhattan Merry Go-Round," "American Melody Hour," and "Concentration." Herman also played on his own radio show, "The Herman and Banta Show," for ten years. He retired from NBC in 1966.

Personally, we well-remember the opening theme to "Manhattan Merry Go-Round," as a very upbeat piece with a forte delivery from Herman's xylophone. To list the personalities and conductors he played with would be to march through America's pop music for four decades: Gershwin, the Dorsey Brothers, Benny Goodman, Frank Sinatra, Al Jolson, and Bing Crosby.

Sammy Herman was left handed and played the melody notes with his left hand and the harmony notes with his right — which is opposite from everyone else. He was introduced into the Percussive Arts Society Hall of Fame in 1994 — just in time, Sammy. What took them so long?
(DG)

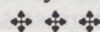


Marion Eiskamp in Greenville, Tennessee, on August 30, after a long illness. Marion started at NBC in the 50's working on variety shows, then on the Huntley-Brinkley Nightly News and finally, for many years, the talent coordinator for the Today Show.

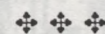
After moving to Tennessee, she gave talks to business, community and senior groups about the Today show and tv in general. She took courses in a Nashville college and traveled throughout the country with Elder Hostel groups.



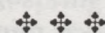
Allen Potter, 75, of Stuart, Florida on June 5, at Martin Memorial Medical Center. He was a television and radio producer for 35 years in NY.



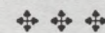
John Hillyer, NY engineering, in his mid forties, in June, of a heart attack.



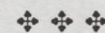
Melvin Hench, New York Engineering, died of a heart attack in June, 1995.



Ruth E. Somers, 86, died March 16, in Burlington, Vermont. Ruth was the wife of Frank Somers who was an NBC, NY, engineer. Following World War II Frank moved to CBS where he became head of TV Engineering Operations. During his years at NBC he was one of the designers of the synchronizing generator - the heart of the television system.



John G. Rogers, 79, of lung cancer, on September 23. A pioneer in tv in Washington, he starting his career at WRC in 1939. For many years he was station manager of our NBC Washington outlet. He was a ham radio operator, avid sailor and accomplished woodworker.



We Are Such Stuff

Our revels now are ended. These are our actors,

As I foretold you, we're all spirits and Are melted into air, into thin air:

And, like the baseless fabric of this vision, The cloud-capp'd towers, the gorgeous palaces,

The solemn temples, the great globe itself, Yea, all which it inherit, shall dissolve And, like this insubstantial pageant faded, Leave not a rack behind.

We are such stuff as dreams are made on, And our little life is rounded with a sleep

The Tempest, Act 4, Scene 1

The staff and members of Peacock North extend their heartfelt sympathy to the families of our departed friends.

more PN PEOPLE



(Continued from page 1)

when it rang. It was Rog. His radio indicated it was raining chez moi, so he called to tell me it was sunshining in Colts Neck. I drove there in anticipation of what I would see.

wall's cinder blocks enough to be able to take the wings out. That wasn't an after-thought, for it's a lot warmer in the cellar during those winter months. He had never constructed anything of this magnitude before. To make the pieces accurately, drill things so they were right the first time takes a bit of doing. Even covering the wings with fabric, lining up everything accurately from the plans

fertilizer. I now am **positive** I don't want to retire in Houston, since we've tasted their weather here for a month. I hope you all had a fabulous summer. This year the boat did get some exercise at Lake Hopatcong, quite nice, especially on Friday evenings, when at sunset, the roaring motors slowly dissipated, leaving us in a quiet cove with the Caesar Salad and some Pino Grigio.

ART Holub (retired NY Engineering) celebrated his 88th birthday in August. Congratulations, Art. He started with NBC April 28, 1929, just two and a half years after the company was founded. They were located at 711 Fifth Avenue at the time. Art retired in 1967 after 38 years. Old timers will remember him as an Audio Transmission Engineer.

He and his wife, Dot, live in Paris Hill, Maine not far from

Frank and Lois Vierling's summer home in Raymond, Maine. They "do lunch" together a couple times each summer.

The Vierling's daughter, Elizabeth, and three year old granddaughter, Elena, flew in from Tucson, Arizona for 10 days in the Maine woods on the shores of Panther Pond.

Elizabeth was an RCA National Merit Scholarship winner in high school. She graduated from the University of Michigan and earned a doctorate in molecular biology

(Next page)



PAT AND ROGER TUTTLE'S HOME-BUILT AIRPLANE

I have to tell you I was very impressed! Roger and Pat dragged this thing out of a 2-car garage, unfolded the wings, and pinned them into place, and lo and behold it became a viable plane. It has hydraulic brakes, the necessary instrumentation for the motor as well as the flight indicators. The necessary flight controls all work. As you can see, there is great visibility out of the cockpit. The engine hasn't been put into place yet, but it will push it to almost 100 mph.

Roger built the wings in the cellar, then had to open up the

etc. Even spray painting things to look professional is not easy.

We'll keep you posted of the progress.

What Happened To SUMMER ?

Didn't accomplish much - totally weather related, from a solid month plus of oppressive high nineties, to suddenly cool forties these mornings. Hooray! finally! But months of tender loving care for the lawns, the total lack of rain, and watering restrictions, that now look the color of hay. Oh well, back to the grass seed and

from the University of Chicago. She now heads a plant biology lab at the University of Arizona in Tucson, where she does basic research, teaches and guides graduate students working toward their PHD's. Husband John Laswick works in the Tucson City Manager's office. At the present time he is working on a "planned community" development project.

JOHN OLSZWESKI has settled into retirement. Is in good health, and has been requested to do some tape jobs, but thought about it for a second - then decided - nah!

SUSAN BOYD, living in Tobyhanna, in Pennsylvania, recalls spending time in the Moscow Olympics, and a memo from **JOHN FRISHETTE** from Burbank - their Engineer in charge wrote for the bulletin board which cheered everyone up during those long winter nights.

"You have been in Moscow too long when you...

1. Start reading the signs...
2. Look forward to a breakfast of carrots, green peas, salami and hard boiled eggs...
3. Look forward to lunch...
4. Stop taking pictures in Red Square...
5. Automatically get in line, not knowing what's at the other end ...
6. Get stopped at the Embassy gate by the 6 foot 6 soldier who thinks you are a Rusky...
7. Soviet locals ask you for directions...
8. Get upset if there's no Kafir for breakfast... You get the picture.

A Love Story

Doc Potter was drafted on April fools day in 1941. He was sent to RCA Institutes, where he received

a broadcast engineer's license. After Basic Training in Fort Dix, he served as infantry private 1st class at Fort Jackson, Columbia, S.C. After 13 months, installing intercoms etc. he applied for officer candidate school at Fort Monmouth.



Doc POTTER & Lily

He became a *90 day wonder* and was given his 2nd Lieutenant bar as an officer in the Signal Corps. After more intensive schooling at the pentagon, Doc found himself on the way to Africa prepared to put together a radio message center.

Months later, he came down with malaria and was shipped to a hospital for a month in Cheltenham, England, then assigned to the American Service and Supply Company.

Meanwhile an English lady, Lily Haydon, became of age for the draft or factory work. The Nazi invasion seemed imminent. The military turned her down, too short. Instead Lily was sent for training at an aircraft factory in Exeter.

Her training completed, she found herself at an airplane fac-

tory, guess where? In Cheltenham, of course, milling airplane propellers on an assembly line for 12 hours a day. Where Lily lived at this time was just 200 yards from where Lieut. Potter was based.

1944 was quite a cold winter, and as is usual, spring followed, and

t'was a beautiful spring. And what is in the air in the spring world-wide? Ah yes, what else but *LOVE!*

Meanwhile, Robert's group, was in a party mood, but since they've never had a chance to meet the girls next door, "Let's have Charlie the Chief

Warrant Officer go to the women's residence to extend an invitation - hey we're Americans, we even speak the same language.

The Warrant Officer did good. The night of the party was another beautiful spring evening, but Doc was dutiful - couldn't drink too much for he was on duty at midnight. Our Lieut. went downstairs to fetch two bottles of Cheltenham ale, and as he turned to go back up, (Cue in the music softly bg.) there was Lily coming down to search for - no not Doc, but an officer she had met earlier. (Hit the "Dum da dum dum"). But, Doc said, "I was smitten!" Robert told Lil that his friend, the other officer, became ill and wouldn't be back. Needless to say they both spent the rest of the available time together. She refused Doc's offer to see her home, so he

(Continued on next page)

(Continued from page 13)

asked for her phone number. Being a bit flustered, Lil screwed up the numbers, so he had no alternative but to try to see her at her residence.

The residence manager gave Lil a message that an American Officer was here to see her. She went out to see him, and Lil says there was this young officer on a motorcycle looking very dashing. She said it was love at first sight, in spite of his bald head.

Someone always throws a monkey wrench into lover's plans. Exeter was cordoned off as a staging area for the D-day invasion. (Pause, cue the fanfare) Finally on November 18, 1944, Robert and Lily were married.

We now skip a couple years.... Doc joined NBC in 1946, retired as a T.D. in 1977.

Robert and Lily attribute their long and happy marriage to the fact that they have always been equal partners, sharing everything, the good and the bad, and listening to each other.

Doc says "Good marriages are not made in heaven, they are made right here on Earth, one day at a time."

Quoting Shakespeare :

*My bounty is as boundless as the
sea, my love as deep;
The more I give to thee,
the more I have,
for both are infinite*



This is **Opal & Bill Howard**, taken on their 50th wedding anniversary, June 1, 1990.

Rosemary Dubois sent PN this photo and newspaper article feeling that many of their friends from engineering would enjoy some news about this couple.

Quoting from the *Daily Texan, Houston* on Valentine's Day, Bill saw Valentine's day as a day to recommit himself to his wife of 55 years. The newspaper continues: The day Opal moved into the dorm as a freshman at Howard Payne University was the day she knew she would marry Bill.

The day Bill finally asked her for a date, she ran back to the dorm and while jumping up and down on her bed began yelling, "I caught him, I caught him!"

They were married under the moon at her Waxahachie farm home. (To digress, the only other people I know, who knew where or what *Waxahachie* was, was Jim Fox and Tom Smiley. I remember flying a Piper Cub without brakes, around *that town*, in 1947.)

Usually they had been spending Valentine's in New York seeing a play or a Radio City Music Hall production, but this, their 55th anniversary was spent at home.

"Valentine's Day is a time to go back and remember the courting days," said Bill.

"The family also prayed together," Opal said, "Before we ever kissed, we prayed about it. We prayed about everything. That's why we stayed together."

Bill's career was in Electronics and Opal's in Elementary Education.

During WW II, Bill instructed Radar Mechanics at Boca Raton Field in Fla. In the latter part of the war, Bill was a member of an Engineering Team, developing an Air Borne Television system for the Armed Services, the Block 10 Project, tested over France and used in the South Pacific. And you thought the Cruise Missile was a new thing! (Many of the "Old Timers" at NBC worked as Naval Officers on these projects, Folkerts, Protzman, Monfort, Somers, DeBaun, Frank Burns, for example, right here at 30 Rock, where Switching Central and 5E is located.)

Bill Howard joined NBC Engineering in 1946, pioneering in the post war development of TV. He retired in January 1979 after almost 33 years with NBC. Opal taught in schools in Florida, Texas, Ohio, Pennsylvania and New Jersey. She retired from State of New Jersey schools in 1975 after 29 years of teaching. Their credits would fill more columns than PN has available.

The Howards are enjoying a busy retirement, continuing exten-

(Next page)

sive travelling in the U.S. and on every continent in the world. They have produced Automated Slide Programs of many of these countries. Their latest is on the life of Christ and the Holy Land, and they are being shown widely.

Opal is 76 and Bill is 81. They reside in Austin, Texas. Their phone number: 512- 302 1316.



Ted Seiter writes from Exuma, in the Bahamas, sending this photo of **ROSE, THE MISSUS, AND TED** on their front lawn. Their view is a 180 degree panorama of the ocean. Too bad we don't have color, for the water is bluuuuue, white puffy clouds and blue sky turning golden as it lowers to the ocean. They built the house in 1970, while he was still working at 30 Rock. Car is their 1977 Datsun, with only 30,000 miles. Out front they have nine coconut palms they started from coconuts 25 years ago! A retired Pan Am Captain neighbor recently threw Ted an Eightieth birthday party. Keep using those vitamins!

FRANK MERKLEIN writes from Key West, Fla. that the PN Newsletter was as usual a great storehouse of memories. Re: Class of '48 pix. He says he is not # 22. - he had left NBC in 1960, 14 years earlier. His contacts have remained close, so perhaps he didn't leave at all.

An example, the '84 Super Bowl in LA. "I was with a contingent of 20th Fox people on the way to our seats. John Russo, Jim Culley and Tony Nelle saw me and

invited me to the food tent after the game. Could you imagine that in the 50's? - where it was liverwurst sandwiches during the 5 minute break - if there was one."

In the tent afterwards, the food was great. I sat next to Mario Ciarlo. He never looked up, but stretched his arm in front of me and said, "Hey Merk, pass me the bread." I hadn't seen Mario in a dozen years. Later, Ted Nathanson walked around the tables and shook hands and thanked everyone individually. Great audio - Nice camera work, Jack - Beautiful pictures Tone. I extended my hand over my left shoulder. Ted shook it with a "Nice job, Merk!" (like I never left).

Merk sends us a "rare and most precious photo" taken in 6B. Jack is at left, age 23, Paul Winchell and dummy, then Merk, age 24. It was the Winchell / Dunninger Show. Paul would do the warmup and introduce us: On Camera # 3. is Merk, on Camera #2 is Durk and No. 1. is ?? Audi-laugh. Moose was #1 and didn't care for the joke.

This letter, Merk relates, came after two recent visits to Jack and Beth in the rolling Poconos foothills. Our stories and memories could fill a book.

JACK (Durkin) is recovering nicely. (Thanks to Peacock North's note of his illness, I contacted him.) He works wonders with computer graphics, home videos, beautifully edited and his first love - the

(Continued on page 34)



ON THE WINCHELL / DUNNINGER SHOW
JACK DURKIN, ON CAMERA, DUMMY, PAUL AND FRANK MERKLEIN

A DAY TO REMEMBER

By
Hal
Alexander

I have no doubt that most of us can remember with vivid detail exactly where we were and precisely what we were doing at the very moment on November 22, 1963 that we first learned of the assassination of President John F. Kennedy in Dallas, Texas.

Or how about December 7, 1941? That, I'm sure you recall was the day the Japanese bombed the United States Naval and Army installations at Pearl Harbor setting off the war in the Pacific. A day, that President Roosevelt would later describe as "...a date that will live in infamy."

Through the years these dates have been stamped indelibly on our brain. They have almost taken on a life of their own.

However, this is not the case with all such important dates. I seriously doubt: for instance, whether the average man or woman today has even the slightest inkling as to what actually transpired on November 9, 1965.

After several months of fruitless house-hunting, my wife and I finally decided on a modest three bedroom ranch-style house in the small town of Nanuet, NY, a beautiful, quiet suburb of New York City, located approximately thirty miles from mid-town Manhattan.

On December 24, 1959, my wife Patricia, myself, and our two small children moved into our new home.

Almost immediately I decided to convert our drab little cellar into one of those fabulous basement play-rooms I was always reading about.

For several months now I had been busy studding out the new basement. Measuring, cutting and nailing-up the large sheets of oak paneling. It was indeed a labor of love.

The electrical work however was something else again.

The one thing I knew for certain about electricity, was that I knew absolutely nothing. I had decided long ago, almost from the outset, that when I got to the actual wiring of the basement, I would have to hire a profes-

sional electrician to do the job for me.

One day at work, I happened to mention my basement project to my buddy and co-worker Dave Wilson who at the time was the associated director on the KRAFT MUSIC HALL.

Dave listened intently as I described my basement in great detail. It wasn't until I mentioned the electrical work that he finally spoke up.

"I don't claim to be a electrical genius, or anything," he said at last, "but, I think I could probably help you with the wiring."

"I don't need help," I explained, "what I need is someone to do it for me."

"All right," laughed Davey, "suppose you buy the stuff and we'll do it together."

Without a moments hesitation, I snapped at Dave's gracious offer. The only thing remaining was to set a time and date.

I told him I would shop for whatever we needed that very afternoon and he could come to the house directly from work on the following day. Dinner would be

my treat just as soon as the work was completed.

Dave arrived at my home at approximately 5:15PM on Tuesday, November 9, 1965.

At precisely 5:21 PM, Dave and I descended the cellar steps leading from the kitchen to the basement.

"Before we begin anything," said Dave, "I think we ought to check out the circuit breakers."

It was exactly 5:26 PM when I led the way to a large black metal box secured firmly to the wall at the far end of the basement.

Dave examined the box for a moment.

"I'll need to take the cover off, so I can get a peak inside," he said casually. Reaching into the tool box, I extracted a short stubby screw driver and handed it to him.

At precisely 5:27 PM on November 9, 1965, Dave gave the top screw a quarter turn to the left. Instantly the lights in the basement went off.

"What the hell happened?," I asked

*"Holy
Cow,
Davey!"*

hoarsely in the darkened cellar.

"I don't know," answered Dave quickly, "I must have shorted out something."

My wife now called from the top of the steps.

"What are you guys doing down there? The lights are all off up here."

Working in complete darkness, Dave somehow managed to tighten the screw he had just loosened. Nothing changed - we were still in complete darkness.

"I need a flashlight," said Dave.

"It's upstairs, I'll get it."

My wife called once more from the kitchen.

"Would you fellas please get the lights back on - you're frightening the children."

Dave and I now groped our way carefully across the cellar floor and up the stairs to the kitchen. The entire house was now in total darkness. Not a speck of light anywhere.

Suddenly I was distracted by the sound of voices coming from somewhere outside the house. I headed quickly for the kitchen window and peered outside.

The neighbors directly across the road were milling around on their front lawn shining flashlights about in the dark. It was a strange and eerie sight.

"Oh, my God Davey, I said softly, "You shorted them out too."

"I don't believe this," said Dave, "You saw me, all I did was loosen one lousy screw."

A mild panic was now beginning to set in. I stared once more at the road outside. All of the street lamps were out. Not a glimmer of light anywhere.

The final blow came when my nine year old daughter Brandy came running from the bedroom where she had been listening to music on her small transistor radio.

"Holy Cow, Davey," I shouted, "You just blew out the entire State."

It was quite some time before any of us finally realized that we had absolutely nothing whatsoever to do with the great East Coast Blackout of 1965.

Although nearly thirty years have passed since that massive power failure, the memory still lingers on.

To this day, whenever I experience a power surge of any kind (even for an instant) I find myself thinking out loud.

"Davey, what did you do now?"

Hal and his wife, Patricia, now live in Woodland Hills, California.

Down Under (Continued from page 7)

the New Zealanders.

Next we had a pleasant stay in Sydney, Australia. It's huge harbor is best described as outstanding, with many coves, sailboats and marinas. Australia claims the largest number of boats per capita in the world and it is evident from their strong interest in world cup racing. Their "signature" Opera House is a sight known all over for its originality and magnificence. The beautiful "mall" type complexes that feature hundreds of shops and very extensive "food courts" are popular in this part of the world.

Finally, we spent six days in Cairnes, Australia, which has some of the features of our southern beach cities. In addition one can take an inland old train ride to see some picturesque water falls and gorges. A visit to the wild animal and bird farms show off some of the their native species such as kangaroos, kualas, alligators and the like. The banner attraction for snorkelers and divers is a sojourn to the Great Barrier Reef for a fabulous view of the coral and marine life, probably the most spectacular in the world. Most popular amongst the tourists is an outing on a high speed catamaran to Agincourt reef, about one hour each way at 38 knots. Lunch and lectures are part of the event but the dazzling coral and beautiful fish are legendary. Good clear weather adds to the display and comfort.

Australia also exposes much of its original past with many exhibits and displays of the aborigine natives and their trinkets. As in Mexico everywhere there are "markets" promoting the native wares. If you can minimize the effects of a long "commute," the land down under offers a variety of different sights and excellent hospitality in a very relaxing atmosphere. Just remember, you go north for the Fun in the Sun! *G' Day Mates. April, 1994*



Bob, Diane and Christchurch, New Zealand.

(Travel stories are never out of date.)

“Who Said That”

By
Frank Vierling

The news of Lindsey Nelson's and John Cameron Swayze's deaths have brought to mind some early memories of my early years with the company. NBC aired a news oriented panel show in 1949 with the title "Who Said That." The TV Field group set up the "green" gear on the stage of 6B. (Yes, there was a stage in those days.) The gear was stored in the 6A's "airlock." 8G and 3H were the only studios with permanent equipment, so the green gear was moved from studio to studio as the shows demanded. It was used in 6A for the Sunday Morning Children's Hour and Sunday evening for the Merideth Wilson Show. The first Perry Como shows also originated from 6A. It covered Toscanini and the NBC Symphony and Bert Parks' "Break the Bank" from 8H, John Nagi's "You are an Artist," and Phil Silver's "Arrow Shirt Hour" from 3B. Milton Berle was aired from 6B along with "Leave It To the Girls" and "Who Said That." Field gear also covered the International Theater at Columbus Circle. In those early years, along with the normal mobile unit work, TV Field covered 80% of NBC's live air time.

Working in studios we worked under the direction of a studio TD. The show host for "Who Said That" was Robert Trout and the panel was made up of celebrities headed by NBC's John Cameron Swayze. Trout read quotes from any time in history and the panel had to answer - "Who Said That." This was the perfect vehicle for John and his ability to recall who said what throughout recorded time and from the current news of the day. He was always phenomenal.

It had been a sustaining show. The one I remember vividly was the first time it was sponsored. Crosley tv sets and refrigerators were the sponsors.

They supplied their agency director. As I recall, he was new to the tv business and was directing his first show. Don Pike was the TD. I was the dolly man for Bob Waring on camera one.

It was a typical quiz show setup. Trout sat behind a desk on stage left, and the panel was on stage right. The commercial area was located behind a curtain. Speaking of beginners, in 1949 I was one too. We had an extensive commercial rehearsal with exacting dolly tracks, slow down warning marks, precision stop marks and swerving dolly paths. In effect, Bob had to do, with a fixed lens, what a zoom lens does today - a smooth precision "Zoom" into price tags framed on tv screens, or into distinctive features inside refrigerators. Consequently the stage floor was covered with scores of cue marks.

From the very beginning of the show Don Pike tried, unsuccessfully it turned out, to educate the director. "Never get trapped with all cameras on close-ups," was one of his warnings. As it happened, when we were released to the commercial, cameras two and three had tight cross-shots between Bob and me. By this time, Don had given up and cued us to move through the picture on the air. I had my first "on camera" appearance as we moved toward the opening curtain. I soon met with a pull on the camera cable (audience snickers). Looking back, I saw that my carefully laid cable had been pushed behind Trout's desk - "To pretty up" the stage for the audience. The cable was caught on the desk leg. I was pulling Bob's desk and he was hitching his chair along to keep behind it. (We had no cable man in those days.) In the meantime Pike was desperately calling for us to get into place. Someone cleared my cable and we moved toward our opening position. But, again, "to pretty up the stage," and make it look like a kitchen for the audience, a conglomug rug now covered the floor,— and it covered all my dolly tracks and cue marks! In addition, each turn of the dolly wheels on the shiny rug surface caused a screech like a speeding auto chase down a twisting mountain road.

The show did survive, and I did too. When 3B was permanently set up with the "Red" field-type equipment, the show moved to the third floor. Al Henderson took over camera 1 and I continued as his dolly man.

John Cameron Swayze (affectionately dubbed John Camel News) anchored The Camel News Caravan from 3H (renamed 3K when it converted to Kolor). TV Field often provided the crew when studio crews were busy with "the big" shows.

Again, a vivid recollection is with a show directed by a man new to tv. He had moved to tv from film work. And, our TD was TDing *his* first show. It was the directors habit, in film work, of saying, "roll the camera in," when in tv you must say, "dolly in." "Roll", in tv, was reserved exclusively for film's cue to start the projectors "rolling." Once started there was no turning back - you went with the film. The director, meaning "dolly in," cued, "Roll camera one in." The TD, hearing "roll," immediately rolled film. Swayze was startled to see the film on his monitor. But, the pro that he was, he neatly segued to his voice over. Profuse apologies were heard on the PL, and then again, "Roll camera one back....*sorry*....dolly back!" But the second film was rolling. It appeared on John's monitor in mid-sentence. Again John covered beautifully. Now this is hard to believe, but, it happened yet again! The three film clips for the 15 minute show were gone before the commercial break. John ad libbed the remainder of the show. He was a true pro.

☞ ☞

Walter Miller tells this story about working a show with Lindsey Nelson. Walter had just finished a sports show he TDed when the control room phone rang. A booming telephone voice commanded, "I'd like to speak to Lindsey Nelson." Walter replied, "He left the studio," and hung up. The phone immediately rang again. A louder commanding voice asked, "Do you know who this is?" Walter replied, "No." Still booming, the voice said, "This is Tom S. Gallery, Vice President of NBC Sports. I want to speak to Lindsey Nelson and *don't* hang up on me!" Tom was a giant of a man and had the authoritative voice to go with his size. Walter asked, "Do you know who this is?" Gallery, "No." Walter hung up!

☞ ☞

Speaking of Tom Gallery brings to mind NBC's coverage of the Gillette Friday Night Fights from Madison Square Garden. Jimmy Powers, the New York Daily News sports writer, was one of a string of announcers we had over the years. As the audio man, I was told, no, - *ordered*, to have the ring-side telephone hooked up first thing. Powers would come in early and call the world. He had relatives and contacts from Alaska to Chile and from New York west; around the world and back. He kept that phone busy from the time he arrived, through the preliminary bouts and right up to air time.

Jimmy liked to start each show with a few lines about New York's weather. "It's a balmy Spring evening," or "I've never seen so much snow," or "Coming to the Garden tonight I was held up by torrential rain," etc. Predictably the phone would ring. There was no AD in those days, so I would answer the phone. **"This is Tom S. Gallery, Vice President of NBC Sports. You tell Mr. Powers if I wanted a weather report I'd hire Uncle Weatherbee."** This, for the young reader, was a reference to the cutout caricature Tex Antoine dressed in appropriate costumes for his weather predictions on various NBC news shows.

Now I never told Jimmy and I guess nobody else did either, or he ignored the suggestion, for he continued each Friday to give his New York weather report. The phone always rang - I would pick it up. **"This is Tom S. Gallery, Vice President of NBC Sports. You tell Mr. Powers"** ☐

DID YOU KNOW?

In 1884 a Russo-German named Paul Nipkow (1860-1940) developed a revolving disk to "scan" a scene, the light pattern it projected could then be convert into an image. (Sounds like the CBS color system that lost out to RCA.) It wasn't until 1926 that Scottish experimenter, John L. Baird (1888-1946) demonstrated recognizable pictures. The British Broadcasting System then used it for experimental broadcasts in 1929. But, the public demanded definition at least as good as home movies. For the time being, television was only a curiosity. We've come a long way, PNers,

- and we made it happen!!



(Continued from page 5)

there was no World Series last year. Selig wouldn't play ball, so the nets are dropping coverage at the end of the season....NBC News Channel in Charlotte, NC, which I think is the successor to Affiliated New Service and NPS, has agreed with Sports News Satellite (SNS), which is described as the dominant sports highlight feed these days. SNS will now be available exclusively to NBC stations, who in turn provided SNS with barter commercial inventory as payment. There's a vast world out there in the barter business and it would be nice if some PN reader could give us the details. Also, News Channel already has opened offices in Atlanta to work on Olympic productions and operations for the 96 games — still almost a year away.... We don't know what satellite time costs these days, but Hughs tv, which sells Ku-Band and C-band space to many stations has upped its price 100 percent.

The OJ Scene

Today's **Katie Couric** made the news pages when she sent a \$75 birthday cake with a chocolate gavel to Judge Ito. Covering for NBC, spokeswoman **Beth Comstock** call the cake "an innocent gesture." Yeah, and not too clever Will KNBC reporter **Tracie Savage** star on Court TV one day? She's the one who had a scoop about blood found on OJ's socks before the LA police lab confirmed the facts. The NYPost

says Savage has become famous because of an error. She confused serology, or blood-type tests done at the L.A. lab, with DNA tests which were done by the FBI. If the reporters covering the trial were confused, what shape was the jury in?

Motherhood

And now back to Katie. She is expecting her second child in January. She and spouse Jay Monahan had a daughter, Ellie, in 1991. Recently it was Prince Charles' equerry coming out with a book of the inside story at the palace. Now, Katie's nanny, Nancy Poznek, is looking for a publisher to spill the dirt about 3 years with Couric-Monahans. The nanny says she was also a "close friend" to Katie, and earned \$700 a week. Boy, that's a nice stipend for a nanny. Couric has said she fired her "with cause." Also "infantilizing" as Walter Winchell used to write, **Connie Chung**, late of NBC, and **Maury Povich** are parents of a 6-pound-2ounce boy. They did it the easy way, adopting a boy born to an unwed California woman. Connie is 48, Maury is 56. Ugh! and who's to warm the 2 ayem bottle? How about Nancy Poznek.

Old Faces, New Faces

Is **Brian Gumble** tired of the dawn patrol hours? He began a new show, "Real Sports" on HBO in July and that's a Time Warner operation, not NBC...Remember that awful shooting outside the Today studio? The accused killer of the stagehand **Campbell Montgomery** — William Tager — has been found unfit for

trial...**Don Gould**, ex WNBC, is back on the tube in New York, becoming weekend sports anchor at WPIX...**Gerry Spence**, that Wyoming lawyer who owns just one suit — a buckskin jacket and a pair of pants mit cowboy hat to match — joins CNBC. He's been all over the tube since the OJ trial began...**Andy Friendly**, the CNBC executive producer, says the Spence show will originate at that Mecca of tv operations (?) Jackson Hole, Wyoming. There's really no hole there, its just a big valley, and the so-called million dollar bar with silver dollars imbedded in the bar....Also becoming a talk show host on CNBC, Bill Clinton's former press room boss **Dee Dee Myers**. She made news herself in July when she was busted for driving under the influence in Washington. Must have been a Republican cop. She'll co-host *Equal Time*, with **Mary Matalin**, a well-know Republican...**Bret Marcus**, ex WNBC, has joined ABC News. Until recently he was the senior producer of weekend and is now producer of "Turning Point." **Roger Ailes**, president of CNBC, appears to be a top negotiator. With that cable operation gaining more and more popularity, Ailes apparently told, management he wasn't about to stay on the job. That must have shaken up network and GE brass, so they created some new titles and widened Ailes' area of authority....Today found a new use for the Plaza area between 48th and 49th streets — it had musical groups doing outdoor concerts during the shows final half hour this summer....How much did the Laurence Tisch family and its

Loews Corporation make on the sale of CBS? One report says they pocketed one billion \$ out of a total \$5.4 billion price tag.

Kitman Speaks

Marvin Kitman, the incisive tv columnist of Newsday hit it on the head recently when he devoted a huge column to network plugola. The essence of the piece can be summed up by a quote he took from CEO **Bob Wright** who watched an author being interviewed on the Today show one morning and asked "Why aren't we charging publishers for advertising their books? From there, Kitman, who facetiously labels himself "Executive Producer," asked why ABC's Diane Sawyer devoted an hour to Michael Jackson and his bigoted new album "History." Next, he recalled how Today went to Disneyworld to mark its 20th anniversary, accepting \$30,000 worth of freebies — probably hotels, meals and maybe air fares. When that became public, NBC repaid the dough after being embarrassed. Kitman says all you need is a good PR man to break into the morning shows. The other thing is the huge amount of cross-promos for network shows on net new programs, masquerading as news. He goes on to say all of journalism — radio, dailies, the magazines — are just as bad. Anyone who disagrees, go sit in front of a tv set for an hour or two.

Broadcast Biz

It should be interesting to see how the tv set makers move on this idea of putting in a "V chip," so that parents can reject violent programs they do not want their

children to see. Of course, the way to insure that is just turn off the set so the whole family can avoid the excessive mayhem. Its going to take a huge change in direction to get Hollywood away from this stuff which obviously attracts a big audience. It takes a lot more writing talent to create an intellectual story than a shoot out with a chase and 20 cars crashing in a heap. And unfortunately the intellectual piece will have a smaller audience. So money talks. However, maybe, there's hope. Congress held hearings on this in July, but broadcasters and civil libertarians attacked both the FCC and Congress...NBC has doubled its stake in Court TV, buying another 17 percent of stock held by cablevision....I looked twice recently when I spotted a NYTimes headline reading "Chancellor to Acquire 17 Radio Stations." Turns out that its the Chancellor Broadcasting Company, a Texas company, not the Jack we all know...When Congress kicked around the idea of imposing new fees or obligations on tv stations to fatten the federal budget, broadcasting industry reacted sharply. Congress wanted to auction off new pieces of the broadcast spectrum or tax broadcasters for use of the airwaves. After all, tv and radio licenses are issued free to the right bidders, and they are gold mines if operated efficiently, so why not give back something to the fed budget?...NBC and PBS, the Public Broadcasting System, will team up for coverage of the 1996 political conventions — Dems in Chicago, Repubs in San Diego. In effect, **Tom Brokaw** will share

his honors with **Jim Lehrer** on PBS from 8 to 9:30pm, then NBC and PBS will split to their own feeds, similar to joint operation in 1992. **Bill Wheatly**, VP, will oversee political coverage...Zenith, the last American company to make tv sets, has sold controlling interests to Goldstar, South Korean industrial operation. Zenith first started manufacturing radios in 1918. It will continue to make picture tubes in Illinois for sets that are assembled in Mexico. The Thomson company of France is now the largest domestic maker of tv set, including ugh — RCA and GE. In the early 1950s there were more than 90 American companies making tv sets. Let's see, remember Dumont, Crosley, Emerson and Magnavox?

When You're Hot / When You're Cold.

Two big stars took a fall this past summer, **Frank Field (& Storm)** and **Donahue** (does he have a first name? Yes its Phil) Frank Field has had a long run. First on NBC, then ABC and finally CBS. Some said a shuffle at CBS was inevitable after Ira Joe Fisher moved there in July. And it was, because soon after, came the announcement taking the Fields off their 5-day a week reports. Frank now says the job had no more "stimulation" for him and he'd rather do health and science reports. We think Frank is sincere when he says "its the best thing that could have happened to me." Now, he'll get off his butt and do something he enjoys. I think, as retirees, and as Frank's

(Continued on next page)

(Continued from page 21)

contemporaries, we can all understand his comment, "As a Depression baby, I was afraid to make a change." One report says he may go to Fox network. I recall eons ago, when he was only seen on News 4, we started to recycle his health pieces to the network on NPS. He was gung ho for the idea since it gave him national exposure. As we understand it, years ago he had an outside interest in producing non-broadcast health science, for extra bucks. Summing up, Frank has been doing well on local tv for nearly 4 decades. We'd all be happy with a run that long.

Donohue. After 17 years on WNBC, his afternoon show has been dropped in New York. Ratings are down so he was a lousy lead into News at Five. His show cost NBC \$35,000 a week and they have a contract that runs a month, but local is biting the bullet and just keeping the vtr can on the shelf. Donohue had reigned at the top of the Neilsons for most of the 28 years this show has been on the air. But he has slipped to 9th among the 17 daily talk shows now on the air. **Sally Jessy Raphael** will replace him.

Squeeze Play

Anchors **Mary Civiello** and **Jane Hanson** have just had their day's work extended. The gals, who do a show before Today airs at 7am, and then the local cut-ins during Today, will now host a new "News 4 New York at Noon." **Joe Witte** gets the same deal. The competition has long had a show at that hour. All this, mind you, without adding any producers or

writers to the staff.

More Oldies but Goodies

Tom Petit, who has been on and off the air since A.D. - GE (as compared with B.C. - GE) has finally taken retirement at age 64. Tom spent 35 years with NBC, mostly as a correspondent, but also a few years in the 80s as a vice president. A 3-time Emmy winner, he covered every presidential campaign since 1960. Perhaps his most notable moment came in 1963 as he waited in a Dallas court basement while marshalls moved Kennedy assassin Lee Harvey Oswald from one pen to another, Jack Ruby was waiting too, and he done in Oswald as Tom watched with live camera and mike... **Gabe**

Pressman marked the 50th anniversary of the liberation of Dachau concentration camp by visiting with a camera crew.... one-time NBC News assignment deskman **Stephen H. (for Humphrey) Bogart** was a producer at Court TV until he got the bug for creating literature. Now, slam-bang, he has two books coming out. First, "Play it Again," is about a private eye and woman friend who solve the murder of his famous actress-mother. Lauren Bacall can't be too happy about the plot. The Washington Post gave the book a rave review. The second book, co-authored with Gary Provost, is titled, "Bogart: In Search of My Father.".... **Bill Moyers** departed from Nightly News because of health reasons about 3 months after he began his twice weekly commentaries. He is in a year-long intensive cardiac fitness

program at NY's Beth Israel Hospital designed to reverse heart disease without further surgery. Moyers is 60.... There was a time when, if you said "Jinx," all America knew who you were talking about — **Jinx Falkenberg**, the first "Miss Rheingold," and later had one of the morning conversation radio programs along with husband **Tex McCrary** on NBC. Anyway, Jinx, now 76, and mostly living in Lyford Cay (the Caribbean, I think), recently underwent the removal of lung tumor in North Shore Hospital, Long Island.

Other People

Retired quarterback **Joe Montana** will be wearing an NBC jersey while he does NFL football analysis — not at a stadium, but at 30 Rock. Montana says he's "heard too many horror stories about doing analysis from a stadium broadcast booth," so he'll do his 10 shots in Manhattan. Now, the money. Well, don't believe everything you read. One report says he's getting \$400,000 for the season. Another puts the figure at \$850,000. Knowing how GE is not that beneficent to talent, its probably less than either report. Reportedly, NBC is flying him into New York from his west coast home every week on a private jet... **Helen Kushnick**, who was bounced as **Jay Leno's** manager and producer and then sued NYTimes tv critic Bill Carter for libel, has dropped her \$30-million suit. She gave a deposition to the court and explained, "I told my side of the story," and no useful purpose would be served by further litigation. Sure, sure...

Comedian, actor, producer **Bill Cosby** must have been a bit disappointed when his golden touch disappeared in "The Cosby Mysteries." It was yanked from the NBC fall lineup, but who's to worry. Cosby is worth mucho \$\$\$\$ and has a continuing deal with NBC to develop properties.... After 12 years as a local producer, **Bob Weiner** is moving to Court TV's new show, "Inside American Courts." Weiner served as Pressman's producer for 5 years. His notable experiences were getting booted out of the Bahamas with **Mary Civiello** and camera crew, joining **Carol Jenkins** for Nelson Mandela's prison release in South Africa, and freezing on the sidewalks of New York while the late **Pat Harper** did her undercover bag lady gig. Enroute he won 2 Emmys, an Edward R. Murrow award and a Dateline Award from NY Press Club.

Last Laff

Our clipping bureau (**Roy Silver**) usually provides us with a thousand items for the PN newsletter and sometimes its quite a while until we get to go through them for the paper. That means some are dated. That's what gave us a chuckle long after the buyout of CBS when we read a news story in which Laurence Tisch told the shareholders at the company's annual meeting Black Rock was not for sale.

Bedside Broadcasters

When WNBC reporter **Christy Ferrer** left local 14 years ago she established a shopping-entertainment guide net that was piped into hotel rooms. It's still

going, and talent that was once seen regularly on home tv is still working — including restaurant reporter **Bob Lape**, and Broadway reporter **Jeff Lyons**. **Beverly Sills** is the anchorwoman.



July Neilsons.

WNBC was proud as a peacock, again, with the July Neilsons. Number one again at 6pm and 11pm. Also weekend editions of Today in New York achieved growth.

Wendell Bows Out

Announcer **Bill Wendell** who moved to CBS along with the **David Letterman** show retired in August. Bill had been the opening voice of the show since 1982, and created the extended intro "Daaay-vid Letterman." Bill was an NBC fixture for 37 years, meaning, meaning he should certainly join PN. Send him a form, Pete. He started out at WHAM radio, Rochester, came to NYC to work for Dumont's WABD-tv. There, he was Ernie Kovac's announcer and straight man. Bill has been called the master of warmups, and got the Letterman job after whipping up a crescendo of applause during the warm-up. After he got the job, Wendell drove a pink Lincoln Continental with license plate "Warmups."

Pensioners Squawk

The Coordinated (Union) Bargaining Committee in Washington, speaking for retirees on pension from GE, is protesting the miserly cost of living

increases. The group speaks for employees of GE, Martin Marietta, and Westinghouse. The CBC says the pension has a \$6-billion surplus and could well afford adjustments. The fund, which gets its capital from employee and GE contributions, has been doing so well that GE, has not made any contributions since 1987. A typical worker who retired in 1980 has seen his/her purchasing power cut in half.

Entrepreneurial

NBC and **Bill Gates'** Microsoft have made an alliance to produce an array of multi-media products and services. That will include CD-ROMs, interactive tv services and the Microsoft computer Network. A staff of about 100 people will be needed. Among other things, it will be an additional way to squeeze income out of material NBC already has produced, such as NBC News, sports, CNBC, and programming from the O&Os. Have we said else in this column, NBC's operating profits rose more than 20 percent in the first quarter of the year, topped \$140-million. Last year, the company doubled operating profits to \$500-million. □ DG

Dan Grabel lives in Scarsdale with his wife, Pat.

As always, we thank Roy **Jessy Silver** for providing so much grist for the mill, and those insiders who keep us informed on life at the former RCA building.

**1996 DUES ARE DUE
JANUARY 1**

KEN'S

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by
Ken Arber

"Junior Executives"

In the mid 1930's NBC decided to contract with a company known as "Booze Allen Hamilton," a consulting organization, to evaluate NBC's personnel situation.

It is to be remembered the 40 hour week had just come into being. Prior to this we all worked five and a half days a week - forty four hours. Under the new system put into effect, all employees worked forty hours in five days and then enjoyed two full days off each week.

All the employees were advised by their supervisors, to comply with the consulting firm's representative, a gentleman by the name of John H. Hartley. We soon realized this "Consulting Firm" in reality was an efficiency organization. I did not know if Mr. Hartley was an employee of NBC, or if he was with Booze Allen Hamilton, but around 1940, I learned he was employed by the News and Special Events Department in room 404.

When I was interviewed, he asked many questions relative to my position, such questions as to hours, duties, past experience, etc. before coming to NBC, my salary and how many other employees were doing the same work as myself. He would perform this same questioning with other departments, picking one or two employees from each section. We all figured this was going to result in loss of employment for many of

us. Since this was just after the 1929 stock market crash and the following depression years, you can appreciate our concern.

In one case, the Traffic Department had been requesting two additional employees. After the consulting firm evaluated them, they laid off three employees. Through the "grape-vine" we learned Booze Allen received the pay for their service to NBC by adding up all the annual salaries of the discharged employees for one year.

A year after Booze Allen left, the traffic supervisor rehired the three, and hired two more as he had originally requested. It was imperative he do this, as the overtime was enormous. So much for that, fortunately most of us survived, including myself.

Sometime after this, a group of us, all in our 20's and 30's, were invited, or assigned to take a trip to the RCA Camden factory to learn how NBC's parent company, RCA, functioned. About thirty of us met at Penn Station and boarded a train for Camden, New Jersey. A bus met us there and took us to the factory, where we were greeted by executives who said RCA would like to welcome "you Junior Executives" to our factory. Believe me, that was the first and only time I was considered a Junior Executive.

We were broken into four groups with a plant manager leading each group. I found myself in a group conducted by no less a person than the President of RCA manufacturing in Camden, a Mr. Throckmorton. I felt very fortunate to be in his group, because he had all the answers to the questions we put to him.

There were several assembly lines on the massive floor area, and our group was led to a line manufacturing a small inexpensive table radio called "Little Nipper." This was a three or four tube radio, white with black accents. It was called "Nipper" in honor of the RCA symbol of a little black and white dog who was listening to his master's voice.

The assembly line was a long work bench, possibly seventy five feet to one hundred long, with women assemblers seated every six to eight feet apart. As I recall this, I am sure I saw no men on the line.

In front of the assemblers was a slow moving conveyor belt on which the radios being assembled would pass. Each assembler had a schematic of the part of the set she was to assemble posted in front of her. The

conveyor moved from left to right. The radios were spaced so as to leave the assembler enough time to install the parts designated on her schematic. Behind each assembler was a "Lead Assembler," who was familiar with every aspect of the production area. If an assembler was having trouble keeping up with the conveyor, she would step in and assist. THE CONVEYER BELT MUST NEVER STOP!, also she would step in and take the assemblers place, should she have to leave for personal reasons.

I never did see how the set started on the belt, but assume it was all pre-drilled with a complete wire harness, ready for the tubes, condensers and all the things which go into making a radio work. As the complete radio reached the end of the line an assembler would plug it in on another continuous belt with many 110 volt sockets. Plugged in, and turned on, it then traveled about ten feet and should be playing. As it arrived at the end of the line and was about to fall off, a male assembler would take the working set and place it in its box.

If one of the radios was not playing, it would be thrown into a reject bin or hamper. I was told that rejected radios were few and far between.

Mr. Throckmorton asked me how much I thought RCA made on each "Little Nipper?" I guessed about ten dollars, since I knew they sold for about twenty-one dollars in the stores. He surprised me by saying RCA made fifty cents on each set! I could not believe it could be that low, and he said, "See how often a set comes off the line, about one every fifteen seconds, each hour, each day, for twenty four hours." I assumed the assembly line operated three shifts a day for this popular little radio.

Our group was led to a section of the factory where the wooden cabinets for console radios were constructed. This too was a very interesting experience, seeing raw wood made into beautiful pieces of furniture. Of course they had to be glamorous, as the family Radio was the center Jewel of the living room, as the TV set is today.

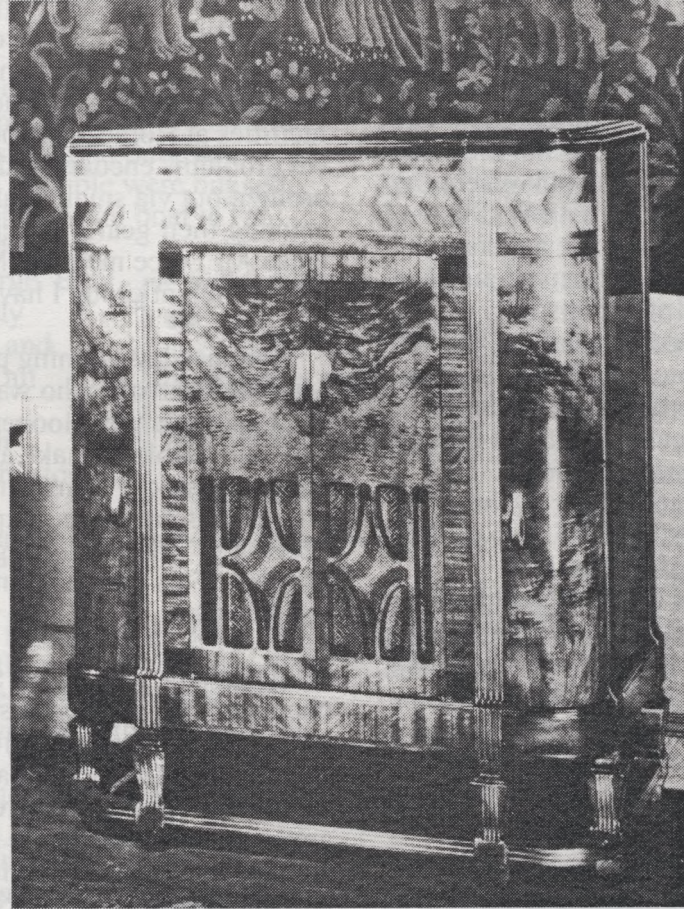
The wood frames of the cabinets were steam bent, and all the pieces were fastened together with dowels and water proof glue. This was done to prevent reso-

nant frequencies being generated in the cabinets, if screws or nails were used.

Mr. Throckmorton explained the glue used was guaranteed to hold all the joints, as well as the fine wood laminates to the frame. After the cabinets were all finished and glued, they were put on a floor level conveyor that traveled through a drying room for a considerable time, so the glue would be set.

Mr. Throckmorton told a very interesting story of the convincing way the manufacturer of the glue demonstrated the quality of their product. He said a couple of finished cabinets were tied behind an ocean liner and dragged across the ocean from New York to England. He said all the

joints held. I could hardly believe it, but that is the way it was told to me. After this visit to RCA Camden, we returned to New York. It was so interesting, that to this day, I can't remember if we stopped for lunch. When I miss a meal and don't remember it, it must have been interesting. □



RCA Victor's "Magic Brain" radio phonograph.
"Raw wood was made into beautiful pieces of furniture."

Ken Arber is a retired NBC, New York, TD. He and his wife, Jaye, live in Boynton Beach, Florida

WIDE - WIDE -

PICKUP AT KEY LARGO

NOVEMBER 11, 1956

By Ted Seiter

Departed Idlewilde (now Kennedy) 10:00AM, Monday 11/5 for Miami via EAL. Arrived Miami 4:30AM and picked up Hertz car which had previously been reserved. Proceeded to Fontainebleau (Hotel) and reported to Mr. C. Paul at 5:30AM. After breakfast we both went to H. Backus dock where the NBC barges were moored. Checked with WITV people as directed by Mr. Paul and gave assistance where necessary. When Pye* people arrived aided in unloading their equipment and stowing same, RCA radiomarine technician was aboard installing the 30 watt marine transmitter and antenna. Due to fact that barge was not equipped with ground plate found it necessary to purchase same locally. Cost \$37.08 and receipted bill is attached to expense voucher. This proved to be an expendable item as later events will show. In the late afternoon left for Key Largo with both Pye engineers as instructed by Mr. Paul. Stopped for dinner enroute and checked in at Rod and Reel Motel at approximately 8:30 - 9PM. As Mr. C. Jones (Charles O. Jones, NBC Producer Director) would not arrive until late Wednesday PM, I was only NBC representative at location. Spent considerable time on telephone to Washington with Mr. C. Jones and assisted in carrying out his wishes wherever possible.

Had early call Tuesday AM as Marine Corps UDT (Underwater Diving Team) team arrived and needed billeting and briefing. Arranged same. Later in day some U of Miami students arrived for underwater instruction. As barge had not yet arrived, the Marine unit was put to work checking these people out with lungs etc. in the Motel pool. Lunches for these people were ordered and billed to NBC tab at Motel. Advised C. Jones of same. Glenn Carpenter of WITV arrived and roomed with me for convenience. Barges arrived but could not proceed inside reef due to drift of tug. Arranged with Telco tug Ironhead (LCT type craft) to pull barges into reef

**Pye is an English television company. They supplied specialized underwater cameras for the remote.*

and anchor same in approximate positions. Only 3 anchors were supplied for each barge instead of the four as originally planned. Seas gentle to calm. No problems.

Proceeded to Homestead (Florida) with Major Ben Griffin and met his men at Homestead AFB. Briefed them on their duties and arranged for necessary equipment in coordination with the Major. Split the men and equipment into the teams for the barge and Homestead land group. Checked all Telco facilities at Homestead location and identified lines. No problems encountered. The barge group was brought out via small boat and immediately set to erecting their gear. (I might mention at this point that these Air Force men and Major Ben Griffin were the most efficient group I have ever worked with.)

Wednesday morning proceeded to barges with Mr. Reed Parham who was substitute diver in charge as Lt. Commander Hooper had received Naval orders and was unable to make an appearance during the entire operation. Considerable diving equipment arrived this day via air express. Services same as necessary. One small freight bill attached to my voucher. This day spent in setting up camera equipment.

Thursday, Friday and Saturday were spent in checking gear and rehearsing as directed by Mr. C. Jones. On Friday a cold front began to sweep thru the coast with resultant increased winds and cold weather. Approx. 50 degrees. This caused some anxiety on our part as the barges did considerable shifting about and some mal-de-mer cases were noted and treated by the Navy Corpsman and his staff. During the night of Thursday, and Friday power cables and coax to the Telco MW tower parted due to the heavy swells present. On Friday the power cable was rerun to the tower from the smaller barge as this was approximately 100 feet nearer to the tower. The coax to the control barge was re-run but Telco found it necessary to make a butt (connection) in same approximately half way. This against my better judgment as cable lie on the floor of the reef.

Thursday the U of Miami boat "Gerda" appeared and anchored just outside the reef approximately 350 feet from the control barge which was inside. Camera cable, pl (private line) and audio circuits

World

Under the sea at Key Largo — a Tech Supervisor's report.

were run to the Gerda and floated with one gallon coke jugs. Worked very well. Camera cable was not run to the tower yet as this was a run of 500 feet plus and would need a butt which would have to be supported in a skiff to keep dry. However this run was prepared complete with audio, pl and PH system wires all lashed together. Planned to feed this out first thing Saturday morning for rehearsal purposes.

On Friday Evening Mr. Jones decided it would be more feasible for all personnel to stay on location so that early start could be assured on Saturday morning. As many people as possible were bunked on the Gerda. All hands went by small boat to the Gerda for a hasty supper. I returned with 8 men to the control barge. By this time it was approximately 10PM. As the ground swells and wind began to increase I put all hands to work securing the equipment and covering with tarpaulins where possible. This took considerable time due to uncomfortable conditions and weariness of all concerned.

Six of the men managed to squeeze in the temporary control shack on the end of the barge. The Navy chief in charge of underwater lighting and myself huddled under a canvas tarpaulin on deck to keep the wind and spray off. The Gerda was well lighted and maintained a watch at all times.

At approximately 3AM unknown to us both barges ripped their anchor lines to shreds and we commenced drifting in a southeast direction. At about 4:45AM or thereabouts a loud distant crash was heard and moments later the control barge sustained a heavy bump and my kit bag and contents slid across the deck and into the sea. Looming high overhead forward of control shack was a large tanker with lights ablaze and close enough to touch. The condition was realized immediately and I immediately put in a call to the Gerda on the marine transmitter. Not wishing to create more confusion I instructed all personnel not to touch the radio equipment without my OK.. Meanwhile the tanker hove to, 1/2 mile east. Constant communication was maintained with the Gerda at all times with signal lights. The barge and the Gerda found each other. She took both barges in tow. The tanker was heard in

“... my kit bag and contents slid across the deck and into the sea.”

communication but due to proximity to barge and her high power the receivers blacked (out) and the conversations were indistinguishable. Meanwhile the Gerda had contacted the tug Ironhead. Towing was transferred to the tug subsequently. We were put back in our approximate positions about two hours later. Due to the loss of the original anchors, we were only able to procure one 200 pound anchor. From the Gerda - this of course was somewhat inconvenient but setting up was commenced. One small boat was dispatched to the MW (microwave) tower and the static camera was removed and set up on the barge. We were now in operation with the three underwater cameras and one camera on deck.

Mr. Jones decided to delete the camera and audio portion from the Gerda due to conditions. Meanwhile the Telco coax from the tower was removed from the floor of the reef. It was found to have leaked water at the butt as I had previously cautioned against. It was opened and dried out but was found to have a varying 60 - 200 ohm DC resistance. Due to lack of time it was decided to use as is. Due to the bad mis-match incurred, the sync pulse showed a highly differentiated condition. Radio communication was then established with Engineering and Production people in NY and the situation explained. The signal was processed and cleaned up in NY and was in a usable condition for air time.

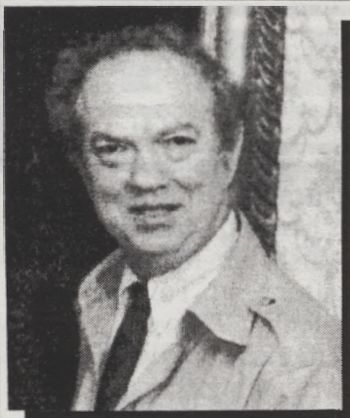
After air, equipment was secured and it was decided most gear would remain on barge and be picked up in Miami on Monday morning. Agreed to by all concerned.

Proceeded to motel and arrangements made for my plane reservation.

Left Key Largo 6AM Monday with both Pye men and returned to NY, 3PM. □

[For another prospective on this event, see page 32.]

Ted Seiter was a Group 6 Electronic Maintenance Engineer at NBC New York. He and his wife, Rose, divide their time between Sag Harbor, NY and the Bahamas.



Mort Hochstein

I was in publicity at NBC in the good old days, when live shows originated from New York. Pete Peterson asked me to recall some of the events of those days. — Mort

It was a lovely spring afternoon and I was winding down after a long day of work with Ed Wynn and the press. He was in from California and had been doing interview after interview promoting his dramatic comeback in "The Harder They Fall" on one of the NBC drama shows.

Forgive me, my memory fails me and there's no handy book to check out facts. I'm sure it was around 1957, it may have been Fall or Winter and I don't remember the exact dramatic series. Whatever the exact circumstances, I'd always thought this grand old man — he must have been in his eighties then — was one of the great funny men of our time and I enjoyed my time with him.

We were walking up Fifth Avenue, headed toward his room at the Pierre, when I had an idea. "Ed, we're near where Sid Caesar and his show rehearse. Would you like to watch them work?"

He launched out in that voice that always promoted a giggle, "Great idea, Mort." So we went in the elevator over Henri Bendel to the two upper floors Caesar's Hour used and stepped into one of the rehearsal halls. I didn't get a chance to make an introduction. Caesar, Carl Reiner, Nanette Fabray and the entire cast stopped everything and rushed over and crowded around Wynn.

The rehearsal was forgotten. They talked for about a half hour and then Wynn thanked them and started to leave. As we arrived at the elevator door, Caesar pulled me aside and said, "Mort, I'm really grateful to you for bringing him here."

In two years of working as a publicist on the show, that was about the most Sid ever said to me. I'd been at parties he'd thrown, had sat in on innumerable rehearsals and live shows, but hardly anything more than a nod had ever come my way. Though I might have brought several dozen reporters to see him, his personal press agents had the habit of stopping at my door and bringing the interviewer into his office, thus justifying their fees. Caesar was always a well guarded person who seemed to come alive only in front of the camera. It wasn't until many years later that I learned of the many problems he had.

The unit manager publicist in those days could be as close or as distant as the talent allowed. My wife and I shared evenings with Carl, Howie and Nan; I went to golf outings with Perry Como and spent Saturday afternoons and evenings at Martha Raye's house in Connecticut. Dinah Shore sent presents when my children were born.

Martha Raye was 'on' all the time and her jokes were not the kind I can print in this family publication, but she was friends with everyone who worked for her. As was Rocky Graziano, who appeared on her show which originated in a theater on Broadway, about 56th Street. I remember that much because Rocky once treated me to dinner at Patsy's on West 56th, where he was treated like an Italian idol.

Nick Condos, a onetime dancer and former husband of Martha, was her manager and nominally the producer of her show. He learned that some of her writers — who went on to become big names in Hollywood — were being paid off in cases of scotch when they made jokes about Arthur Murray, the dance instructor who also had a tv program. That's out, he told the writers. The next day, he told them, "You can put the jokes back in, but we split the scotch." I recall an election day when the bars were closed and Nick had a thirst. When I told him he could get a drink legally at the United Nations, he asked where it was and how he could get into the bar there.

One summer Buddy Hackett was among those filling in for Caesar. We took off one lunch and went to his hangout, the Carnegie Deli. As he entered, one of the guys behind the counter handed him his

'usual,' a huge turkey leg, which Buddy chomped on as a foreshpice, Yiddish for appetizer. They all knew him there, although he was making his debut on network tv. The show he did, playing a bellhop, died and I don't think he ever did a series again.

Fred Hermanski was a staff photographer when I was in NBC press. He was slightly deaf in one ear and pronouncedly deaf in the other. One day we went to shoot some publicity stills of Dave Garroway in his office and Freddy inadvertently spilled a coffee cup on Garroway's desk. He didn't notice it. Garroway did and spent about five minutes chewing him out while Freddy, who didn't seem to hear a word, continued to shoot pictures and we left, with Freddy totally oblivious to the proceedings.

One day, a whole battalion of us, including several vise presidents, trooped over to the Waldorf-Astoria when General Sarnoff was among many people being honored. The General sat on the dais sleeping until his name was called, got up, received the award, said a few words and left, accompanied by his troop.

Once in Paris at one of those stores catering to American tourists, the owner learned I was with NBC and told me a story about his dealings with my leader. Mr. Sarnoff had visited his shop several times along with Leon Leonidorff, then director at Radio City, but never purchased a thing. The proprietor asked Leonidorff what he could do to win over his companion. "Call him General," Leonidorff advised. The storekeeper used Sarnoff's military title the next time around, and made a new customer. □

Pete Peterson's note — Mort, I was on the other end of the camera in the balcony of the Century Theater when Buddy Hackett made that summer series. It was called "Stanley." I remember how overwhelmed Buddy was when he went to speak to the theater audience after the show. He came downstage on the center camera ramp to be as close to the audience as possible. He received round after round of applause. It made him so overjoyed that he was overwhelmed and near to tears. Buddy, not being used to television, didn't know that the audience was being cued by the applause sign above him flashing out:

APPLAUSE..APPLAUSE..APPLAUSE.

Roy Neal, Astronaut (Well, almost)

By Dan Grabel



Edited from a Worldradio magazine article by John G. Troster W6ISQ.

Editors Note: Roy, K6DUE, is well-known among American ham radio operators, is an active ham and producer/writer of a number of videos about the hobby. He himself was the subject of a profile in the April issue of Worldradio magazine.

"Roy Neal, NBC News, Cape Canaveral."

We've all heard that sign off many times watching missile launches on tv. A confidant of many of the astronauts, his closeness and knowledge provided Roy with enriched information for his NBC viewers. Roy's interest with things scientific started with amateur radio in Wayne, Pennsylvania when he was 13 and acquired a broadcast receiver. He listened to DX (far away stations), to local police calls, and one day his speaker was blasted by a very loud station. Roy figured the signal must emanate nearby so he scouted the neighborhood and spotted a ham antenna 3 blocks from his home. He knocked on the door, was invited to the ham shack and he was hooked. A year later he got his first ham license and began a lifetime of building equipment and experimenting.

After graduating from the University of Pennsylvania Roy worked a WIBG radio in Philadelphia as a writer and disc jockey. At the local opposition station, WPEN, he became friendly with announcer Ed McMahan.

During World War II he became a 2nd lieutenant and was shipped to the ETO with the 71st Infantry Division as part of General Patton's Third Army for the Battle of the Bulge. With the war over Roy joined Army Forces Radio in Frankfurt as Program Manager

(Continued on page 36)

PN Vet Celebrates VE-Day

Herb and Mary Polak Celebrate in Herb's native Holland.

Germany invaded the Netherlands May 10, 1940 and in five days the Dutch had surrendered. On May 14, at the very last minute, Herb (17), with his parents and brother (15), escaped. Two days later they arrived in England by fishing trawler.

London was experiencing nightly bombings, so it was decided to leave for the Dutch East Indies. The trip would take them from Liverpool to Halifax, Montreal, Vancouver, Honolulu, and Singapore to Batavia (now Jakarta). During the Atlantic crossing news came that the Japanese had joined the Axis powers. War, undoubtedly, would come to the Far East. A change of plans was called for. A sympathetic French Canadian Immigration officer enabled them to miss their once a month Pacific boat connection, thus giving them time to alter their plans.

Applications for residency in both Canada and the United States were accepted. Herb's father decide on the US. They entered the US, to start new lives, on Dec. 7, 1940, on a train bound for New York City.

Herb and his wife, Mary, made plans to celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the liberation of the Netherlands in Holland on May 5, 1995.

While preparing for their trip they received the sad news that Herb's brother, Johan, had passed away in England on March 18th. That necessitated a round trip flight to England for the funeral. Three weeks later they were in the air again to spend a month in Herb's native Holland.

They stayed with friends in Rotterdam and Blaricum. The highlight of the entire trip for Herb was attending the commemoration at the Soesterberg Air Force base and the Royal Netherlands Navy commemorations at Scheveningen.

Herb is a veteran of the Royal Netherlands Navy (see note) and participated in their military parade with some 600 other veterans, before thousands of cheering onlookers.

Air shows by the Royal Netherlands Air Force were featured at each of the events.

At a parade in Soesterberg they witnessed several army units pass in review among which was a military band on bicycles — playing while riding! It was an incredible sight, complete with bass drum and sousaphones, performed while maneuvering through several fancy and intricate formations.

The events at Scheveningen included a review of the fleet and a simulated amphibious beach landing. The Royal Netherlands Marine Band played at both events.

Another highlight was a visit to the renowned 70 acre gardens at Keukenhof with 6 million tulip bulbs in bloom. "What a magnificent sight!" They visited the miniature town of Madurodam near the Hague, and the Zuiderzeemuseum at Enkhuizen, and the ship *Batavia* — a 17th century merchantman, built to full scale, employing materials and tools used in the sixteen-hundreds near Lelystad.

At the Hague they visited the Mauritshuis with its beautiful collection of paintings and the old palace of Queen Emma (mother of Queen Wilhemina). This is now a museum featuring original works of art by M.C. Escher, a master of optical illusions.

A true PN'er wouldn't miss the Broadcast Museum in Hilversum. Since they last saw it in 1990, it had moved to larger quarters with considerably expanded facilities.

In Amsterdam they visited the Jewish Historical Museum and the General Netherlands Diamond Workers Union Building, which is now a Trade Union Museum for all trade unions. □

NOTE:— The Dutch government (in exile) drafted Herb into the army while he was a student at RCA Institutes in NYC. The Dutch Navy was in dire need of radio technicians — Herb switched to Navy service. He served at Curaçao and later returned to the US to train for the Royal Netherlands Marine Corps. He served until October, 1945. After a variety of jobs and a year as a teacher at RCA Institutes, he joined NBC in 1952, but was laid off six months later. In 1959 he returned to NBC. Among other things, he installed the first Chyron and designed and installed the 4th floor edit rooms. Herb and his wife, Mary, live in Mineola, NY.

According to a new poll, 60 percent of Americans are unable to name the President who ordered the nuclear attack on Japan, and 35 percent do not know that the first atomic bomb was dropped on Hiroshima.

One out of every four people surveyed for America's Talking/Gallup Poll did not even know that Japan was the target of the first atomic bomb. Four percent of the 1,020 adult respondents thought the first bomb had been dropped on some other country. Twenty-two percent knew virtually nothing about an atomic attack. They didn't know where — or, in some cases, even if — such an attack had occurred.

Two percent of those surveyed thought John Kennedy launched the first nuclear strike, and one percent thought it was Richard Nixon.

This is scary.

In an era in which the ability to acquire and properly process information, America insists on being, to a large extent, a nation of nitwits. Consider, for example, some of our recent top-grossing movies: "The Brady Bunch Movie," a ditzy reprise of a ditzy 1970's situation comedy about a terminally ditzy family; "Dumb and Dumber," which is even dumber than the title indicates; and "Billy Madison," a full length made-for-morons motion picture about — what else? — a moron.

I turned on "Beavis and Butt-head" the other night, and it was so much worse — so much more stupid — than anything I had imagined that I just sat staring in astonishment. I had a notebook in my hand, which was ridiculous. You can't make notes about "Beavis and Butt-head."

None of this would be important if we were talking about fads, goofy things that make a momentary appearance, spark a chuckle and pass harmlessly from sight. But that is not what is going on. We are surrounded by a deep and abiding stupidity. Radio talk-show hosts, contemptuous of facts and disdainful toward truth, spew venom — and mindless listeners all across the country cheer.

Each day tens of millions tune in faithfully to the television talk shows, which have come to resemble an imbecile's version of "Can You Top This?" Topics from the past week include: "Teen-age boys who

A Nation of Nitwits

A New York Times column by Bob Herbert

claim to have slept with many girls"; "Virgins tell us about the men they hope will take their virginity"; "People who embarrass their spouses in public"; "A 31-year-old woman who is engaged to a 14 year-old boy," and skinny men with large women."

Some African-American students, unable to extricate themselves from the quicksand of self-defeat, have adopted the incredibly stupid tactic of harassing fellow blacks who have the temerity to take their studies seriously. According to the poisonous logic of the harassers, any attempt at acquiring knowledge is a form of "acting white," and that, of course, is to be shunned at any costs.

If only there were alarms clanging from coast to coast to alert us to our folly. An ignorant populace is a populace in danger. Consider that many of the people who are screaming the loudest about the so-called Republican revolution were too ignorant about the issues of civil responsibility to drag themselves to the polls last November to vote. And then consider the large number of folks who did vote without having a clue as to what they were voting for, or against.

An election night poll showed that nearly half the voters believed that either welfare of foreign aid was the largest item in the Federal budget. They couldn't have been more wrong! These are two of the *smallest* items in the budget.

I spoke to a woman last week who had just made the astonishing discovery that Gerald R. Ford was once President of the United States. "I'm so embarrassed," she said. "I didn't know until I saw the three of them [Mr., Ford, President Clinton and former President Bush] golfing on the news."

Americans who willingly swim in a sea of ignorance can blame themselves when the quality of their lives deteriorates. An example: As the crucial Senate vote on the balanced-budget amendment approached, were most Americans — whatever their political persuasion — aware of the vast implications of this latest attempt to change the Constitution?

No.

If ignorance is bliss, we must be a deliriously happy lot. □

The danger behind the bliss.

"OPERATION SEE" is taken from "TELE VISION newsletter" - published by Pye Limited, Cambridge, England, March, 1957. It was sent to us by PNER Ted Seiter. Ted's story of this event is on page 14.

OPERATION SEE

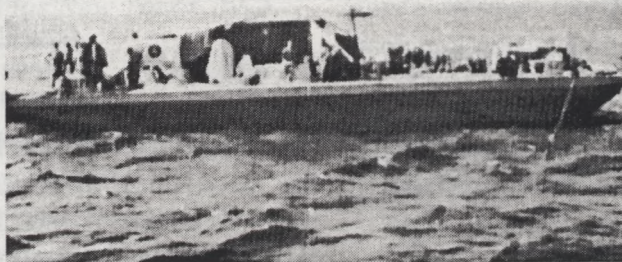
The programs seen by millions of viewers are not all from the heated comfort of a well-lit studio. Outside broadcast departments of TV organizations frequently meet astonishing difficulties and conditions in their effort to give audiences actual, real-life pictures of the world as it is and as events happen. The National Broadcasting Company's Wide Wide World program is literally an adventure in vision which often requires a great deal of technical cooperation from the television industry. This is the fantastic story of one recent program seen by American viewers. It is told by the man who put it on the air.

By Charles O. Jones, Network Producer-Director, National Broadcasting Co.

The LARGO OPERATION was conducted from two barges anchored alongside a reef seven miles out in the Atlantic. Our mission was to show viewers the exploration of this reef by frogmen from the University of Miami. For the first time three TV cameras were employed simultaneously at a depth of forty feet in the open sea. Each camera was hand-held by a free swimmer equipped with a self-contained breathing unit. These cameramen (United States Marines) were supported by other swimmers acting as underwater cablemen.

During my years with NBC, both abroad and in the United States, I have many times encountered difficult operating conditions. To me the name Largo Reef

now takes its place beside my memory of Taejon, Korea, the Turkish Russian Front, the Ever-



One of the two barges used. This one carried the generator supply.

glades of Florida. Above and beyond the harsh physical conditions surrounding this pickup there stood the fantastic problem of attempting to produce a studio quality program beneath the sea. This was met and overcome and

credit due to Pye Limited in successfully surmounting the tremendous odds at Largo Reef cannot be measured. I would particularly like to commend, for their work on location, Mr. William Jones, Manager of Pye Canada and his chief engineer, Mr. Ted Perry.

I was well acquainted with the work of Mr. Jones and Mr. Perry by having collaborated with them on several other shows. At Largo they far surpassed this magnificent record. Their initial recommendations as to the many logistical problems facing the pickup proved invaluable and resulted in the saving of much time. Through their efficient operation of television equipment under jury-rig arrangements might be taken for granted in some quarters, it impressed our network engineers no end.



Three Pye underwater TV cameras were kingpins in the broadcast. They are seen in the foreground. (PNER Ted Seiter is in dark sweater in the center.)



Another Pye product, the Transhailer, proved invaluable as a director's megaphone — modern style.

16 hours of working each day were a common occurrence and these periods were made more difficult by the two-hour ride each way between shore and reef. Many times we were very dependent upon the sea knowledge of Pye representatives and their advise as to putting equipment underwater, laying cables between barges, the movement of small craft on the surface, etc., time and again kept us out of trouble.

Weather had a critical bearing upon the entire operation and unfortunately during the last four days we were beset with cold winds and high seas. At 3 a.m. on the day of the broadcast these elements combined to carry away all anchors and both barges drifted ten miles. All small boats were lost. At dawn the barges were located by ship radar, taken under tow and returned to their original anchorage. I leave to the imagination the work entailed in pushing such awkward craft

back into precise positions, bringing out from shore fresh rope, anchors and small boats and somehow, in a matter of hours, restringing all our cables. at 2:30 that afternoon our first signal was received in New York and at 4:28 we went on the air. During the last 48 hours Pye's men never left our control barge and they were aboard when it broke away and started to drift. At about 4 a.m. both barges were struck by a tanker and by some miracle did not go down. In my opinion we reached the air only through the multiple type aid provided by Pye Canada Limited.

The operating standards of this organization well deserve the envy of all competitors. I'm sure that the bedrock of this perfection lies within such men as William Jones and Ted Perry. We had the opportunity of examining their performance in carrying out a difficult assignment under the most trying conditions.

High seas and cold winds, poor food and little sleep, personal danger and a harsh deadline all combine to work against them, yet they won. It goes without saying that a vehicle such as Wide World would have little chance of reaching the air without aid from points outside of NBC. Under the brilliant supervision of our Director of Special Events, Mr. Barry Wood, this program has reached new heights in bringing information and entertainment to the public. Through the combination of such men as Mr. Jones and Mr. Perry are often unknown to our audience, we at NBC can never forget the great debt which we owe in this field. □

The late Charles O. Jones worked out of WRC, Washington.

more PEOPLE

(Continued from page 15)

Golden Age of Band Music. We had very little sleep and a great time. [The best Jack! - H]

To cap off the visit to NYC, Merk and **WALT VETTER** were ushers at Walt's kid brother's (Age 60) wedding to Janet. The reception was aboard the Evening Star out of Bayshore, L.I. with 110 guests! Needless to say, they rocked, the ship rolled!!

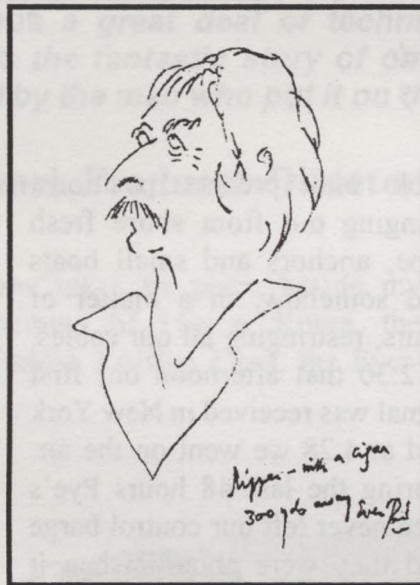
Merk adds to last issue's Bob Hope story: "I was a member of crew 7, with Bill Stone, By Wood, Carl Rohrer, assigned to this telecast. Bob and his entourage sat behind us in the balcony seats during our breaks. NBC and NABET were having a labor crisis. (I remember it as "Bloody Easter." H) Bob was taking it calmly, and in spite of everything did a great performance. Bob, having an audience real close, liked this theater 'cause he could "see the whites of their eyes." (At the time, *The Show of Shows* aired on Saturday Night from the International Theater, that put Hope at WOR's 1440 B'way. - H)

Merk adds, each crew member

received a gift. His was gold cuff links. One engraved "Thanks for the Memories", the other "Sincerely, Bob Hope".

33 years later Merk worked briefly on a project with Bob's daughter, and recalled the incident.

Peter Ustinov directed and played in a comedy show with Alan King in 8H. Peter came in and sat in the director's seat for a scene he was not in. During the take, he drew a caricature of his T.D., Me. The caption says -



"Ripper - with a cigar 300 yards away."

BEN FRANKLIN went through quadruple heart by-pass surgery.

GENE MARTIN, JOE DICSO, ERNIE DE ROSA, JOE MERGNER, RED DONAHOE AND JIM SUNDER had prostate surgery. Red and his wife Shirley spent two weeks in western England and then two more weeks in Tuscany. Gene and his lady Janice have a visit planned to Italy in early October with the **JOHN RUSSO's**.

REUVEN FRANK AND Ed GENDEN both sent us some names to fill in the blanks to Fran DeGennaro's "Graduation" picture of 1973.
13. **Sy AVNET**, Film cameraman
38. **JOHN KRUMPLEBECK** " "
40. **STAN ROTKEWICZ**, Bus. Mgr.
55. **DAVID KLEIN**, Film Assignments.
And Ed adds:
57 as Eddie -??, a long name, he was a Newsfilm Editor.

(**JOHN KRUMPLEBECK** was one of the persons that sent the cameramen out to their stories. He was once a movie actor before coming to NBC - If you look at the footage of the sinking of the Andrea Doria, they pressed him into service as a reporter. One can see him in some of the shots with Gabe Pressman.)

Many thanks, Reuven and Ed, for helping us. Hope you both are in good health and are enjoying your retirement.



BOB ASMAN, worked hard and long for NBC in Washington as a producer. He was involved with many special events, inaugurations, conventions etc.

Bob retired a short while ago, and wanted R & R. Something he wanted to do ever since his discharge from the Navy, where he learned to love ships and the sea, materialized. Bob took a trip on a freighter. Asman compliments his

wife, Nan, as awfully good about encouraging him to do this.

He boarded his Mediterranean Line container ship at Port Elizabeth, N.J. The ship took him down the East coast to Baltimore and then Norfolk. They turned around and came back to New York and headed for the long jaunt to Antwerp, Belgium, Hamburg, Bremerhaven, Felixtowe (where?),

(Next page)

England, and Le Havre before heading west across the Atlantic, to Boston and finally back to good old New Jersey

Producer Asman didn't bunk in the engine room. He had a large air-conditioned double stateroom with his own shower and toilet, a large port hole and a small refrigerator. The crew were mostly Italian and of course the food had to be outstanding. Says it was!

Sailor Asman said: for anyone who enjoys ships at sea and has the time, I recommend it as a wonderful, relaxing vacation. He read four books, did some writing and mostly relaxed. He had the run of the ship and spent a good deal of time on the bridge (can't stay away from the control room syndrome) checking their position and speed and enjoying the view!

A recent Press Release:

**The COMMISSION ON
PRESIDENTIAL DEBATES
Names ROBERT ASMAN
EXECUTIVE PRODUCER of
the 1996 Debates**

The co-chairman of the Commission on Presidential Debates, Paul G. Kirk, Jr. and Frank Fahrenkopf, Jr. today announced that Robert Asman will be the executive producer of the CPD's 1996 presidential debates. (This is a rather detailed long release, so I have taken the liberty to summarize.)

"Bob Asman has a long record of accomplishments in network television and we are pleased to have him on the CPD team for 1996," Kirk and Fahrenkopf said. "Bob has been network pool producer for the full range of high-

level political events, including the CPD's debates in 1988 and 1992, economic and NATO summits, political conventions and presidential trips. He brings extensive professional expertise and familiarity with the CPD to his new role. Bob will be a strong and respected leader of our 1996 production crew, who join us in welcoming him to the CPD."

"I see my appointment as an exciting challenge and look forward to working an historic series of debates in 1996," Asman said. Since leaving NBC in 1993, Asman served as pool TV producer for a consortium of four Denver TV stations for both World Youth Day and the visit to Denver by the Pope, President Clinton and Vice President Gore. Most recently he has done communications and media training with Susan Peterson Productions. (Glad you had a chance to rest up before all this starts up, Bob. - H)

BARBARA STREISAND

Do you remember seeing "Color Me Barbara" on CBS in 1966 ?? CBS had a replay last week of her first color program. Her very first was in B&W.

Dwight Hemion asked Bill Klages, Ed Gebhart and me to go to the Philadelphia Museum, because he was going to make another Streisand program. Since we had done her previous "My Name Is Barbara" at Bergdorf's and outside the Plaza, we were happy to do it.

Friday afternoon we set up to start rehearsing and taping at Mid-night.- Since it was on CBS, we had a CBS crew, with audio and video lines to NYC where it was



recorded and played back to us.

We had walked through and selected locations on a previous visit. We were using Phillips color cameras, on a remote production, probably the first. I had a pl to 57th Street to the tape fellow, who was CBS's best, but forgive me for not remembering his name. (My memory file is still rumbling with old 6th Hour News sequences.)

We did the first few segments; Klage couldn't prelight it all, so while Klages worked, Barbara rested between takes. It was quite amazing - the scenic wonders that were available in the museum made great sets. This went on for the whole weekend around the clock without stopping. It was good we had no windows, for it seemed like only a long night. Still Barbara, after catnaps, was up and at 'em. She was just a delight and no temperament, willing to anything, some things change.

As Bill and I had done other "outside" programs (like The Tiajuana Brass (Herb Alpert) from California and Mexico) - we used pseudonyms, "cause we weren't supposed to do that!" In reality we all tried something different. For ex:

(continued on next page)

(Continued from page 35)

like the "T J Brass Show" - a 26 foot crane; live mixed with tracked music, RF pl's, doing matched dissolves - tape to live (with now antiquated equipment) - the T.J. Brass scene, of a really jumping ballroom, to the same scene years later, turned to dilapidation. (a new meaning for the word). Exteriors, interiors, choppers - all this experience really benefitted both NBC and us. My T.D. credit ran thru, as: **Thorwald Gunther**

Bobby Galvin was the big boss then, and he asked me, when I would like my suspension for working for CBS. I told him and spent a week in Florida resting up from a vacation I had worked through in California. Bob was a great boss as well as a real person! How ya doing Bob? Drop us a note, we'd all like to hear from you. □ (HR)

Another note on the Bob Hope story in the last PN news: My recollection of that opus was helping carry a fearless dolly up to the balcony (no elevator). Heavy, heavy! During the NA-BET slowdown it took all of Hope's persuasive powers to convince us of the urgent need for a dolly camera in the balcony. It remained stationary for the entire show!! I didn't get any cuff links. Frank Vierling

**I'm running out of
NEWS.**

**Send in your Pix
and Stories.**

Keep PN Alive!

[All pictures are returned]

Heino

Roy Neal (Continued from page 29)

and soon after, when amateur radio was allowed to return to the airwaves, he got another ham license.

Back home, he got his first job in tv at WPTZ, Plattsburg, NY as a news director and special events manager. First day on the job he spotted a church fire across the street from the station and he grabbed a cameraman and rushed to do a remote. Also at WPTZ at that time, was a new announcer named Ernie Kovacs.

Roy joined the NBC network in 1952 in LA as supervisor of News, covering the western states and Korea. One assignment was in the Nevada desert where they were doing nuclear testing. Roy witnessed it in a trench, half a mile from ground zero! He moved into aerospace coverage during early experimental work at Edwards Air Force base in California.

He was on the scene for the Thor, Atlas, Jupiter and Redstone programs, and for Alan Shepard's "first man in space" flight for which he produced the live coverage. Later Roy became the NBC anchor for the Mercury, Gemini and Apollo space missions.

Roy was responsible for putting ham radio in space. In 1984, knowing astronaut Owen Garriot, W5LFL, was a ham, he proposed the idea of letting hams contact Garriot. Today, most missions include a licensed ham, and because of Roy's involvement students at schools around the world are in contact with astronauts in space.

His biggest thrill in all those years came on the Apollo 13 flight when an oxygen tank blew up and forced 3 astronauts into the lunar model designed for 2 people. Roy was the only reporter permitted in Mission Control and spent 36 hours reporting the rescue adventure which had a happy ending.

PNer Roy now lives in High Point, North Carolina, wife Pat's home town. His 2 sons, Mark and David are tv producers. □



The first seven astronauts: Scott Carpenter, Gordon Cooper, John Glenn, Virgil Grissom, Walter Schirra, Alan Shepard, Donald Slayton. (Schirra was an Oradell, NJ boy, I was in the Boy Scouts with him. - FV)

Hal Gurney Retires

We learned today that our old friend Hal Gurney would do his last show, for both NBC and CBS, because on May 26th Hal would start his retirement. He will continue as a consultant on the David Letterman show, where he has worked for thirteen or fourteen years before moving to CBS the last two years. Hal told my son Glenn that he is looking forward to retirement to spend his time traveling and fishing.

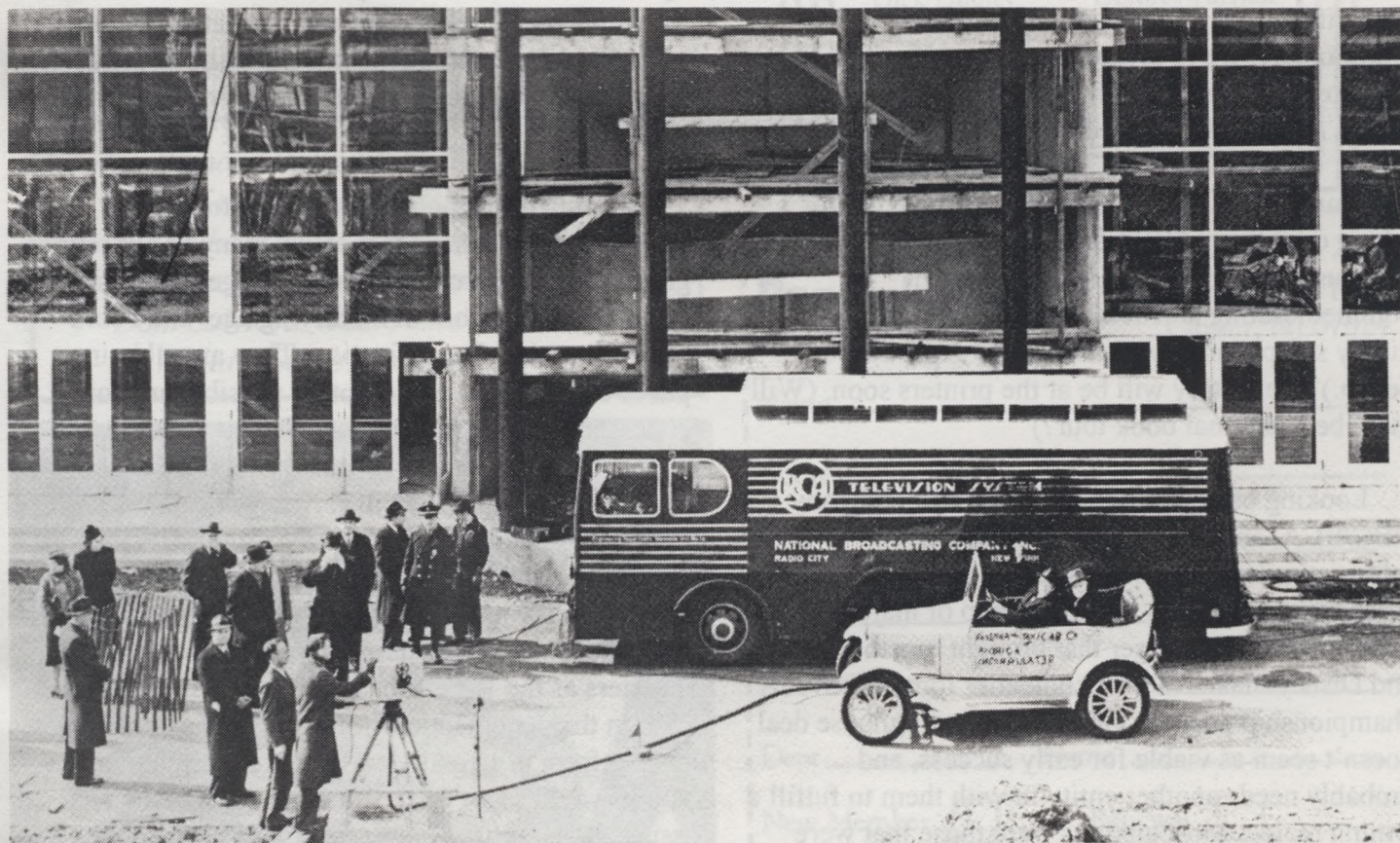
Many of us retirees who enjoyed working with Hal on the different shows he was connected with, such as the Jack Paar show, Johnny Carson, and John K.M.

McCaffery 11th Hour News, wish him well in his retirement.

On Hal's last day on the David Letterman show David gave him a great send off, pointing out how important Hal was to both the show and to David. He presented Hal with a beautiful bronze plaque, commemorating his many years with the show. It is to be affixed to the control room door at the Ed Sullivan Theater in New York City. □ (Ken Arber)

This item appeared along with Ken's Korner in the August issue of the NBC Florida Retirees newsletter. We thought our northern members would like this remembrance of Hal and some of the work he did while he was with NBC.

World's Fair 1939 . . . one small step for NBC TV.



NBC's first regular television service went on the air locally in 1939. One of the features was President Roosevelt's address opening the RCA Exhibit Hall at the New York World's Fair. In front of the hall, seen nearing completion, is NBC mobile unit 1A. In the white car are Freeman Gosden and Charles Correll aboard their "Amos & Andy" Fresh-Air Taxicab Co., America Incorporated.

A MESSAGE FROM PETE PETERSON



This edition of the PN newsletter was produced by the efforts and talents of Frank Vierling. He took his computer along with all of his belongings to his summer home in Raymond, Maine. While we usually free our

selves from work tasks while vacationing, Frank, a dedicated PN'er spent a large part of his time putting this newsletter together while enjoying the view from his lakeside cottage at pretty Panther Pond. Thanks too to the following: Ripp for continuing his PN People column and to Dan Grabel and Roy Silver for spending time on summer days gathering up the latest Rock Center news.

Additionally, we're always looking to Ken's Korner for entertaining stories of yesteryear, and the hilarity of Hal Alexander's comedies.

I must add a special thanks to Heino Ripp for taking over the publication of our last issue. Frank was busy finishing his History of Oradell commemorating its 100th anniversary, so Ripp kindly stepped in. (We have a little depth on our bench.) The history will be at the printers soon. (Will there be a national book tour?)

Looking back from retirement at our company NBC/RCA, and the industry, we see that the information/entertainment super highway has had some twists and turns in the makeup of major participants. The merger that brought together ABC and Disney makes them a contender for a championship position. The CBS/Westinghouse deal doesn't seem as viable for early success, and probably needs another entity in with them to fulfill a wining recipe. Most anxious were those that were awaiting news wondering when something was going to happen to NBC. Well, they must have missed it when it had already happened. GE Chairman Jack Welch had beaten them all to the punch back in '86

when he scooped up RCA including NBC at what now turns out to be bargain basement prices. He was years ahead of the crowd. In addition, when the recent ABC/Disney deal came in at a huge price \$19 Billionish, it automatically skyrocketed the value of NBC more than anyone would want to admit to. It would be a shocking event now to learn that GE would give up control of such a financially enticing situation. It could be enhanced by an alliance for production material. As outlined elsewhere in this edition, the giganticness of the GE/NBC ownerships in medias has not been realized publicly. Further growth and expansion would seem sure to follow. GE is outstanding as one of the greatest entities and corporate miracles of AMERICA.

For those who miss the easier days of NBC/RCA, we can take solace in the fact that the company ended up in stronger rather than weaker hands. GE made a billion dollar plus gesture a couple of years ago in the new tax law requirements for set-asides for employee benefits. Our hope is that all members will be able to continue in the GE health benefits program and that the company doesn't alter their good record.

Turning to the political situation today, it is fraught with situations that affect many in our retiree group - the health care reform package, the social security omnibus bill in modifying age, and cobra and income level qualification. They are all being put to threatening tests. Another possible area of concern is the new discussion of a flat tax. Most of our group doesn't need as much assistance in generating a tax form as in earlier working years. A flat tax may do away with the over age 55 \$125,000 credit deduction for the sale of property as a capital gain, and may remove any loss carry-forward deductions one might have accrued from such disasters as the '87 crash. It seems as nutty as the OJ case in that a contender for the presidency is basing his platform principally on the introduction of a flat tax. It would seem there would be other greater issues more compelling to consider in a candidate running for President than the need and importance of doing taxes on a post card. (Sorry, Forbes Jr.)

The good news for our group is, this edition

comes along with a much desired PN membership telephone list. Our thanks to Frank Vierling who invented this ingenious pop out booklet. He typed each entry in and devised a way to make it all happen economically and inclusively in the publishing system. We hope you put the list to good use.

The tentative date for La Maganette Retrorepast is Sunday, May 19, 1996. There are hundreds of stories out there - what you did when - and what you are doing now, so please send in your stories and pictures for future issues.

Please send in your dues of \$20. by Jan. 1, 1996. Help keep **PN** going. We solicit no commercial ad space and rely solely on our members dues.

And last but not least, the staff here at **PN** wishes everyone a Happy Holiday season. Starting with Thanksgiving, through Christmas, and Hanukkah, and a very special wish to all for a Healthy, Happy and Prosperous New Year.

Regards, Pete

Welcome to Our Newest Members

Richard Ballad, New York, NY
Kevin Kelly, Jackson, NJ
Ann Lockheart, Perrysburg, OH
Philip McEneny, Larchmont, NY
Dom Salvio;a, West Palm Beach, FL
William Staub, Toms River, NJ



Nostalgia - Red Skelton and the up-and-coming team of Dean Martin and Jerry Lewis.

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 Gloria Clyne Mort Hochstein
 Jerry Cudlipp Tony Nelle
 Dick Dudley Dolores Parylak
 Roy Silver

◆
 And a special thanks to
 Peg Peterson and Lois Vierling

Peacock North

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New Member ☐ Renewal ☐

Dues: \$20 Per Year - due January 1, 1996
 Make Checks payable to Peacock North
 Open to NBC Employees with 25 Years or more.

A PICTURE FROM OUR ARCHIVES



Frontiers of Faith - About 1956(?)

Sort of Front Row

- 1
- 2 Elwyn Allen
- 3 Dan Zampino
- 4 Bill Goetz
- 5 Doris Ann
- 6
- 7 Martin Hoade
- 8
- 9
- 10

Sort of Back Row

- 11 Hank Gerling
- 12
- 13 Don Mulvaney
- 14
- 15 Bill Kelly
- 16 Buddy Josephs
- 17 Bill Raker
- 18
- 19
- 20
- 21
- 22 Hidden
- 23
- 24
- 25

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