

Peacock North

SPRING, 1995



Volume IV Edition 1

Peacock North to Hold Annual Spring Gala

La Maganette site of NBC Retiree Reunion



*Easy to get to -
La Maganette is on the corner
of 3rd Avenue and 50th Street.
See You there!*

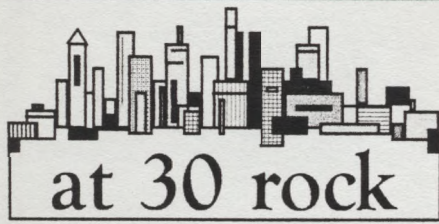
Peacock North will hold its 8th annual reunion at a favorite Manhattan restaurant. If one can judge from past experience this event will again top the rating charts for good food, good drink, good fellowship, and short speeches. Lots of schmooze time with that guy or gal you haven't see since.....

So mark your calendars for Sunday May 21, **"For a Date in Manhattan."** You're assured a great time. Meet your old friends (and we are getting "old") for an unforgettable afternoon of nostalgia. If you plan to attend, dig out *all* your service award pins and wear them.

Fill out the coupon on page 22, — **JOIN US!**

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By Dan Grabel



We experienced a touch of *déjà* vous when we watched the NBC network a short time ago. There, again were familiar correspondents faces that made a veteran think back a couple of decades. Looking and sounding the same as ever. **John Palmer** and **Tom Pettit**, who had both departed the net a good while ago, were again on the scene. That's not a common scenario. Usually, once gone, that's it. So we say welcome home.

There aren't an army of old time correspondents still at work for the Peacock, but we do still see **Robert Hagar**, **Robert Buzzell** and that longtime survivor, **Irving R. Levine**.

Like all the nets, NBC has a team on the scene in L.A. for the O.J. Simpson trial. **Michele Dabney-Perez**, most recently an anchor and reporter at WTVJ, our O&O in Miami, is now serving as the lead reporter for WNBC. For Michele its a return to familiar

stamping grounds since she was once with the Orange County (Calif.) Cable News Service. Another N.Y. local reporter, **Dana Adams**, has taken an assignment with NBC's EXTRA, covering the trial. Additionally, the local NY station can call on NBC NEWS Channel, KNBC, and affiliate reporters on the scene for additional material.

The company's internal news dissemination system changes and changes. Way back, it was merely a notice on a bulletin board. Then when we got computers, News prexy Reuven Frank put out an occasion notice, something called the "True Rumor etc." to counteract current incorrect rumors. Now, its E-Mail. We glimpsed a recent piece of mail from, **Bruno Cohen** of local news to his staff. Everyone has a personal abbreviated code name, (for example: SCHEKNY@tcswnbc) and most of the code names end up longer that the individual's actual name in order to get the computer to direct it to that person. One January note to staff actually required 36 lines of type to get it addressed to one and all. Cohan's actual message only required 10 lines of type.

Live at Five is sharing the Today show studio in the storefront studio and management figures they've got the premier studio location in the city.

Every couple of years local or network decides its time to renovate the newsroom for more efficiency. The process for local news began in January with all hands required to warehouse a

lot of files, etc. for the next year, and move a little closer to each other. Technical facilities are to be updated too, including microwave signals, update assignment desk, redesigned edit rooms, etc. etc. and the price tag will be \$4 1/2 million. Now if they could only improve the quality; a little less schlock, a little more substance. News director Bruno Cohen says the station also will have "better interaction with its viewers." However the print reports we read did not explain that last item.

Commings and Goings

Vince Delisi, formerly of WFAN radio, has joined the News 4 staff as weekend sportscaster. He replaced **Jon Frankel**, who moved to the network sports roster.

Bill Boggs, a longtime fixture at most of the local NY stations over the past decades, has been axed by Live at Five. Its said they told Boggs they wanted someone with a fatter journalistic background. But don't cry for Boggs, he's regularly on the TV-Food network, a cable operation, he's also got a pilot that aired on ESPN, and is producing another titled "Three Minutes of Fame," a talk show idea. Mmm, Andy Warhol, who coined the phrase, said we'd all have 15 minutes of fame but the idea seems to be axed too.

We don't know about the journalistic credentials of NBC president **Bill Bolster**, but he's prepared for covering a big story if he gets the call. Seems Bolster's car has a phone. siren. a flashing light, and police radio scanner.

Jay Leno's band leader **Bradford Marsalis** had said he was getting tired of the Tonight show, and in January he took a "leave of absence" so he could tour, and Marsalis said, "so he could see more of his 8 year old son." Well going on tour is a good reason, but if he's on tour he ain't gonna see more of his son, he'll see less.

Magee Hickey has split. She's ankled Channel 4 for Channel 2, to work for **Jerry Nachman**, himself a Channel 4 alumnus. It'll be a familiar scene for Hickey, who worked for NBC for 9 years, since she'll also join **Bud Carey**, the GM who also once worked at 30 Rock.

Retiree **Edie Cahill**, a longtime fixture at local, has pulled up stakes in Hasting-on-Hudson and moved south to Stuart, Florida. Edie says she won't miss the hefty estate taxes she had to shell out annually for her Westchester condo. Edie had a Christmas visit from **Ann Kramer**, the golden girl of the west, who has long had her teepee in Albuquerque. That's the way to see the world as a retiree. Find old friends who live in exotic places and who have an extra bedroom! We've got 'em now in Salt Lake City and Tucson, formerly had one in Athens (Greece not Georgia), and of course there's relatives in Britain. Edie's new address is Vista Pines Q-1, 2600 S. Ocean Blvd, Stuart, FL 34996, and she'd like to hear from old friends.

Its amazing some of the stories about celebrities the press will latch on to. Seems **Jane Pauley** was in a taxi with one of her children when they found a teddy

bear left by a pervious rider. Jane made a serious effort to find the owner. **Roy Silver**, who kindly does news clipping for this column, found the report in no less than three papers. NBC said it got 200 phone calls regarding the teddy, but none from the owner.

Peter Lassally, a long timer at NBC, is one of the executive producers of Tom Snyder's late show following Letterman. Lassally had previously worked with **Snyder** on CNBC.

Ever since Today went into the window back in 1952, publicity-seeking pranksters have held up signs. There was the day when a guy showed up in a gorilla suit and when the cameras picked him up, he pulled out a sign reading "Watch King Kong on Channel 9."

Nightly News viewers were told one night that they were watching an exclusive interview with David Smith, the young, estranged, husband of the woman charged with murdering her two children by sending them into a lake while strapped into the family car. Turns out that CBS Evening News and ABC World News Tonight were simultaneously running similar interviews with Smith. On the west coast re-run, NBC dropped the word "exclusive."

After more than 60 years, the BBC has closed its office at Rockefeller Center and moved up to 68th Street, near ABC.

And after 20 years at PBS, **Robert MacNeil**, once of NBC, is taking retirement in October. MacNeil, who is 64, isn't seen

often on the show which was once called the "Robert MacNeil Report," then the "MacNeil-Lehrer Report." and now, "News Hour." His own announcement made it sound like MacNeil is sacrificing himself because the show has a budget problem and his departure will mean one less big salary to dole out and will preserve jobs of lower paid staffers.

A lot of friends of the late **Drew Philips**, who died last fall at 67, gathered at a memorial dinner recently to recall days with him at NBC, ABC, CBS, and earlier at the World Telegram & Sun. It was an impressive roster: **Stan Bernard, Bill Chesligh, Gloria Clyne, Tom Collins, Jerry Conners, Les Crystal, Les Dennis, Ken Donohue, Judy and Gene Farinet, Marilyn Jacobs Furey, Joan Gifford, Sandy Goodman, Harry Griggs and his wife, Tom McCabe, Paul Meskill, Gil Millstein and wife Barbara, Lois Marino, Shad Northshield, Norma Quarles, Al Bossins, Jerry Rosholt, Mike Silver and wife Arlene, Bruce Sloan. and Bambi Tascarella** among others. That list makes it sound like a Nightly News reunion.

We're told the "Drew" stories were endless, and most of them opened with. "Drew was in the control room when...." **Marilyn Schultz**, aka Chickee, who now lives in Texas, couldn't be there in person but she sent along a poignant letter. Said Marilyn: "Ours were the good old days. The days when NBC News was the last to leave the air election

night. The last to leave the bar to catch the plane to the next primary. Satellite feeds. Smiles. Martinis. Maalox. Hurleys. Huntley Brinkley. No faxes, no phonies, just hard-working cronies." And to Drew, somewhere out there, she added, "I don't see your spirit soaring in the clouds tonight, nor do I see it making its way down the River Styx. I feel it in this room, in my heart, and that's where it will stay until we all join you."

There was wit, there was nostalgia, there were tears and there were sobs. Everyone enjoyed laughing and crying so much that they all promised to gather again at the Toledo restaurant on East 36th street next December 7th. Why December 7th? That was the date which figured in one of the "Drew stories." Those efficient little organizers, Gloria and Bambi, set it all up.

Which brings us back to NBC today. In the old days we had a policy book, but I don't remember it being circulated. People knew right from wrong, facts from fakery, and as journalists we knew the preservation of the net's integrity went along with the job.

Today, the company has an Integrity guide "Integrity: The Spirit and the Letter" and one and all must sign a form acknowledging receipt of the booklet. Let's hope its practiced from the very top to the very bottom. Of course, we're all aware of a few digressions from the book. You know, job postings, vindictiveness, retribution.

Remember all those stories a few months back about the big

money outfits that wanted to buy NBC? Viacom. Disney, Time Warner, Ted Turner, among others. NBC didn't take a lickin' and it kept on tickin'.

WNBC Management is very happy with the sweeps results for January and February. In the second month, for instance: Today tied for first place (5.1); Live at Five did well (6.2); News 4 at 6pm (7.9); and later Seinfeld (27.1); ER (25.7) while the competition was registering 14.0 and less. Leno even tied with Letterman at 6.5

New York is news hungry. So much so that **Bruno Cohan**, the local news director, announced that Today in New York was adding 25 minutes and would broadcast from 5:30 to 6am.

More about Leno. He was constantly making the Amtrak railroad the butt of his monologue comments and Amtrak decided it had had enough and announced it was cancelling \$2-million worth of commercial time on NBC. **Bob Wright** wasn't too happy. But the cancellation won't hurt Tonight show income since Amtrak does not advertise on the show.

Things have really changed since we all departed 30 Rock. Now, every time you turn around you discover NBC is in another scheme to make big bucks. Highlights from "Today," for example will be available in a print magazine that is published every fortnight. Subscription \$16.95 for 6 months. (Phone 1-800-TODAY 94). ABC's "Good Morning America" has been offering a similar publication for

the past 2 years.

CEO **Bob Wright** reports to the troops at the end of January on a 2-day meeting of 150 NBC executives in L.A. The object was to immerse the group in the current activities and future plans of various operating divisions. Wright himself outlined the company's activities in the rapidly-expanding media universe and the need for NBC to explore every opportunity to expand its role at home and abroad.

Speakers include **Bill Bevens**, CEO of New World Communications, **Jonathan Dolgen**, Chairman of Viacom Entertainment, **John Malone**, President and CEO of Tele-Communications, **David Stern**, commissioner of the NBA, **Roger Ailes** of CNBC, **Don Ohlmeyer**, **Dick Ebersol** and others.

Ailes said that CNBC has 500 employees in Fort Lee producing more than 160 hours of original programming each week for CNBC and America's Talking.

NBC's cable operations are among the largest in the country with 19 programming services in addition to CNBC and America's Talking, and our Superchannel in Europe reaches 65 million households in 32 countries. NBC recently launched a business news service in Asia. In other multi-media efforts NBC has a Desktop News Service in the USA, a Data Network, and participates in on-line computer services, electronic publishing and other methods of delivery.

Ebersol outlined the net's future sports offerings, including the NBA, the NFL, including 2 superbows, Major League

baseball — if and when there is baseball — Wimbledon, U.S. Open golf, and the 1996 summer Olympics in Atlanta. Bob Wright summed up the results of the 2 day gathering as “one of the most productive and energizing management meetings NBC has ever had.”

Roger Mudd, erstwhile anchor, is now at the History Channel hosting “History Alive”, which is an anthology of documentaries on world and U.S. history.

And finally, there’s a battle on between two major food

purveyors for the right to operate a restaurant at the northwest corner of the 30 Rock block. The Riese Organization, New York’s biggest restaurant company, has operated Lindy’s there for 16 years but a company organized by David Liederman, of David’s Cookies, wants to use the space for a restaurant with a “television city” theme. Both sides claim they originated the idea. Rockefeller Center wants to evict Lindy’s so they too are part of the litigation. Shall we bring back Walgreens, or who

ever ran that drug store at that busy corner years ago? Yeah, and what about bringing back Hurley’s and its beery aroma? And Sager’s and all those inexpensive restaurants west of 6th avenue on 49th street. Let’s throw in the nickel subway and the nickel beer. I think its time to go. (Editors note: Again we’re indebted to **Roy Silver** for perusing the daily press for much of this scuttlebutt. DG)

□

Dan Grabel and his wife Pat live in Scarsdale, NY.

LETTERS! LETTERS! WHERE ARE THOSE LETTERS! Dan Grabel

The scribes who put together your PN newspaper have a problem. No fiction is permitted, so we must scrounge for news. And that’s a tough assignment when your audience is scattered all over the map. If you like the nostalgia and desire to know what old friends are doing, won’t you write to Pete Peterson — a post card or a letter with a little info so we can pass it along to our members: What you did on your last vacation to Zamboanga. How you caught three piranha in the Amazon and had them for lunch (Pat Grabel actually did that on an around the world trip with her niece!). Or how you worked a per diem assignment on say, “Murder She Wrote.” Seriously, chums, we are lucky to have people like Roy Silver who read and clip 5 papers a day for us, but if you live in Albuquerque (Ann Kramer), or Sault St. Marie we have no way of knowing about your 15th grandchild, or your skiing trip to St. Moritz etc, etc. You may think your life is a bore - but let us decide. Try us! WRITE TODAY!



February 5, 1995 - 70th Birthday Party for Lee Carlton

The Sunshine Boys

Back Row: Joe Bascietto, Hank Folkerts, Sid Chomsky, Ken Arber, Walt Vetter, Hank Gerling, Ron Mitchel, Ed Taffe.

Front Row: Dom Salviola, Lee Carlton, Gary Iorio.

As we go to press, Lee Pliskin writes that his wife, Irene, had a kitchen fall, December 26, at first it seemed minor, but eventually required brain surgery. Cards or calls would be appreciated during her extended recovery.

Lee and Irene Pliskin
130 9th Street
Beach Haven, NJ 08008
609-492-3526

P.N. People

by **Heino Ripp**



Hope you all have been well since our last peacock flew. I was quite thankful that there wasn't any snow here until January's few dustings, but then there still lies much residue of the 12-14 inches from the most recent blast. Still have 7-8 inches on the back deck, kept there with the below zero nights, a far cry from just before Christmas week, when I was out watering the new emerging grass from my fall's toilings. Quel difference!

In December, **Joe Milroy** (residing at Boynton Beach, Fl.) sent us a piece from a previous PN Newsletter December, reminding us that PN issues were

to be sent **FREE** to members who were 80 or older. Joe will be 82 this April, having been retired from NBC for 19 years! Joe was working at NBC, when TV was first walking around in diapers, and was very much involved in the earliest broadcasts. I personally remember him as a very professional and terrific, likable gentleman. Hearing from Joe always brings a pleasant smile and warmest feeling. He writes: "I thoroughly enjoyed the Fall 1994 issue with its wealth of information on individuals, many of whom I had the pleasure of knowing during my tenure. But - there are so many technical staff members whose experiences I enjoy reading even though our paths never crossed over the years..

I do recall many "Old Timers" whose names and faces come easily to mind, such as **O.B (Hanson, earliest Eng. VP)**, **Doc Shelby, Morris, Rackey, Guy, Compton, Pickard** et al. - Also that studio 5F group of **Hoffmeister, Neuman** and most certainly Heino Ripp, who became so instrumental in the development and growth of the Peacock North publications.... **Ken Arber** - he of the retentive mind has been a great contributor." "It does seem true that as one ages, the more recent

happenings fade, while memories of earlier times remain quite vivid."

"What a joy it was when I reached the Peacock Far North story on Page 28. All those familiar faces from decades ago stirred up happy memories. Helen, Mary, Fran and Marie - all great gals who made work days really pleasant.. And the **Howdy Doody contingent of Roger and (Bobby) and Rip**. Also mild mannered **Gary**, particularly so, when I recall the ebullient **Bill Garden**."

"I was interested to note the locale of the Far North gathering, since my wife and I spent enjoyable summer vacations with our three boys at Lake Winnepesaukee in the early fifties."

"I appreciate the time and effort spent by all those who work to keep P.N. so successful. I particularly thank whoever it was who suggested recognizing all "80 plus members" with the freebie." Regards to all whose memories mesh with mine from the 30's to the 70's!" --- **JOE MILROY**

Thanks Joe, for taking the time to write. Love to have your photo!

-- If all readers would send a spare recent photo of yourself, with a fully lighted face, I'd love to have a roster of pictures to use for these issues. - H.)

p. n. people - B.

Gene Martin played host with his lady, Janice, to a Super-Bowl-Watching party.. They served a delicious, humongous half-time dinner..

Gene spent the end of the year disposing of his condo and apartment in Florida. (Also, since he didn't win the Lottery, he had to dump his jet. Kept the Caddie tho)...

Non attendee **Frank Gaeta** called in sick but kept calling in to check his standing in the pool that **Ernie DeRosa** organized. **Bob Van Ry** - Stage Manager extraordinaire, did attend and reported all the dirt news of what's happening at 30 Rock. Bob just returned from Florida, visiting the **Warren Zito's**, and from Bob's own condo complex, visited **Tom & Eunice Smiley**. Tom plays a lot of golf these days and Eunice joins in when she can..

Ginnie and Phil Hymes took time to escape from their country castle to grace us with their presence..... Phil still spends some time at the old 30 Rock, lighting consulting for **Lorne Michaels** on SNL and the replacement for the Letterman Show in 6A(Conan?). In their spare time, Phil and wife do something totally different from show biz. They breed and nurture puppies. (Ginnie produced Broadway Shows). Their daughter conducts a Symphony in the Carolinas and in Columbus Ohio, and son, is a TV producer in Boston. Phil and the Missus both are well and looked "Mah-vell-us."

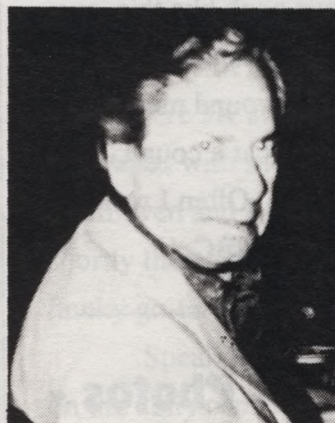
Ernie De Rosa looked well. Is enjoying the Spring weather we're having to play some golf. **John Russo** and his better half, **Ro**, attended as was usual for The Super-Bowl Sunday. They are going to Italy together with Gene and Janice, going touring the high spots with them for a few weeks.

Phil Hymes - Gene Martin - Ernie DeRosa - Frank Gaeta

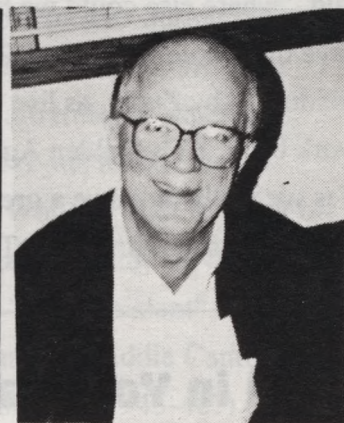


Phil Hymes
giving an
opinion of
the wine

JANICE-GENE'S
lady with
GINNIE,
MRS. Hymes



John Russo



Bob Van Ry

p.n. people - C.

We did the last "Live from 8H" Concert with Zubin Mehta as conductor. Shortly after, I was presented an award of some sort by company dignitaries, amongst them was **Bob Mulholland**, Pres. of NBC. Knowing I had TD's the concerts, the Pres. assured me it was a great show --- but noted that it's rating was the **lowest of ANY NBC show ever**. . . So - all of you who worked the show in 8H that afternoon, should thank Bob Mulholland for letting NBC go to such an expense to supply us with a marvelous setting, a full symphony orchestra of the greatest musicians in the world; famous vocal stars like **Beverly Sills** and **Placido Domingo** to entertain us with such beautiful music - almost for us alone, as we worked in 8H that Sunday afternoon, [just doing our job]...

On another occasion, we were at Alice Tulley Hall to do another concert by the famous pianist **Vladimir Horowitz**. As usual we arrived early, started to set up. Shortly afterwards, still having a lot to do, the orchestra members arrived. Soon Zubin had them rehearsing their concert de jour. We were clanking and banging a bit, but Zubin kept on rehearsing - for the next few hours.

At one point, **Scotty Schacter** and I looked at each other, sat down for a few minutes, and Scot said, "where else could we have a job like this, we have the whole New York Philharmonic Orchestra, conducted by Zubin, as live background music to work by! TV's Golden Age -(What a country!) Yes we really did have a great Job. Often I would have *paid* to go to work... Thanks NBC...

**Send in Your Latest Photos -
Update my foto File ! [H.]**



ZUBIN MEHTA

Photographed off the

PROGRAM MONITOR DURING REHEARSAL

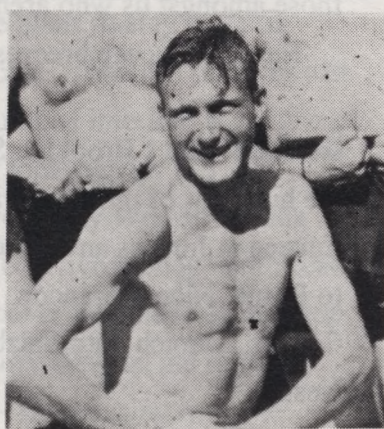
Cheryl Thacker (Lighting Director) would like it if PN would keep up with the "bought-outs" the way we do with the retirees. (The number seems to be increasing logarithmically these days.)

Cheryl had some great years at NBC before GE and says she has many fond memories. Asks to please say "hello" to all and a joyful '95. She and her husband have a daughter in first grade - Claire Elaine Sayers. Cheryl works 4 or 5 days a month, and once in a while bumps into some of you. She wants to be in the country (South Salem, NY) and then again she wants sometime to be back in NYC. Cheryl always had a great feel for lighting that makes everything look good. All the best Cheryl.

TUNE IN TO THE NBC HAM NET

p. n. people D

Bob Bartnick says he can't operate on the NBC Ham Band, but he listens. . So Hams say hello to Bobo. (or is that illegal ((one way conversations???) What are you doing? Send me a picture and a note (Ripp)



The Bobo we used to know
A FEW YEARS AGO !



Jack Marshall exclaims :

"That last issue of P.N. newspaper/magazine was the best ever. I don't know how you all do it but I'm glad to see that you do. I fully realize the work that goes into compiling and publishing such an ambitious periodical". Jack's book **LOOKING BACK** , will be published by Random House in the Spring - April or May. Jack says You'll love it because the thoughts are a philosophical journey down Memory Lane. Jack happily notes that **all is well** at this end and this epistle should mark the last **typewritten** piece, for the word processor has

been unwrapped and as it stands in front of him - does not intimidate him any longer... (Very shortly Jack, you'll wonder why this moment hadn't arrived years ago. H.)

Ray Weiss was to close on his new house in June. By now he has a Boca Raton address. Regretfully we mislaid his letter.

He comments on Dick Dudley's Dinah article: Dick mentions Dinah Shore's appearance on the "Chamber Music Society of Lower Basin Street". I am proud to say I was able to provide Dr. Gino with copies of that show. When NBC closed the warehouse on 52nd Street that housed the entire disc collection of broadcasts on the NBC Radio Network, I was able to rescue copies of some of the shows. Dick refers to Dinah going to the Eddie Cantor Show from the Chamber Music Society. Her last show was September 30, 1940 where she put together some special lyrics for the occasion. The Show was Broadcast 9:00 - 9:30 PM on the Blue Network and included Paul Lavalle, Music Director. Henry "Hot Lips" Levine, Trumpet. Billy Moore, Guitar. Prince Carter, Piano. "Slam" Stewart, Bass. "Dr. Gino" Hamilton, M.C. . . Does anyone out there have any other memories of that show?? Ray asks.

[And believe it or not, I was let into one of those Lower Basin St. broadcasts during my high school years. I believe it was on the 3rd floor somewhere 3K and 3B are today. I was so enthralled with seeing it. I just loved Bach, Beethoven and Boogie Woogie! And to top it off shortly thereafter, I began working at NBC, as a flunky go-fer, so called "Lab Assistant"...

Speaking of Dinah and Eddie Cantor, I was on the dolly camera in old 3H (1945-46?) on the program inaugurating the opening of the co-axial

p. n. people - E.

cable service to Philadelphia. WOW! Dinah was on to sing for the occasion and Cantor appeared in a small bit. He gave off the distinct impression that he was "Just too **BIG** for this new TV. TV - what is it anyway" ...]

In a Dec 5. letter, **Vince Vacca** noticed in the last PN the spread re: **George Newell** and his orchestra and would like to be able to say hello to George. They used to work together. Vince in BOC and George as an AD in 5H.

Vince says he's having a sensational retirement 30 miles out to sea on the Island of Nantucket. Eat your heart out all you sailors! (I'm eating already - H.)

Thanks to **John Libretto**, a few issues ago, you saw Vince in a scene from a play, *"A Month of Sundays"*. Recently, he's added to his repertoire with parts in *"12 Angry Men"*, two readings from two as yet unproduced plays and late in November he did a season's final performance of *"You Know I can't Hear You When The Water's Running."*

He's active in local politics, and tho being 65 still is running (ran 5 miles yesterday, and hopes to be fit enough to run in the Nantucket Marathon in March. (If the rest of you-all could run a bit each day, you'd surprised how well that would make you be and feel. --H.)

Vince was delighted to see **Marty Hoade** once in a while when he vacationed on the Island.... Every three or four months Vince comes back to NYC and stops in at 30 Rock..... But somehow it's not the same, "I'm always struck by how few familiar faces there are." He expects to be at the Spring Bash in NYC...

Also -- Wonders if there were any thoughts to an E-Mail Group via Internet ?? Would be good for those amongst us who aren't Hams...

Enjoy the ocean breezes and fresh air, Vince.

George Cox (Brooklyn Stage hand) believes that the highlight of this year was a three week trip to Europe in June as an old veteran. From South Italy to Rome, Nice, Besancon, Epinal, Strasbourg, Colmar, Munich onto Salzburg and Hitler's Eagle Nest.

There was a ceremony at the cemetery in Rome with the President and congressional leaders. I shook hands with **the President** and he shook the hand of my friend Glenn standing next to me. Glenn then asked "Who are **you** ?" Taken back a bit, "I'm Bill Clinton, I'm the President", the Pres answered.. Glenn said, "I'm sorry, I'm blind." Clinton said, "That's O.K. I see you are from Idaho, that's nice country".

It was a great trip. We were made honorary citizens of Nettuno, Italy. We could not have lunch in a restaurant without civilians buying us drinks and thanking us for being there in 1944. It was an unbelievable experience..... Hope to see you all in the Spring.

GEORGE COX

George Corrado, after much prodding from **Frank Vierling**, finally broke down and joined Peacock North. George toils these days in the News Graphics area, where he is the Image Librarian. In his spare time, he is the second audio mixer on Saturday Night Live.. Welcome to the group George..

John Hardy is on his way to Cape Coral's warmth, clean air, beautiful blue waters and good

p.n. people - F.

fresh fish. Best of all he plans to stay there till March..(It's a small world - John has relatives just down the road a bit. Bumped into him & his group having breakfast at our local eatery. H.)

Clark Jones writes from Key West in Florida "Your Fall edition of PN arrived today, and I read it immediately, cover to cover, as I have every issue since you all so graciously allowed me to join"

Reading on , "-- It's amazing how the publication has improved technically since I first saw it, and interesting that computer equipment has a large part in that improvement".

Pete described Page 48 what the computer setup consisted of. Clark remarked that it was gibberish to him because he doesn't have a computer yet. Clark continues," My friend Paul Daniels, with whom I would be buying the equipment, has amassed a 3-foot pile of computer magazines over the last 3 years, trying to figure out when and what to buy." The whole technology is so fluid; we just can't decide when to jump in,"

(I can see that your research into buying a computer seems as thorough as you used to be when you came in to direct a program. You always were very well prepared, and of course it paid off. Having gone into my third computer so far, think of getting a computer with a pentium chip, with the highest clock speed (Hertz),the highest megabyte hard disk , and as much Ram (over 8 meg) as you can afford. Most of the newer and future programs can't run very well or at all on the lower numbers. Unfortunately as soon as your equipment is in service, something new always antiques whatever you have.. Clark, I have admired your work, and it's always been a pleasure to have worked with you.

(Ripp)

MORE PN PEOPLE ON PAGE 23

Jan Kasoff sends us this News clipping.

OUTSTANDING TECHNICAL DIRECTION /CAMERA/VIDEO FOR A SERIES

Steven Cimino, (Technical Director); Jan Kasoff,

Michael Bennett, Carl Eckert, John Pinto,

Robert Reese (Camera Operators);

William Vaccaro (Video Control)

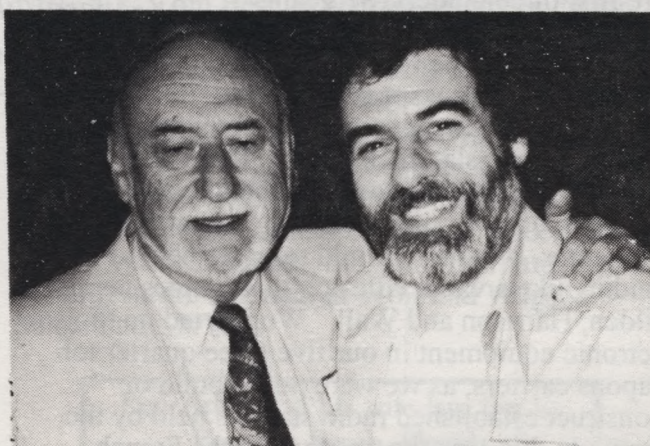
Saturday Night Live

Starring Alec Baldwin and Kim Basinger,

Musical Guest UB40; NBC

**Congratulations to The SNL
crew. You guys have deserved
the Emmy for a long time !**

Speaking of Saturday Night Live, Chris brought home a video tape from the local videotaperie, and watching the credits go by, there was a familiar name. This evening we went to see "Nobody's Fool" featuring Paul Neuman. Again as I unconsciously watched the credits go by, lo and behold the name **Howard Shore** rolled by again. He had done the music for both shows, and I must say that the music was appropriate, not obtrusive, melodic, puncuative (if that is a word) and pleasant to listen to. Quite different from SNL and nice to behold. Scotty and Joel, you must go see...



SCOTT SCHACHTER · JOEL SPECTOR



by
Ken Arber

Remembering martha raye

As I write this today, November 8, 1994, I am reminded that this day marks fifty two years since I landed in the invasion of North Africa, under the guidance of General Dwight D. Eisenhower.

I mention this because my stay in North Africa, specifically led to my first of several opportunities to work with the wonderful "Martha Raye", a pleasure to know and work with. In Casablanca, we the members of the first Broadcasting Station Operating Detachment under the command of the late Andre Baruch, had built our own studio and transmitter in a commandeered apartment in a five story building. The group consisted of eleven commissioned officers, and sixteen non-commissioned officers, all of whom were first three graders, Sergeants. A very select group, averaging one and half enlisted men to each officer. Each man a specialist in his field, Studio Engineers, transmitter engineers, announcers, translators, including three steeple-jacks, and Oregon tree toppers, should we be in a position to erect or repair existing antennas. I recall their names, because I would refer to them as sounding like a vaudeville act, their names being "Hilden, Harrison and Wall." We carried no tools or electronic equipment in our five three quarter ton weapons carriers, as we were not to build or reconstruct established radio stations held by the enemy. In this case the enemy was the French Moroccan Army controlled by the German

*Casablanca Commanding
General likes Hawaiian
Music with lunch.*

Armistices commission. After the November 8th invasion, the Armistices Commission with all their Germans left Morocco. The First Broadcast Operating Detachment was left without a job. At this time I believe that Andre Baruch came up with the the idea of building our own radio broadcasting station, with the permission and encouragement of the commanding General of Casablanca. I believe we must have been the first "Troop Entertainment" Broadcasting Group in World War II.

With all our skilled technicians and Andre as a famous announcer, we were able to build the studio and transmitter in the apartment, by scrounging electronic equipment from the Signal Corps and French Moroccan "Hams," (amateur radio operators). I believe that Andre gave our station it's call letters which were ABS. Andre told me the letters ABS stood for "Atlantic Base Section", which was the title of Casablanca. I kidded him by saying I thought ABS stood for Andre Baruch's Station. He replied that, "That would just be between us."

Our transmitter was constructed, and installed in the bathtub of the apartment, in the bathroom that we all used. I always felt this was an odd place for a 250 watt transmitter to be located.

I might add that when the First Broadcasting Group was formed, at Fort Monmouth in New Jersey, a second group under the command of Captain Down, a former studio engineer at CBS NY, was formed, for the purpose of replacing the First Broadcast Group in the event of a loss during the war. Clayton Down returned to CBS after the war, and became a technical director, until his death a few years back. I might add that the Fort Monmouth groups were formed by Francis "Fred" Shiedel, a former Master Control Engineer at NBC Chicago, who was in charge of the "Signal School" at Fort Monmouth.

The whole operation at the station was done as though we all were working at a station back in the States. We enjoyed having two days off, and regular shifts. We had write-in programs, such as the favorite "Little Brown Jug" conducted by Andre and Barney Weadock. The requests came from both army and navy personnel, Casablanca being the main port for bringing in supplies. I once asked Andre why we were playing so much "Hawaiian" music, when so many of the troops had written that they objected to that kind of music, and he said you "Don't Bite the Hand that Feeds You." That made it very clear to me, when he said that the Commanding General of

Casablanca had told him "He likes Hawaiian Music at lunch time". One day the General gave our group permission to go through the signal Corps warehouse and take anything we could use for the Radio Station. We found a whole complete broadcast station in crates, all ready to be set up. An RCA transmitter, microphones, turntables, speakers, antenna wire, console etc. It had been assembled by a Lt. Martin Wirk, who was planning to come to North Africa and set it up. However by the time he arrived, it was now in our possession. Once again I would like to point that we arrived in North Africa with no equipment other than the trucks and we each had a 45 caliber Thompson machine gun. This completes the preamble to "How I first came to meet Martha Raye."

One day Andre Baruch asked me if I would drive him down town to pick up Martha Raye, who had come to Casablanca to entertain the troops. I was thrilled at this opportunity to meet Martha and proceeded to drive to her hotel, the Excelsior — the most glamorous in Casablanca. The car we were driving was a seven passenger sedan about six or seven years old. As I slowed down and turned toward the curb, Andre asked me what was the trouble? I told him the right front wheel had just came off and an Arab was following us with the wheel. It seems the Dodge cars of that particular year were built so that they could stay balanced with either wheel coming off, but of course not both wheels. We called the motor pool for a replacement and continued to the Excelsior where I was amazed to see the elevator come down to the main floor and set down in the lobby like a large Gilded Bird Cage. Andre brought Martha to our studio and we all got to meet her, a great pleasure I can assure you.

I was fortunate to be the studio engineer for the broadcast to the troops in Casablanca and during our time together I asked her what had become of the other girls who were supposed to come with her and she replied that when they heard that Casablanca had been bombed, they chickened out. It was true that the Germans had sent a bomber down and bombed Casablanca as a "Token", but the damage was minimal. Martha told me, she felt she owed it to the troops to come to Casablanca as she had just recently lost her brother, a "Tail gunner" who was shot down and lost.

One day while playing a Harry James record of "Cheri Beri Bin", I hope I have spelled that correctly, I looked through the control room window and noticed Martha was singing to herself. I asked her if she would like to sing along with the record and I could record her and Harry James and then play it back. She could not believe that could be done, so I

provided her with set a head phones and a microphone and recorded both the record and Martha. She said it sounded like she was singing live with the band. She never forgot that and when I worked with her on the NBC TV Show "The All Star Review" in 1951 at the Center Theatre, we talked about that experience during the dry rehearsal. She suggested doing a bit about that experience to Pete Barnum, the producer of the show. He agreed but as the show had already been written they would save it for a later date which never occurred.

I also met her another time when she was on a "Milton Berle" Texaco Show in Studio 6B, where she broke up the entire crew during rehearsal, doing some of her famous comedy antics, some of which could not be put on the air. Martha was a very kind and generous person. I remember bringing ten brand new five franc bills for her to autograph for my friends and she did it so willingly.

Martha Raye, who was born Teresa Yvonne Reed, August 22, 1916, had a daughter Melody Contos. Martha Raye's exemplary service to the Army, including trips to Vietnam to entertain the Green Berets, earned her a funeral with military honors. She died at the age of 78. Several years ago she requested to be buried at Fort Bragg, home of the Green Berets. She was buried after a ceremony with a flag draped casket and military pall bearers. Normally only active duty and military personnel are buried on post, but the Defense Department granted an exception for Raye. (The above from the Associated Press).

I would like to mention the names and occupations of some of the members of the group at Casablanca, besides myself there was Jack Anderson, NBC NY Sound Effects; Houston Brown, CBS NY; Barney Weadock, writer, Pacific Palisades, California; Bill Perry, studio engineer, NBC NY; Tom Best, Wurlitzer, engineer, North Tonawanda, NY; Victor Tervola, NBC NY, recording engineer; William Folkerts, electronics engineer, NY, (brother of **H.L. Folkerts**, retired NBC NY TD); Charles Moreland, FCC engineer; William Merrel, transmitter engineer at NBC, Boundbrook, NJ; **Lincoln Dixon**, NBC receiver location, NY; Jim Watson, studio engineer, radio station WIS, Columbia, SC, NBC affiliate; Howard Jalberg, studio engineer at Wolf and Wage, Schnectady, NY. □

Ken Arber and his wife Jaye live in
Boynton Beach, Florida

NBC

**SNOW CROP
PET MILK**
and
KELLOGG'S
PRESENT

**MARTHA RAYE**

In the great new Saturday night series

THE ALL STAR REVUE

JACK CARSON • JIMMY DURANTE • OLSEN & JOHNSON
DANNY THOMAS • ED WYNN • AND FIVE OTHER GREAT STARS

CENTER THEATRE • NEW YORK • OCTOBER 20, 1951

martha, martha

Martha entertained audiences since she was three. When she made her debut in an act with her mother and father, Pete Reed and Peggy Hooper, playing vaudeville and night clubs, Martha was spotted at the Trocadero in Hollywood by a movie studio, was signed for the comedienne lead opposite Bing Crosby in "Rhythm on the Range." Her interpretation of "Mr. Paganini" in that film made her a star overnight and leading roles in several films followed establishing her as one of America's favorite comediennes. A series of personal appearances across the country broke attendance records in key cities from coast to coast. She appeared on leading radio shows and with the advent of war, was among those stars who made the first overseas USO tour. It was this expedition that provided the inspiration for the motion picture "Four Jills in a Jeep" in which Martha played a prominent role. □

Ken Arber sent us this bit of nostalgia, a program from a 1951 "All Star Review."

NBC

**SNOW CROP
PET MILK**
and
KELLOGG'S
PRESENT

MARTHA RAYE

with her guest star

EZIO PINZA

Produced by
LEO MORGAN

Staged and Supervised by
EZRA STONE

NBC Production Supervisor
PETE BARNUM

Written by
NAT HIKEN — BILLY FRIEDBERG
Assistant to the Producer
BILL HARMON

Television Director
GREY LOCKWOOD
Musical Director
ALLEN ROTH

Technical Director
JACK IRVING

Art Director
THEODORE COOPER

Audio by
KENNETH ARBER

Costumes by
GUY KENT

Lighting by
JACK FITZPATRICK

Gowns by OHRBACH'S

SCENE 1. SNOW CROP PRESENTS MARTHA RAYE
MARTHA RAYE

SCENE 2. MR. PINZA AT HOME
EZIO PINZA and Norma Lehn

SCENE 3. MARTHA TALKS ABOUT BLIND DATES
MARTHA RAYE

SCENE 4. MR. PINZA DRESSES TO GO OUT
EZIO PINZA and Ty Perry

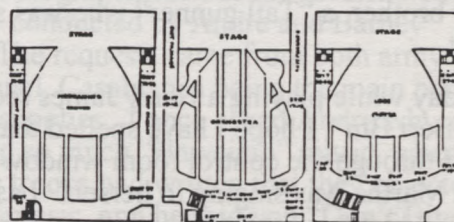
SCENE 5. MR. PINZA CALLS ON MARTHA
MARTHA RAYE, EZIO PINZA, Sara Seegar
and Teddy Snow Corp

SCENE 6. THE BAGDAD ROOM
Violin Solo, "Rumanian Rhapsody" Maria Neglia
MARTHA RAYE, EZIO PINZA
Maitre De Joe de Santis
Waiters Robt. Keith, Jr., Robert Blackburn
The Duke Fleming Ward
The Duchess Lucy Lancaster
Mr. Astor Gerald Lee
Mrs. Astor Edith True Case
The Countess Sara Seegar
The Waitress Eets Linden
Bus Boy Rex Sater
Cigarette Girl Linda Lombard
Patrons Lulu Belle Clark, Jo Tift,
Terry Kelly, Patricia Ripley, LaRae Peters, Jacqueline Soanes,
Heini Krinsky, Stan Telchin, Otto Lohman, Mike Enserro
Specialty Chandra Kaly and his Dancers

SCENE 7. SCHULTZ'S STABLE
Master of Ceremonies Robert Keith, Jr.
Tap Specialty Danny Alexander
MARTHA RAYE, EZIO PINZA
Girl Jacqueline Soanes
Bartender Harold Stone
and the Company

SCENE 8. MR. PINZA'S APARTMENT
MARTHA RAYE, EZIO PINZA and the Company

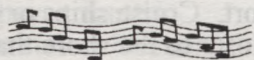
SCENE 9. AT MARTHA'S DOOR
MARTHA RAYE, EZIO PINZA and Rex Sater, Sara Seegar, Ty Perry





Ken Arber at the Air Conditioning Control desk on the tenth floor. This picture was taken around 1935. Ken started working for NBC on Friday April 13, 1934. He was Technical Assistant to Bob Close the Chief Engineer of Air Conditioning for New York and the NBC Owned and Operated stations. The instruments are Leeds and Northrup temperature control and recording devices for the Studio Section of NBC New York.

STREISAND CALLS TO COMPLAIN



During the airing of *The Prince of Tides* on NBC, Barbara Streisand personally called the Broadcast Operations area of NBC while the show was airing to complain that the volume of the commercials were too loud.

Mr. Frank Rich responded to Ms. Streisand's call. He explains as follows; "I am not an engineer, but the manager in charge of weekend broadcast operations at NBC. I did not question the callers identity because I had been advised by our West Coast operation that Ms. Streisand had been involved with the movie's audio mix. Also, Ms. Streisand's voice was unmistakable. I never for a moment believed my position was in jeopardy. Nor did I ever consider abrogating my responsibility to Ms. Streisand, as the shows producer, or to NBC, our sponsors and affiliates. I did however, express that what she was asking me to do-considerably decrease the volume level of the commercials-was something our sponsors might have a problem with. It is not the practice of NBC to raise the volume level of commercials to be higher than the program.

Commercials, as provided by our sponsors, have a

constant presence of dense sound. Although commercials, by FCC regulations, are less loud, when they air adjacent to quiet scene, the commercial may sound louder because of the switch from sparse to dense audio.

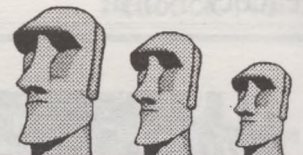
In the spirit of cooperation, and since Ms. Streisand was the director of the film, I agreed to lower our commercial level 2 decibels (a compromise from the 4 decibels she requested). (NYT) □

Dues are due each January 1.
If you forgot, please don't wait
another day to pay them.
Continue your support so we
can keep in touch.
Without *you* there can be no
PEACOCK NORTH.

Sign up for our La Maganette
Luncheon, Sunday, May 21.
Coupon on page 20



THE MYSTERY OF EASTER ISLAND



Not too many people have visited Easter Island, which rises like an afterthought 2300 miles off the coast of Chile. The island was discovered on what we now call Easter Sunday in 1722.

Easter Island isn't an easy place to reach. First, you fly to Santiago in Chile. Then, you take a five and a half hour LanChile flight non-stop to Easter Island. There is only one flight a week. The air controller on the island is definitely not over-worked. When the plane lands on this volcanic oddity, it stays there for three days, refuels and flies back. Easter Island is fourteen miles long and eight miles wide. The people all live in one corner of the island, banding together near the area where some small boats have access. The giant air strip that brings in the tourists and most of the supplies cuts across the length of the island. It is remarkable in its size. The United States NASA provided the cash and expertise to extend the runway. If any of the shuttle space flights ever need an emergency landing strip, they could do so on Easter Island.

The supply ships come by twice a year. There aren't any exports because nothing can survive waiting for those semi-annual arrivals. The people grow enough food for themselves. The natives are attractive and friendly. Stress seems to be a non-existent word in their vocabulary. Most speak English. "Manana" will come and go in endless cycles. The tourists less often.

The tour buses that cross the island have seen better days. Spare parts to supply air-conditioning to the buses might best be seen in the museum, if they could ever be found. The major hotel on the island is called the Ranga Noa. It has sixty rooms. All the rooms have private baths. None of the rooms have air conditioning. None of the rooms have keys for the locks. Tourists took the original ornamental keys. After several replace-

ments, the management decided to do without them.

After you accept the fact of unlocked doors (not easy for a native

New Yorker to do) it doesn't bother you. Rather, it affords a pleasant change from a world where you never wear jewelry in public, never carry too much cash and walk as though muggers were in far greater numbers than policemen. There is, they told us, a wonderful breeze if you open your screen door and the door to your room. We did, and there wasn't. But, we, like the many hardy tourists before us, survived.

The humidity is overwhelming. After a few minutes, you feel like you're in an outdoor sauna. The food is as far from haute cuisine as the island is from the mainland. There isn't a deep water port. Cruise ships or even cargo ships can't get any closer to the shore than a telescope's view.

Then the question arises -- why bother going to this desolate place? the answer — its history and mystery. Mainly, the mystery. The mystery involves giant statues weighing up to 70 tons, cut off at the waist. They're called Moais. The chins



Don and the Giant "Moais"



Giant "Moais" forever looking skyward.

jut out looking like they were all modeled by Jay Leno. The nose on each statue pays tribute to Jimmy Durante. The ears on the statues stretch like silly putty from the hair line to the chin line. The eyes are sunken hollows, staring sightlessly out of granite sockets. The mouths are tight, straight determined lines that seem to say, "I'll never tell you my secrets." The statues range from thirty to sixty-five feet. The weights range from ten to seventy tons. The mystery — how did they carve them out of the stone quarry, transport them and place them all around the island without the use of technical machinery? Archaeologists say the statues were made as early as the Ninth Century A.D.

The tiny museum on the island (two medium sized rooms) display the crudest of obsidian picks that the natives used to carve out these monster-sized statues. The statues were fashioned to resemble elders in the tribes and were said to protect the homes, villages and field with "supernatural power" or "mana." The statues always faced inland, away from the sea. Because some of the ancestors reportedly had red hair, red-stoned topknots were placed on the statues. Another mystery -- how did they get these ten ton topknots on top of the statues?

Each statue, or moai, is built on an ahu, or altar. The remains of tribal leaders are buried under the ahus. What is most fascinating about the island is the quarry on the Rano Raraku slopes. At the

quarry, about seventy unfinished statues stand, lie or jut into the humid air like irregular monoliths. You walk among them feeling strangely like a Lilliputian. The statues stare blankly at you asking more unanswered questions -- what happened here? Why did they stop making the statues? Why are so many unfinished? How did they move them about? How long did it take to make one statue? How many people were involved? Where did the inhabitants come from? Where did they go? Why haven't the current inhabitants continued making them? The answers remain hidden in time.

Records show the island once had a population of almost four thousand people. Although there wasn't any deep water port, small

boats could make a landing on some of the few beaches. It is said that foreign sailors stopping at this only piece of land in the middle of a million miles of water, took many of the original settlers away by force and enslaved them.

When a few were returned years later, these survivors had smallpox. In a short period of time, the devastation was incredible. Disease, combined with tribal warfare, reduced the population to an existence-threatening number of one hundred and eleven. In September of 1888, the island became a colony of Chile. The island slowly began to increase its numbers. Today, about two thousand people call Easter Island their home. Yes, there are several other sights the tour guides will show you - the giant crater - the petroglyphs, the round stone houses of a civilization that left the briefest of histories. But, what attracts the tourists, what stays in your mind long after you have left Easter Island are those giant statues. They would bring me back again to stare at them and wonder about a world that once existed and remains, as always, a mystery of Easter Island. □

Don Luftig is a retired NBC TV director and lives with his wife Sandy in North Caldwell, New Jersey. (See PN People—G , page 23, for Don and Sandy's future travel plans.)

Howard Bayha, Sr., age 68, of Mt. Kisco, N.Y., died Dec. 5, 1944. Employed by NBC for 43 years. No details known.

* * *

Alan J. Frisch, NBC NY Engineering, 1952-1988, died March 26, 1994 after a brief illness, as reported to PN by his daughter, Sharon Simowitz. In addition to his engineering duties, Alan will be remembered as a member of the cast in some of the comedy skits on NBC's David Letterman show while he was affiliated with that production.

* * *

Hjalmar Hermanson, age 87, Art Director, Scenic Designer, died Dec. 27, 1994 in Portland OR. Hjalmar started back in the golden age of TV in the 50's working on the Kate Smith, and Martha Raye shows. Eventually became the "in-house" designer for the News Dept. doing the Huntley/Brinkley sets, News specials and the space shots. He was a dedicated and highly respected talent and past members of the Design and Art dept. salute him. (Reported by Gloria Settle.)

* * *

John J. Sughrue, age 67, director of the Huntley-Brinkley newscasts on NBC-TV in the 1960's and an award winning producer of documentaries, died of lung cancer on Feb. 10 at Calvary Hospital in the Bronx. John was a native of Forest Hill Queens. He joined NBC in the 1950's and

quickly rose through the ranks to play a major role as a director during the 1956 Democratic National Convention in Chicago, where Chet Huntley and David Brinkley headed the team coverage. In 1965 he collaborated with Lucy Jarvis to film, *The Louvre*, which won him the Peabody award and two Emmys.

* * *



Rita Stipo, of cancer. Rita started her career at NBC 45 years ago as a secretary to the heads of the Engineering department. She was secretary and aide to a succession of top managers in the department. At the time of her death she was secretary to Mike Sherlock, Executive Vice President of Technology. Rita lived in Brooklyn with her mother who died in 1993. Her pride and joy was her flower garden, she was an excellent cook, and enjoyed traveling.

* * *

Paul Lipson, on February 10, 1995, after a long illness.

Gloria Casanoves, no details. She will be remembered as the coffee lady of the studio building 8th floor.

* * *

Millie Stolzenberger, wife of Edward Ed is a former President of NABET, Local 11, and later NBC Labor Relations. No details known.

* * *

Fred Briggs, correspondent for NBC news for 30 years, died of cancer in February. He started out with Huntley-Brinkley in 1966, working out of Cleveland. Fred was assigned to a variety of state-side posts during the ensuing years and in west Berlin in 1975. Since 1983 he had been the net's correspondent in Boston. (DG)

* * *

Jack Smith, newswriter and editor for the Today show in the 1970s has died. We have no other information.

* * *

Larry Owen, Director - on details

* * *

Ray Kupsic, Unit Manager - no details

PN regrets the loss of our friends and members. We extend condolences to their families.

Old Timers' Club

PN Members who are also amateur radio operators will find that membership in the *Old Timers' Club* is a rewarding pleasure. If you held a "ticket" in 2-way wire-less/radio communications at least 40 years ago you are eligible to join. That experience can be as an amateur, or as a commercial or military radio operator. In the military, of course, you did not get an formal piece of paper signifying the equivalent of an FCC licence, but send the facts and you'll be approved.

The club holds no meetings, but does have occasional, regional gatherings. Enrollment fee is \$5. Lifetime membership is \$22, including a club lapel pin and then \$10 a year for a subscription to the *Spark Gap Times* which is published 6 times a year. The first 3 issues come free with membership.

The reason I (Dan Grabel) recommend it is that the 30 page *Times* is full of anecdotes and reminiscences of radioland — much like PN. I qualify by being a WWII radio and submarine-cable operator in the Signal Corps, mostly in the Mariana Islands. So if you're big on memories and nostalgia, sign up. Send application to: Old Timers Club, 31 91 Darvany Drive, Dallas TX 75220-1611. □

Dan Grabel, N2FLR, is President of the Westchester Amateur Radio Association.

NBC SERVICE HONOR ROLL 1994

◆ 50 YEARS ◆

Gloria Clyne Dominick Pardo

◆ 40 YEARS ◆

Robert Bader Nancy Fields Donald Orrico
Joseph Disco Frances Olsen Robert Tobin

◆ 30 YEARS ◆

Sandy Holmes

◆ 25 YEARS ◆

Rosalia Antinore	Joan Jewczyn	Geraud Prince
Fernando Archila	J. Kenley Jones	Jesse Redd
Valkyr Branker	Stephen Kyritsis	Ralph Reel
Ann Bush	Donald Leonard	Adele Rifkin
Dorothy Busz	Ruth Lewis	Joseph Roehrig
William Caulfield	Mildred Lopez	Barbara Schneider
John Damiano	Diana Lord	Jean Seto
William Englehardt	Harry McNeill	Helen Siegelin
James Harraka	George Meola	Richard Sozio
James Hicks	Frieda Morris	Sidney Spielvogel
Lillian Hickson	Rudolph Morrone	Horst Stipp
Carol Holman	Joseph Nicosia	Steven Weiss
Kathleen Hurlie	Eversley Olivacce	Carol Wendt
Charlotte Jackson	Michael Pahios	Walter Whitney
	Robert Pook	

Memories Wanted . . . Please

In future issues of the PN Newsletter we'd like to recall great moments on some of the legendary NBC shows — Perry Como, Wide-World, the Spectaculars the early TODAY and TONIGHT shows, special remotes, etcetera. If you have anecdotes and photos, memorabilia, we want to hear about it. Send it to Pete and we'll compile the nostalgia and whip it into a story for all to enjoy. If you don't feel like writing, phone me and I'll listen, quiz you, record you, and put it into my high school English. Any photos or memorabilia will be returned to you.

Dan G. 1-914-723-8625

Mary Tyler Moore

David Brinkley Night

By Mort Hochstein

Nearly 1,000 of broadcasting's best and brightest turned out February 9th to honor David Brinkley and Mary Tyler Moore at New York's Waldorf Astoria. The black-tie, invitation-only gala was a benefit for the Museum of Television and Radio.

NBC personalities Katie Couric and Bill Cosby joined Ed Asner, Gavin MacLeod and Betty White and others in recalling remembrances of Mary Tyler Moore's career. Film clips of some of her more outstanding performances were included in the tribute.

Brinkley, best known as the Washington anchor of the Huntley-Brinkley news on NBC-TV, which began in 1956 and ran through the sixties and early seventies, is now at ABC-TV as host of "This Week with David Brinkley." He has covered every president since Franklin Delano Roosevelt and has reported on each presidential election and nominating convention since 1956. Tom Brokaw shared the mike with Sam Donaldson, Cokie Roberts, Andy Rooney and others in discussing Brinkley's 50 years in television and radio news.

The audience also previewed the new West coast home for the Museum of Television & Radio, scheduled to open in the Spring of 1966. The mu-



Together: Reunited at the museum of Television, co-stars, Gavin MacLeod and Mary Tyler Moore. Ed Asner was there too.

seum building, designed by architect Richard Meier, is located at North Beverly Drive and Little Santa Monica in Beverly Hills. When it is opened, visitors in California will be able to travel back through broadcast history via the Museum's collection of 60,000 tv and radio programs and commercials. □

This item inaugurates Mort's addition to PN's staff. Mort lives in Tenaflly, New Jersey with his wife, Rolaine. Also see "A Regal race to Air," page 32 and his remembrances of 30 years with NBC on page 35.

Welcome aboard Mort.

PN Welcomes Our Newest Members

Louis Castro, Spring Valley, NY
George Corrado, East Brunswick, NJ
Ray Figelski, Studio City, CA
Joha Griffin, Middletown, NJ
Morton Hochstein, Tenaflly, NJ
Kenley Jones, Atlanta, GA
Judy Morrissey, North Bergen, NJ

Florida Retiree Reunion March 15-16, Orlando, FL. By the time you read this our southern counterpart will have had their gala two day affair. If you've never made one of their luncheons your missing a grand time with a great group of NBC'ers. Don't miss our May 21st gathering in New York.

THE EAR BENDERS



by Dick Dudley

PN received a short note from Dick Dudley:

"AT THIS MOMENT I AM TRYING TO GET BACK IN SHAPE AFTER 3 TRIPS TO THE HOSPITAL. THE MD'S FINALLY FOUND THAT MY HEART WAS NOT BEATING ON ALL CYLINDERS AND HAVE IMPLANTED ME WITH A PACE-MAKER. IT SEEMS TO BE DOING ITS JOB.

YOURS,

Edith Cahill and Terri Caunet expecting to spend many hours catching up on NBC news that may not have made it into PN. --- Peace, ANN.....

(We're holding the presses and reserving space at the checkout counters for all the juicy tid-bits, Anne.)

George Newell loves Stan Kenton music. Geo plays in the North Jersey area. He's been trying to bring back the Big Bands Era, which were very big in the area, all playing at the Meadowbrook on the Newark Pompton Turnpike, Cedar Grove. No doubt many of you older "Nemo" audio engineers had done remotes from there. **Cort Snell** used to bring in some of his disks, and we used to listen to "The Dipsy Doodle" old 3H in between rehearsals.

NEWS TRIVIA

1. What was NBC-TV's regular daily news cast?

2. Who was the newscaster? _____
3. What writer for the above later became head of NBC News? _____
4. Who was the father of the "Today Show?"

5. The Today Show did not do well at first but the ratings began to rise when the cast was joined by whom? _____
6. What is the oldest, still running, TV news program on any network?

7. When did Huntley first meet Brinkley?

8. All the PN engineers will know the nick name of the first hand held camera to capture news events. How about those of you who can't work your VCR?

9. What NBC newsmen were known as "The Four Horsemen?"

Don Luffig was _____'s secretary later became been six years since _____'s secretary later became wonderful sez h _____'s secretary later became

"My beautiful w _____ months a year since did NBC cancel all Guatemala, Mexico 71 hours?

(Rome, Florence, _____ newscaster on the TODAY La Scala), Hawaii _____'s secretary later became

Anguila (an Island _____'s secretary later became just North of St _____'s secretary later became

as well as visiting _____'s secretary later became country.".... No _____'s secretary later became Borneo, Vietnam _____'s secretary later became

Don says, "If you _____'s secretary later became

THE EAR BENDERS

on next page

MORE

EAR BENDERS

By Dick Dudley

Ask me who was my favorite Radio Comedian and, without a pause for a commercial, I will immediately sat Fred Allen. After all he was a neighbor of mine. He lived on 54th Street and I lived on 58th. Many times we would run into each other as I and my wife and Fred and Portland took our evening walk. One night after Pearl Harbor, I asked him how things were going for him at 30 Rock and he said: "Well, they're auditioning the War at NBC." I leave imagining the drawl up to you. Fred had a unique way of describing things. He said that Jack Benny wouldn't be welcome at a cannibal feast even as an en-tree.

There are many excellent dictionaries to be had - The Oxford, the Webster, Random House, and the amusing Ambrose Bierce "Devil Dictionary." They all serve their purpose, yet for those

of us inoculated with the wireless-TV virus, there is a lacking. Therefore, I would desire to create the "Fred Allen Unabridged," and here are a some of his definitions:

Imitation: The sincerest form of television.

Radio: Furniture that talks back to you.

TV: Furniture that looks back at you.

Heck: A place invented by NBC censors. When a bad person dies, he/she goes to heck. When good people die they go to the Rainbow Room.

NBC Censors: Men who walk around their office backwards so they won't have to face issues.

Egotistical Performer: One wearing dark glasses while attending church, afraid that God might recognize him and ask for his autograph.

Batton Barton

Durstine & Osborn: The sound of a steamer trunk falling down stairs.

Bird Droppings: Ghost berets

Hollywood Bowl: Carnegie Hall on the half shell.

Sunset Blvd.: Main Street in slacks.

The Depression: A time so hard the bootleggers had to lay off 200 policemen.

NBC VIPs: Those who singularly can do nothing, but in conference decide nothing can be done.

□

You can add to the dictionary by sending your contributions to:

Dick Dudley:
2 Breezy Knoll Road
Willow Street, PA 17584

Also a "speedy recovery" card would be much appreciated by Dick.
(FV)

Do it now!

Sign up for the Spring Luncheon at
La Maganette Ristorante

**FILL OUT THE COUPON ON THE
RIGHT, YOUR TICKET FOR AN
AFTERNOON TO REMEMBER**

May 21, 1995 - 12 noon
825 Thrd Ave. at 50th St.
(Northeast corner)

**EARLY RESERVATIONS ARE
GREATLY APPRECIATED
DO IT TODAY**

kley's 50

ew West coast
& Radio,
66. The mu-

60,000 tv and radio programs and commercials. □

This item inaugurates Morts addition to PN's staff. Mort lives in Tenafly, New Jersey with his wife, Rolaine. Also see "A Regal race to Air," page 32 and his remembrances of 30 years with NBC on page 35.

Welcome aboard Mort.

embers

, NY
ick, NJ
CA
NJ
NJ
A
n, NJ

Florida Retiree Reunion March 15-16, Orlando, FL. By the time you read this our southern counterpart will have had their gala two day affair. If you've never made one of their luncheons your missing a grand time with a great group of NBC'ers. Don't miss our May 21st gathering in New York.

p. n. people - G.

Ulrich Caro

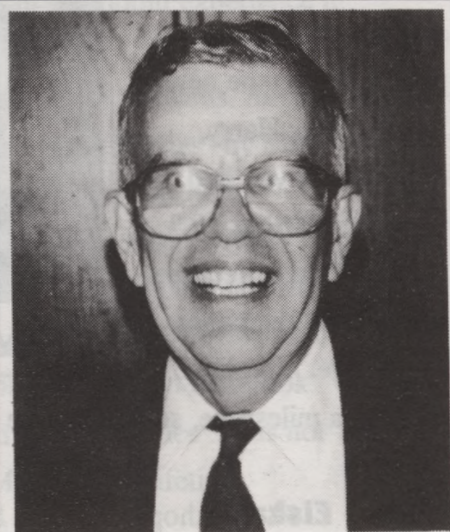
(from Audio/Video) writes on his NBC memo pad that all is well, and they spend their time between their Pleasantville home and Washington D.C., where resides

daughter and grandkids.. Still involved with financial planning and tax practice. He enjoyed recent visit of Russ Tornabene (ex from NBC News and Radio).

Ann Kramer still looks forward with great anticipation to each issue of PN. Spent Christmas in Florida visiting with two WNBC-TV buddies - Edith Cahill and Terri Caunet expecting to spend many hours catching up on NBC news that may not have made it into PN. --- Peace, **ANN.....**

(We're holding the presses and reserving space at the checkout counters for all the juicy tid-bits, Anne.)

George Newell loves Stan Kenton music. Geo plays in the North Jersey area. He's been trying to bring back the Big Bands Era, which were very big in the area, all playing at the Meadowbrook on the Newark Pompton Turnpike, Cedar Grove. No doubt many of you older "Nemo" audio engineers had done remotes from there. **Cort Snell** used to bring in some of his disks, and we used to listen to "The Dipsy Doodle" old 3H in between rehearsals.



Rick Caro

If you're interested, see Page 38 of the Fall issue for his schedule or give George a call to find out where he's playing ...

* * * * *

Speaking of music, Got a letter from **Don Pike**, now spending winters on his farm, in Bushnell, Fla.- (who used to do musical arrangements for the "Big Bands".)

Once or twice very week they play somewhere in Central Florida, in a 50 piece band. Mostly consisting of retirees who come and go to Fla. as Don does, so the availability of instruments changes. Now they have 16 trumpets, but lack trombones for ex. Don decided he could help out and move from the trumpets to play an **E-flat Alto Horn**. (No, Not an E-flat alto sax)... **This horn has three valves** and switching to it from a trumpet is easier (for him) than to a Sousaphone. To the point... **If anyone knows where they might locate such an instrument, call Don at (904: 568-1061.** (Good choice Don, not trumpet melodies, but usually nice runs and distinctive fills, and solos of its own...)

Don Luftig writes that it's hard to believe that it's been six years since he's retired, but it's been wonderful sez he ! Don continues:
"My beautiful **wife, Sandy** and I spend about four months a year seeing the world. Last year we visited Guatemala, Mexico, The Yucatan, Switzerland, Italy (Rome, Florence, Venice, Milan (saw "Rigaleto" at La Scala), Hawaii (Kona, Maui and Kauai) also Anguila (an Island that's starting to be discovered just North of St. Martin in the Caribbean).; St.Barth; as well as visiting five grandchildren around the country.".... Next they're planning to trip to Bali, Borneo, Vietnam and Cambodia.
Don says, "If you gotta go, this is the way to do it" .

p. n. people - H .

George Hooper , as many others, wish everyone Happy Holidays ! (Since we've passed Christmas, New Years President's Day, let's use these greetings for the **Vernal Equinox** and start a new trend, maybe even work-in, another day off !)

Harold McDermott (Video Mtce) tells us All is well. Hal had a quadruple heart by pass April 1994 and now is much better than new ! He's back to walking, bowling and golfing, Laments that too bad they don't have an operation that would improve your golf game.--- (Would Medicare take care of that ?) His wife and children are all doing well....

Doris Steen Williams pens:

Dear C.E.O. ,

So enjoyed receiving Peacock North.

Although there are so many names I don't know, there are always many I remember with affection. This time especially enjoyed seeing the picture of beautiful **Mary McCarthy**, fun loving **Fran de Gennaro**, **Marie Finnegan** of the gorgeous red hair and lovely smile, and **Helen Nicole** whom I knew as Mary's friend.

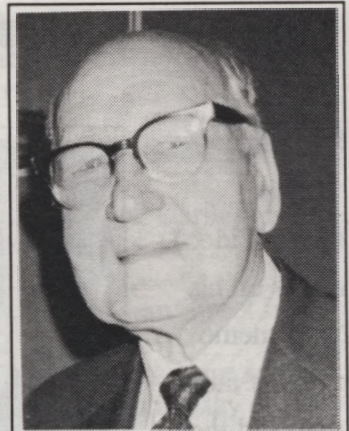
Best wishes to all...

Speaking about remembering people, **Mary McNulty Sternfeld** asked for **Fran de Gennaro's** address. She had worked with Fran for many years and sees Fran's picture in P,N, often. She'd like to drop her a line and schmooze a bit. Well, O.K. - a lot. Fran knows Mary as **Mary McNulty** and Mary worked for **Max Buck** for 23 years..

Reserve your seat
at La Maganette

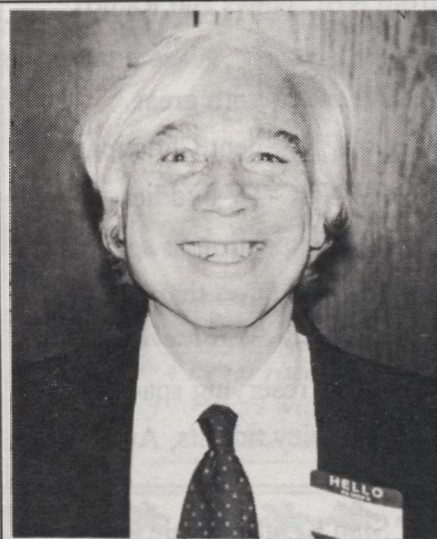
Harry Musselman

sent in his dues and indicates that he really appreciates the work that goes into the newsletter.... Hey Harry, didn't I hear you had your 80th birthday ? ? If so, tell Pete, because you'll enjoy the paper even more. You have reached a milestone, so It'll be free from now on.



HARRY MUSSELMAN

Marian Eiskamp hopes that the Spring Luncheon is being planned, for she will certainly try to make NYC in '95. Marian went to Arizona last March for an Elderhostel in Scottsdale - Thinks this was her favorite one. (Take note ye folk of travel lust, make Scottsdale now a must !)



Milt Wyatt

Milt Wyatt is planning to go to Europe in May to visit friends in England. He was in Germany in May '45 when the war ended, he wanted to be in Europe fifty years after VE Day. (May 8th).

After England's Liverpool, Dorset and West Sussex, he plans to go to Paris. However, this time, he's decided to get there via the Channel Train. -----
--When Milt crossed the the channel in '45 - on the way to Omaha Beach, the thought of a tunnel was pure Science Fiction. That fiction has now become

p. n. people - I .

reality and he thought he should experience it.

Milt wants to make a wee correction in the last issue about Mary Alice Williams. She appeared in the play "Adam and Eve Diaries" by Mark Twain. We learned two things from that item.

- Mary Alice trod the stage. (True)
- Mark Twain wrote the play. (False).

Twain wrote the Adam & Eve Diaries as a book. This play was probably based on that book.

The "Adam & Eve Diaries" was not published during Mr. Twain's lifetime, for he died in 1910.

The Diaries and other publications, including "Letters From the Earth, and "War Prayer" were published as late as 1932.

Mark Twain directed that some of his works be published ONLY after his death, feeling that they were too pessimistic for the public of his own lifetime. (How are you doing so far?).

The last line of "Adams Diaries" - after Eve had died - is the greatest expression of love that I have ever read ! He wrote:

"Where Eve was, there was Eden"

Milt

Bob Hill writes: He and the missus Catherine spent Christmas in Tulsa, Oklahoma with his son and family, and as would be, Bob and his son had more fun with the trains and than the grandson... Being colder there than they had gotten used to, they scurried home to Florida. Bob says that Tulsa is growing rapidly, and two weeks were really too short. (See Pge "L" for photo)....

Ed Len is quite certain that 1994 was not one of his better years. (medically speaking). He had a triple by-pass in June and an aortic aneurysm in September. The summer just slipped by.

He never had any of the classic symptoms relating to either of the medical problems, but found out as a result of a routine physical exam. A thallium stress test indicated there was a 60 - 70 % blockage.

Ed says thank goodness for Medicare! Seven days in the hospital for the by-pass and 8 days for the aneurysm. Medicare covered 80% and the G E Retiree Health Insurance paid the 20% deductible of a five figure bill.

See you at the Spring Bash, Ed.



JOAN Gifford

ED LEN

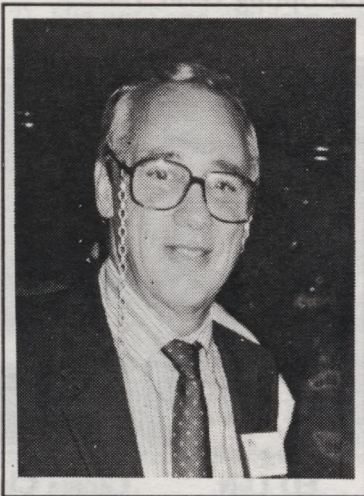
GLORIA CLYNE

Walter Werner and wife Sophie say they're not doing anything exciting, but are always busy and sort of well worn into the grove of their retirement years. - (And obviously enjoying themselves). Walt and Soph send their regards to all up North. -- Doing any flying Walter ?

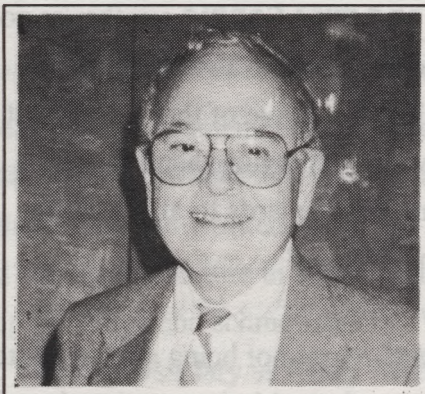
Ed & Linda Rossi regret not being able to get to L.A for Pete's get together with the western alumni. Ed & Linda are now residents of Scottsdale, Az. Look them up if you-all get to Arizona.

p. n. people - J .

Jon Burkhardt, (ex TD, NBC Houston, now from Maui, Hawaian Islands:) Dear H. - I still think of you when I walk into a large TV mobile unit and wonder "What in the world am I doing here". Feels funny to walk back into the hysteria. Wonder if you feel the same. (Absolutely!) Hope to see you in Atlanta. (Maybe). (We worked at Seoul and Barcelona Olympics)..



Ted NATHANSON



DAN ZAMPINO

How ya doing Danny ?

Jaye & Ken Arber say the colored masthead was an innovation and added to the publication. How well I remember Hal Alexander's story about Macy's Day Thanksgiving Day Parade, with the Air Monitor showing CBS. -- [Your refurbished tri-band antenna continues to give me a lot of pleasure, able to hear anyone it aims at. So Many many thanks, (H.)] Heard Ken on the air from Fla. His fellow PN-ers put up an antenna for him. Nice signal Ken.

Evelyn Shoemaker: (ex Radio & Net Business Affairs) I don't get around much anymore - due to lasting effects of a broken hip and fractured pelvis several years ago.

Sure wish I could get to one of the luncheons, but can't manage it. However, do keep in touch with **Oscar Campbell**, **John Beherendt**, **Lil McNaughton** and **Marion Stephenson**.

Morty Aronoff: Say Pete, How about a Picco Lissimo - not March 8-21. I'll be driving down for the Florida Luncheon... Stay Warm Mort."

Howie Strawbridge reports in from Brooklyn 1 & 2. ----- " Big

turnover in B'klyn on Another World. 1st The show now uses both studios to shoot the show. Part in I, rest in II. 13-year **Skip Dresch** sent to 30 Rock. Conan ? **Brian Phraner**, longtime great cameraman moved to 30 Rock & Sports. Sound Effects, **Brian Lang** - to 30 Rock as cameraman replacement - various assignments, no continuity. Audio replacement is the former boom man on the show, **Mike Duffy**. T.D. replacement is **Vince Bailey**. The Best." **Howie**

Hey **Mary McNulty:** Call this number, 718: 979-8575 - and if a lady answers, - it'll probably be



FRAN DE GENNARO

Gloria Rawluk reports that her husband **Nick** is ill. He has Lou Gehrig's disease and is not doing too well. (Our prayers are with you Gloria)

p. n. people - K .

Dick Williams (ex cameraman) writes he loves all the info of his fellow workers who would otherwise just "fade out"..... Due to age catching up with them, Dick says they stayed at home for 8 months, but did get out in their motor home for two trips in the fall. Looking forward to a good year of motoring in '95. (Speaking of memories , I remember that I had taken Dick for a lengthy flight around Chicago and down to Indiana, in a Cessna 172 on a beautiful day, on a day off from doing the setup of one of the political conventions. The years have blended one into the other, but that flight is as vivid today as it was right after we landed.)

Jim Geraghty by now should be in Florida, having Auto-Train'd there. Says he WILL BE back in town for St.Patrick's Day. --" Being a professional IRISHMAN, and and a name like mine, 'twould be a "sacrilege" for me not to be in NYC on St. Pat's ... and yes ! -- Hurley's has to be one of my stops to meet some NBC'ers who might be able to sneak out for a "POP"... (Why don't we have an "Estonian Day" Parade up Fifth some day ? ?

Red McKinnon sends a note with his Christmas card that he enjoyed the get-together Pete arranged in L.A.. Also Red is still working, lighting up the world with **Bill Klages**. (Also Red, Staten Island hasn't floated out to sea yet, but the bridges are starting to stretch a bit, and the next L.A. Quake, experts tell us, will yank the Island away from its moorings. Islanders hope it will take a southern course towards the Bahamas ! Warmer and less taxes. New Jersey will give up trying to make it a part of Jersey, but I hear Virgin Gorda is eye-ing it's

possible trajectory, for the Great Kills Park could be a marvellous adjunct to Gorda Sound.)

" HELLO'S FROM "



Lilly Russo

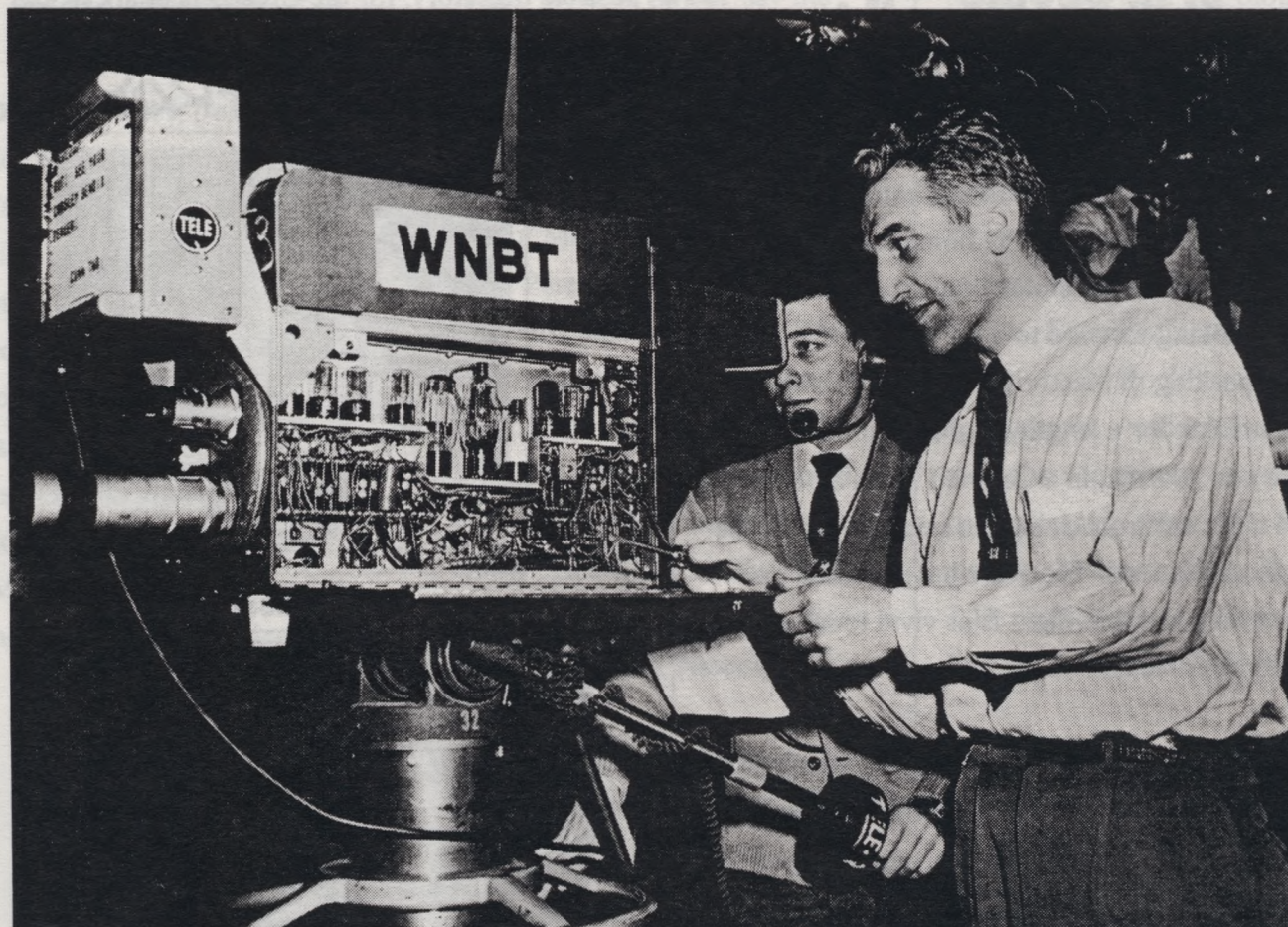


Audrey Marshall



Rose De Renzis

p. n. people -L .



Bob Hill AT (STEVE ALLEN SHOW) WITH HIM ON CAMERA AND DAVE HUBBY MAINTAINING ONE OF THOSE OLD FASHIONED BLACK & WHITE "TUBE" CAMERAS AT THE INTERNATIONAL THEATER, SAYS BOB.-(THE INT'L THEATER WAS AT COLUMBUS CIRCLE, WHERE CURRENTLY THE COLISEUM STANDS ON THE WEST side of the circle). (I THOUGHT STEVE ALLEN CAME FROM THE HUDSON THEATER ON 46TH STREET, LATER AT THE COLONIAL THEATER IN COLOR)

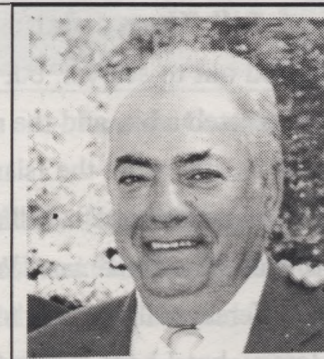
(AFTER READING MILT'S ARTICLE, ONE HAS TO BE VERY CORRECT, YOU KNOW, OR WE WILL SURELY HEAR FROM SOMEONE.. BUT IT IS REFRESHING TO SEE THAT PEOPLE ACTUALLY DO READ EVERYTHING AND WE DO APPRECIATE YOUR ATTENTION AND COMMENTS THO).

Diane and Bob Juncosa

managed to be very busy enjoying themselves. They are a couple who are **really retired**. Hope the snow hasn't kept you indoors. Bob is active on the NABET (computer Net) as well

NABET (computer Net) as well as the Ham Radio Net.

Remember the photo-Diane & Bob aboard a houseboat on Lake Shasta. Bob leisurely seated, holding onto his fishing rod. Hope the catch was tasty...



Bob JUNCOSA

p. n. people - M .

Joe Hewes now retired 7 1/2 years, and is living in the Northwest corner of South Carolina 6 1/2 yrs and loving it. He tries to stay active; is Treasurer of local Lake Association, and Fran and Joe volunteer twice a week at a nursery home and once a week at a Children's Home.

"Please give Ripp & Tony Nelle my best. (Ours too, Joe - H.)

Bob Newman writes: We look forward to see the folks at La Maganette. The affair - as well as the Newesletter and everything you and the other "ringleaders" are doing on behalf of all of us - was grand, and I'm sorry I took so long to start attending.

* * * *

Do you know

Bette K. Hoffman?

Well she just renewed her membership under a new name --

Bette K. Logan. Trying to go incognito eh ? Well, not exactly. Bette was remarried - to Mr.

Logan... She would like to have the names and addresses of the PN members.. Her only interest in such a roster is: To see where the NBC people I once worked with now live.

Tom Maccabe reports he enjoyed seeing many old friends from both NBC and the old New York World Telegram at the **Drew Phillips** memorial dinner in December. Tom and Drew both wrote for the World -Telegram for some years before both joined NBC in the early 1960's.

Ruthe Stone: I am staying in Scottsdale until mid March. Wish we could get a group together like they have in Florida but can't seem to find any NBC-ers in this area. Do you think we could recruit **Joe Garagiola** ? Ed Rossi and Linda keep in touch. We talk at length about the good old days and all the "fun NBC get-togethers of retirees" we miss out on.

If anyone passes through Phoenix/Scottsdale, Ruthe can be reached at 602: 860-6712.

Aleida Artze had a great cruise/tour to Alaska in August and a pre-cruise week in Seattle, Victoria, and Vancouver, which were beautiful, with guess who ? **Ruthe Stone.**

Aleida now resides in Alexandria, Virginia. She returned from Florida to find grandson # 2. She talks to **Gordon Matthews** very frequently. "he's the same old guy. He remembers everything

about payroll. Now, I have my mind on other things.

Herbert W. Greeley: Ruth has gone back to school to hopefully finish her B.A. degree, and her first subject is psychology. And Boy! is she hitting the books... Also spending time like everyone else traveling to visit the kids and vica versa.

Herb is still playing a lot of golf and still loving it: plus having a great social life with some great people they've met in Suntree. But Herb says it's not all roses - the temperature dropped all the way down to 58 last night.. "So Ruth and I should go South this winter ! WRONG!" They do hope to be in Orlando for the Florida Retirees Bash....

John Trautwein (Head Electric in 6A) "After 38 years, severance from NBC was traumatic, but the kids are gone, the mortgage is paid up and the dog is dead. What now ? The good life !"

The Trautweins are looking from Cape Cod to Ashville No. Carolina - wherever there is golf and flowers.

"My going away from NBC Party was nice: it felt good and I deserved it ! After a bit of cake and so forth, we were all sad. The director cried - What

p. n. people - N .

did he cry ? "Props ! Get rid of the cake.. Let's go -- We have a show to do" (Kidding of course).

John loved having been at NBC all those years, because, as he says, "It gives him Peacock North, South - even West too ! "

**REMEMBER PEACOCK NORTH
SPRING BASH at
La Maganette Restaurant
825 Third Ave
(50th Street & 3rd Ave.)
SUNDAY MAY 21
NOON**



Cal Shadwell (filling all the empty space on a Christmas Card) writes: Becky and I had spent the holidays visiting, daughter in Schnectady, son in Sumter, S.C... Youngest son in Knoxville, Tenn, just gave them a reason to visit there, for the 8th grandchild was just added to the clan. "Reading the last P.N. issue

re: Scotty Connal and Ted Nathanson, brought back memories of traveling with he WBHC. (World's Best Hockey Crew)

As Tech Sup. our first game was in Bloomington, Minn., home of Minnesota North Stars.

This past October, Becky and I went to an annual reunion of my WW II USMC Bomber Squadron held in The **Thunderbird Motel**, across the street from the Hockey Arena. This motel is the same one we stayed in, for baseball, football & hockey when they played in the Old County Stadium.

"Mall of America" now occupies the site of the stadium; The only reminder of past days is a red bleacher seat on a wall at the spot it stood in the stadium, the day Al Kaline hit the longest ball ever hit in County Stadium. A few weeks after we left Bloomington, we saw a news report where they imploded the Hockey Arena, to make way for a new Hotel.

Progress, progress, they're tearing down our memories !" (As Stiller and Meara once screamed in Brooklyn II - "You moiderer, you moiderer - You're killing my dream!")

Bernard B. Jacobs spent 10 days visiting son Alan and family in San Fransisco. Son Alan wrote, directed, and produced a romantic comedy - "**Nina Takes a Lover**". Starring Laura San Giacomo, who starred in "Sex, Lies and Videotape". It debuts in March 1995.

"I'm still working at CBS -since 1965. Currently with the CBS Evening News, with Dan Rather and Connie Chung.

It's a mind jogger seeing old friends and colleagues in the Newsletter.. Some of TV's formative and exciting events happened when we were in TV, such as "The Lucky Strike Hit Parade" with Frank DeRienzo, Frank Weil, Bob (Moose) Daniels, Bettina Dillworth, A.D. et al-- "The Milton Berle Show" again with the two franks and Bob, (with Yank Lawson, the great trumpeter) -- and never getting through with the dress rehearsal! Great days !..

**TAKE YOUR PICTURE
AND SEND ME A
COPY**

How many PN-ers are
**celebrating their
50th ANNIVERSARY?**
(GOLDEN, as in Days of TV).
Let us know !

p. n. people - O .

More on **Joe Angotti**: In putting Joe's letter "where I wouldn't forget where", well, naturally I couldn't find it for the last issue. Joe is involved with designing and developing a new graduate journalism program at the University of Miami (School of Communication) - as well as a broadcast news studio, a process which reminds him of building our old convention "cities," an experience he knew would come in handy some day!

He's been in that endowed chair for over a year and thoroughly enjoys it. He loves teaching and working with kids..(As for the offer to lecture --I'd love to visit, but I'm not sure I'd do well at lecturing -H.)
---- Joe says he often thinks about and wonders a lot about so many of the old technical staff that gave him so much support and enjoyment...(I don't think I only speak for myself when I say that many of the joys of having been at NBC was when we were associated with you doing the conventions. H.)

--- Joe's Advisory Committee lists :Ken Bode, Tom Brokaw, Connie Chung, Chris Kramer (BBC), Lester Crystal, Ann Hodges, Tom Julin, Michael

Putney, Lemuel Schoefield, Ed Turner -CNN, Richard Yoakam- Indiana Univ, Joe Angotti *Communications Studies Chair*, and the Dean Edward J. Pfister..
Some heavy hitters here !

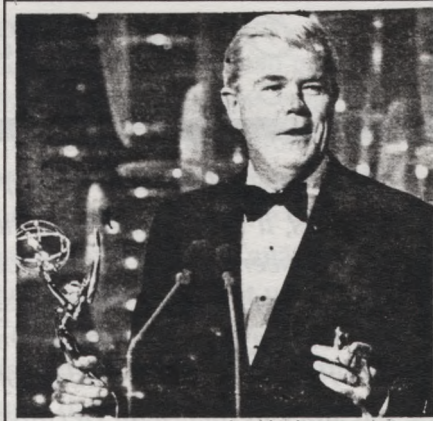
Joe, the Best !

* * * *

Eunice & Tom Smiley spent a weekend with **Frank and Marcia Schneider** in Clearwater Beach. Frank decorated his neighbors boat for the "Christmas Parade of Boats". Eunice says it was beautiful - they spent hours on the inter-coastal going in and out of the canals, which was very much like the one on Fort Lauderdale.

Their boat won the Commodore award... Eunice says Frank hasn't lost his touch !

Best Regards to all !
(All enjoying the warmth and beauty of Florida)



LEGENDARY DWIGHT HEMION

Our good old friend accepting another Emmy in 1984

Helge and Ivar Noormae

(TV Mtce): "As Christmas brings good things to life (GE), I think about the good times and bad times we've had together.

Sometimes one has to stop and take a step back to observe the large print or picture, and then forge ahead towards a yet better New Year and Tomorrow ! "

(Head Uut aastad Helge ja Ivar.)

THERE'S MORE PN PEOPLE
ON PAGE 38



JOHN TRAUTWEIN (Pqe "M") with MAX RUSSELL, ex Sound Effx

A Regal Race to Air

Condensed by Mort Hochstein

It's a story that sounds like a spy plot, and in its many twists, it would make a helluva movie.... the behind-the-scenes story of the race between CBS and NBC to become the first to telecast coverage of the coronation of Queen Elizabeth II on June 2, 1953. Reuven Frank, former president of NBC News, told the full story in American Heritage magazine in December, 1993. (PN member Mary Magnotta, of Cresskill, NJ, brought this story to our attention.) Here is an abbreviated version of that story:

Even in those pre-color, pre-satellite and pre-video tape times, Americans could have seen the Coronation live, but the cost of pre-empting all existing underwater cables was prohibitive, \$40 million dollars. Only CBS and NBC had the manpower, engineering and funds to battle to be first to present the pictures on 16-millimeter film. ABC, then the weak third network, and Robert Kintner as its president, planned to sit out the race.

Both nets would use BBC coverage, but the job of beating CBS fell to Charles H. 'Joe' Colledge, Jr., second in command at NBC News. He began his assignment after producing election night 1952, flying to London the very next night to meet with the BBC. Colledge began assembling an editing room and relay station where he could put together a kinescope of the BBC coverage to be flown across the Atlantic. He had orders to find a secret weapon and his best idea was to charter a jet that would bring home enough film to allow NBC to show the first pictures; later a commercial prop plane with seats replaced by film-editing equipment would bring a more ambitious program home for prime time.

The British Overseas Airways Corporation (BOAC) in 1953 had the only operating civilian jet, the de Havilland Comet, which flew between London, South Africa, India and the Far East. BOAC, however, had little interest in re-configuring a jet to make room for film-editing equipment and Colledge questioned the smoothness of the ride.

By Spring Colledge had arranged microwave dishes to carry the BBC pictures from the British Post Office tower at Maidenhead to a Quonset hut

he'd rented at Blackbushe Airport, 40 miles southwest of London. At the same time, BOAC seemed willing to do the deal and suggested that he go to Rome to fly the homebound Singapore-London route to check out the Comet in flight.

Colledge went to Rome May 2. The next morning he was shouted awake from his hotel bed and was told that BOAC would not fly the Comet to London and would be happy to make other arrangements. Several hours later, he learned that his original flight had crashed in a storm after leaving Calcutta, killing all 43 persons aboard. This was the third Comet crash in the year the plane first entered commercial service and BOAC was longer willing to discuss a charter.

Colledge considered the alternatives: he could negotiate with some nation for a military jet or with a manufacturer who might want the publicity. Colledge, working with Romney Wheeler, chief of the NBC News London Bureau, targeted English Electric, and its new Canberra jet bomber. In meetings with English Electric, just a month before the big day, they learned that the Venezuelan air force was to receive a Canberra at the end of May or early June.

Colledge, gingerly tendering one thousand pounds to proper party, arranged with the ferrying company to delay its delivery to allow an NBC charter, and to keep the arrangement secret. Wheeler christened the scheme "Operation Astro" and NBC had its secret weapon.

Meanwhile the network installed broadcast facilities at Logan International Airport in Boston. Originating there rather than New York would cut time to air by at least one hour. CBS also took a place at Logan and somehow managed to get Boston to proclaim CBS-Coronation-in-Boston Day. David Sarnoff, then running NBC, sent a vice president to the mayor and managed to have the proclamation reframed as CBS-and-NBC Coronation-in-Boston Day.

ABC, meanwhile, took the less expensive route. Robert Kintner arranged to carry, at no cost, the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation's telecast of kinescopes of BBC coverage on the evening of June 2. ABC's only cost would be the connections to the CBC transmission lines.

Canada's kinescope was to be flown by a British Royal Air Force jet to Goose Bay, Labrador. That plane also would carry kines made by NBC and CBS

and these would give the CBC and the two American networks a partial record of the event which they could show the afternoon of the event. Each network hired private owners of P-51 Mustangs to meet the RAF flight and carry the films to Boston. The CBC kine was to be transferred to a Canadian Air Force jet and flown to studios in Montreal.

In those days, the Today show was the only morning information program on tv and on June 2, it came on the air 90 minutes early at 5:30 a.m., with radio reports and still photos transmitted from London at the speed of nine minutes a shot. At 6:22 a.m. Romney Wheeler at Blackbushe Airport broke the secret of NBC's secret weapon, voicing over earlier film of the Canberra. NBC projected it would show first film as early as 1 that afternoon, hours earlier than anyone else.

The coronation began at 6:30 a.m. Eastern, 11:30 in London, and Today listeners heard H.V. Kaltenborn commenting on the event. At 8:21, NBC had to make an embarrassing announcement. Its plane had a clogged fuel line and was returning to London, carrying with it an hour-long program which had been edited at the Blackbushe Airport site. Lou Hazam, one of the great documentary producers, wrote the script and actor Ralph Richardson narrated the film. The handful of people who saw the program later described it as wonderful. It was lost however, somewhere between the time the plane turned back to London and its delivery to Venezuela.

With no secret weapon, it became an aerial race to air the coronation pictures and both networks would be relying on the BBC kines. The CBS P-51 was flown by Joe deBona, who'd won the Bendix trophy race in it in 1949. NBC's pilot was Stanley Reaver, who'd finished second to DeBona and was determined to reverse those results. DeBona left Goose Bay at 2:02 p.m., 13 minutes ahead of Reaver and arrived in Boston at 4:13, with nearly a half-hour advantage on Reaver, who had icing problems.

Long before the CBS plane arrived, the NBC staff was already experiencing the agony of yet another setback. Someone got an idea. Charles H. "Bud" Barry Jr., NBC vp for television programs made an eleventh hour call to Robert Kintner at ABC and said that NBC would pay all line charges from Montreal so that it could air simultaneously the CBC's afternoon program. Kintner hesitated, then agreed and

said ABC would also carry the CBC show. Both nets switched to Ottawa at 3:56. NBC had gone live earlier at 3:45 with Ben Grauer at Logan, relating the tale of a year of preparations gone wrong, and then announcing that NBC had righted itself. "We take you now," Grauer concluded, "to the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation in Ottawa, Canada."

Unfortunately Ottawa at that moment was broadcasting pictures of Canadian ceremonies. For a half hour it showed bands and soldiers marching in front of the Canadian Houses of Parliament. NBC telecast what the Canadian populace was seeing and it wasn't until 4:17, moments after Joe DeBona landed and gave his film to a CBS technician at Logan that the Canadians switched to Montreal for the kine of the London parade and the coronation ceremonies. First by 13 minutes, NBC trumpeted its success with a full page ad in the next day's NY Times, neglecting to report that ABC also could make that claim.

In another race on coronation day, an NBC chartered DC6-B crossed the Atlantic in record time, to deliver far ahead of CBS's Stratocruiser, Colledge's program edited from BBC coverage. In this case however, first was not important since both networks aired their coronation specials at 10:30 that night.

Later in yet another ironic twist, NBC learned the true story of what had happened was political, not technical. One of the NBC brass had broken secrecy to tell BBC executives about Operation Astro. People at the Beeb discussed the network aerial battle with the Air Ministry, which then had words with the two pilots who were to fly the Canberra for NBC. Both were officers in the RAF reserve and they obeyed orders to turn the plane around soon after takeoff.

Several years later Colledge asked a friend at the BBC why the plane had been ordered to return. The man did not deny the incident, but said only "To protect our Canadian coverage."

Ruven Frank, who observed all the hassle as a young newswriter at Logan Airport, summed it up: "the Crown is the Crown, and the Commonwealth is the Commonwealth, and it would hardly do, would it, to have the queen's coronation shown in the United States before it could even be seen in Canada. Some things are more important than other things." □

A Letter From Lenny Stucker

Lenny Stucker worked at NBC from 1967 to 1990 and today runs a major international sports production company. (Talent triumphs!) Here is his story....

I started to work for NBC during the summer after my first year at college under what was then called the vacation relief program. My goal from the start was to become a director and I observed and learned that summer and for all three summers that followed. When I was graduated, NBC offered me a full time job as a cameraman on the Tonight show.

Making the shift from engineering to directing was a hard path, but eventually I was made a technical director and went on to work on most of the big sports shows. Don Ohlmeyer, who was then Executive Producer of NBC Sports, gave me the chance to be a director on a sports show. When Mike Weisman became executive producer, he encouraged me in my work as director.

There was a lot to be learned from the senior people at NBC. Many of them had been there at the start of tv and I learned a lot from people in both areas, engineering and production. I was fortunate to come aboard at the end of an era, to see how things had been and where television was going. You couldn't buy the stories and knowledge that these veterans had to offer. It was there for the taking if any one had an interest and I was eager to learn from them.

Well, as we all know, things change and so did NBC. All I wanted to be was a director, but the avenues were closing down. I spent many sleepless nights thinking about what I should do. All I'd ever known, from college and into my working career, was NBC. I loved NBC and the people I worked with. I wanted to direct all the time and I wanted to start a company. I decided to resign.

One day I got a call from the USA Network and was asked if I would like to direct World League Football. YES, YES, I'd love to direct football and so I went to work for the USA Network. When football ended, I was offered a contract directing the Tuesday Night Fight show. I did this for two years.

One month after leaving NBC I received a phone call from a network in Germany asking if I would

like to go abroad to direct a boxing show. I went to Germany for that job and, as luck would have it, the show won an award in Europe.

I then received a call from a French network to work in France. I started an international production company called TalentWorks. I am the CEO. TalentWorks went on to get the rights for production at most of the large entertainment and sports shows in the USA. We've done the Super Bowl, World Cup Soccer, US Open Golf, The Masters, Indy 500, Ryder Cup, world heavyweight championship fights and the Grammys.

TalentWorks is now one of the largest international production companies in the United States. I would like to tell all of you retired NBC people whom I worked with that what I learned from you were the old ways of treating people. Everyone at TalentWorks is treated with respect and equality. There is room to grow and good people are promoted. All of our people in engineering and production are highly paid.

I want to thank all of you PN'ers I learned much from you all and I now realize that. Thank you for teaching me how it was, because that's when television was television and it was fun. My European clients have learned this from me and for now, this is the way it is. And what's most important —

there is life after NBC. □

Len Stucker lives in Fort Salonga, NY,
with his wife Sharon.

Ear Benders Quiz Answers (Quiz on page 21)

- 1 The Camel News Caravan
- 2 John Cameron Swayze
- 3 Reuven Frank
- 4 Sylvester "Pat" Weaver
- 5 J. Fred Muggs
- 6 Meet The Press
- 7 At the 1956 Political Conventions
- 8 The "Creepie Peepie"
- 9 McGee, Chancellor, Newman, and Vanocur
- 10 Pauline Frederick
- 11 For the coverage of President Kennedy's Funeral.
- 12 Frank Blair

Reflections : Mort Hochstein



Mort Hochstein, who was with NBC News for thirty years, is now helping with our Peacock North newsletter. He put together these remembrances of his days at NBC.

In late 1951, soon after I got my sergeant's stripes, the Army assigned me to the Aberdeen Proving Grounds in Maryland. I had been offered a slot at Armed Forces Radio in Vienna, but turned it down, saying I knew nothing about radio. Later I was to regret that decision, but I had no thoughts of NBC or a career in broadcasting at that time.

At Aberdeen, I joined the Public Information Office where I worked with several people who later had careers in broadcasting. One was a quiet private named Roone Arledge, who seemed to spend most of his time on the squash court. He later created Wide World of Sports and is now president of ABC News. The second was PFC Merryl (Bud) Rukeyser, later to become an executive vp for public relations at NBC. Bud spent his mornings breakfasting with the commanding general and I suspected that he had a great deal to do with how the camp was run.

The third was Bernie Kahn. He and Roone spent some time together in the fifties as staffers on NBC Radio's Monitor program. Kahn achieved some notoriety for getting progressively drunk on the air during a six hour stint as part of a show on alcoholism. He later went to Hollywood to write sitcoms.

I think I was the first of the group to come to NBC. After working as editor of a trade magazine and as an account executive in consumer public relations, I joined the company in 1955. I had done a publicity stunt involving Milton Berle and the unit publicist, Al Camman, suggested that I apply for an opening in NBC Press. I interviewed with Syd Eiges, an old-time wire service editor and then vice president for press, and his director, Ellis Moore. To bolster my re-

sume, I added a year of age and experience to my credits. Three decades later when retirement negotiations began, I had to explain away that extra year.

Those were the days of General Sarnoff and Robert Sarnoff. I remember going to the Waldorf-Astoria for a luncheon where the General was to be honored. He sat asleep on the dais until his name was called. He then got up, made a speech and left immediately flanked by a squad of vp's. One of those vp's was Al Rylander, who'd been with the Journal American and was brought over to NBC to create a promotion department. On his second day aboard, he got the Sarnoffs a big spread in the Journal and that made future life at NBC much easier for him.

At first I worked on the entertainment shows--Perry Como, Martha Raye, Sid Caesar, and Dinah Shore, Jerry Lewis and other West Coast stars when they came to New York. I was at NBC for more than a year before I bought a television set and only then because of an accident. One night a piece of scenery fell on Nanette Fabray during a Caesar show and I didn't know anything about it until my phone at home exploded with calls from reporters. I spent the next morning at Doctors Hospital with Nan and bought a tv set that afternoon.

Those were also the days of Dave Garroway in the morning and Steve Allen at night. I recall being in the third floor men's room and seeing the long hairy arm of J. Fred Muggs reaching up toward me from an adjoining booth. I once took photographer, Freddie Hermanski, to shoot pictures of Dave Garroway in his office. Freddie, who was slightly deaf, inadvertently knocked over Garroway's coffee cup, but didn't notice it. Garroway proceeded to chew him out, but Freddie never heard him because Garroway was addressing his deaf ear.

In 1960, I went to London with Jack Paar for Tonight's first European remote. Paar got off the plane wearing a bowler hat and carrying an umbrella and was unjustly attacked in the next day's papers for making fun of British customs. He avoided the press for much of our time abroad, but one day he was ambushed into an impromptu news conference. He spilled out his emotions for two hours as only Paar could do and the press again took off on him. Those were the days, of course, of filming the show in seg-

More —→

ments and sending it back to New York to be assembled. Satellite feeds were a long way away.

I later joined a special unit publicizing NBC News and that brought me to the 1960 Republican and Democratic conventions. I remember Burroughs "Buck" Prince telling his staff that they'd be staying at what he called "a former riding academy" in Chicago. I had to ask what the term meant. At the Democratic convention in Los Angeles that nominated John F. Kennedy, I was pushed into Adlai Stevenson by a crowd and escaped with him into the nearest refuge, a latrine.

In June of '61, Kennedy and Khrushchev were to meet in Vienna and Paris. I was planning a vacation in France at the same time and I told Bill McAndrew, vice president of NBC News, I'd handle publicity for NBC News in Paris if he'd pick up some of my expenses there. Bill, one of the really great newsmen of his time, agreed, then added "Go to Vienna too." I told Bill that would be nice but that there was very little I could do as far as publicity in the three days allotted for the Vienna meeting. "Hochstein," he boomed out, "go for the dray-ma!"

So I went to Austria and the most notable thing I did was to hold a telephone line open to New York for three days for John Chancellor. Oh yes, and now it can be told, I took part in a scheme in which Lucy Jarvis appropriated Sandor Vanocur's room at Vienna's best hotel, leaving him to find lesser quarters elsewhere. Sorry, Sandy.

Soon afterward, tired of spending my weekends fielding reporters' questions about NBC News coverage and wanting to return to legitimate journalism, I went to McAndrew and told him I'd like to join the news department. "I need you where you are," he answered. "Find me a job or give me references," I responded. "I've got to get out of publicity."

"Okay," he said, "see Sam Sharkey." The next week I was on the overnight trick, working for less than I'd made as a publicist. When McAndrew learned about that, he raised my salary back to what it had been. That was the start of nearly a quarter century of irregular working hours and I had very few normal weekends or holiday breaks for many years.

Things were more flexible then. You could be writing news for local radio one day and network the next and right back to local again the following week.

I was part of several special news units and attended most of the early space launches from Cape Canaveral and what later became Cape Kennedy and also went to the space center near Houston several times. In those days the networks covered a launch from start to finish, devoting huge amounts of time to the astronauts. Once on the overnight at Cape Canaveral, the technicians were broadcasting on a closed circuit between several network trucks what was then a 'dirty' movie, a couple of strippers on a San Francisco stage. Today, it might qualify for a family rating. Our correspondent was Merrill "Red" Mueller, and he had a fit when he saw a girl dancing on our screen. "Push one wrong button," he exclaimed, "and it'll go out on the network."

I was working the network news desk one lunch hour in November '63 when a correspondent--Bob Abernathy or Tom Pettit, I'm not sure--called in from Dallas to say that President Kennedy had been shot. There were no news executives around, nothing on the wires, and nobody to check with, so I followed the rule of going with your own reporter. I broke into the network myself, drafting David Lent to read that fateful bulletin.

We worked around the clock that weekend--Hurley's was very busy--and I was asked to help the Today program with its coverage of events in Dallas. I was on the desk again that gruesome Sunday morning watching in shock as Jack Ruby shot Lee Harvey Oswald in a Dallas jail. The Today people liked my work and asked me to join their staff for what became the most creative and satisfying period of my time at NBC News.

Life at Today was exciting, hectic and entirely unregimented. Al Morgan, our producer, believed in giving writers free rein to produce the best possible product and his system worked. About once every eight days, a writer had to show up in the studio at 5 a.m. for his or her show. Otherwise, there were few restrictions apart from meeting deadlines and doing the job well.

Morgan took the show to the conventions in '68 and '72. By '68, Barbara Walters had been on the air with Hugh Downs for about six years. One night during the Democratic convention in Miami, we went to shoot a story about a care center for children of delegates. The nurses had selected a child for us to film, but couldn't get the baby to stop crying. Barbara took

the baby in her arms and crooned in her ear and miraculously, the child was all smiles and laughter.

As I drove back to the convention hall, Barbara asked me for her credentials which I'd removed during the filming. Strapped into my seat, I was able to retrieve her pass for the Convention floor, but couldn't find the badge for the NBC offices. I told her the one badge was all she really needed, but she was greatly concerned. "Nobody will know me," she worried, "and I won't be able to get into the NBC offices."

Chicago forever remains in my memory for the troubled, Vietnam-era convention and dangerous streets where protesters were gassed and clubbed by Mayor Daley's police. I went to report those events with Joe Garagiola. While filming a story about those young people, Joe underwent some sort of epiphany. He'd come to Chicago as an opponent of the demonstrations but after talking with the marchers and seeing the brutality of the cops, he made a complete reversal and did whatever he could to help them. Morgan later recreated that tumultuous week in his novel, "The Whole World is Watching."

We hadn't really forseen what would happen in Chicago. Mayor Daley had assured Al Morgan that there would be no riots and Morgan was concerned about a possible lack of programming for the period. So he asked Burr Tillstrom to put together a mock convention. Kukla, Fran and Ollie (Oliver Dragon) and company never got on the air but Tillstrom said he'd had a good time in Chicago.

With Morgan, I went on Today remotes to Portugal and London. In London, we gave a new young rock group, "The Who," its first exposure on American television. Barbara Walters did the spot.

Morgan would not allow show staff to bring wives or companions on foreign remotes, arguing that they would be distracting. His successor, Stuart Schulberg, who had previously produced special programming for NBC News, conversely, encouraged staff to bring their nearest and dearest with them during foreign travel. Schulberg, now dead, divorced his first wife sometime after joining the program and married Today book editor Jane Murphy. Morgan and his wife of many decades, Martha, today live in Vermont.

Frank McGee became host of the Today show during the Schulberg era. A superb newsman, McGee was extremely tense before going on camera, but never showed his nerves publicly. A victim of cancer, he kept his illness a secret from all but closest associates until he could no longer work.

One of my last remotes with Today took me to Liverpool. The British tourism office assigned me a driver and a Rolls Royce while I was doing advance scouting for the show. After my first day of touring the poverty-ridden city, I told the driver that I was uncomfortable traveling in the Rolls and, much to his sorrow, asked him to return the next morning with a



1970 - Today in Berlin, Barbara Walters and Mort Hochstein. Left Stuart Schulberg, right Joe Gottlieb, both deceased.

more modest vehicle.

In Liverpool, we arranged for Joe Garagiola to bat in a cricket match. Joe had no trouble handling the flat cricket bat and was smashing everything the British hurler could throw at him. After four minutes, Schulberg angrily asked if I'd planned any way of getting Garagiola out, which I hadn't. That night, I was in a pub and from the booth behind me, I heard someone lamenting: "That bloody yank, I couldn't get him out." I looked around and saw the British pitcher nursing a battered psyche and a sore arm.

I left "Today" in 1972 and worked in various news assignments until I was bought out in '86. I had worked through three decades of tremendous change. I felt myself privileged to be watching those changes from a front row seat and to work in television at its time of greatest growth. □

p. n. people - P .

Haven't seen **Arnie Rand** here up Nawth for a long time. Have heard him on the NBC Ham Net tho, and have read his columns in the NBCFR News-letter. Stop in on the way to Maine sometime Randy !



ARNIE RAND ENJOYING THE BASH REVELINGS IN ORLANDO

Dorothy and Garry Iorio

say they are both doing fine, in Florida for now. Visited daughter in Coral Springs - had a visitor from North for two weeks - **Herb Oxman and wife Renee**. They dined in, dined out, golf'd and schmoozed . Herb got in touch with Lee Carlton, and - - they played golf. Ed Taffee came along bringing grapefruit and oranges for all..

On Feb 5. **June Carlton** had a birthday party at an inter coastal hotel, with sixty guests, to celebrate **Lee Carlton's**

Seventieth birthday. (We're all getting up there, aren't we !) Lee, P.N. wishes you a belated **HAPPY BIRTHDAY**, and hope for many more...

Sid Davidson (ex tech ops) writes from Aurora, Colorado. "As Quality Control Manager for Specialty Electronics at the new Denver Int'l Airport, I have been submerged in closing projects for the Feb 28th opening. Yes, in spite of all the negative publicity, the airport will open and will be a success."

"It was quite something, topping out my career, working for the world's largest construction project." Congrats Sid !

Joan Annette (ex TV

Network Sales) says she's still "chugging along".. having had a difficult '94. House problems, rough winter weather, and the dog died...Looking forward to a better '95.

Joan is still continuing at her job at Middlesex County College, working on various grants benefiting the County school districts in math awareness, career development and preparation for higher education. Also enjoys being with her two grandchildren..

Hopes to return to London this year..

Rosemary Dubois notes that she enjoyed her years at NBC and has many happy memories. However, we quote, "life still goes on". Says she's fortunate to find involvement in volunteer work which she truly enjoys .

"I'm sorry that I wasn't able to participate in some of the social activities.(No car to get to the luncheon for ex.; but did manage a few of the Manhattan parties. Maybe I will again.... (Rosemary, extremely saddened by a visit to Rita Stipo in the hospital. She was a close friend.)

Frank McKiernan has sold his house and moved to a Florida condo. "Much work in moving !" And to his woe, he's having antenna difficulties, keeping him off the air. (NBC Ham Net).

Already he's lunched with some of the Florida group. "It was enjoyable - Lee Carlton celebrated his birthday. Well we all are adding on, he says, **I am now 81 !** - Oh well "....

Re-found a letter from **Ed Leddy**. Can't use Xeroxed fotos - make copies ? - will use it in next issue. Many apologies.

p. n. people - Q .

These, and other folks, have sent Season's Greetings and / or compliments of the Newsletter. P.N. Thanks you-all for the nice thoughts, and (your dues!)

- **Herb Polak**
- **Janet & Phil Falcone** - "P.N. -It's like having a conversation with hundreds of friends."
- **Gerry Stonebridge:** "Brings back many happy memories."

Dollie and Irv Messing:

"The Best for the New Year."



Dollie

- **Agnes R Sullivan.** (Thanks for the card.)
- **Bob Fraraccio:** In Fort Meyers, Florida 'till April. Give me a call.
- **Vic Roby:** Referring to dues post card Vic also adds - "I can't await to learn about A new event which is about to

be announced" Vic then queries to Pete - Are you expecting ? Er-ah -to announce it soon, ? Hmmmmm.

- **Ed Gender** will have P.N. for another year.
- **Frank Gaeta:** "Have a nice year !"
- **Scott McCartney:** wishes Pete had called him when Pete was on his Calif sojourn.. **Bob Juncosa** stopped in for a visit. Scotty was going to see who of the old gang was doing the Bob Hope Golf classic. (Hope the Pres. said Hello)
- **Bill McCord** writes from San Diego, - has had some sadness in the family recently. Wishes all the best to all the members, says PN is his favorite periodical. (We miss having you around, Bill, hope San Diego has been the perfect place to retire to.
- **Dorothea & Bill Delannoy** has helped to keep PN alive for another year.[Thanks]
- **Arthur Anderson:** "Sorry to have forgotten the dues - When one has reached the tender age of Eighty, one can so easily forget. Meet you on the Ham Net one of these days." (Hey Andy, congratulations. Also hope Pete reads this, cause you also have automatically joined the P.N. Free-Bee Club - That

(80 or over- that is)....

- **Jim Smart** sends greetings. (Still flying Jim ?)
- **Joan Gifford** is looking forward to attending the May Bash !
- **Joe Mergner** writes to add him to the list of members that has prostate cancer. Joe's taking radiation treatments at Pascack Valley Hospital.
- Talked to **John (Red) Donahoe.** He is going in for an operation on March 8, Also for prostate cancer.(We wish you both a speedy successful recovery.)
- **Jim Blaney** thinks Pete should send his reminder card to all of the out of towners. (Glad you're staying in for another year Jim. We need all of you.)
- Greetings from **Don Meaney.** (Mr. Meaney, You give a lot of "class" to Peacock North !)
- **Don Pardo** is busy, but not too busy to send us a note. He's still on SNL ! and everywhere else I dial into.
- **Arthur Gary** sends greetings.
- **Chris Sanis** " " "
- **H. (Rod) Rodomista** ditto.
- **Jay Roper** (LA News Dir) promises to write re: What's happening at the West Coast.(Hi Jay - H.)

p. n. people - R .

Continuing health problems precluded **George Moyantcheff** from spending the winter in Jupiter, Fla. He did manage to spend four days for golf at Myrtle Beach, but as luck would have it, two days were frigid and the other 2 days, George had intestinal problems.... but is looking forward to future "colorful" Peacock events.

Arthur Poppele reminds us from Bradenton, Florida, that he now has reached the age of 81; another Free Bee customer. Art you too deserve it. Sorry to hear about your pinched nerve operation on your hand, hope it clears up soon, and all is well. Always nice to hear about you, we've had lots of good times.

Cathy Voukovich has been going through a rough time. Her brother passed away after a long illness, and Cathy is having all kinds of problems with her hip and back. In April they're talking of hip replacement surgery. She hopes to limp her way to La Maganette this May. Keep taking your vitamins, Cathy !

Greta Rogg writes us a note with her dues, showing a

computerized group of people. She asks that we join those people in saying a prayer for **Rita Stipo**, who very recently passed away. Greta had known Rita since the late fifties.

Besides her nice thought, I admired the **lettering** of the note. It was a beautiful font. I called her home, reached **Geo Smejkal** and had a delightful chat. Obviously he had a good grasp of the computer, and appreciated *my* interest, for the font had similarly attracted him. He's sending me a disk.. Thank you both very much. Sorry I didn't get to talk to Greta.

O. Tamburri sends a note for not being able to join Pete's mini luncheon in Pasadena. Tambo says Dorothy is now fine with a pacemaker that is perfectly fine tuned. They still reminisce about their home in Harrington Park.. Many nice memories....

Marvin Einhorn promises that one of these days he will attend one of the PN functions.

"Annie and I are still involved with theater. Anne does Public Relations for an off Broadway Theater, (Primary Stages Co.) and I am under-studying in an off B'wy play, "You should be so lucky"

Robert Asman, from Washington - **This is Your Life !**

Your NBC "family" roots go back a long way.

In the 40's, Bob was going to Columbia Univ. and worked as a guide in Guest Relations. His wife of 46 years is Nancy Johnston, also a guide. They met at 30 Rock. He stole his first kiss in the guide's ready room, on the beautiful old beautiful and ornate mezzanine level.

When "good old" **Pat Kelly** helped him find a job in Rochester, N.Y., he left New York and also left Nancy behind. (Kelly, Dean of announcers not only taught an announcing class for a few select guides and pages, but did his best to place successful graduates at NBC affiliates.) Meanwhile, Nancy went to work for **Peter Tintle** in the ticket division. Bob courted her by Special Delivery letter, and in 1949 Nancy left the glamour and excitement of New York to marry Mr. Asman and live in Upstate New York.

Bob soon re-joined "the real world" to work with a film Co. in NYC. He took a job offer from CBS News. - After five years of Production Manager-ing of **The Twentieth Century** program at CBS, he got a chance

p. n. people - S .

to come back home to NBC as Associate Producer of "**David Brinkley's Journal**" in 1961. This meant having to go to Washington with their two kids. After two seasons of the Journal, he and Nancy decided that Washington was not a bad place to live. He parlayed his assignment into a 32 year career with Washington bureau as home base.

Having served as TV Pool Producer at the Capitol for Clinton's Inauguration, Bob Asman retired and has been enjoying a more relaxed life since.

Still does some communications training with Susan Peterson Productions, but does a lot more traveling and enjoying of grandchildren.

So, Bob's NBC "family" connection is a long and wonderful one!...

George Wasielke celebrated his 65th birthday on the 25th of February. He did so by playing golf with his new King Cobra Senior Graphite clubs, until the snows stopped him..

He bumped into **Willie Bratton** (Longtime Lighting Chief in 8H), who works part time at the golf course. George

lent Willie his copy of the Newsletter. (We should send Bill a complimentary copy. Will is 75 now) Don't worry, George, the snow has a habit of melting, and soon you can be out golfing again.

Don Blair (Venice, Fla.) praised John Powers, as a jolly and talented man who he got to know during his last years at NBC. He was proud of his work in Sound Effects in the glory days (I second the motion.)

Don, as a member of Broadcast Pioneers, lunched with John Gambling Jr. in Jan-uary. (J.G. living in Boca Grande these days).. Also plans to attend the NBC-Fla-Retirees bash in Orlando. His 2nd.

Don was in NYC in June to M.C. a black-tie affair at the Marriott Marquis honoring **Cronkite, Hugh Downs**, NBC's **Jay Barbree** and AP's **Howard Benedict** for space reporting. Walter Cronkite was tied up in Europe, but the Mrs. and I sat with Hugh Downs and his wife, first Astronaut **Alan Shephard** and the last man on the moon **Gene Cernan**.

We all got autographed copies of the best-seller **Moonshot** as well. It was all of a month long series of events tied

to the 25th anniversary of the Apollo mission during which Don was the only radio "pool" voice on the recovery carrier. Old friend and shipmate, **Dallas Townsend** also attended. He lives a few miles from Don's house.

Don muses - Life goes on. - Golf, sun, pool and tax free muni's !



JERRY Cudlipp

Jerry Cudlipp suffered a mild heart attack - Nancy said he was going for further evaluation.



JOE MERQNER AT PICCO LISSIMO

(See Page Q)

A MESSAGE FROM PETE PETERSON



We're looking forward to another great year for our PN group. The response to our request to add a note to your "Dues" remittance was overwhelmingly pleasant. You have seen the results on the previous pages by reading the newsy PN PEOPLE column that Heino Ripp has, once again, assembled.

These collective messages are published for everyone's enjoyment. Frank Vierling's excellent work in the computer production of this edition is before you, and he's almost completed his town's history commemorating Oradell's 100th Anniversary. It will be a hard cover book. Masterpieces abound.

For those PN'ers in the North, we were lucky (to date) not to have the severe winter predicted by the FARMERS ALMANAC as the one we had last winter ('93 -'94). Along with others, many of us purchased additional new styled "back saving" snow shovels, snow blowers etc. and armed ourselves for the mighty winter battle that never materialized this time 'round. What to do while awaiting the white stuff.

Well, it is the new fascination on TV -- The OJ Simpson show. It holds national interest to the point of exasperation, and gives a great lesson to all on how the legal, judicial and governmental policing forces operate in their separate immune systems. The verbiage of the courts, the machinations of legalistic hyperbolic persiflage in jargonetic tirades. Often they are accompanied with incredulous on stage performances of the principal legalists and continue to be an amazing educational exercise. The Samson and David balances of "The Dream Team" of attorneys, against the "Blue collar public servant" counsellors is a study situation in itself. You can tell when you have watched too much of this saga (*me, guilty*) when you can readily recite the names of all of the attorneys, the witnesses, and know the history and background of Judge Lance A. Ito. (who is a little younger than many of our group's children). The whole thing is as ridiculous as my last few sentences.

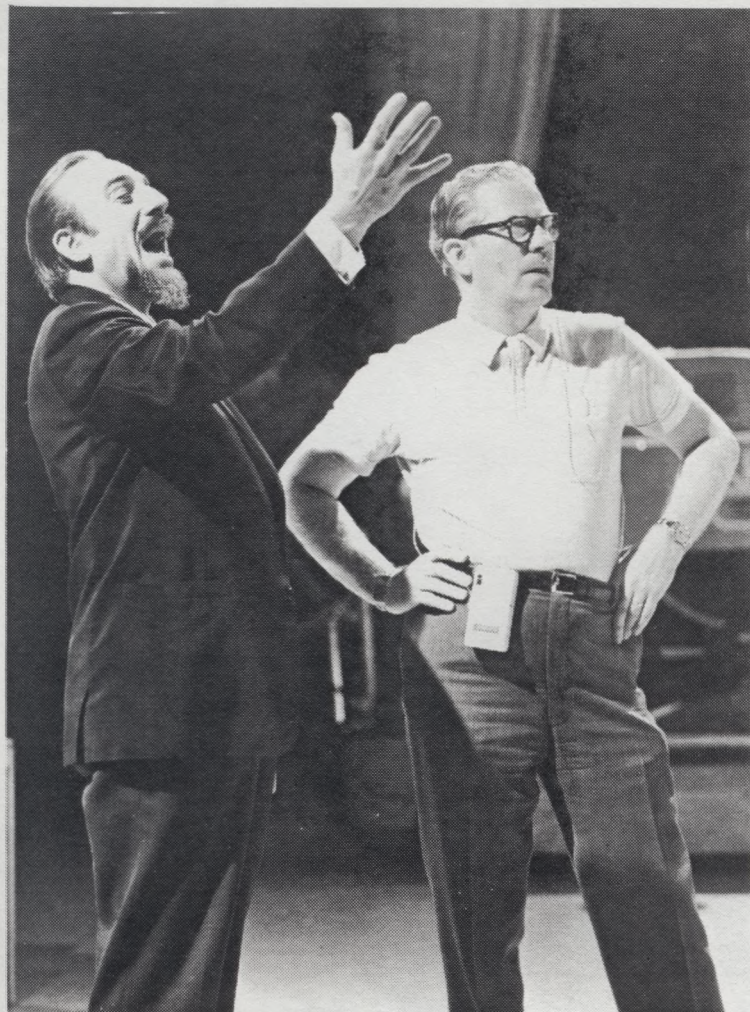
It did however get us into 1995.

Just recently we were pleasantly surprised to receive a call from a former NBC newsman. It was a call from Morton Hochstein, from nearby Tenafly N.J.. Mort had received a past copy of our PN newsletter from another good former newsman Joe Mehan, of Stamford.Ct., (nice guy, good family people Joe/Margaret, as I think of them). Mort apparently liked what he saw and read. He immediately volunteered his services, came to my home, and offered to do some "handwriting to computerizing" conversions. He undertook rewriting some stories and letters for us. Mort then offered his own bio story which we have included for all to enjoy. Although he continues to work freelance, he will endeavor to bring us insights from areas of interest within NBC, apart from our large technically oriented group. These opportunities of anecdotal diversity exemplify the vast cross sections of NBC. It helps illustrate that gel that made NBC a COLOSSUS in communication arts.

Last edition, we had a picture of a wonderful NBC gal in the story about her boss winning awards. This edition we are very saddened by the loss, to us all, of Rita Stipo's passing. She was a high spirited, beautiful lady. Rita had a pleasant personality and a smile for everyone. She was generous in offering help to our group by typing material for PN. It was depressing when I received a call from Mike Sherlock, Rita's boss, on the Thursday before Valentines Day, reporting Rita's moribund condition. I called her at Rockefeller Medical Hospital in N.Y. to tell her that all PN'ers are hoping she would be their Valentine, as we all loved her and were praying for her comfort. She said in a weak voice that she loved everyone and wished she could continue on with us forever. It was Valentines Day when I got the message she had passed away.

As we are approaching Spring, an important event is being announced (*Note- Vic Roby*), it is our Spring Luncheon get together at La Maganette in NYC, Sunday May 21 (coupon on page 22). Once again you will have an opportunity to see *some of the greatest people you ever knew*. I am looking forward to that wonderful day, and I hope to see all of you there.

Regards, Pete



PN member Hal Alexander sends us this picture from the days of Mitch Miller's "sing-a-long show" from the Brooklyn studios. For you metropolitan New York types, who would like to see Mitch again, you can catch his act, "Porgy and Bess and more," in the New Jersey Symphony's "Winter Pops III series."

The dates: Friday May 5, 8 pm, State Theater, New Brunswick; Saturday May 6, 8:30 pm, Crescent Temple, Trenton; Sunday May 7, 3pm Symphony Hall, Newark. For information call 1-800-ALLEGRO.

To catch Hal you must go to California.

Trivia - Q. When was the first professional baseball game televised?

A. August 26, 1939 by NBC.

Q. When was the last professional baseball game televised.

A. Duz anybody care?



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◆

And a special thanks to
Peg Peterson and Lois Vierling

Peacock North

30 Ann Arbor Place

Closter, NJ 07624

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New Member ☐

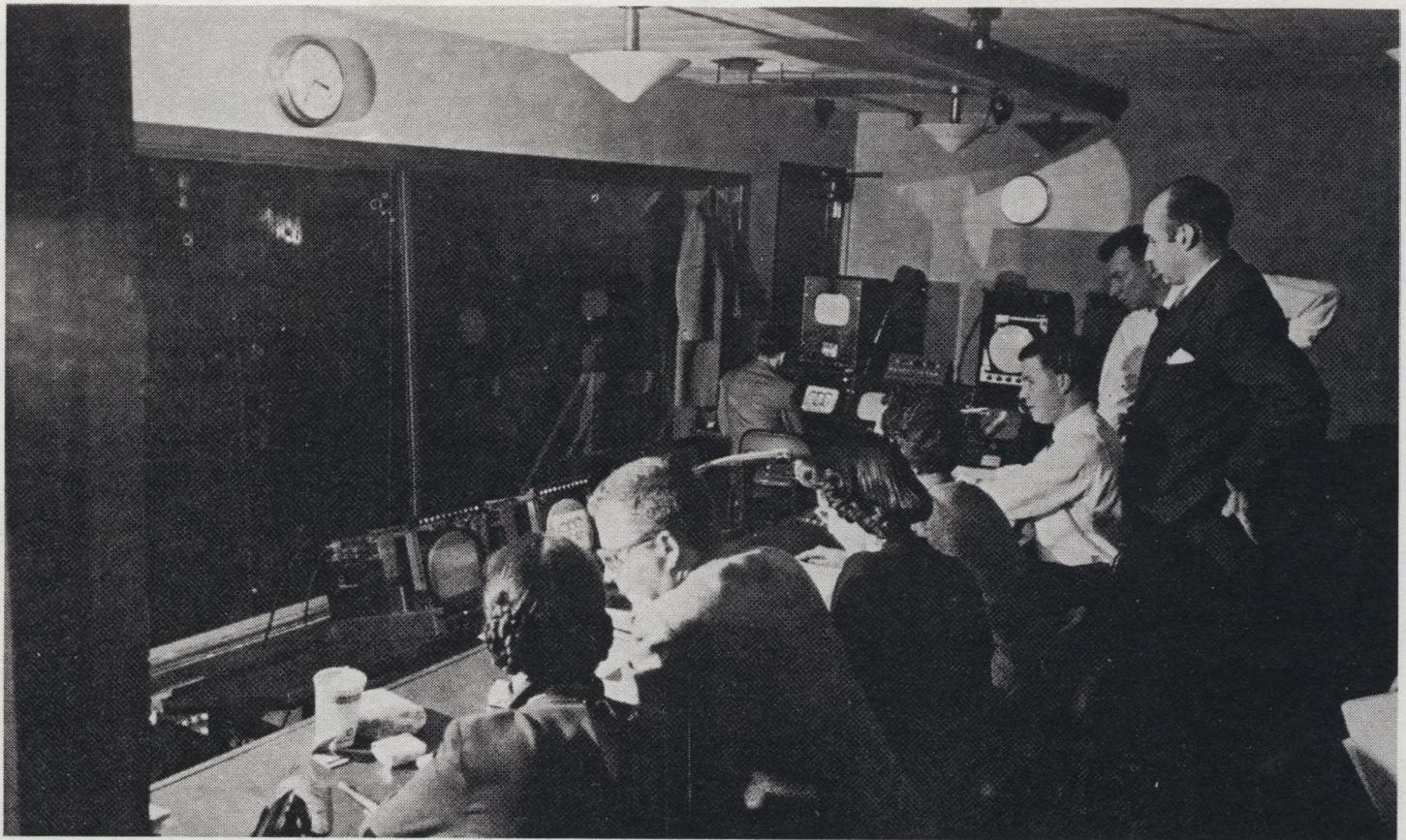
Renewal ☐

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PICTURES FROM OUR ARCHIVES.....



8H Control Room, early 1950s. Frank McArdle TD (seated, white shirt). Check out that sophisticated gear. However did we all make it work? Blood, sweat, and prayer. PN member Frank lives in Roxbury, NY

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