

Peacock North

WINTER, 1996



Volume V Edition 1

Peacock North to Hold Annual Membership Luncheon

Keep the date of June 2 open! June 2 ♦ June 2 ♦ June 2

All members, their spouses, guests, and friends are cordially invited to

*Peacock North's
9th Annual Spring Luncheon*

♦ ♦ ♦ ♦

*June 2, 1996 at 12 Noon
La Maganette Ristorante
825 Third Avenue
(Northeast corner of 3rd Ave. & 50th St.)*

It's getting to be that time of year when old (and we use that word advisedly) coworkers can meet to renew friendships. You're sure to have an afternoon to remember. Good food, good drink and good friendship. Smoozing with old friends, meeting new ones, telling twice told tales and hearing thrice told tales.

We urge you to RSVP as soon as possible. Last year we had so many last minute guests La Maganette's kitchen could not keep up with the added demand. So make your plans early to visit the folks back home, or to shop 5th Avenue. And, you local folks come on out to the party. It's later than you think!

RSVP with the coupon on page 39, or if you don't want to cut this priceless collector addition of your newsletter, send your check with the particulars mentioned on the coupon. **Come have a blast. ☐**

JOIN THE FUN

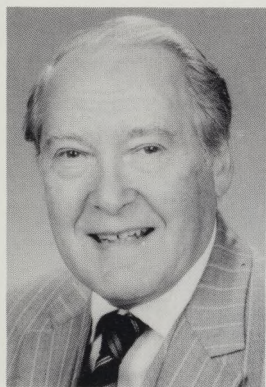
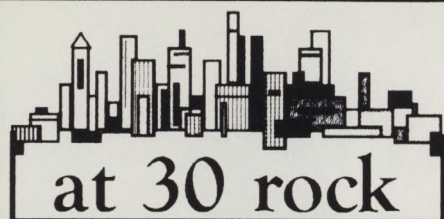
PLEASE RSVP by MAY 15.

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By
Dan
Grabel

WNBC had every reason to be proud as a peacock after the Blizzard of '96 because in the style of the old NBC News, it blanketed the story and remained on the air all day after CBS and ABC quit their continuous coverage in mid-morning and resumed broadcasting the soapers and talk shows.

Every few months for the past half year we've been getting copies of the Neilson audience reports and NBC has been number one. Here's a rundown from the Dec. 14th report:

Today in New York at 6 am (up 5%), Today (up 10%), Live at Five (up 7%), The SIX PM news (up 6%), Nightly (up 11%), and even Jay Leno on the Tonight show. In New York, Leno was a 9.1, Letterman 3.8, and Niteline 5.6. Today in New York on Saturday morning at 9am was up a whopping 18 percent. They must be doing something right.

It was the same story in January. Comparing January 1996 to January 1995, for example, Today in New York 5:30am was up 192%! Other news programs were

up 42%, 76%, and 111%.

And viewers certainly were watching. The noon news broadcast viewing totaled 64% of local sets, compared with the usual 29%

NBC was the only net to show growth from last year in every demographic category. But its not all good news for the major nets — 53 percent of the available viewing audience is now tuning in to the nets, but that figure is down from 59 percent last year, meaning cable channels are attracting more viewers.

CEO **Bob Wright** thanked everybody for a great year at the network. "Outstanding," he called it, "with 4 straight months of sweeps victories, the coup of snagging the Olympic games through the year 2008, and promising NBC would develop new opportunities in every arena."

Traditions

Some traditions continue. The WNBC staff was invited to sing their little hearts out again, rendering "We Need A Little Christmas," while posing in front of the Prometheus statue at the skating rink for the Christmas season promo. Even Chopper 4 got into the shots.

And an innovation. An EJ crew roamed the office shooting employee greetings, producers and writers at work for the holiday show which aired on Christmas day. It was a behind-the-scenes view of the operation, with everyone in the shots signing waivers — just a little precaution by the legal department in case anyone wanted to sue for a talent fee! Thoughtfully, they also shot the working stiffs at the Moonachie garage and in the Jersey bureau.

Superbowl

For a special and ambitious pro-

ject, WNBC did a 4-minute promo that aired during the superbowl in January. As management pointed out, not only was this epic four minutes long, but four minutes running time during the most expensive commercial time on television!

As it was explained to staff "This will be a visual showcase of every aspect of Newschannel 4 — our editorial philosophy, our commitment to strong journalism, and the dedication involved in putting a news broadcast on the air."

Did we say, "BIG!?" Five tape crews were assigned to the project in early January. They started by showing **Mary Civiello** and **Jane Hanson** arriving for work at dawn to **Chuck Scarborough** and **Sue Simmons** arriving late in the day. Also, editorial meetings, producers and writers at work, the news-gathering process in EJ, Master Control, L-Control, studio and studio control rooms, and Graphics. Crews also shadowed reporters and photographers in the field. They followed Gabe Pressman all over the place — the morning meeting, phone calls, interviewing, reverse angle cut in shots, ("nods and grunts," as cameraman **Jerry Yarus** used to say as he called for after-interview reaction shots.) Remember the days when nobody, but nobody was officially called murdered until Pressman arrived on the homicide scene and talked to a cop?

One veteran staffer, a popular lady who has been on the scene since the day when Nipper chewed on his first Milkbone, **Gloria Clyne** — who else — told us, "It was wonderful. Equipment everywhere, cable and crew underfoot, Kleig lights, inkies, step ladders.

Gosh! It took me back to my documentary *film* days." Yeah, I remember them too, Gloria, days when guys like Cy Avnet cranked up their hand-wound 16mm Filmos to get silent shots of a scene, and film editor Bob Sorenson would handle his scissors like a scalpel to fashion a scene.

Kudos

Back to the blizzard. Channel 4 GM **Bill Bolster** congratulated his staff, pointing out they programmed 14 hours of blizzard stuff Jan. 8, and help establish channel 4 as the station to watch in an emergency. And putting action where his mouth is, Bolster said everyone at the station would be getting a News Channel 4 storm jacket! And each with personal initials!

NABET

In a Special Report on it's contract negotiations with NABET, the company announced that since 7 of the 11 employee units had approved the Master Agreement, it would put it into force for those 7 units even though NABET officials did not wish the contract to be effectuated with 5 units still unsettled. As of February 1996, negotiations had been underway for 21 months.

Best Things are Free

Bob Wright, among others, is angry over the thought of some Washington biggies, like Senator Dole, who do not want to give away more of the radio spectrum for expansion by the nets. The politicians see an auction of the spectrum for digital tv as the way to solve some of the budget deficit problem. Broadcasters, of course, remember that since the days of WEAH and KDKA, you applied to the FCC for a license and got it free. Well, times change, as any un-

employed, down-sized manager will tell you, and its a different ball game. TV and radio licenses are a privilege to churn out cash with a relatively small investment compared to the possible returns for a well-run operation.

One industry argument is that digital signals will be broadcast on channels that were assigned as far back as 1945 but could not be used for technical reasons.

Additionally, one estimate says current stations each will spend \$1,800,000 to relocate from their present place to digital. One suggestion is that the old station frequencies be auctioned off for an estimated \$70-billion to new broadcasters but the people now having licenses should get a free ride when moving to the advanced tv.

It doesn't seem unreasonable, in view of the money to be made by broadcasters, that they pay something for that right.

Finally, if you have an old set and want to pick up the new digital signals, you'll need a little box that may cost home viewers \$200.

Go West, Young Network

NBC management expects that in 10 years, half the net's value will come from its international holdings, with Asia the area of primary growth. There are 400-million homes on that continent, although many certainly are hovels without electricity. By contrast in the states there are 97-million homes. Other expansion will be CNBC in Europe and a lot of services to Latin America, starting next year. Remember how avant garde we were in the 50s when the Department opened a bureau in Buenos Aires. I think it was first run by our long time man in Cairo, **Wilson Hall**, and then next

by **Ken Bernstein**. We were too far ahead of our time.

People

We're in the big election year and while that probably will not mean fat commercial fees for being a staffer on primary and election night coverages (ah, what sweet \$\$\$\$ memories), there still will be people moving into production jobs. One of them is **Beth O'Connell**, a 14 year vet at NBC and a senior producer on Today, who will head up planning and oversight for NBC's "Decision '96" coverage. Beth's favorite holiday is said to be Election day. Working with her will be **Dianne Festa**, NBC bureau chief in Moscow.

Joe Toplyn, who was co-head writer on the Tonight Show, has switched to the Letterman show where he worked from 1983 to '90. Still pounding out the stuff for Leno are writers **Joe Medeiros** and **Jimmy Brogan**, among others.

One tabloid says **Jay Leno** has



a \$4-million book contract to recall his years as a standup comic on the road. Buy a book when you can watch him for free?

News prexy **Andy Lack** has made it official. When **Brian**

(Continued on next page)

Williams signed his new contract, Lack announced in January that 36 year old Williams will be the primary back-up anchor when Brokaw is away.

David Brinkley found the best author available to write a book titled David Brinkley. David, himself, of course. It is described as wry, touching, and civilized.

NBC has renewed **Conan O'Brien's** contract to 1996 for the



CONAN

Late Night broadcast.

With **George Burns** on the eve of his 100th birthday as we write this in early January, we're reminded that for the first time since 1950, there was no **Bob Hope** Christmas special on NBC in 1995. However, Hope is expected to host a prime time special this spring. Hope is 92. Hmm, no early retirement for Bob.

Bob Wright hosted a luncheon on the occasion of **Jane Pauley's** 20th year with the net — 13 of them on Today.

NBC is considering an entertainment magazine type show and may choose **Giselle Fernandez** as a female host. She anchors weekend Today.

"History Alive," is the title of a show hosted by **Roger Mudd** on the new History channel. Its on at 8pm weeknights.

Bryant Gumble's 16 year old son Brad was the NYPost's high school athlete of the week in late

December because of his prowess on the basketball court. A junior at Columbia Prep, Brad is 6 foot 5.

Former NBC correspondent **Boyd Matson** is hosting the National Geographic's Explorer show. His most recent piece was on bats.

Goodbye **Donahue**. The talk show host who was dropped by WNBC last August, announced in January that this would be his last season on the daytime talker. Lousy ratings have done in Phil.

Stepping out when he's on top, **Bryant Gumble** announced his retirement from the Today show early in January, on his 14th anniversary with the show. He'll put in one more year. The net will look for other things for him to do.

Remember **Bonnie Erbe**? She was a correspondent some years ago and is now with Mutual and recently appeared on a PBS show.

And another Bonnie, **Bonnie Anderson** who was just too attractive, I thought, (sexist?) to be sending her out into the jungles and such, is still covering those mud-holes, now in Bosnia, for ABC.

Freedom of the Press

Bob Wright recently told a Columbia University J-school audience that wellheeled plaintiffs are using novel theories of law, including contract law and trespassing statutes, attempting to get around First Amendment protections of freedom of press and speech.

Wright was speaking in reference to Brown & Williamson's Tobacco Company suit to quiet CBS's 60 Minutes. Wright holds a law degree from the University of Virginia.

He said NBC's policy will be to take "a very aggressive position," to get a story on the air.

More People

Katie Couric is a mom again,

having given birth to Caroline Monahan. During her pregnancy leave fill-ins included: **Elizabeth Vargas**, **Maria Shriver**, and yes, **Jane Pauley**.

Ralph Penza has been downsized. WNBC has dropped the veteran newsmen after 15 years. Penza, who is 58 co-anchored the weekend newscasts at 6 and 11 pm. And **Carol Jenkins**, week day newscasts at 6 and 11 pm, has made a career change and moved over to Fox.

Dr. Art Ulene, who has survived for lo these many years, put Berryville, Virginia, on a diet to lose weight and his patients shed 2,045 pounds. As we said, patients - plural. The good doctor got 183 heavy people in that town to join the weight-reduction program and ended up doing a month-long series.

Art's formula: eat food with less fat, increase physical activity, eat slowly -taking 30 seconds between gulps, get a weight loss buddy to help you keep up the regimen, and monitor your program.

And what will he find if he goes back to Berryville next year and puts those 183 folks back on the scale? Bet they've all put on some weight.

Don Pardo was inducted into the NY unit of the Silver Circle Hall of Fame which is part of the National Academy of Television Arts & Sciences.

NBC/Microsoft

In mid-December, **Bill Gates**, the Microsoft billionaire, and NBC joined forces to get into the 24 hour cable news business, a monopoly Ted Turner has enjoyed for about 15 years. It has been lucrative for Turner and CNN's aggressive news coverage has given it a well-deserved reputation around the world as well as money in the bank. Turner's news division made \$241-

million profit on \$660-million revenue in 1994.

The new service, called Online, or MSNBC, which they hope will get on the air this summer, is a giant step and unique in the communications industry. It will enable PC users to watch NBC news on their PC screen using high speed cable modems that will soon reach the market. This will be inter-active tv and viewers will be able to click their mouse to access video clips, sound bites, and historical background from the NBC archive - going beyond the material actually shown in the news. Access through cable is said to be hundreds of times faster than access through phone lines, which is the present system. Microsoft spent \$200-million to buy into the new creation. That's walking around money for Bill Gates who said he doesn't expect the operation to make money for at least 5 years.

In order to distribute Online to cable viewers, NBC had to scrap the America's Talking network which had been in existence for only 18 months and is a money loser. One casualty is **Roger Ailes**, who was president of both America's Talking and CNBC, which is continuing to operate. Ailes doubled the revenue of CNBC and had an \$80-million profit last year. Although he had a new 4 year contract, Ailes quit, possibly because management of MSNBC shifted from himself to **Andy Lack**, president of NBC News. (Lack must be very happy he moved from CBS.)

GE manages to fill vacuums quickly and named **Bill Bolster** president of CNBC, while he continues also to work as GM of WNBC-tv. Bolster lead WNBC-tv to

record revenues for the past 3 years, so he is riding high as another golden boy.

CNBC's programming will be handled by **Don Ohlmeyer**, president of NBC Entertainment.



Roger Ailes

Fox network is thinking of getting into the 24 hour cable news game, and (this just in) Ailes is moving to the Fox network. And finally, this is a presidential election year and Ailes is an experienced and successful advisers to hopefuls. Ugh, there's also a regular check coming in from the Rush Limbaugh organization, since Ailes is a partner in that radio broadcast.

The round-the-clock cable news business soon will become very competitive since ABC has announced plans, too, and can CBS be far behind? CNN has the major edge, and by converting America's Talking, possibly by summer, NBC will have a good head start over the remaining trio.

Amenca Talking has 20-million subscribers while CNN has 163-million worldwide. And we'll sandwich in here the fact that GE said NBC's profits were up more than 26 percent in 1995 - to around \$700million, versus 500-mil the previous year.

Dateline vs 60 Minutes

With CBS' 60 Minutes on the skids ratingwise, NBC's Dateline producers are thinking they may extend that show to 4 days a week, the new day being Sunday and the time 7pm. Back in 1993 60 Minutes garnered a 21.9 share of the audience but in '94 it was down to 20.9, in '95 down to 17.2, and lately it has dipped to 14.4. So the show may be vulnerable after these many years, and the time ripe for Dateline.

Cleanup

CNBC has canceled a show titled "Real Personal" with **Bob Berkowitz**. It was a late night sex advice show described by some as intellectual voyeurism. The company now says CNBC is trying to move in another direction and the show, which was one of the original programs when the net was established, has been yanked. Maybe in good time, too. Down in Washington, there's a movement, again, by **Senators Sam Nunn and Joseph Lieberman**, and former Education Secretary **William Bennett**, to get degrading material, the usual pap seen on daytime talk shows, off the air. They're using the commonplace technique of asking advertisers to rethink where they're putting their ad dollars. The trio also have put together a commercial explaining their position but most tv stations are refusing to run them. Hey, who's about to bite the hand that feeds them. Proctor and Ganble and Unilever say they are starting to do that. Have you notice any improvement?

Ed Newman

Ed's back on the tube with "Weekly World News," on USA network at 10:30pm Saturdays. The show is part of a 2-hour comedy

(Continued on next page.)



Ed Newman

block on that net. His schtick is a humorous look and its something he has long done — although not during most his NBC activities. However, I do recall about about 35 years ago on Today, when Ed was based in London, he did something from a perch in a tree. Droll, man, droll. Newman funny? Well, he hosted Saturday Night Live on two occasions.

Olympics 2004, '06 & '08

NBC has cornered the Olympic market for the foreseeable future by spending \$2.3billion for the broadcast and cable rights to the 2004 summer games, the 2006 winter games and the 2008 summer games, even before the sites for those Olympics have been selected. The price seems outlandish but NBC may have gotten a bargain since their deal pre-empted the competition from making a bid. The International Olympic Committee sees it as a good deal because it will split the advertising revenue after NBC pays off the expense of buying the rights and producing the tv shows.

And a personal note. The guy who runs the IOC is **Juan Antonio Samranch**, a Spaniard. Last summer he maneuvered to have the mandatoty IOC retirement age

raised from 75 years to 80, so you can be sure he's remaining on the job. Hey, he's obviously a jock.

Irving R. Levine

Irv stayed on the job at NBC for 45 years and finally took retirement in October after an illustrious career, and one in which he managed to survive while a lot of other NBC veterans got eased out. Irv served in many foreign posts around Europe and of course, finally in Washington where he found a niche as an Economic correspondent. I first remember him doing a piece out of Moscow for the Today show out of the big-windowed RCA Exhibition Hall studio on 49th street, and he was a regular voice on Monitor radio.



Irv, who once described himself as a "squirrel," saved every script and every letter he'd ever written and tons of it are going to the Library of Congress, at the Library's request. Should be a book in there. Early in his career, Irv worked at the International News Service along with **Dave Teitelbaum**, and maybe (I'm not sure), **Reuven Frank**. An early assignment for NBC was reporting on the Korean war. Long long ago he married his wife **Nancy**, who was once an assistant to **Dave Garroway**.

Two days after Irv bid adieu to NBC, he and Nancy flew to Lisbon to board a cruise ship on which he lectured and talked about politics and economics. Stops included the Azores and Bermuda and final landdfall was Florida, where Irv is now dean of international studies at Lynn University in Boca Raton. Hey, that doesn't sound like a hardship compared with toiling in Washington.

Again, our usual thanks to newsmen **Roy J. Silver**, for his search of the daily press to provide the background information for this column.

Letters, I get letters

In our last issue of PN I wondered about the use of the word grow when Bob Wright said, "We're going to grow the company," and I said Ed Newman would probably have the answer. Ed replied with a long note, which we'll condense. "I think its permissible because grow can be used as a transitive verband in this case usage is taking over..... when its sufficiently widespread, it also becomes acceptable."

Ed also points out that the year 2,000 will not be the beginning of the next century, it is the end of the current century. The year 2001 will be he beginning of the next century. (Sorry folks, we're all going to miss the big switch). □ (DG)



THE EAR BENDERS



by Dick Dudley

Dick's letter is reprinted from the **Reader's Opinions** in **Linn's Stamp News**: "A radio news announcer who was with Glenn Miller in England provides details of the famous band leader's final hours."

Glenn Miller's death

Hooray! Glenn Miller is on a stamp. Glenn was a dear friend of mine. We first met when I used to announce his broadcasts from the Pennsylvania Hotel on NBC, and by a happy chance we were both assigned to the Expeditionary Forces Program of the BBC in London during the war.

In your Linn's story about the 1996 stamp issues (Nov. 20, page 1) you stated: "He is believed to have died in a plane crash." I am absolutely sure that you can believe that he died when he disappeared while flying over the Channel.

Paris had been liberated and the Miller band was scheduled to move there, but a fog and heavy weather had settled over the Channel and their move had to be delayed. Glenn was anxious to get to Paris to see what his setup would be. A colonel, who was an adjutant to an Air Force general, had his own private little plane and offered to fly Glenn there, stating: "Come on, you only die once."

A few of us gave Glenn a farewell party the night before he was scheduled to make the flight. In spite of continuing bad weather, he went with the colonel and the pilot. Nine days later, on Christmas Eve, I tuned into the BBC 9 o'clock news. It started with:

"We regret to announce that Maj. Glenn Miller is reported missing in action."

He never reached Paris. He died in the service of his country.

Dick Dudley



The Glenn Miller stamp to be issued in September.

Irene Corbally Kuhn

When I was a chap of 18, I chanced upon a book in the Public Library by the name of 'Kuhn,' my family surname. Luittle did I know that one day the author, Irene Kuhn, would become a dear friend of mine. In 1939, V.P. Frank Mason offered her a time spot on NBC to comment on happenings of the day and to tell of her adventures in China.* She remained on the air until 1950.

Her program was broadcast from Studio 8F, which had been designed for Eleanor Roosevelt. Many of you remember its wood panelled walls, sofa and false fireplace. Later on it became the home for Lowell Thomas and Faye Emerson and Skitch Henderson.

Irene was one of the nation's foremost journalists and wrote for many newspapers and magazines of note. Her writing was clean, forthright and economical. I especially enjoyed her articles on earlier New York City which appeared in "Gourmet" for which she was a contributing editor during the 70s and 80s.

It is with sorrow that I must report that at the age of 97 Irene Corbally Kuhn finished her last chapter.

* After a stint in Paris for the Chicago Tribune she moved on to China in 1922 and wrote for the English-language Shanghai Evening News and the International News Service in Honolulu. She returned to the U.S. in 1926 and was a feature writer for the NY Daily News. She was a founding member to the Overseas Press Club of New York.

1995 CORPS OF NBC VETERANS JOINS 25 YEAR CLUB

By Dan Grabel



The Graduating Class of 1995, and others.

NBC's Service Award Reception — the induction of 43 veteran employees into the 25 Year Club — was held the evening of November 9 at the 52nd floor executive dining area and your **PN** reporters joined CEO **Bob Wright** in greeting the men and women who have survived a quarter century at 30 Rock. One oldtimer, **Donald Gogarty** of Reprographics, marked his 50th year with the company and said he was thankful for his long employment because it “has put bread on the table at his house.” Nine women were among the honorees who went home with a goodie bag from the company store along with the traditional quarter century gift.

One retiree at the event recalled that “in the good old days,” you might also get a diamond studded tie bar such as he was wearing.

Among the engineers, business office and production people was the NABET-CWA president, **John Clark**, (who was not present) One wonders if this annual 25 year group is increasing or decreasing. We pulled out the anniversary bochures we’ve collected over recent years and did a count. In 1994, 43 people also marked the quarter century. In 1991, there were 47, and in 1988 there were 28. In the

1988 booklet, a thick one, it also listed 700 retirees have served at least 25 years, and about 250 who had served that long and were still with NBC. Looking at that roll call, we were saddened to become aware how many are now “Silent Microphones.”

Bob Wright said that it was his distinct privilege once a year to greet employees with this long service. Earlier in the day, in preparing his thoughts for his welcome, he tried to remember what he was doing 25 years ago, to the day, in 1970 when the



TD Steve Cimino and Peg McKinley enjoy the party.

honorees joined the company. He said he was working as a government attorney trying a racketeering case in Newark (which he won). He said in 1970, NBC's number one rated show was "Laff In."

"It takes the effort of every one in this company for this company to be successful. It takes energy. It takes consistency. Today we are enjoying success in a business which, people said 10 years ago, would be dead and buried. And we have lots of opportunity ahead of us. It isn't all in the United States and it isn't all in the broadcasting business, but it is available to the company. You should all enjoy the well-deserved recognition that you are getting. It's a good time and it wouldn't happen if it weren't for the marvelous people here at NBC and people with 25 years service form the core of that kind of success. You should be proud of yourself. Congratulations."

Addressing **Don Gogarty**, the 50 year service award winner, **Wright** said, "In 1945 I was 2 years old! And NBC was basically radio!"

Wright noted too, that

Gogarty had been out only a couple of days for sickness in that 50 years. In replying, Gogarty said that the company has been good to him.

CEO **Bob Wright** introduced **Pete Peterson** who also welcomed the group and invited them to become members of Peacock North. Each receive a copy of the November issue of **PN NORTH** to give them a taste of life after NBC. □



CEO Bob Wright honors Don Gogarty's 50 years of NBC service.

The 25 Year Club Roll of Honor -1995

Barbara Alvarado

Vincent Bailey

Harry Baker

Compton Belle

Jerry Berenzweig

Donald Brookfield

John Capossela

Steven Cimino

John Clark

Kathleen Cowan

Jose Endara

Robert Ferlito

Anthony Fernandez

Madeleine Ferrante

Ruben Folin

William Freeb

John Gary

Catherine Germano

Ronald Gnidziejko

Pauline Gordon

Michael Greenidge

Jimmy Hopkins

Robert Kasulka

Willie King

Edmund Kinney

Donald Macoun

Mario Martinez

Stephen McKeown

Oswald Morales

Vincent Morrone

Mattie Navarro

Montelle Newman

Seymour Pearlman

Cynthia Ribinski

Kenneth Saczawa

Lori Santopetro

Walter Schwartz

Frank Shanbacher

Lloyd Siegel

George Sozio

Harry Tucker

Carole Wendt

Henry Young

Clem (Clement J.) Walter, 85, died October 8 in Ft. Lauderdale, Florida. Clem had worked in sound effects for many years, one of his radio shows was Easy Aces. He moved into TV in the late '50s, working in TOPS and as a Facility Manager, both in Brooklyn and the RCA Building. He is survived by his wife and daughter.



June Aram - John Aram reports the death of his wife, March 12, 1995. Each and ever loss is a tragedy for all our members and we send condolences to John and all the families of our lost friends.



Alan Smiler - On December 18. Alan was a Network Advertising and Promotion supervising Film Editor from the 60's to the early 80's. Alan was a member of American Theater Organ Society (National) and the New York Theater Organ Society.



Joseph Ulrich - died December 9 at Lancaster, California. He was 80 years old.



Richard (Dick) Pederson - died in October of a heart attack in St. Petersburg, Florida. Dick worked in the technical supply room and as a studio engineer. He was 64. He is survived by his wife Anne.



Tom Pettit, - Award-winning television reporter best known for his live coverage of Lee Harvey Oswald's murder in Dallas, died following complications after surgery. He was 64. Tom died at Columbia Presbyterian Medical Center in Manhattan after an operation to repair a ruptured aorta.

Earlier this year he had undergone a kidney transplant. Tom retired from NBC News earlier in



Tom Pettit

1995. He captured three Emmys, a Peabody Award, and the Polk Memorial Award during a career that stretched from the Eisenhower era to the Clinton administration. But his most famous report came from outside the Dallas City Jail, where he providing the only live commentary as police led presidential assassin Oswald out for transfer to the county jail. On the 25th anniversary of the assassination, he recalled standing just six feet away and watching as Jack Ruby opened fire. "It was the only time I've really experienced doing eyewitness reporting while you're live on the air," he said. Although it was his most famous report, he never watched the tape of his performance.



Eugene (Gene) Ribas, 70, of Daytona Beach, Florida passed away October 19th of a heart attack. Gene worked at WCRA, and was chief engineer at WBYS. At NBC, New York, he worked at NBC's Empire State transmitter; AM/FM transmitter at High Island; Brooklyn Studios;

maintenance at Rock Plaza and the Fairview mobile unit garage. He retired in 1985 after 34 years with NBC.



Irene Corbally Kuhn - (See Dick Dudley's EAR BENDERS for his remembrance on page 7.)



Giraud (Jerry) Chester, 73, an author and television programing executive at both ABC and NBC.

In 1964 he joined Mark Goodson Television Productions where he helped develop "The Price is Right," "Family Feud" and "What's My Line?"



Carol Paganuzzi - It is with regret that we report the death of Steve's wife. The membership expresses their condolences to Steve and his family.



Dean Martin, 78, died at his home Christmas morning, 1995.

Deno needs no long rerun of his career for PN'ers. Many of us worked with Dean and Jerry Lewis when they rocketed to national tv and movie fame.

Born Dino Paul Crocetti, June 7, 1917, in Steubenville, Ohio, he began his singing career in a local spaghetti parlor. He adopted the name Dino Martini when he sang with a Cleveland band and shortened it to Dean Martin after teaming up with Jerry Lewis in 1946. Their zany nightclub act caught the attention of Hollywood.

"My Friend Irma" (1949) was the first of 16 Martin and Lewis films. Their television and movie chemistry did not extend to their personal life and in 1956, while completing their final picture, "Hollywood or Bust," they announced their breakup.

Dean established himself as a

television star in 1965 when "The Dean Martin Show" began an eight-year run. That was followed by "The Dean Martin Comedy World" and then by a series of celebrity roasts.



Photo - Neil Preston

Among his many hit records were: "That's Amore" (1953), "Memories Are Made of This" (1955), and "Everybody Loves Somebody" (1964).

Nine years of marriage to Elizabeth Anne McDonald ended in divorce, they had four children. His second marriage to Jeanne Riegger lasted 23 years. They had three children, among them was actor Dean Paul (Dino) Martin. Dino was killed in a plane crash in 1987. Dean's 1973 marriage to model Catherine May Hawn ended in 1976.



PNer Gary Iorio writes: *I was saddened to hear of Dean's death and reminded of the time I was a camera man on a Martin and Lewis Telethon. Dean was singing "Moon Over Miami," I had a shot of the moon and pulled back to include Dean. The camera suddenly went in and out of focus. This caused screams from the control room until they looked out on the floor. Quickly the other cameras were*

spun around to show Jerry Lewis turning my focus knob, while carrying on his antics, as only he could. The director stayed with this action until Dean chased Jerry away.

The telethon ground on, and about 3 AM Dean appeared stage side with a coffee cup. I chided him for having coffee while the crew had had nothing for many hours. He offered me his cup. To my surprise it was filled with scotch. I declined his offer. A half hour later, thanks to Dean, there was coffee and cake for all.



Roxie Roker, 66 the actress! who was once the wife of Sy Kravitz, and was the star of the long-running tv series "The Jeffersons," died in December. She had worked as George Heinneman's secretary while appearing off-Broadway in the 60s. During her career she won an Obie and had a Tony nomination. She was cast in "The Jeffersons" by producer Norman Lear in 1975 who set a tv



Roxie

precedent by having a black woman married to a white husband. The show ran for 10 years.



Freddie Lights, 73, on Thanksgiving Day.- (See page 21)



Shelly Schwartz, 67, stage manager since the mid 1950s died in his sleep from natural causes in October.

One of Shelly's first assignments was the Today show in the RCA Exhibition Hall and he was still doing news shows when he retired for health reasons in 1989.

He was a fitness type long before "pumping iron" became a national thing. Not a social butterfly, he chose not to attend a retirement party given by his colleagues.



Richard Puris - Stage manager and worked in TV Ops Scheduling. No details.



Audrey Meadows, 71, died February 4. (Turn to page 36)



Morton (Mort) Aronoff -



Mort

Died January 21. Mort spent the bulk of his NBC career in Electronic Maintenance.

He and Henry Huestis became heavily involved with a rehabilitation program for NABET personnel who were substance abusers. Mort's work was so successful for the Union that he and Henry were taken into NBC management to head an Employee Assistance Program for all company personnel. Mort gave unstintingly of himself on behalf of others.

(Continued on next page.)

In Memory of Mort Aronoff

*We received this
letter from
Henry Huestis.*

On Sunday, January 21, my best friend Mort Aronoff passed away. He was also my co-worker,

confidant and mentor. His loss will be felt by all who knew him, especially the countless number of men and women at NBC and elsewhere that were helped by him through the NABET and then the NBC company-wide Employee Assistance Program.

I first came in contact with Mort in 1971. He and two other NABET members had formed an assistance committee to help alcoholic and otherwise troubled union brothers and sisters. He had heard that I was a recovering alcoholic, and asked me to join the committee. I said no. I felt I needed to focus on my own recovery. As those of you who that knew Mort know, he would not take no for an answer. He continued to pursue his goal until I finally said yes! That was the beginning of a close relationship that would continue until his passing.

We went on to formalize the union program, and in 1983 established a company-wide Employee Assistance Program.

His dedication to the cause of assisting troubled people, without regard to himself can never be denied. I shall never forget a situation that developed to demonstrate this.

As we were in the process of selling the program to NBC, we sought and got an appointment with Grant Tinker, the then CEO. He had heard of our success with NABET members, and expressed an interest. He asked us to write a proposal, and submit it to his assistant, Irwin Segelstien. We did, and made an appointment with him. We entered his office and saw him seated behind a large desk, a rather intimidating figure. We handed him our proposal and he read it. He looked at Mort and asked him how long he was a NABET employee with NBC. Mort replied 30 years. He turned to me and asked the same question. I gave him the same answer. He then said, "You both understand that you will be giving up all that seniority to try a program that might not work." He then added, "If we accept your proposal, we'll try it for six months, and if we feel it's not successful, you guys are out of a job." Mort, without hesitation replied, "Mr. Segelstien, we'll take that chance." I gulped and quivered! I asked

permission to go outside the room to consult with Mort and it was granted. Outside I asked Mort, "Do you know what you just said?" Mort turned to me and said, "Hank, you and I will make it work." The company accepted the proposal and we did make it work. I dare say that had I been alone, I might have backed off.

There are many other times during our tenure in the EAP that Mort demonstrated his strength in the face of difficult situations. He was always the advocate for trouble people regardless of the consequences.

We all know how much he enjoyed life after his retirement in 1987. He often wrote in Peacock North about his travels with his wife Millie. They often visited the children and grandchildren. He was a regular at Peacock North and Florida Retiree functions. He was genuine, honest and a caring man. His sensitivity, warmth and humor touched us all. I will deeply miss Mort, but his spirit will be with me the rest of my life.

Mort would have been 73 in March. He passed away after suffering a series of strokes which started three months ago. He leaves behind his wife Millie, children Andrew, Louis, Aaron, and Mitzi Elkes. He was grandfather of four, and is also survived by his sister Shirley. □



About Ben Adam — by Leigh Hunt

About Ben Adam (may his tribe increase!)
Awoke one night from a deep dream of piece,
And saw, within the moonlight in his room,
Making it rich, and like a lily in bloom,
An angel writing in a book of gold: —
Exceeding peace had mad Ben Adam bold,
And to the presence in the room he said,
'What writest thou?' — The vision rais'd its head,
and with a look made of all sweet accord,
Answer'd, "The names of those who love the Lord."
'And is mine one?' said Abou. 'Nay, not so,'
Replied the angel. Abou spoke low,
But cheerily still; and said, 'I pray thee, then,
Write me as one that loves his fellow men.'
The angel wrote, and vanish'd. The next night
It came again with a great wakening light,
And show'd the names whom love of God had blest,
And lo! Ben Adam's name led all the rest.

PN People — In Print

Who is the PNER with that winning smile? None other than our **at 30rock** correspondent, Dan Grabel, grabbing a few extra bucks hawking DENTAL IMPLANTS for the Jamaica Hospital Medical Center. We'll let you know when Dan hits the big time in his modeling career. In the meantime keep writing, Dan. [*PNER Dom Salviola spotted the ad in his local Long Island newspaper.*]

Hold That Smile!



Or are you afraid to smile!

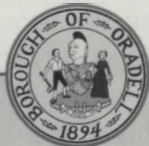
In print of another sort — we have mentioned that Frank Vierling, as his home town's historian, has been writing a town history to commemorate Oradell's 100th anniversary. Well, it is now in print. It came out just in time for Christmas delivery. It was an ambitious project for a non historian and non writer. It's a 112 page hard cover book with over 150 pictures. Off and on - mostly on when he wasn't doing PN's Newsletter - the project took over two years with much of the prior six years taken in sorting through photos and reading 100 year old newspapers. That pretty much filled the eight years since his appointment as Borough Historian in 1988.

DELFORD
ORADELL



CENTENNIAL

1894



1994

KENT IS NAMED PREZ OF ARTS & SCIENCES ACADEMY IN NEW YORK

Arthur Kent is the new President of the New York Chapter of the National Academy of Television Arts and Sciences. The New York Chapter has more than 3,200 members.

Kent, former President of NABET's Local 11 in New York City for 15 years, began serving a 2-year term in his newly elected office June 1. He is the first person elected to the post from the Technical Crafts of the television industry in the 39-year history of the Chapter. Kent retired from NBC in 1988, where he had worked for 34 years. He still holds active

membership in Local 11.

A trustee of the National Academy, Kent was nominated for the Chapter Presidency by Julius Barnathan, former Senior Vice President of Capital Cities/ABC, Inc., and an honorary NABET member.

Nikki Goldstein of ABC's "Good Morning America" was elected First Vice President; Actress Arlene Dahl was chosen as Second Vice President and Syndicated Talk Show Hosts Maury Povich and Sally Jessy Raphael were named to the Board of Governors.

The New York Chapter was formed in 1956 to promote excellence in television. Each year it recognizes excellence in television achievement throughout New York State and Northern New Jersey with the presentation of the annual New York Area Emmy Awards. □



I would like to thank all of you who were kind enough to send me Holiday Greetings. My cards still sit in their box, unopened, unaddressed, unmailed. (The princess went off to Scandinavia and environs early in Dec.) Shopping, wrapping, mailing, finding a Christmas tree, cutting it down, trimming etc, etc with other musts - I neglected my normal health protocols - next thing I knew, I was sick in bed with for a week. Thus no cards.

HOPE YOU ALL HAVE
A MARVELLOUS NEW YEAR.

The weather seems to be cooperating in giving me a push to get started. By now the Blizzard of '96 is old news, but here, there was a foot plus of residue and 30 inches more fell. Drifts raised the levels to hip height almost everywhere. The driveway (200 ft.) has already been dug out six times, and its only the first week in January. The slogan "Think Snow" has worn out its welcome, and with each blowing snowflake, I feel envious to become a neighbor to **Jon Burkhart** (TD, from Houston) now residing in sunny Maui. He talks about the gentle breezes blowing fragrant odors of flowers and pineapple across his deck. Not too shabby. (Jon, I probably won't see you at the Olympics this year.) As I look outside, that beautiful white, wind sculptured landscape, knowing Ripp no longer has to make the 1st tracks on Merritt Parkway South,

making a three hour trek from Stamford to Brooklyn at three in the morning, which became such a part of my life, isn't so bad...

AH, RETIREMENT!

Reminds me - One morning, I had just driven onto the Pkwy, and accelerating, I noticed a station wagon snap on its lights up on a knoll off the pkwy to the right, racing to enter onto the drive behind me. No dummy me, even at 3am, for I had seen too many tv-movies, I realized I was the chaisee.

"I felt the father in Heaven had led me through the "desert" safely, soon I was on the fully lighted Belt Parkway and all was quiet and serene."

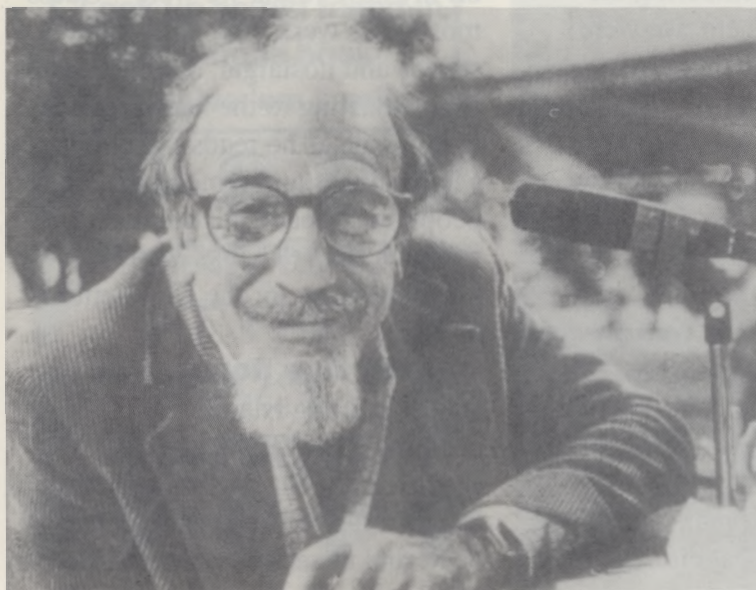
I had a brand new VW beetle, and found myself going over 85 mph, but afraid to make any sharp turns off. First I'd probably flip over, and second I wasn't familiar with the other turnoffs, and that would probably leave me really alone, vulnerable, and lost. I decided to keep going ahead. My heart had wakened me fully with its loud thumping. The wagon was relentless, got close, but the new VW kept purring. As I approached the last turnoff before the toll gate, I thought that the wagon was receding a bit, and sure enough it was as I slowed to the toll gate. I told my story to the policeman on duty, but his reply was, "Yeah, that happens a lot in the middle of the night." I protested, that shouldn't he call someone to investigate?? He wasn't interested.

I felt the father in Heaven had led me through the "desert" safely, and soon I was on the fully lighted Belt Parkway, passing JFK

going west, hardly any traffic, it was quiet and serene.

I was doing 55 and came up to two cars, one in the left lane, the other in the right lane, (a big Buick convertible), both going about 30 mph. I passed between them in the center lane. Suddenly I realized I was a partner in another game, I had company on either side. I sped up, they sped up. I slowed, they slowed. I decided to stay in the center, for this way I had two options. No chance of a quick U turn into the east bound lanes. So I gradually sped to 65ish, then I couldn't believe that they were starting to bump the car from each side. Fortunately more traffic appeared going the other way, and after much yelling and fist shaking from them, they slowed and backed into a pkwy entrance to my right. The rest of the trip was uneventful, except I couldn't find a place to park once I arrived at the studio. I was thinking of staying overnight in a dressing room, but I hadn't even brought a toothbrush. Travelling back after midnight, taking the same route home, was quiet, except I felt every car that was parked or came near me was some kind of predator. So much for the joys of TV.

My computer keeps growing to a point that it won't accept any more goodies. With the addition of a 4X CD-ROM, a 17" monitor, a full page scanner, color and BW, which has also Optical Character Recognition, which means one can scan a typewritten page, and then the material can be formatted into columns, change the font, added to, delete words etc. What a



Mitch Miller, this season's Principal Pops conductor of the New Jersey Symphony Orchestra

Godsend that would have been, had I had one when I first started doing the paper. However with all the new computers coming out, I feel I have a used car with new parts, that just will never match a new one. Everything new is being made for the new computers and won't work in the most recent old klunkers like mine.

Buddy Shadel missed the Picco Lissimo gathering, for he had tickets to a concert conducted by Mitch Miller at the Newark Concert Hall. Mitch is Principal Pops Conductor for the New Jersey Symphony Orchestra this season. Besides his TV work, Mitch had played in symphonies conducted by George Gershwin, Sir Thomas Beecham and Leopold Stokowski. [Buddy was a video tape editor on some of the "Sing-a-longs" with Marcia (Kuyper) Schneider and Mitch.] After the concert Buddy went backstage and enjoyed schmoozing with Mitch.



Mitch Miller at the podium in Newark, having the orchestra take a bow at the end of the concert.

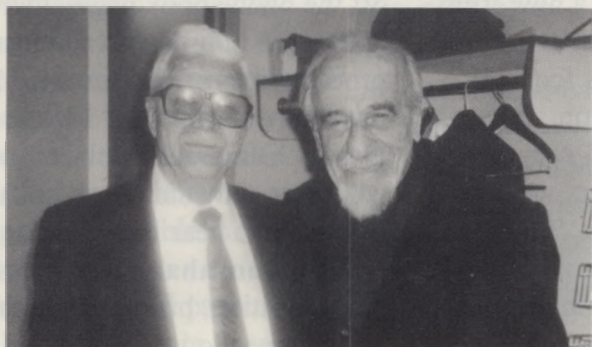
Joe Nash (Unit Mgr for the News Dept) took a cue from the last issue, and sent me some news. Joe mentioned he was happy to get Peacock North and see what some of his old friends are doing, but is saddened to see the Silent Microphone list growing.

Joe's "happy as a clam here in Honolulu. It really is a paradise when it comes to the weather and it's a small city so I can see green mountains in one direction and the ocean in the other from my windows"

"A couple of years ago I married a Thai lady I met here in Hawaii and

so I have acquired a lot of in-laws in Bangkok. Kind of fun since I'm about out of relatives of my own. I've been going to the University of Hawaii and studying music composition. Which is funny since I don't play an instrument. (Well, piano like a five year old). - So I'm Grandma Moses of the Music Department"

"When I need something to worry about, I have to pick up the Times to see what kind of a life Congress would like to prepare for us. That **Bob Herbert**



Bud Shadel and Mitch Miller

(Continued on next page)

column (A Nation of Nitwits) that PN reprinted is probably the heart of the problem. But to get to more important subjects," Joe continues. I hate to disagree with **Reuven Frank** and or **Ed Genden**, but # 13 in that "Distinguished Class of 1973" photo is **Joe Vadala**, ace film cameraman and the director for **Doris Ann**. I believe **Sy Avnet** is number 3.

[Joe, I'm well and happy, & I surely remember the times we worked together as extremely pleasant experiences. *H.*]

Joe says he'd like to get to the next Retro-repast, but it's such a long drive! Anyway, he's looking forward to reading about it. You can reach Joe at 808-523-2824. Surprise him and give him a call !

* * * * *

Looks like you-all do read the newsletter with a magnifying glass. **Paul Roeder** writes that the missing # 57 ident from the 1973 Class Photo is not "Eddie Question mark," but is **Paul Roeder**. Paul says he has a few medical problems, but whose complaining? Paul resides in Toms River, N.J. & area code has changed to 908.

Cheryl Thacker, Lighting Designer, sends a Holiday Greeting from Pound Ridge, N.Y.

* * * * *

How many times have you been driving somewhere and you say — I must call so and so. Then you're wrapped up in another project and the thought comes again but you can't get to it then. The other afternoon as I was recuperating in bed, the phone rang. It was **Phil Falcone** who had been in my mind to call. Phil is now 83, is doing OK. It made me feel good that we had talked

quite a while remembering the many conventions etc. we were involved with over the years. Guess one gets sentimental as one grows older, but Phil is someone special, an outstanding credit to the broadcast industry for so long and a real gentlemen. We wish you our best from us all at PN.

Ken Arber's son **Ken Jr.** was married on November 11 to Sandra Mia Lee. Ken Jr. is senior VP of MCA Universal and the bride is associate producer on "E". Son **Glen** was best man. He currently is the PA audio engineer on the Conan O'Brian show.

Glen's wife, Maria sang two songs at the wedding. The newly married couple then honeymooned in Hawaii. Guess we are in the 21st century already, for Jaye and Ken attended the wedding via videotape. They couldn't attend due to a fall Ken had sustained in April.

The **Doug MacIntosh**-es have moved to Venice, Florida in December. Their phone No. is 941-493-6147. Dougie, hope you all enjoy your new retirement in the warm sunshine. You deserve it. (P.S. — Folks, look for an up date and corrections to your new **PN Phone Book**. If you have a change or see an error, please write Frank Vierling.)

Ann Kramer sent a note from Albuquerque with her dues, thanking all the staffers for their hard work and dedication.. It is most appreciated. (And Ann, even tho we're not performers, we do appreciate the applause. *H.*)

Roy Neal (Space correspondent etc.) comments from High Point, North Carolina re: the story about Roy in Worldradio, he commented "my-

oh-my how young we were". Guess most of us were. Roy enjoys the stories and nostalgia, but has a hard time adjusting to the heartbreak in every issue as he reads the Silent Microphones and remembers the people who made our ancient days so much fun...(Thanks Roy for your applause for the Newsletter. *H.*)

Betty Ann Noyes, (from Baldwin, Long Island, N.Y.) absolutely LOVED Ken Arber's article re: the history of Rockefeller Center. "Thirty five years with NBC and never knew what Arber tells us. It will always be, to me, the best complex ever. Thank You."

I was so delighted to hear from **Gordon Mathews**, extending PN a bit of two-handed applause. Gordon's from the scheduling/payroll area; I don't think we can ever thank him enough for his patience, understanding, knowledge not to mention that he was a perfect gentleman. A true example of the Biblical "Job". Give him a call in NYC 212-664-3480... Gordon listen - hear that ? Well it's all of us applauding you ! We all miss you. Come to the next Old Timer's gathering at "La Maganette" in the spring; June 2nd.

Guy LeBow notes that he was left off the phone book pages. Our apologies, but our vast number of proof readers are all reaching 70, and still wearing their 20 year old glasses. Our crack publisher will correct it. Guy did note also that he'd love to hear from **Pardo, Tuttle, Hanrahan etc.** Guy is still active writing, broadcasting for PBS - hopes to join a group in buying a moderate radio station in or around New York City.

Look up an old friend in
PN's phone book
and give 'em a call !



Jim Sunder took us up on our request for material.

Now that November is with us, I fully expect to see the next issue of **PN** loaded with the usual spate of articles about memories of the Macy parade and the joys and sorrows of those who participated.

Working the parade was an anathema to me and Tuesday night when the schedules came out, I would pray each year that I would be sent to Dallas or Detroit for the football game instead looking forward to the coming nightmare at Herald Square.

Color TV was new in the mid fifties and our trucks were located directly above the 34th Street subway terminal. As the trains came and departed, they created massive magnetic fields that turned color monitors into a hodgepodge of confusion. Before it was all over, we were even able to determine whether we had an E train or an F train below us just by looking at the horrible distortion before our eyes.

Last November I passed through Herald Square the day before the big event and was amazed to see what a production



L TO R: An old MEMORY pix of NAT SCHUCHMAN, MILTON BERLE, BERLE'S MOTHER, EDDIE BAND AND DAVE GEISEL

FOTO BY JERRY CUDLIPP

the parade has grown to become. Last year, there was actually more space allotted for portable toilets for the crew and workers than we used in the early days for all of our trucks and equipment.

We didn't have the luxury of Port-a-Johns in those days and our best bet was to try to sneak out of the truck and go over to the Horn and Hardart Automat. Early before the show one year, I left for the Automat and went down the stairs to a small men's room with two urinals. Beside me I found a Santa Claus bell-ringer who had also retreated to the convenience of H&H. He was an extremely pleasant person, but one of the most thread-bare, shabbiest Santas that I can ever recall seeing. As we stood side-by-side, it occurred to me that this man was not completely sober.

At that time, he procured a bottle of Thunderbird and offered me a drink. I politely declined; we smiled at one another and he proceeded to take a sip. In order

to get the bottle to his lips, he had to unhook his stringy beard, which he did, and unfortunately, in doing so, his whiskers slipped and fell into the urinal.

After taking a drink, he nonchalantly retrieved and reattached his beard, grinned at me and said, "Well, if that isn't the Goddamdest thing!" He was really a beautiful character and I think of him most when thoughts go back to the Macy parade.

Color cameras were not as reliable then as they are now, and I can still remember someone's brat yelling during the finale of the show from the back of the truck, "Mommie, why are Santa's whiskers green?"

After a tedious break-down and driving the trucks back to the garage, we finally got home to the gala Thanksgiving dinner waiting for us. The denouement at the end of a non-stop day was to succumb to sleep and fall face flat into a

(Continued on next page.)

plate of turkey and mashed potatoes - - -

Congrats are due to Jim and his **Missus Florence**, for they met on a tour in Hong Kong twenty years ago. They're planning a revisit early this year. He says each time they return, they see many changes and want to be there at least one more time before the Colony reverts to China. (There is now a superhighway from Hong Kong, over a bridge right into Guangzhou Southern China that a H.K. businessman started building with their own money after some Swiss bankers pulled out after the Tiananmen Square incident. Also many money savants worldwide believe that Hong Kong will be the "go-between superhighway" for business with China for the world, rather than the world dealing direct with China - H.)

Perry Massey writes from California: The one year job that I took at **Mark Goodson Productions** in January lasted an extra ten months ending in mid-October this year. The project was completed just about the time the company was sold to All American, a syndication firm. They wanted the library not the staff.

Pam and I are busy getting this place in shape for potential sale next springif we can decide where we want to pack it in.

The three of us roomed together at Emerson College in Boston in the late forties and began our work careers as NBC pages in 1950. You, of course

know Bill for his character "**Jose' Jimenez**" on the **Steve Allen Show**. He recently appeared with Allen and **Louie Nye** in a live stage re-creation of the original Tonight Show. Dana is still performing and can be seen playing character roles in many network situation comedies. Gene recently completed announcing the Family Feud and is currently announcing The Family Challenge on The Family Network.

Gene has long been associated with Goodson/Todman productions announcing and sometimes hosting network game shows, including Beat The Clock, Card Sharks, Match Game, Password and many more. [Perry retired as a Program Vice President in 1991 after 41 years at NBC.]

I meet with a number of retirees out here from time to time and they enjoy reading the newsmagazine. Which reminds me, I received a call from a fellow I started out with at NBC - **Stan Zabka**. He and **Nancy** have moved to Grass Valley, Calif. Stan and I roomed together as NBC Pages.

Mary-Sue Johnson writes from Colorado Springs that we made another mistake! She says she always went by "Mary Sue" at NBC and **not "Mary Johnson."** Also the phone number listed was a combo of a Denver area code and her old Hackensack number. (It's those 20yr old glasses) So - Hear this now! **Mary-Sue's** phone number is : 719-536-0814. (You all know, for example in "The

Waltons ", one would never call John-Boy - just John. Right Mary-Sue ?)

Bill Klages has left the lighting company that he formed in L.A. Now he does his lighting "thing" and no longer has to worry about running a company and all that that entails. He still does show lighting and designing systems of all kinds - keeps busy. Thought it was about time for a change.

Our "Old" friend **Red McKinnon**, lighting director, still works at Klage's old company, now called **DESIGN PARTNERS**. He asks that we say HELLO to all



AT A PACIFIC PIONEERS IN RADIO AND TV LUNCHEON IN STUDIO CITY

L TO R - Bill (SZATHMARY) DANA, PERRY, GENE WOOD

his "middle age" friends from the past. Says: Now that I have past the 70 year age (Gift of God), I think I'll slow down.

Red muses as we all have, "seems like a good time to call it quits in the near future. As we all know, its a different **business** these days." (That it is! H.) Give Red a call 213: 856-9191 (That's the Office Number.)

CLEANINGS FROM OUR LAST
mini LUNCH AT PICCO LISSIMO

GENE FRISCH - feeling great and losing weight after 2 1/2 yrs on his Duke University regimen.

He sojourned to the mother country, Hungary, visiting Prague and Budapest with his sister, which he says proves that America is the only place to live. Racking up mileage in his brand new Windstar, with trips to Charlottesville visiting relatives, then to Duke Univ. in Durham, N.C. to get the "brain transplant" needed to stay on the regimen that has enabled him to throw away his diabetes and blood pressure drugs.... Gene continues to work in type, design and printing. Even was named as the "Volunteer of The Year" by the White Plains YMCA.

The "Love Birds" of our last issue attended Picco - **Robert (Doc) Potter and spouse Lil** having celebrated their 51st Anniversary. Having played golf all summer; and now it's bowling for exercise, says he's in good health but for a few ailments, Doc spent most of the luncheon talking Ham Radio with **Nick Ponella** (Today TD in 5E for the last century) who straightened Doc out with the new two meter procedures, and Gene Frisch set him straight on medicine and diet replacing orthodox medicine's drugs. Doc complains, "What's happened to the NBC Ham Net on 14.223?? Says he never hears anyone anymore. (Well Doc there are still a few who show up, but **Hank Folkerts** was a good "controller" and kept the net together. We need someone who lives where **Tony Rokosz** did, who can hear the North and south stations. Any volunteers?? H.) Doc did get on another frequency, 7.2 mhz, talked to **Arthur Anderson** in S.C. - heard **Jim Kneeland** in Fla. and **Ted Seiter** in Exuma, Bahamas but alas they didn't hear Doc. Doc's call is W2LJQ. - Getting back to Nick Ponella: He's waiting for his daughter-in-law to have their first grandchild. Says he's getting a lot of yardwork done with this

beautiful weather (? H.) , and just trying to stay healthy... Nick's call: WA2YEG.

Ray DiPrima just heard the good news. No dues for him next year. Asks "Is it true we **get** \$20. after 90??" Ray proclaims there is no substitute for these great re-unions. By all means, keep them coming !

Gary & Dorothy Iorio know it's said often, but I'll still say it, "It's great to have a day of life-sharing with good and true friends of NBC.

Life is good for Dorothy and me. We've been blessed with, at last count, eighteen grandchildren. That keeps us **too** busy.

Love being with friends and pray we'll be able to attend many more of these get-togethers.

Ivar and Helga Normae can now chalk up grandchild # 2. Their son in law is at ABC in the audio area. Congrats also to Ivar & Helga, cause they're Estonian (Just thought I'd throw that in, H.) - cause they're proud their son is about to graduate from Hofstra Univ. with honors as MBA. (If only every parent could be that fortunate!) Ivar reminds himself that his main emphasis is still on preserving and enhancing their well being through being informed.

Francesca Peters writes that **George**, her husband, is happy and healthy thanks to them being aware that too much medication can kill you ! (Now don't get **me** started, H.) His internist kept giving him different medications every time they went to him. He finally had an angiogram after three months of very poor diagnosis. The problem was over medication. Francesca pleads, tell all your NABET cohorts, get a second opinion from a "reputable" doctor. (Well , I guess the best medicine is to get to these gatherings, and have a few laughs !)

Peter Tintle and I had been standing in the same footprints since we arrived at Picco, talking to all the arrivees, so we finally sat down right there for the rest of the session cause it was time for mangiare. Peter and I solved all the world's problems. Wondered who that lovely lady was that kept coming by. Turned out to be **Jackie, Mrs Tintle**. (I think she didn't like the idea of segregating the ladies from the men. I think she has a point !) (Did you know that she used to be a guidette at NBC in the forties ? (she was 10 at the time). Also then a guidette, **Gloria Clyne**, as were a lot of other beauties. Did you know that **Dayton Allen** married another guidette of that

(Continued on next page)

group? It was **Elvi Daniels**, a Danish beauty. Wonder where are they today? We should have Dayton on as a guest speaker for the next La Maganette. Then again, I'm not so sure..... Anyway, Jackie married Peter, the boss and are now living in Demarest, New Jersey..... Wonder if Peter is still the boss ? Ouch, Just kidding...

Bill & Dorothea deLannoy graced us with their presence at Picco. They had the misfortune of visiting Washington when they had shut down the government, but visited Reston, Va instead. They had the fortune of meeting relatives they had never seen! They also spent time at Florida Week at NBC Orlando... Before that they had put 2,000 miles on their rental car out of Las Vegas travelling to the North rim of the Grand Canyon. By the way, Dorothea says, "I didn't know that the drinks served in the casinos were free! [Now everyone knows !]

Heard from **Aavo Koiv** (now living in Arlington, Mass.) via a Christmas card from Colorado. They were having a great time skiing Vail & Beaver Creek. — Speaking about It's a small world !— Aavo was checking out of the Ramada Suites Hotel in Lincoln Harbor, Weehawken , N.J., when they bumped into **Peter and Mary-Lou Fatovich** checking in... Also Aavo ran into my older brother Hugo (CBS) at a place called Eesti Maja (Estonia House) in NYC It's a small world ! But Aavo gets around.

Bill Goetz has moved bag, baggage and toothbrush to West Bloomfield, Michigan, where his lady **Dee**, would be closer to the grandkids. (Give them a call. 810-788-1053)

Bob Juncosa sends his greetings via a yearly two page Newsletter which outlined his and Diane's voluminous interesting and obviously thoroughly enjoyable activities last year. They are already organizing this years fun, like sailing in the Caribbean in June. The Best senior..

Don Pike also sent us a yearly activity resume. I'm delighted that he and **Bunny** can wander around the world as they do. One item was that he had met with **Michi (Weglyn)**, in NYC, who used to design the costumes for the **Perry Como Show**. It's purpose was to discuss a program planned to honor Japanese servicemen who served in U.S. armed forces in Europe.

Jack Van Buskirk writes a short note. "It's wonderful to see so many old and dear friends are still around. Mort's article brings back many great

memories." (missed you Jack , hope you're well. - H.)

Dan Grabel sends us a four page Christmas/New Years resume of the year's activities. The highlight seems to have been Peter and Mary Ann De Rosa's wedding in Barbados, with the guests and relatives coming from all over. A rehearsal party with an 8 piece steel band , scrumptious food and dancing etc. Then of course the wedding itself. Pat's description of the ceremony made you feel as if you were right there, with the sun setting and the sky colors changing, as well of the details of the ceremony and the gathering ages ranging from 5 to 70 plus. They both seem to be quite enthusiastically busy. She with her lecturing, they with the Eastern Ski Writer's Assn. 15 day exploration in Alberta. They stayed at the best Canadian Pacific Hotels in Calgary, Edmonton, Banf, Lake Louise and topping off at Jasper Park where they stayed in the same log cabin which once housed King George VI and the Queen Mother. There's more good stuff, but I don't have space left.

Rvcd a note from **Charles Mangano** — he and **Al Camoin** will be doing three pageant shows, "Miss USA", "Miss Universe," and "Miss Teen." Al will be the ace cameraman and I will coordinate and order all the communications and satellite operations. Last year Miss Universe was in Namibia ("very exciting!!") This year we travel to South Padre Island, Texas and Las Vegas.

Charlie adds: "Tom Pettit's death brings back some memories. (See *Silent Mikes* on page 10.) I was on duty in NY Traffic Operations when Tom Pettit did the live coverage of Lee Harvey Oswald's murder of by Jack Ruby. I ordered the video, audio, and communication circuits." Another memory was during the Iowa Primaries in 1976. "Tom deputized me to arrange dinner at an Italian restaurant located in the outskirts of Des Moines. He loved Italian cuisine.... Maybe some of you PNers remember that dinner. What a blast!!!"

Ed Taffe is recovering from carotid artery surgery. He's OK now. Hang in there Ed.

Buddy Fleck - Late news — As we go to press we have word that Buddy has been hospitalized by a serious stroke.

See you next issue and at La Maganette.

Heino.

Special People Addendum

This doesn't usually go in my **p.n. people** column, but Bob Van Ry wrote this note describing "Freddie Lights Memorial" in 8H. I wanted to share it with you.



Freddie, his integrity and example as a human being was exemplary. His generosity and friendship are eternal.

Freddie died Thanksgiving Day after a battle with cancer. Bob Caminiti, Joe Dicso and I spoke with him thru a conference phone call a few weeks prior to his death.

The memorial, in 8H on December 6, was less than an hour and was well attended.

The service was presided over by Bill Wheatley of the News Dept.

Others who spoke were: Marilyn Jacobs Furey; John d'Angelo, former NBC Employee - now a D.G.A. Field Rep; John Libretto, Weekend Today Director; Miriam Simmons, who wrote the poem that follows; John Chancellor, up from Princeton, N.J., and Tom Brokaw.

Wheatley ended proceedings with remarks sent by Reuven Frank and Jim O'Gorman, the latter resulting with some laughter.

All in all, a lovely time spent in remembering a dear gentle man, who certainly merited it. □

In Memory of Frederick Lights

Fred, Gentle Fred

Not enough can be said.

So even your favors to all - Just for smiles.

So even your treatment of all - You're kind.

Evenly thoughtful to workers you know -

Everyone benefits - microwaves say so.

Happy to remember birthdays, holidays, events -

So many friends made special by memories from you.

Time never changes how even you display -

Warm and generous no matter who came your way.

Those of us you adopted were luckiest of all.

You put us on alert: Speech alert - History alert -

Protocol alert - any alert we needed to remember.

And so we grew. Thank you.

Thank you our Freddie for caring and sharing.

Movie Palace Trivia, Vintage actor recall,

Broadway Show Info, Show Tune tests, Architecture,

Research, Movie and Show casts of old - all your forte

With family values and friendship duties

You kept us interested, made us more interesting -

And always warmed our hearts.

Suddenly we realized we love you !

Your presence equalled pleasure.

You made it so we could never forget you were here

*Thank you Freddie - we'll always have the velvet aura
you extend.*

Miriam L. Simmons Nov. 1995

Fred Lights 1922-1995, was born in Houston, Texas in 1922 to Dr. Emerson Lights and Hattie Bea Jackson Lights. They moved to Chicago in 1924. Fred graduated with high honors from Chicago schools. His studies at Morehouse College were interrupted by WW II. After his army service, he received his degree from Morehouse College.

To uphold the family tradition (his grandfather had been a minister) Fred studied theology at Howard University. After two years, he decided that this was not his calling. He wrote an outstanding play, receiving a scholarship to Yale where

he earned a Master's Degree in Drama. He began his television career on the Dave Garroway Today Show in 1952. He became a fixture at NBC, working in all the studios during television's Golden Age. He was the Stage Manager for both the Huntley-Brinkley Report and Nightly News, spanning twenty five years. He retired in 1987, but continued to work freelance for NBC, most recently stage managing the Weekend Today Show.

Fred was a trail blazer; we will miss his firm and calming presence in our studios, and his love and generosity in our lives.

We Get Letters

Here are a few from our mail bag

☐ ... All is well with my family... I'm expecting my 6th grandchild.... How proud Jack would have been of our family — One son is an MD, another a PHD, another a MBA, another a Chiropractor and the youngest a mechanic. Our daughter, Rita, works at Holy Name Hospital in the Dietary Department.....

Jean Fitzpatrick

(Jack Fitzpatrick was an NBC Lighting Director.)

☐ Well retirement came sooner than expected. And its wonderful! After 24 years at NBC, 7 at ESPN and 10 at Madison Square Garden, now I spend my time traveling (Italy in September; Aruba in October; a cruise of the Western Caribbean in November and a week in Phoenix from which I only returned on January 19.

While there I visited Bill and Mary Jane Aulepp and Ed and Linda Rossi.

My mother and I share my home in East Hampton. She'll be 91 in March, is in perfect health and looks better than I do.

I'm looking forward to the June 2 luncheon. (Ed and Linda Rossi are hoping to come to NY especially for it!)

Greetings to all from the East End. The pool opens in April so make your reservations early!

Happy '96 **Lois Marino**

☐ Congratulations to the Peacock North Staff for interesting issues.

I'm happy to send along my dues and with it, wishes to you [Pete Peterson] and the staff for a Very Happy and Healthy New Year!

Rosemary Dubois

☐ Sorry to be so late. [with dues] The end of the year was very busy. Made the annual trip to Texas for "The Littlest Wiseman," pre-Christmas festivities. Got to visit Doris Ann twice. She's doing quite well tho still in a wheel chair and has decided to live in a retirement community where she has her own furniture, pictures on the wall, books, etc. Life is

easier that way and she is well looked after.

Right after Christmas I made a great trip to India.

Happy New Year. **Cathy Vukovich**

(Lets hear more about India.)

☐ **Vinny DePietro** writes: Last week Bob And Diane Juncosa stopped by on their way to visit their son in Orange County. [Calif.] Marie and I are always delighted to see them whenever they're "in the neighborhood" — especially when their neighborhood includes 5 continents and 7 seas. I wonder if they had to struggle through immigration barricades to re-enter the USA. But we were so glad to see them that we didn't complain that their visit was too brief this time. I love the intellectual challenges Bob offers to any discussion and regretted that there was not enough time for me to get really bad.

We live in a wonderful environment — the beautiful, warm, comfortable world of Southern California. But I'm surrounded by an intellectual desert. Thank God for the oasis provided by my sons, there wives and their friends.

I assume you and Margaret [Peterson's] survived the Blizzard of '96. Our local TV followed the storm vividly and forever. I suspect that there was more gloom than news in the reportage, especially since the constantly mentioned our 85 degree temperatures along with those cold, snowy images from the East.

I'm awaiting the next issue of PN,

Vinny D.

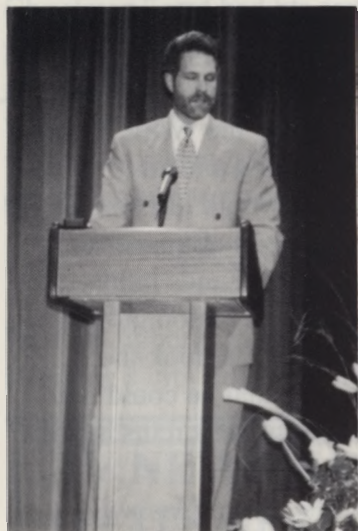
More Letters on page 34

OUR NEW MEMBERS

Harry Baker, West Hampton, NY
 Frank Belding, Jackson Heights, NY
 Edward Bowers, Ft. Lee, NJ
 Ray Brennan, South Hampton, NY
 Charles Davidson, E. Brunswick, NJ
 G. Thaine Engle, Gainesville, FL
 Louis Fallot, Monrow, NY
 Philip Harper, Englishtown, NJ
 Frank O'Shea, Fairfield, CT
 Beryl Pfizer, New York, NY
 Robert Reese, Westbury, NY
 Carole Wendt, New York, NY

Colleagues Bid A Cherry Goodbye to Tom Pettit

By Dan Grabel



Bob Pettit

A cavalcade of NBC history passed through the doors of studio 8H on January 30 to remember the life and career of award winning reporter Tom Pettit. (See Tom's obituary on page 10.)

His wife Patricia, his son Bob, and 250 veterans of the golden years came to show their respect and affection for a man Tom Brokaw described as "Born to be a journalist. He had an extraordinary appetite of curiosity. A skeptic, but not completely cynical, he had a healthy suspicion of authority, a withering sense of humor, and a finely tuned sense of moral courage."

Correspondent Rick Davis recalled Tom "never suffered fools lightly." And his scripts, "They were poetic."

John Chancellor said, "I'm not here to praise Tom, I'm here to explain him.Pettit was the soul

of brevity. More than once he put a one word or very short sound bites into his packages. Shakespeare has Richard III saying 'A horse, a horse, my kingdom for a horse.' "Tom would say, 'The King was in need of transportation,' and follow that with a soundbite condensed to 'a horse.'"

He was a veteran journalist who tried to make the tiny tv screen bigger."

This reporter would call the morning at 8H a celebration, not a wake. □



Patricia Pettit



Tim Russet (Meet the Press) & Christy Bashen (Washington Producer)



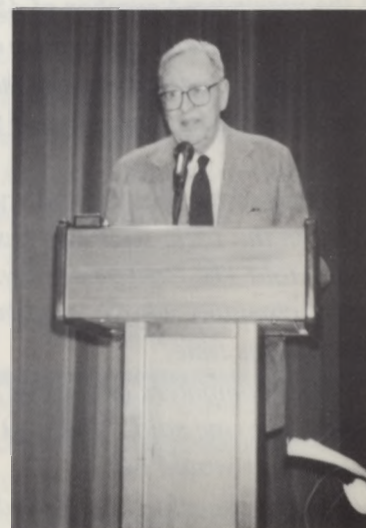
Bambi Tascarella arranged the program.



John Chancellor and Tom Brokaw



Bill Wheatley (VP)
Lucy Jarvis (Producer)



John Chancellor

KEN'S

O
R
N
E
R

by
Ken Arber

As Time Goes By

We were suprised to learn that two long time employees of NBC have decided to leave their jobs. One from NBC and the other from PBS. Irving R. Levine from NBC and Robert (Robin) McNeil from PBS.

Its been a long time since I worked with either of these gentlemen, as I have been retired for the last 21 years, but I do remember working with both of them. In the New York Post of October 26, an article about Irving R. Levine saying good-bye to NBC was published. I found it to be very interesting, so I am including it in KEN's Korner:

Pioneer Chief Economics correspondent Irving R. Levine would have preferred to end his stay at NBC on the nice round number of 45 years. Instead he'll make his farewell appearance on Sunday's "Meet the Press" after a global career that started with reports from the Korean War some 45 years and 14 days before.

It turned out that GE policy has it that; you can't retire on the 15th, so it was pushed back to Nov. 1, Levine told The Post yesterday. Levine asked NBC's parent company why he couldn't leave when he chose after all this time.

"The computers are set up for the first of the month," Levine said. "Did you have any doubt what that answer would be?"

Levine cheerfully confessed that he's "a squirrel" who has saved every script he has ever written and

every letter he has ever written - in itself a lot, since he preferred long letters to keeping a diary. Not that the bow tied Levine is any less fastidious in his office than he is in his dress "His desk is as neat as his bow tie," says "Meet the Press" moderator, Tim Russert.

This brings me to the time I was working on the Richard Nixon inauguration in 1965. I sat down on a park bench at Lafayette park outside the White House, next to Irving R Levine. I was reading a local newspaper, and asked Irving if he would like to read it, and he said he would. I passed the newspaper to him, and was surprised, as he put his hands in his pockets, and came up with two white cotton gloves, and proceeded to put them on before he took the newspaper from me. He explained that he could not tolerate the black news print coming off on his hands, which I could understand.

The news item continues: *He courted his wife Nancy, who at one time was the TODAY host Dave Garroway's assistant, thru the mail via letters. Levine once played himself on the CBS show Murphy Brown. When he and his wife return from their trip to Lisbon aboard a cruise ship, on which he'll speak about politics and economics in between stops in the Azores, Bermuda and south Florida, where Levine is to become the Dean of International Studies at the Lynn University in Boca Raton. Apparently there are about two or three thousand students at this University.*

Robert McNeil left PBS to devote his time to writing. My only experience working with Mr. McNeil was when he started in NBC Local in studio 3-C, the sattelite studio of 3-A, and he was known as "ROBIN", not Robert. Both Irving and Robert were very pleasant talents to work with.

Radio Host
ROLF KALTENBORN
PALM BEACH ARTS
PIONEER Dies.

The former economics professor, Radio Talk Show host and son of legendary World War II* radio commentator H.V. Kaltenborn died recently at the age of 80. He was well liked as Will Ray of the Palm Beach County Cultural Council says, "A living link in an earlier era was lost by his death. He was of the gentler times before World War II and the atom. "Rolf came from a courtly age," it was said.

I met Rolf years ago while working as TD in the 67 Street Studios in New York on his father's show. It was Christmas time, and after doing many shows with H.V. Kaltenborn, he was wishing us all a "Merry Christmas," and had his son Rolf pass out his presents; small pocket knives. I still have the one he gave me. H.V. would always carry one of the knives plus a couple of polished stones in his pocket. He said the stones, when rubbed together in his hand, made it easier for him to speak.

O.J. Lingers On

I received a clipping from my Army buddy Howard Ialberg, an NBC Burbank retiree, about NBC rejecting a city bill for police service for an O.J.

protest. NBC refused to pay the \$26,730 bill for extra police services outside the studios when 500 demonstrators showed up to protest the aborted O.J. Simpson interview. Instead NBC donated that exact sum to the "DARE" program, the Police department's anti-drug youth education program. NBC told us (the LAPD) that we had no basis for billing them, and the only reason we were billing them was for the ill feelings caused by the O.J. trial," said Burbank City Manager Robert "Bud" Ovron. He said, "At this point we're putting it behind us and considering it a done deal." □

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

TV NEWS HAS LOST ONE OF ITS BEST

By Frank Vierling

For many years I have had a project in mind that I had never pursued on paper. The project is this: Write to people who have enriched my life in some way - a writer, actor, actress, poet, politician, or public figure - anyone who has entertained, educated, or affected my life in some positive way. I have written scores of these letters in my head, but never put them on paper. I'm afraid my procrastination has resulted in many lost opportunities by the death of one of my many candidates.

My wife, Lois, and I have enjoyed the McNeil/Lehrer News Hour on PBS for many years, so when Robert McNeil retired I felt this time I must write.

The task was easy; congratulations on his retirement and a thank you for the years of enjoyment and understanding we received from his unique contribution to news reporting.

I also included an anecdote of how our paths once crossed when he was with NBC. My letter, in part:

....Our paths crossed only once. Of course I was unknown to you. It happened at the UN where you were the U.S. end of what I believe was the first two-way satellite transmission between the U.S. and England. I was the audioman in the mobile unit.

I had no orders for headset monitoring. Many times throughout the setup and rehearsal I asked the director how you would hear England. I was repeatedly told, "He does not need a headset!"

Was there something about satellites I didn't understand? Certain that you would need a headset, I arranged with my A2 (audio assistant) to hook one up, but not to give it to you until the director asked for it.Well, it was coming down to the wire and I could wait no longer. I told my A2 to give you the headset. At about the same time the director "awoke" and asked, "How does Robin hear the satellite?" In about the time it took me to say, "On the headset we just gave him," we were in the countdown to air.

I recall this "first" was a success and ushered us into the new era of world-wide communications.

I received the following card from Robin:

12/8/95

Dear Frank,

Belated thanks for your nice letter which I found at the end of a book tour which followed my retirement. Thanks also for saving my ass that long ago day at the UN. It might interest you to know that at my farewell to Channel 13 the engineers made me an honorary member of the IBEW, probably the most valuable note of confidence in my whole damn career. My best wishes to you.

Robin MacNeil.

From my perspective, I responded, the ass saving was mine! I sent along a copy of our last **PN** newsletter with an invitation to join us.

Incidentally my A2 that long ago day at the UN was **PN** member Jim Smart. □

Half-Century Memories of Monitor

By Dan Grabel

Fortunately for PN, many of our stalwarts have memories that go back half a century but have the clarity of yesterday instead of yesteryear. Two of those personages are Russ Tornebene, always remembered as a ball of fire, and Jim Holton, both of whom saw longtime duty in NBC Radio. Fortunately, both are still around and active — Russ, who lives in Illinois, still working for The Executive Television Workshop, (which Wally Pfister created) which teaches CEOs and other biggies how to be courageous and not wimps under the pressure of a news conference. One of Holton's interests is old-time railroad trains, no, not the kind you run in your attic for the grandchildren, and he's churned out several books on the subject. Both worked on Monitor, that 60 hour weekend radio show that came out of Radio Central on the fifth floor near the studio elevators from Friday evening until midnight Sunday. Sure you remember Monitor, all those reports on rattlesnake hunts in Texas, hikers on treks the length of the Appalachian trail, and the inevitable Hollywood gossip.

Any way, Russ, who can pull out memoriabilia to compete with the Collier brothers (if you lived in NY in the 40s, you'll remember those recluses) has done just that in providing us with great photos taken on the Monitor set. Garroway, Steve Allen, and Mo Beatty, — were some of the *Communicators*, as Monitor called them, (my memory is surviving too) are all there.

Tornebene was managing the the network news-desk in Washington and moonlighting as a news anchor for Monitor when it first went on the air in 1955. Years later, Russ has the sad task of taking Monitor off the air when he was General Manager

and running the radio network.

If you, dear reader, worked on Monitor and have memories you'd like to share, put them on paper and send 'em along to us. Or, if you remember many of the personnel who worked on the show send them along and we'll mention them in our next edition. Two have just come to mind, producer Bob Wogan, and sports editor Len Dillon.

But now let's have Jim Holton take up the memories.

The first Monitor program was on Saturday and Sunday, June 18 and 19, 1955. We had conducted a full-scale dress rehearsal the previous weekend, the date of which is easily fixed because it was the weekend when some 60 people were killed in a wreck at the LeMans auto race in France, and we were lamenting the fact that we were 'nt on the air to show off our coverage dexterity.

While Monitor operated under the aegis of the network, it was staffed to a large extent by people "borrowed" from the News Department (wasn't a Division yet), including the executive producer, Jim Fleming; Buck Prince, who was managing editor;



"Wide - Wide World" looks in on Communicator Garroway.

myself as news editor, and Gerry Smith and Bill Bales, writers.

Among the stars of that first day and in the early days — they were called Communicators (Pat Weaver's term for the anchors): David Brinkley, Morgan Beatty, Oscar Levant, Clifton Fadiman,

Franklin P. Adams (FPA), Don Ameche, Eddie Albert, James Daley, Gene Rayburn, Bill Cullen and other actors and game show stalwarts whose names escape me.

If memory serves, the cameras were there for 'Wide Wide World', which did a live shot of a new radio show on that Sunday afternoon. I don't recall if it was on that particular Sunday, but one of the first Sunday mornings it was suddenly discovered that, incredible as it sounds, there had been nothing scheduled for Monitor for that Sunday morning beyond the usual religious programs. Fleming's unique solution was to put Buck Prince on the air reading the funnies (a la Fiorello LaGuardia). That unusual feature was never repeated.

The News Division's mercenaries stayed with Monitor for about the first year or so, then gradually drifted back home. Jim Holton □

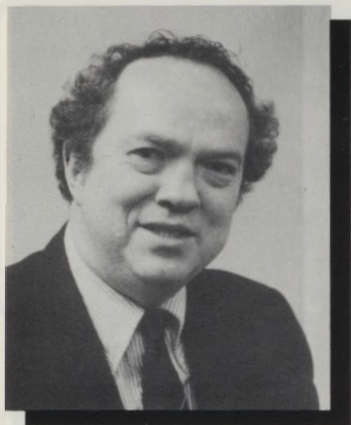
Monitor control room where the record man works while others point fingers — lady in raincoat, man with glasses, guy taking splinter out of hair, mustached man.



Steve Allen, Clifton Faderman, Oscar Levant, Morgan Beatty, Dave Garroway.



Looking into the Monitor studio from the control room. A Wide-Wide World camera invades the Communicator's "cage."



Mort Hochstein

MEMORIES

We've been de-accessioning, getting ready for a move. It isn't easy cleaning out what you saved over the years for a time when you might have the time and the desire to look back.

Rollie picked up a TV Guide dated Aug. 12, 1967 from a stash of magazines containing articles she'd written, and wondered why she'd kept it, since it didn't have a story in it. I thumbed through the issue and it brought back memories and it certainly reinforced the old saw that the more things change, the more they are the same.

One columnist reported that the networks were considering a 10:30 nightly newscast. Elmer Lower, ex-NBC and then president of ABC News was a proponent, and NBC was experimenting with a late-evening report which would feature John Chancellor, Sandy Vanocur, Doug Kiker and Jack Perkins.

A letter-writer rapped an article called "The Best Early Date in Town." It was about Pia Lindstrom, then just 27 years old, according to that writer.

The cartoons about reruns could have run today, and don't need illustration, i.e. a boy sitting in front of a tv set lamenting "What a world--hand-me downs, leftovers, and reruns.." two adults in front of a set, one saying: "I think I liked it better the first three or four times," and three execs meeting, headman saying: "Since 1962 was our best year, why don't we just show the whole season again?"

Here's what was happening that summer: The lead article was about Mike Douglas, determined to keep his show in Philadelphia. Does anybody

remember how big Douglas was back in the sixties? George Carlin was filling in for Jackie Gleason... Lana Turner was making a return visit to the Smother Brothers Comedy Hour... Gene Rayburn was filling in for Johnny Carson... and, I quote: "NBC producer Eliot Frankel is preparing an hour-long NBC News special on "The Negro Soldier in Vietnam." Eliot's gone and the word 'negro' is politically incorrect in the PC-1990's.

Rollie also unearthed a batch of pictures taken during a trip to London with Jack Paar, a trip we mentioned in the first of these reports last Spring. One of the pictures included Jerry Danzig, who was the network unit manager for the show. Maybe he had a different title, but it eludes me now. He was the man who signed the checks, I do remember that. Sitting on my desk is a pewter cup Danzig gave all of us, imprinted "Jack Paar Show, London, April, 1960."



Monty Morgan, Mort Hockstein, and Paar in London, 1968.

Paar's humor, we realized after one night of filming, did not go over with the British. The only people in the studio audience who laughed at the jokes were his writers. So I took on the assignment of finding Americans in London who would understand his jokes. One was a bearded Chicagoan I picked up in Hyde Park. He was an artist and was surviving on very little money. A beatnik.

For four nights, we transported this scruffy character--George was his first name--to our studio, a shuttered movie theater in a run-down outer district of London, in a Daimler Benz, and fed him a sandwich or two, and he brought the laugh meter up a notch.

After he went home to Chicago, George sold a lot of prints through the Sears Roebuck catalog, used

the money to buy apartment houses and, as far as I know, abandoned the world of art. George sent me a beautiful gouache drawing of Leicester Square. When the week in London was complete, Danzig brought a group of us to that beautiful old hotel, the Connaught, for a memorable dinner. Years later, Rollie and I went in for tea at the Connaught. We were nearing the end of the service when I realized that teatime at the Connaught was reserved for guests, but that the waiter had been too terribly polite to explain this to me. It was embarrassing. We put down a large tip, and left quietly.

Rollie also unearthed pictures of what I think was the very first press junket to the West Coast, probably because that year, 1955 or thereabouts, was the first time so much of our programming originated in Hollywood. It is now an annual event. We rounded up a group of tv columnists and flew them off to Los Angeles.

They found their hotel rooms loaded with goodies supplied by sponsors and toward the end of the trip, Syd Eiges, vp for press, told the group that they didn't have to shlep their loot home, that NBC would ship it home for them. One of the female junketeers came to me with three bottles of Coca-Cola for her package.

Ward Bond had a big Western series then and I remember a party on a movie lot when an attractive young extra, seemingly a stranger to him, walked by.



Hollywood Press Trip - Unknown Actress, Mort, George Gobel, Eddie Fisher

He whipped an arm out, pulled her into a tight embrace, and planted a big kiss on her. She didn't resist. Ahh, the privileges of stardom. That night, I and another writer spent a long and warm evening at Bob Hope's home, talking showbiz with him and Danny Thomas.

Hollywood junkets produced no memorable souvenirs, but good memories. George the beatnik's drawing of Leicester Square, which still hangs on my bedroom wall, and Jerry Danzig's pewter cup, now holding pens and pencils, remain with me as mementoes of another time and place. □



*Nov. 11, 1955,
Carl Reiner,
Howie Morris,
Sid Caesar,
Mort,
Nan.*

Mort Hochstein, retired NBC NY, and his wife, Rolaine live in Tenaflly, New Jersey



In December, 1995 U.S. travel agents were reporting an avalanche of requests to visit Vietnam, a country that has been ravaged by wars for hundreds of years.

Vietnam, roughly the size of Japan or California, is shaped like a two-headed Chinese dragon and stretches over 1,600 km from the border of China to the Gulf of Thailand in the south.

To many Americans, Vietnam is a series of bad memories - a helicopter evacuation from atop the American Embassy as mobs fight to board one of the last means of exit; graphic pictures of a prisoner executed in the street; a child running naked after a bomb tore off all her clothes; refugees sardine-packed in small boats desperately seeking to escape and news videos of wounded GI's and others frozen in grotesque forms of death.

It was a war about a divided country that divided the United States for years. Now, the wheel of memory has turned. Vietnam, a land that tourists shunned, has become a Mecca.

My wife Sandy, who is a travel agent, and I arrived in Saigon (Ho Chi Minh City) late in February of 1995, via ship which had previously taken us to Bali, Semarang, Maylasia, and Kuching, Borneo. As we sailed into the harbor, the contrast between the high rise buildings in the city and the ramshackle shacks along the waterfront was startling. Small boats maneuvered by sampan-covered natives framed ramshackled huts lining the shore.

Tourists Kodak-clicked away until we reached the dock. Going through customs was quick and easy. Americans bringing dollars are as welcome as PACS to politicians. We boarded air conditioned tour buses. The English-speaking guides were born long after the war had ended. The horrors of the past live only through stories deeply etched in the saddened memories of parents and grandparents.

Our tour takes us to the the Reunification Hall, formerly the French Governor's residence. There, our guide gives us some historical background. The French had been in power in Vietnam since 1883. The architecture reflects their influence. The French policies, in an era of heavy-handed colonialism, birthed the rise of the Indochina Communist Party. Ho Chi Minh was the man in 1930 who led the movement. In 1954, the French forces were defeated at Dien Bien Phu and in that year, Vietnam was divided into North and South Vietnam.

At the UN Embassy building, we looked up to see the helicopter pad atop the building. We could only imagine the emotional nightmare that had occurred on April 30, 1975.

Done Khoi Street is their Fifth Avenue. Open shops selling lace, lacquerware, silk blouses and souvenirs reminded me more of the lower East Side of Manhattan than Fifth Avenue. We stopped at the Cho Ben Thanh Market on Le Loi Street. The largest and most popular of some 35 markets through the city. Once the main railroad terminal, you can find everything from French perfumes to Japanese televisions, plus food stalls and souvenir shops.

Traffic in the street was an unending motor-bike parade. Our tour bus went with the flow until we



The Rex Hotel

reached the Rex Hotel. The Rex Hotel Rooftop Bar on Nguyen Hue Boulevard was the pivot point for TV reports made by network correspondents as the Northern army came closer. Gunfire often punctuated their sentences. We had drinks there and enjoyed Sandy's birthday in Saigon with some shipboard friends. Clinking glasses of champagne and Vietnamese music was our background.

The city of Hue is Vietnam's artistic, cultural and historic center. It was the site of the 1968 Tet Offensive. Buses brought us to the Imperial City on the banks of the Perfume River. The Gate was built in 1833. It is the main entrance. Surrounded by a moat, it was for the personal and exclusive use of



The Ngo Mon Gate

the Emperor. He didn't worry about unions when he had it built. Inside are impressive examples of early Vietnamese furniture and artifacts.

The streets in Hue are filled with sampan-hatted women selling everything from fruits and

vegetables to live ducks and pigs. Outside the Cham Museum, which has a wonderful collection of sandstone sculptures from the 9th century, we saw a sad-eyed young man and took his picture and gave him a few dollars. His facial expression never changed. The monkey smiled, tho.



From Hue we went to Danong and to the small historic trading port of Hoi An, a few miles away. Each city a melange of bicycles, crowded streets, open markets and friendly faces. China Beach, made famous by the TV series of the same name was the spot where American soldiers were airlifted for R&R. It was easy to understand why. The sand is white and clean, the ocean warm, blue and inviting. China Beach was a place for them to wash away the images that dirtied their memories. China Beach is still not well-developed in terms of hotels

and tourist attractions. Some day it will fall victim to developers, but we still would like to see it again.

Halong Bay, a 3,000 island archipelago



Halong Bay looked like a Chinese brush-painting.

scattered within the bay was an incredible sight. The small islands dotting the water in haphazard fashion, popping up like fragmented ideas. Few of the islands are inhabited and caves at water level lend mystery to the picture. The ever present mists create a surreal Chinese brush-like painting. Halong Bay becomes a mind picture that cannot be forgotten.

Hanoi, another city we never thought we would ever visit, was filled with surprises. The Ho Chi Minh Mausoleum is isolated from the main part of the city. Its heavy stone-faced facade seemed appropriate to the man who lay in state within. Before going inside, our guide told us it was necessary to take off our hat. We could understand that. We were surprised, however, to be told to have our hands showing. If you had your hands in your pockets, the guards, who could not speak English, gestured strongly to take them out. Their guns and demeanor left no doubt in your mind and you followed directions. Ho Chi Minh's body is laid out in a glass-enclosed area. His body is raised slightly



The Ho Chi Minh Museum.

Continued on next page.

from the waist. The main area is dim and the body is well lighted. Picture taking inside is not permitted.

The Ho Chi Minh Museum is a very modern building- It's size an imagination of display was a shock to us. As you enter the building, you walk up a most impressive stairway. At the top is a statue of Ho Chi Minh that is about twenty feet tall. Well lighted rooms off to one side were filled with informative and decorative displays. Did you know he used the United states Declaration of Independence as the model for his country's constitution? That surprised us as did many of the modern displays. Televisions strategically placed, showed 10 minute documentaries about Ho Chi Minh and his fight to achieve independence. The tour bus left too early for us to enjoy the museum fully.

The infamous building where U.S. soldiers were imprisoned during the war, known as the "Hanoi Hilton," has been demolished and a real hotel is being built on that site. When we were there the electrified barbed wire still ringed the walls like funeral wreaths. Vietnam, associated with an unpopular war, is still for many people, a place they'd rather forget than visit. For many of the visitors who do come, it is an experience that is not to be forgotten.

The next place in our tour of Southeast Asia was Cambodia. Only about ten thousand Western tourists visit each year. That number is increasing as travel and sleeping accommodations improve. The rainy season from June to November also brings high humidity. The dry and cooler season is from December to March. The Khmer Rouge still refuses to surrender. There is still some danger if you go to areas other than Phnom Penh and Angkor Wat. While we are adventurous, we are not foolish. We stayed in the "safe" areas. A month before we arrived, some tourists were killed when they visited an area that was "off limits." It gave us pause to think about before we left. After the fact, we would have been sorry if we hadn't gone.

We did have a temporary pang of anxiety when soldiers showed up in front of our tour bus as we left our hotel in the small town of Siem Reap. They accompanied us to the ruins of Angkor Thom, an ancient royal city built in the 12th century. The army squad had been arranged by our local tour



A squad of soldiers accompanied us.

operator as a "precaution." While we never felt any danger, it was comforting to have them deploy in each area before we entered it. The soldiers were friendly and often helped elderly tourists as they became separated from the main group. One side of

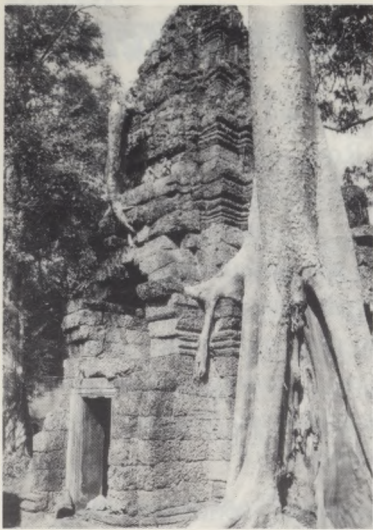


The triple-headed entrance at Angkor Tom.

the South Gate entranceway has 54 Gods on one side and 54 Demons on the other.

The triple-headed entrance is spectacular. The ruins themselves spoke silently of a civilization that housed a hundred thousand inhabitants, a world without television, PC's and cyberspace. It was a world of art and culture, mysticism and history. Sculptured terraces there are unlike anything we have ever seen. Ten foot high walls are covered with carvings of elephants and hunters and tell the history of the civilization - a stone video tape of the past.

Through the centuries, giant roots of the fig trees have forced their way into the crevices of the temples and have dislodged massive stones. As the ruins are being restored, some areas are cleaned up



Roots dislodge massive stones.

but have been left as they were recently discovered with nature redesigning buildings that can only be seen and marveled at.

The highlight of the entire trip was our visit to Angkor Wat. It was built in the 12th century by King Suryavarman to honor the god Vishnu. Angkor Wat is still an active Buddhist monastery. It is built in

three terraces. The central towers are eight stories high. No elevators. It is remarkable to see the detailed carvings that were made with what we would consider primitive tools. The halls are alive with panels of history. It has the longest bas-relief in the world. It depicts stories of Hindu epics. Seeing Angkor Wat at sunrise and sunset was akin to seeing the Taj Mahal in Agra, India during those times of the day. Awesome!



Don and Sandy at Angkor Wat

In Phnom Penh we visited the Royal Palace. One of the buildings called the Silver Pagoda is so named because the floor is covered with over 5,000 silver tiles weighing one kg each. Inside is a figure called the Emerald Buddha said to be made of Baccarat crystal. There is also a gold life-size Buddha decorated with 9,584 diamonds, (I didn't count them) the largest of which weighs 25 carats. Yes, there are lots of guards. Again, no picture taking inside.

Vietnam is a very attractive country filled with terraced rice fields and friendly people who are anxiously trying to overcome the wars and atrocities that saw their most intelligent and professional



The Silver Pagoda



The Royal Palace

people murdered in an attempt to keep them subjugated. Try to picture growing up in this country without all the doctors, teachers and professional people in every walk of life that we take for granted. Cambodia was like that for the past two decades. They have had to learn to walk again after being forced to crawl on their knees. The Cambodians we met welcomed American tourists. We never felt in danger while we were there. It was, in fact, safer than most American cities. Cambodia was a most exotic place to visit. What is tragic however is the sight of so many people who are victims of their war. Cambodia has the highest number of amputees in the world. Unfortunately, the majority are children. This is the result of millions of land mines laid during the war. Almost every day they still cause about fifty additional casualties. Seeing the ruins at Angkor Wat, however, was worth traveling thousands of miles to see. Vietnam and Cambodia is not recommended for people who have not previously traveled extensively. Accommodations, quality of food, transportation and roads need extensive work. Tourists who are used to the comforts of European travel would find much to complain about, but if you do get there, you will never forget the countryside, the temples, the ruins, the incredible faces, or the people. □

Don is a former TV writer-producer-director for WNBC-TV, New York. He and Sandy live in North Caldwell, New Jersey.

THINK AHEAD

or - Decisions, Decisions

Editors Note:

Computers are wonderful. Oh, for one that can think my way! Computer programs are truly ingenious, they make work simple - and hard. Computers eat time! They are efficient! By their standards we humans are stupid tools that must be reprogrammed to think their way. An editors life is not an easy one. (Sounds like a Gilbert & Sullivan song title.) Get to the point - I will.

In putting a newsletter together there are lots of decisions to be made. How many pages? Postage cost determines maximum number of pages (weight). Then there is the amount of material that must be squeezed between the covers. There's type size - headline space and type style (over 200 to choose from) - margins - etc. - etc. So, we get to this issue:

Decision - forty pages, 12 point type. (That is our standard type size - most newspapers and magazines use a much smaller point, but we are all using tired eyes, so we go bigger, at a cost of taking more space, ergo - more pages to say less). I spent most of January composing this issue. (Believe it or not some pages take a day to do. And sometimes they get scrapped!) I put the finishing touches on this issue on February 1. Peg and Pete Peterson gave it a final proof reading - correct a dot here and a spelling there - Voila! ready for the printers.

HOLD THE PRESSES!

Annual dues are coming in like gangbusters, most with good news, some with sad, but news that would be stale by our next issue.

Decision - add pages! And so its back to the keyboard to bring matters up to date. Here's a four page addendum. Pages must be added in multiples of four, you know.



Letters, we get more letters

☰ We start off with a bit of sad news from **Ross Martindale** (sound effects). Ross informs us of the death of his wife, Nancy, last February. They had been married 53 and a half years. "Living alone is quite a change.... however I have a son and daughter-in-law fairly close. The Peacock North newsletter is still superb! My best to anyone who remembers me." **Ross**

[Many of us remember your clinking bedpans on the DOCTORS soap. We are saddened by your news and send our belated condolences. FV]

☰ **Don Blair** (radio announcer) sends us a long letter from Venice, Florida. ... "I wouldn't miss the newsletter under any circumstance" "although there numbers are dwindling I still catch some familiar names ...now and then." He reports - "We lost a good friend and fellow "splashdown" reporter **Dallas Townsend** last April. "the first hospital sent Dallas home to take super Tylenol for pain. He had an out and out broken neck and died two days later despite efforts of a second....and horrified hospital." The Broadcast Pioneers has started a Townsend scholarship.

Enough sadness, He continues ... "Hope all is shiney with you, Rippy and the rest. I miss the camaraderie but not your weather...not for a second. We'll be attending all three days of racing at the new Disney World Indy car track...sitting in the sun and drinking over-priced beer. Then back to golf. Life is tough. Cheers, **Don Blair**

☰ **Gloria Rawluk**, along with Nick's dues, tells us that Nick "is not doing very well." "We can only do what is best for him."

[Nick was one of the unseen film crew on the fifth floor who eagerly awaited a "roll film" cue or "change telop" command. We wish you well, Nick.]

☰ **June Carlton** writes that **Lee** spent some time in the hospital having tests. Turns out his problem was due to his medication. It's been adjusted and he is OK now. *[Nice to hear good news about the ex Lighting Director.]*

☰ We received a long letter from **Ed Leddy** (Radio Master Control and other things) down in Brevard, North Carolina. *["Down"- to me, here in New Jersey.]* He writes: "While in NY, we acted like all

the other tourists and stood in front of the Today show window and shook hands with Al Roker." He adds security is tighter since he retired in 1957, "so couldn't get in to see the changes made in the studios. I guess next time I'll have to get Don Pardo to get me in. Don bought my wood-working equipment when I moved from Paramus..." *[What did you make, Don?]*

Ed continues with the sad news that **Vince Caselli** (NBC 1942-1956) passed away last May. Vince left NBC and finished his working career at IBM. While at NBC, Vince worked with Ed Gundrum's construction group.

"Sure enjoy the Peacock North, even though I don't recognize many names any more, getting old. Take care and 73's," **ED**

["73" means "good night" for you non ham radio people.]

☰ Got a post-it note from **Marv Einhorn**. He hopes to get to one the luncheons. Marv has turned from directing to acting. "Anne (wife) and I just did Roanoke, VA. I was in "She Loves Me" - great time. Happy New Year." Love, **Marv**

[I spent a New Years Eve with Marv - he directing, I as TD, and Ben Grower out on the Astor Hotel marquee ushering in the New Year at Times Square. When? Too long ago to remember, but it was BC - before color. FV]

☰ *[Looking through the notes and letters my eye was caught by a note from Ed Len on CBI note paper. That's the China, Burma, India theater during the "Good War." It's not very familiar war theater to many American's. I spent a year and a half in Kunming, China, attached to the 14th Air Force commanded by General Chennault of Flying Tiger fame. I was with the AACS (Army Airwaves Communication System) keeping planes in the air. Another CBler is PN member Frank Merklein. Are there any others? FV.]*

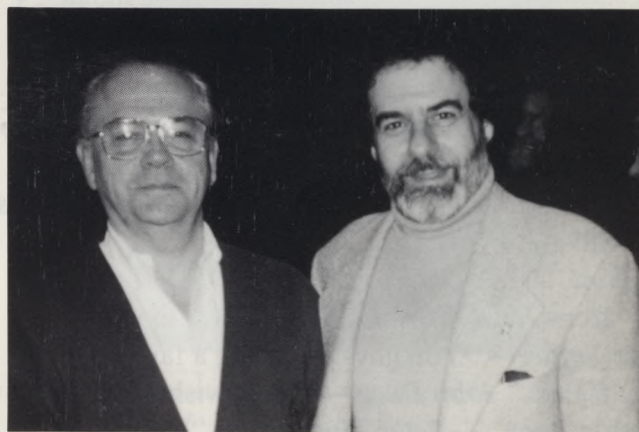
Ed Len writes: "I'm still taking pictures - at the last 14th Air Force Ass'n convention in October I took 18 rolls in 4 days." He's looking forward to getting to NYC *[all the way from NJ]* to see old friends, **John Harty, Sr., Gloria Settle** and **Stas Pyka**.

☰ More from **Clark Jones** letter (see his nice complement on page 38). He sends his letter neatly composed on his new computer. He's got a Gateway and using Windows 95. Clark mentions taking a

"decade" to jump into the new technology. "Now that I have it, I'm constantly amazed at what it can do, and constantly amazed at what I have to learn..." **Clark Jones**

☰ **Joel Spector** (Audio Engineer) writes us about the new digital control room on the 2nd floor *[pictured on back page]*. He's trying to arrange some kind of a tour of that new facility for PNers. "This will replace all the 5th floor areas (including **Power**) by next year. Part of it will be used for the Olympics. **Joel**

[Seems like only yesterday that the "new" Switching Central came into being. Hay, I retired 12 years ago! Must be havin' fun. FV.]



Joe Dicso and Joel Spector at the Pettit Memorial

☰ **Dick Williams** sends thanks for the phone book. "What names - what memories it brings back. And **Horace Ruiz** sends New Year's Greetings.

☰ In addition to the kind words from **Bill McCord**, on page 38, he writes, "Roy Silver, Dick Dudley, and all the other reporters, writers, and journalists and all the technicians who prepare Peacock North continue to do an increasingly superb job. Thanks to you for the news good and bad. I often wonderer what has become of former friends and co-workers. Your staff tells it all." **Bill McCord**

☰ **Ed Rossi** writes from way out in Scottsdale, AZ, that he and Linda plan to make our Spring luncheon on June 2.

[We'll see you there. Com'on you locals, lets see a 100 percent NY area turnout!]

Continued on next page

☰ Boca Raton's **Marjorie Shields** hopes to join us at La Maganette on June 2. — **Lilly Russo** echoes Marjorie's hope, all the way from Port Washington, NY.

☰ **Doris Steen Williams** sent her dues (late) with a note: "Aging is such fun! Can't remember things I did and now it seems I'm remembering what I didn't do. Oh boy! [Join the club!] — And **Susan DiOrio** lets us know she will see some of us Northerners at the Florida Retiree's luncheon in March.

☰ **Bill Miller** ponies up his dues with the comment, "I wouldn't want to miss any of the newsletters." He appreciates the staff's work in keeping "us old goats up to date." Bill laments the poor signal propagation on the ham radio bands.

☰ "Thanks for the sustained good work." **Arthur Gary** — "Thanx , Thanx 'cause we love you." **Gene Waldstein** — "Happy New Year." **John Hart** — "The phone book is great." **John Troutwein** — "All is well with me..." **Art Zarakas** [I tried to reach you on the phone, Art. Couldn't get through. FV] — "All the best." from **John LiBretto** — "Our best to you." **Roger Tuttle** — "You guys are doing a fantastic job. Many thanks." **John Deeg** — "Best wishes for '96." from **Vic Roby**. — **Peter Tintle** sends "Regards and wishes for the New Year."

☰ Got a note from over 80 **Frank McKiernan** with a check.... "use it for mailing." Since he has moved into a condo (surrounded by metal) he can't get out on the net (ham). He has tried new antennas and configurations (tech talk) to no avail. He's limited to 2 meters (tech talk) and only reaches Ken Arber, Ed Taffe, and Lee Carlton. [Thanks for the mail money, Frank.]

☰ "All is well here. We had a good year and hope the same for all the Peacock North members. We have a new grandchild, I hit the golf ball a little better, and reached 70 this year [age, that is]. I figure that each operation I had took ten years of my age, so now I am around 50." **Harold and Julie McDermott**

☰ And these: "Keep the news letter coming — love it. Hi to all. Soph and I are hale, hearty, and happy." **Walter and Sophie Werner** — "Wouldn't miss the PN newsletter for anything." **John Scuoppo** — "Thanks very much..." **Rochelle Richilson** —

"This is my 30th year with NBC. Still with the Today show. Keep up the good work." **Steve Bellis**

☰ **Roz Bigelow** — "I had open heart surgery at Columbia Presbyterian Hospital — 2 blockages, 97% and 99% — it was the silent type — it showed up on a routine EKG. Am recovering nicely. Hope to see you guys at the next NJ (Picco Lissimo) luncheon. — And **Fred Collins** wishes all a "Healthy Happy New Year."



The Kramden's, Ralph and Alice (Gleason and Meadows), with Ed Norton (Art Carney) in the "Honeymooners"

Audrey Meadows will be remembered by America as Alice, in the forever running "Honeymooners." To many PNers, she will also be remembered for her rolls on the Bob & Ray tv comedy show, as a guest on the Tonight show and her many appearances on panel and quiz shows.

Audrey and her sister, Jane, were born in China to missionary parents. Audrey died February 4 of cancer. She outlived, by two days, Gene Kelly, another of America's favorite entertainers.

"Audrey, you were the greatest."

PN Phone Book —

Corrections and Additions

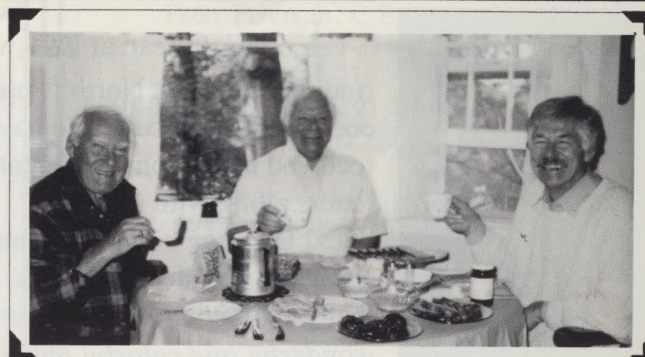
June Aram[†]
Mort Aronoff[†]
Dicso not Disco
Himmelberg - 719-686-2473
Summer: Colorado City, CO
Mary Sue Johnson - 719-536-0814
Douglas MacIntosh, Venice, FL - 941-493-6174
Nancy Martindale[†]
Carol Paganuzzi[†]
Paul Roeder - 908-349-5830
Ed Taffe, Boca Raton, FL - 407-482-9022

[†] Deceased

Pictures From Our Album



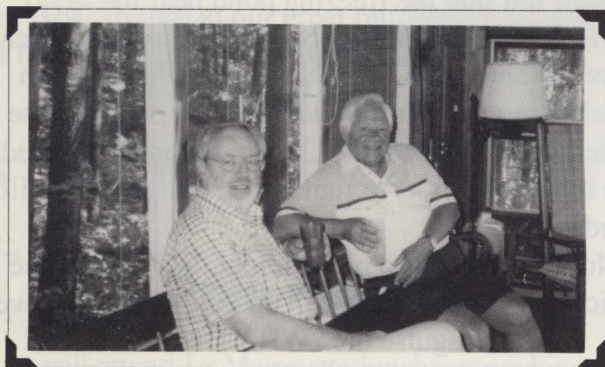
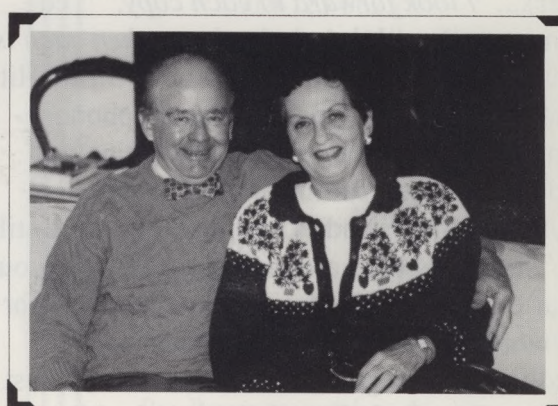
Ginnie Seipt, Catherine Yukovich, Stas Pyka, Gloria Settle, Norman Davidson, Helen Dolan enjoy a La Maganette reunion.



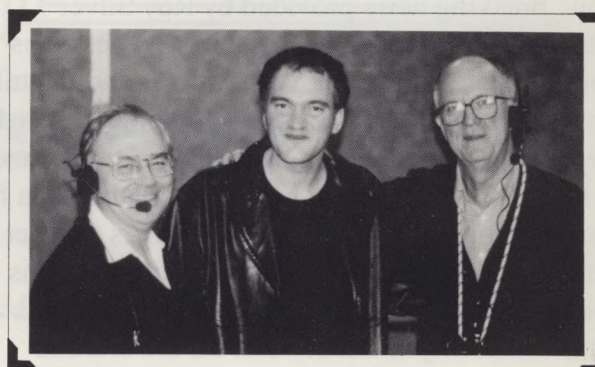
Dan Grabel, Pete Peterson and H. Ripp, confer on a newsletter issue, at Pete's home - 1990.



Dot and Gary Iorio (left) and Bill and Dorothea deLannoy enjoy an after Picco Lissimo break at the Peterson's - 1995



Pete & Frank Vierling confer at Frank's Maine "camp." My gosh, its an old picture - the beard is long gone - 1990



"Saturday Night Live," Joe Dicso, Quinton Tarantino (of Pope Fiction fame) and Bob Van Ry - 8H 11-9-95



Mike Orlan & 50 Year Don Gogarty of Reprographics..



I used to have to drive to work in this stuff! - FV 1-7-95

A Message From

Pete Peterson



Looking ahead at 1996, we find that Peacock North is proceeding along nicely. We have received many complementary letters along with members dues. They say how much they enjoy the newsletter and ask that we *"keep it going,...your wonderful and colorful magazine,"*Bill McCord

(announcer).... *"I look forward to each copy,"* Ted Nathanson (sports)... *"I drop everything when each issue arrives,"* Clark Jones (director - Lucky Strike Hit Parade and many others). One said the telephone directory was so exciting that just reading the names compelled him to begin calling around. It started a chain reaction letting friends know that they were still there too. These messages are marvelous for our group at headquarters, and we thank you all collectively for your kind words of encouragement to carry on.

This edition is a magnificent. It is one of our best efforts to date. Dan Grabel's column laced with current late breaking news provided by Roy Silver demonstrates the keen awareness they possess. His "in person" coverage of the 25 Year Awards and the tribute to Tom Pettit are to be noted. His dedication to **PN** is deeply appreciated. Dan's, Russ Tornabene's, and Jim Holton's "Memories of Monitor" should jog a few memories. Hopefully it will inspire readers to react with their own stories. Dan's flair for expression is splendid. That is the case as well for Heino Ripp's magnificent ability to consolidate all the bits and pieces of news members send in. Sadly our SILENT MIC.'S department keeps growing. The special tributes for Mort Aronoff, Tom Pettit and Fred Lights are signs of the great affection we hold for our beloved acquaintances. A very touching poem by Miriam Simons, reflects the "caring" underlying the whole group that brought the Golden Days of Radio and TV to America. Also thanks to the others for their input: Ken Arbers' accounts of yesteryear, Mort Hochstein's marvelous passing parade of stars, and the excitement of Don Luftig's travelogue makes this an engrossing edition.

I just can't find words sufficient to describe the

work Frank Vierling does for this newsletter. His efforts are in a category yet to be defined. He puts this all together on his computer. Now he scans the pictures and does such high tech things that a simple explanation on my part would be grossly insufficient. Frank's homemaking chores increase daily as his wife, Lois', Alzheimer's (AD) advances. He is a strong wonderful man caring for her while publishing this paper for us. Drop him a note if you enjoy his work. Please.

The landscape looks like there is much "entertainment" ahead for all of us in this politically sensitive year. Regardless of which political affiliation one sides with, there is going to be much action that affects our retirement group.

It was a challenge years ago for many of our group who worked along in the news area covering political events. Some of the memories are remembrances of enjoyable times along with difficult technical challenges working with equipment of earlier days. Large mobile units, huge crews, early morning calls and lengthy days putting it all together for America to watch (I worked on every inauguration from Eisenhower to Reagan). And they are mostly good memories. Funny, though dangerous, in some instances. Once, everyone laughed when little Bert Maxwell fell into the freezing pond near the Wayfarer Hotel in Manchester, N.H. installing a mike cable for a Huntley/Brinkley News interview. He ran himself ragged in Washington D.C. on one of those 60s demonstrations on the Capital grounds and died there on the job. Lots to remember, and pages to fill someday.

Now the scene is a bit different. We receive the political word mostly from "Talk Shows." You never know in what disguise the "WHITE KNIGHT" of politics will show up. Every four years there's a new disguise. Four years ago he showed up as Ross Perot of 3-billion dollar fame. He had never held political office, but was going to "fix it" for everyone. This year's disguise for the "WHITE KNIGHT" seems to be only a 400 million dollar "WHITE KNIGHT" named Malcom Stevenson Forbes, Jr. who has never held public office, and who will "fix it" with a "Flat (idea) Tax." While the flat tax may look inviting, some variants of it could be disastrous for many of our members. So, we're in for another round of political "entertainment."

Unfortunately, for our retiree group, most of what

happens in the political arena of balancing the budget and other problems may lead to flattening our members wallets in trying to flatten the taxes. If we all had a 200 year life span, we might have time to work our way out of any grave situation the politicians may entomb us in. Unfortunately, most of our lifeline rope has been expended. The bitter end is getting too close for comfort. We must be attentive and responsive to what faces us in this political year.

My own reflections:

*Those grand ideas presented to me,
Are not yet as certain, as purported to be.
Larry King said in one paragraph:
"They're merely politicians, here to give us a
laugh."
Those millionaires, not proven by sweat to be
right,
Do declare by their wealth, they will win their
fight.
I remember the ways of FDR and Ike,
And long for the days to find men of their like.*

Now for our own enjoyment, which we can do without political persuasion. It will be a grand time to get together again. Runnnnnn, do not walk to your calendar. Mark down Sunday, June 2, 1996 as the day to be "REVIEWING THE SITUATION" (Oliver) with all your NBC friends at our great retrorepost: **12 noon at LA MAGANETTE RISTORANTE in NYC.**

Hope to see you all there.

Regards, Pete

P.S. La Maganette is on the corner of 3rd Avenue and 50th Street.

Join the Fun

I/we will attend La Maganette luncheon on June 2nd.

Name _____

Spouse/Guest _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____

Cost per person: \$20.00

Make checks payable to: PEACOCK NORTH

Mail to: Peacock North

30 Ann Arbor Place

Peacock North Staff

Peter Peterson, C.E.O.

30 Ann Arbor Place

Closter, NJ 07624

201-768-1009 - Fax 201-768-8727

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◆ ◆ ◆ ◆

Gloria Clyne

Mort Hochstein

Jerry Cudlipp

Tony Nelle

Dick Dudley

Dolores Parylak

Roy Silver

◆

And a special thanks to
Peg Peterson and Lois Vierling

Peacock North

30 Ann Arbor Place
Closter, NJ 07624

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A PICTURE FROM OUR ARCHIVES



Keeping up with the advancements in communications, NBC is installing this Digital Control facility on the second floor of the RCA (oops) GE building.

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30 Ann Arbor Place
Closter, New Jersey
07624

First Class Mail

