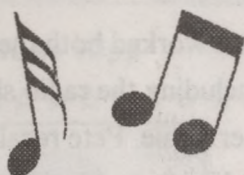


Peacock North

Summer 1995

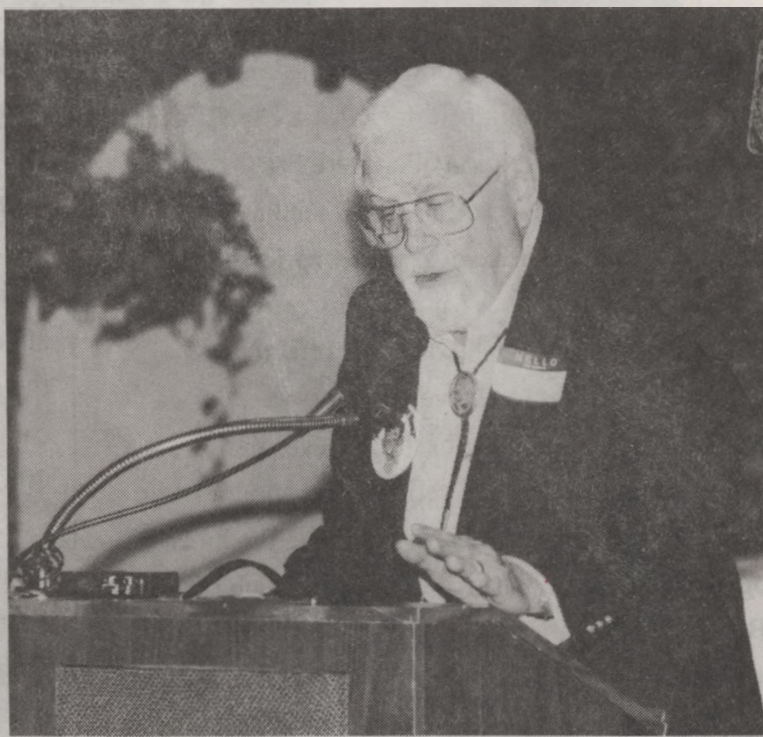


La Mag Gala A SMASHEROO!

Group "That Brought Television to America" -
Celebrates



Jack Weir addresses PN-ers - -



AT LA MAGANETTE - -

ROGER MUIR Updates Muir & "Howdy"

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Happy Retirees Pack

La Maganette by Dan Grabel

So you plan a nice, quiet lunch for 125, and it turns into a delightful bash for 180 plus attendees. That's the story of Peacock North's annual luncheon on Sunday, May 21st.

Beautiful weather didn't deter the diners, but free parking spots were hard to find and parades on 5th & 9th Ave. added to the travel woes. Announcer Arthur Gary who lives in Manhattan, arrived as the salad was passed out, was tangled in traffic.

PN's CEO Peter Peterson, assisted by wife Peg, planned what everyone felt was an excellent event. It was a very nice meal with three choices (and more veal when the first batch ran out.) PN picked up the tab for the wine. Guest speakers - Roger Muir, producer of the Howdy Doody Show, director Enid Roth, News 4's Planning Editor Gloria Clyne, Jack Weir and director Walter Miller were brief.

Looking out onto the sea of smiling faces, Pete said, **'This is the group that brought Television to America'**

For this writer, the day was effectively summed up by director Dave Handler when he said, "Retirement? It's the best job I ever had!"

Muir was one of 4 retirees and spouses who travelled from New Hampshire to make the lunch. Roger recalled that "Howdy Doody", which ran on NBC from December 1947 to 1960 - 2,343 shows - earned more money for NBC than the Milton Berle "Texaco Star Theater". Headlined by "Buffalo Bob" Smith was on five afternoons a week.. Soon it became a *must watch* for the kiddie crowd. In 1976, Muir produced an additional 130 Shows for syndication.

Muir told us that on Smith's Saturday afternoon show, "Howdy" was a charact who was supposed to be on the other side of a stage door and was never seen. When he switched to TV, the show

quickly had to come up with a visible "Howdy". After 3 weeks, the prop department came up with the freckled face kid in the cowboy outfit to replace the bandaged old puppet.

Where is he now? Muir says Universal Pictures may produce a "Howdy" film. - And Buffalo Bob? TV's A&E channel is doing a biography for its "Looking Back" series.

Pete Peterson worked both the radio and TV "Doody" shows, including the radio shows Bob did from his Westchester home. Pete recalls the shows talent included Bob Keeshan, (the clown Clarabel) gained fame of his own on CBS as Captain Kangaroo in that railroad conductor's outfit. Heino Ripp TD'd Howdy's first show from 8G, which was aired over WRGB Schnectady also. Tom Smiley took over the reigns as TD, when H. went to do the Show of Shows. (Bob Rippen, Howdy's Director, called during the Bash, spoke to Ripp and asked to give his best regards to you all.)

One of the show's staff - Lilly Russo - sat with Muir during the luncheon along with her look-alike daughter. Lilly was hired as a temp to sort out the mountain of fan mail that came in. She soon became a script girl, and of course stayed on at NBC 40-odd years.

Producer Director Walter Miller told about his move from NY to LA. He meets his next door neighbor and who is it? Film AD Charlie Norton. Miller continues to do the biggies such as the Tony Awards and the Grammy Show, and is booked to do George Burns' 100th birthday show at the Pantages Theater in L.A. Walt told us a funny one about Burns. - He was playing to a Mormon audience and someone pointed out that the Mormons don't smoke. Burns, who doesn't inhale but blows smoke out of 15 cheap cigars a day, said, "I don't tell you how many babies to produce, and you don't tell me how I do my act.!"

PN People

By HEINO RIPP



From California,

Fred McKinnon is still in the Lighting business. Recently he had a great trip down Memory Lane working with Sander Vanocur. (Still see Sander on the telly as we flip through the cable)..Red always works with the greats. He'll be lighting the last "Bob Hope" Show in the near future at NBC, if all goes well, for Hope's showing his age these days

Many of you Golden Age-rs reading this probably will remember — and worked the 1st Bob Hope TV Show atop the "New Amsterdam Roof" - WOR's studio theater. S'matter of fact some 45 or so years ago this Easter. The 1st

Hope Show was a great boost to young TV and I'll never forget "Bloody" Easter" - the NABET slow-down.

Guess "Red" will never quit lighting, even tho he's done it all by now.. He sends his best regards to all of you.

Colorado Springs near his youngest daughter. Walt's been moving around a bit since retiring from the Alma Mater, but seems tho "family" has quite a large gravitational pull on all of us.

Speaking of new addresses, and lighting directors, **Leo Farrenkopf** and his bride have moved to Charlottesville, Virginia....Enjoy the extra warm days before and after summer.

(Thanks for sending me all the information about Virginia,



THE WAY WE REMEMBER - Bob Hope

Walter Himmelberg says that soon he'll be sending us new addresses. Plans to spend winters in Midland, Texas near his oldest son, and summering in

Leo, it's giving me lots of ideas. Am eye-ing Lake Gaston, 32 miles long, flows fm Va. to No. Carolina. -Practicin mah "Suth'n Droll" with lessons from Jim Smart...

P N People - B

Carl Rohrer yelled at us! He said he enjoyed the past PN edition, "but to read it, you'd never know I was at the mini-lunch...I must have taken the picture
Excellent, but uncredited"...

Heyyyyyy !

CARL ROHRER
WAS AT THE
LAST MINILUNCH.

Lee Diskin writes that his wife had an unfortunate accident On Dec 26. Required brain surgery at the University of Penna Hospital. Things are coming along fine, though not yet normal.

He's really testing the Health Insurance. The hospital bill alone was \$ 107,000.88.. Wonders what the 88 cents was for..

Lee has already received a contract from the Olympic Committee. If anyone is interested, contact him for more info.at 609:492-3526.....

Frank Merklein, Enid Roth and Clark Jones -

Frank writes and suggests that those who visit the NBCFR bash, are only 400 miles away from Paradise (Key West). Merk says that **Clark Jones** lives there for about

six months, and Frank visited Clark at his "conch house" (houses of wood that were built before WW 1).

Later Clark visited Frank and brought **Enid Roth** with him. Needless to say, they had a great lunch with a million reminiscences.

Frank recalls when he was at Time, Inc.the Pres of Time assigned Frank to be a guardian of sorts to two teenaged daughters. One a daughter of Pakistan's UN delegate, the other a Burmese member of Royalty.The Princess proved to be quite difficult. She had been put into a strict girl's school, but wanted to be on her own during vacation.Frank decided the Princess needed 24 hour coverage, and Enid offered to take her in. Later they became room-mates and the Princess went on to a career at Time. That was 29 years ago and

today, the ladies are still close friends.

Even after several decades, most of Frank's friends are from TV's original gang. Sad to say, sez he, there is not a single person he can call today it he wanted to visit the studios in NYC. To make matters worse, recently he needed a reference, and he referred them to Time.The query came back that they had never heard of him. After making some phone calls, he discovered that the name **MERKLEIN** was at rest in the basement at 20 Rock with all the others from the class of '48 through '62, each reduced to a 2 X 2 microfiche.

"That experience makes one appreciate all the more, the newsletters, the phone calls from old colleagues, and meetings such as this one, keeping precious memories alive."

... Frank, Clark and Enid
(Wish I had been there, H.)



Enid Roth, Frank Merklein and Clark Jones

P N People - C

Dot & Gary Iorio back from Florida, heard we had a nice winter, (Warm / low snow), and that he, in Fla had a pretty good winter also, which translates that he could play golf everyday. To keep themselves occupied, they have included dancing lessons into the curriculum.

Renee and Herb Oxman

spent about 9 days in Gary's complex in Fl. Naturally the Iorios had the Oxmans over for (not saurkraut und brat-wurst), but, yes, an Italian meal! Renee cooked real French bread. (I can taste it from here!) The Oxmans and Iorios are back up north now, and were mixing with the 180 attendees at La Maganette. All had tans, evidence of being out in Florida sunshine. Lookin good!



LEE CARLTON, HERB OXMAN, GARY IORIO AND Ed TAFEE

THIS FOUR-SOME GOLF DATE WAS SET UP BY HERB OXMAN. Ed WASN'T UP TO playing, BUT did bring GRAPEFRUIT AND ORANGES, freshly picked from his BACKYARD, ALL TO CELEBRATE LEE CARLTON'S SEVENTIETH BIRTHDAY !

Speaking about Golf !

Irving Messing (and Dolly) sent me a note that it's time

once again for the NBC Spring Golf Outing !

DATE: June 12

WHERE: The Rivervale Country Club
Rivervale, New Jersey

Restricted to 60 players-(Due to Dining Rm capacity.)

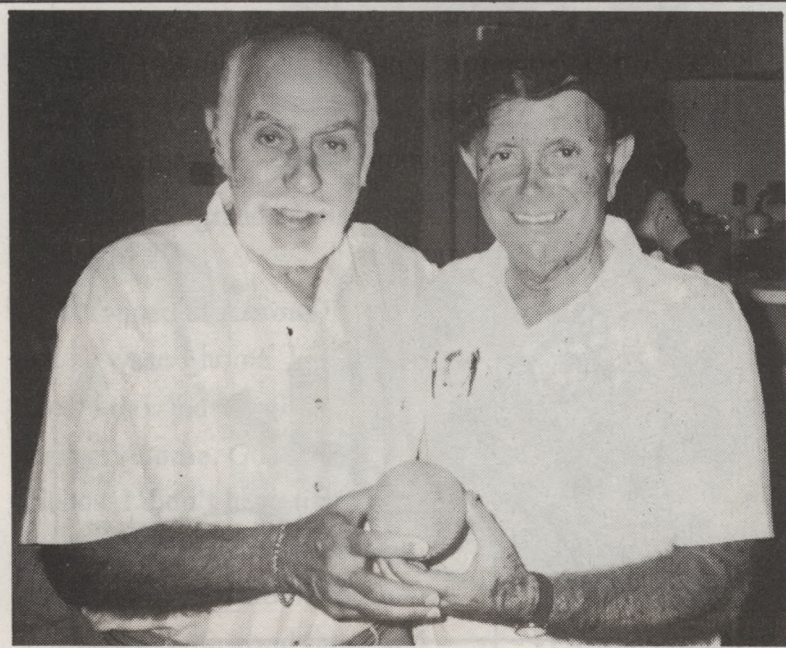
FOR RESERVATIONS, CALL:

BOB BROWN: 212: 664-0408- 7 - 11 pm

MIKE DESOUZA: 212: 664 4042- 3-11pm

JOHN THOMAS: 212: 664-5337- 11a-7p

Irving keeps busy. He recently finished a non-paying consulting lighting gig for Ridgewood N.J. high school's yearly Jamboree. Proceeds went to their scholarship fund.



HERB & GARY. LAST YEAR GARY CAME ACROSS THE BALL. IT'S THE ONE USED IN 1952 WITH WHICH HE WON THE CHAMPIONSHIP

P N People - D

Irving loved it... Then in October, Irv celebrated his 27th year of doing the "Country Music Awards" in Nashville in the company of Bill Klages. Irv has learned a lot - you should see him do the tush push.

Ed Wackernagle gets on the air on the NBC Ham net quite often from California at 6:45 in his morning, as the conditions permit, to talk to his old friends. It's always a delight to hear Ed's resonant "announcer" voice come booming in. Ed informed us about **Sam Roth's** passing on.... Mrs. Roth is recovering from a stroke and has hurt her hip.. Ed says that she is amazing for her 93 years. For you hams, Ed's call sign is W6TWZ

Many of you Radio Old Timers remember when much of the background music was live being played by an organist.

Lee Jones writes from Savannah, Georgia and sends us a clipping from Maturity News Service about **Rosa Rio**.

Rosa as a child prodigy, was invited to substitute at the organ in a local movie theater. From that moment, it was the only thing she really ever wanted to do. She

went on to play in movie palaces as stars of the silent cinema like Charlie Chaplin and Buster Keaton, Doug Fairbanks and Rudolph Valentino romped across the screen.

As the silent screen era died out, Rosa turned to radio. Her first show was "The Shadow" - starring a young Orson Welles. Then on to soap operas "Lorenzo Jones" for ex: and Bill Stern's Sport show. Lee Jones recalls her playing for "Between The Book Ends", with Ted Malone reading poetry.

TV came and pushed radio aside a bit, so Rosa went on to play for TV's "Edge of Night" and "Brighter Day". Soon the TV brass figured that live music was too expensive.

For Rio it was time to retire. Now lives in in Sun City Center, Fla. with her husband, Bill Yeoman.

—However, —

Once again Rosa couldn't sit still without her music. So today she can be seen at the Tampa movie theater. As the curtain opens and the stage rises, Rosa, seated at the organ, playing for the silent movies once again.



MATURITY NEWS SERVICE PHOTO

SILENT MOVIE ORGANIST ROSA RIO AT THE CONSOLE, BACK TO HER FIRST LOVE

P N People - E

Bobo Bartnik answered my request to write us

[I thought that all of BoBo's friends would like to hear how he is and what's going on, so here's the whole letter.]

"Heino, Please - I'm not Lee Carlton, Gene Martin, Eddie John - My last name has not changed. **BARTNIK** - NO "C" .

"The picture, can it be returned"? (Yes, H.) I'll look for others. My father, John and I, **(I'm the one on the left)**→ taken last October. Dad's 90 - I just turned 66 (March 18)

Looking at the pictures in The "Peacock North", I'm glad I work out every morning. I do aerobics, exercise, pump iron, swim.. Still at 225 pounds - I'm in good shape.

I went to Arizona to look for a warm place to live, after my daughter and grandson were settled here.

I stopped at **Aaron Traiger's** - but he wasn't home. I left him a note. I did find **Virginia and Ed Beavers home**. Good to see friends. I didn't have time to look for everyone. I was sightseeing and looking for a home for me.—

I do miss the good times and - friends!

Some day I'll be on the air — -

transmitting on 20 meters -
Till then, I'll just listen..

73's, **BOBO**



James D. Aldrich

pens a happy retiree letter. " Life in Ft. Lauderdale has been exactly what I hoped it would be from many previous visits to the family down here for several years. The weather... the scenery... the friendliness of the wide variety of residents and visitors. both U.S. and elsewhere. - just driving around doing errands and finding free parking.

These all add up to a fulfilling lifestyle.... Then from June to

October,
there's a return to the cooler temps and their many attractions, the theater, the Ocean and Bays of Long Island, the Hamptons and way out to Montauk..It's a change I always look forward to.

As I write this,

I'm thinking of my long-term friend, Dan Gabel, wife Pat and their boys with their own families. Hope they are also well. Please pass this along to him." (If he reads the newsletter, he just received your nice thoughts - H.) Jim has also taken an active interest in protecting rights of the disabled, and trying to understand the wild gyrations

P N People - F

of the various financial markets. "I even manage to outwit them from time to time. All in all it's about as risky a venture as trying to perform brain surgery following a textbook". Jim asks friends to drop him a line sometime.

**2800 EAST SUNRISE BLVD. 7A
FORT LAUDERDALE, FL.33304**

Peter Tintle says he's been distracted by a very painful hip, leg and back for which he has no clear answer. However in all honesty, he states that his primary problem is procrastination, which is in an advanced form-(something he read in the New England Journal of Medicine)-can lead to *Inertia Terminalis*." Peter is not sure what that means, but you'll have to admit that it sounds very ominous.

"The Fall '94 issue of P.N. was a knockout! Whenever I read names or see photos of guys I knew during my 42 year stint - people not in my everyday thoughts - but not forgotten - it's like feeling a warm tropical breeze. ie the photos with **Bill Garden, Roger Muir, Perry Massey, Bob Hanna** etc. etc. which remind me of Easterners who moved west and North and stayed

Where is Jack Kennedy ? - and Gene Walsh, formerly Press Dept ? ?

I was saddened by our loss of **Clay Ackerson**. They didn't come any nicer than Clay and I can still see his warm and affable smile. Ditto **John Graham** (former Art Director in A & P) with whom I spent many working hours. John was not necessarily warm and smiley, but the NBC heirarchy made him that way. And the loss of

Ken Keefer - just a kid - and originally one of my G R boys.

On a happier note, two more of my kids from G.R., **Hugh McDermott** and **Les Diamond** mentioned in **Hal Alexander's** hilarious Thanksgiving Parade story explains why so many TV people became prematurely gray. I'm reminded of **Vince Mitchell**, who wound up in the hospital with bleeding ulcers. His job was studio assignments (local) when TV was new and radio still going strong - and no tape anywhere.

In a conversation he had with a man in the next hospital bed, he explained his job which included the need to satisfy all of the demands of producers directors and talent of the studio they absolutely had to have, the

technicians they wanted, by name - couldn't do the show without the specific engineering personnel etc, etc... at the end of which, the man in the next bed said he didn't think the job was very stressful... Vince, out of the hospital, came back for a little while and then left to become a school teacher. He said nobody, especially people on the outside could appreciate or understand the pressure brought on him by the primadonnas on the one hand and management on the other. Obviously, he didn't or couldn't learn to say what **Hugh McDermott** told the Parade producer he should do..I'm sure to this day, that **Vince Mitchell** doesn't have an ulcer or a gray hair on his head ! For the rest of us, **Hurley's** was always a place to go for a little psychiatric therapy.

Lilly Russo : At La Mag., Enid Roth reminded me about when I called Monsignor Dougharty for notes - On the talk back, I called, "Monsignor, Honey - Don't leave, I have some notes for you !

Vic Roby It's great being at La Mag. to join PN to re-live days at 30 Rock, 106th St. and 67th Street

Billy Goetz Having

PN People - 6.

pneumonia that lasted from January through March (3 mos.), in spite of having flu shots every fall ! (He lookg great now -H.)

News from **Rudy Foglia:**

"I'm doing O.K. except for some arthritic discomforts. Guess I'm joining the club !"

Charlie Savaia is recovering O.K. from several mini-strokes. Will return from Fla. April 26. He still lives in Westchester."

Florence Ring is back from surgery and doing well after an operation of her mirtal valve. Give her a call. [914:472-0968]

Doug MacIntosh and his Ladyship **Anne**, enjoying La Mag festivities, decided to retire at 55, and move to Florida, with their two school-age children. They put up their house in NJ for sale, and it sold before it even came out in the paper. Doug, his bright personality and his bright red hair will be missed from the halls of 30 Rock.

* * *

What a great turnout for PN's get together!

What a great announcing staff present - 9 of us.

NBC's greatest voices from
30's, 40's, 50's, 60's

70's, 80's, Nineties,

THIS IS:

DON PARDO SPEAKING

Another "OOPS".

Milt Wyatt finds another mistake I made in the last issue. Milt crossed the English Channel for the first time (on his way to Omaha Beach) in 1944 - **not** 1945. He was in Germany in 1945 when the war ended.[Milt missed La Mag, for he's been in Europe to celebrate the 50th anniversary of VE Day].. Milt tosses in the idea that we have a gathering in Manhattan during the Nov. - Jan. season.

John Koushouris

(produced Miss America for years) read with great interest "A Regal Race to Air" in the past issue, It happens that John, was a part of that "Epoch". Then, was the Technical Director in charge of the operation which aired the "kine" of the Queen's Coronation., - Small World ! -sez he..

Steve Daganuzzi sold his house in Dec. and moved to a condo two blocks away.- Steve says let someone else cut that grass. Their youngest daughter just married, They started settling down down and be "retired" by driving from New Hampshire to NYC to attend the La Mag Bash. Enjoy it Steve !

Frank Vierling as the town historian of Oradell, New Jersey has been writing and putting together a book about his town, which will cover the town's history from its beginning. In addition he



-FRANK VIERLING-

has been publishing the Newsletter. Frank has taken some time for some personal life went to Arizona to visit family, soon he is going to Maine until October. His son **Don** was the young man that was taking all those pictures al La Mag.

Soooo - Pete has asked me to "volunteer" to put together the interim editions. (See Frank Vierling update on People "J")

**So please become reporters .
Give me some help by keeping
the letters and especially photos
coming. Don't write me the En-
cyclopedia, but give me the facts
maam, just the facts.**

Dom, da dom domp.

(A nice story voodn't hoit.)

Thanks. Heino

P N People - H

We keep bugging you-all about writing PN, pieces that might interest our readers. Anecdotes, nostalgic events, past triumphs, unusual situations that might tweek the memory synapses a bit.

Jim Mullen has been a prolific contributor to our fledgling Newsletter, and this sheds light on the significant role NBC played in their broadcasting careers and personal lives.

In 1950 at age 23, Winifred Ann Schaefer was appointed Publicity Director of WNBC and WNBT, NBC's radio and TV outlets in NYC. After graduating from St. Cecelia's School in Englewood, N.J. Win went to Katherine Gibbs Secretarial School and also attended classes at Fordham



**Wini and JAMES MULLEN, TAKEN IN Studio 8H IN 1982
AT THE CHANNEL 4 CHRISTMAS TREE LIGHTING PARTY.**

College. She joined NBC as a secretary to the News Director; later moving to being assistant to the News and Special Events Director. In 1949 she became a Press Representative for WNBC and WNBT.

In 1951, I graduated from Fordham College and was hired as an on-air promotion writer for the NBC Radio Network doing copy for shows including Bob & Ray, Pete Kelly's Blues, Theater Guild of the Air and Cavalcade of America. I remember meeting Wini back then at NBC and working with her. In 1955, I went with ABC-TV, where I did promotion kits for network shows. In 1960 I became Advertising & Promotion Manager at CBS Radio, where in 1965 I hired as Assistant Manager a talented young woman who had done extremely well career-wise with jobs at WEED TV Corporation and the Radio Advertising Bureau. Her name was Winifred Ann Schaefer.

I returned to NBC in 1968 as Sales Promotion Administrator for WNBC-TV Channel 4. Wini

became Director, Information Services for CBS Radio where she remained until she retired in 1989.

I am happy to report that she became Mrs Jim Mullen on July 21, 1973 in the Lady Chapel of St. Patrick's Cathedral.

As Sales Promotion Administrator, my chores included arranging special sales-related functions including The Channel 4 Christmas Tree Lighting Party and The New Season Preview Party. I retired from NBC in 1986.

Win died on August 27, 1993.

I hope that this shared reminiscence will recall lovely Wini to the Peacock North readers from her early years with NBC, as well as being with me at various Channel 4 events.

Jim Mullen

P.N. PEOPLE - I



Upon closer examination, yep, it was **this** photo —————>

When they arrived home, Pete examined the photo again, and realized that it really was a shot of himself on the dolly camera doing a recent TV program, and it turned up in a school text book!

As time went on, the whole school class got to know that it was her dad, and in due time Pete had to make an appearance at the class to discuss his role as a famous TV star! One never knows who's clicking away nor where one's photo will appear. (Ask Princess Diana)

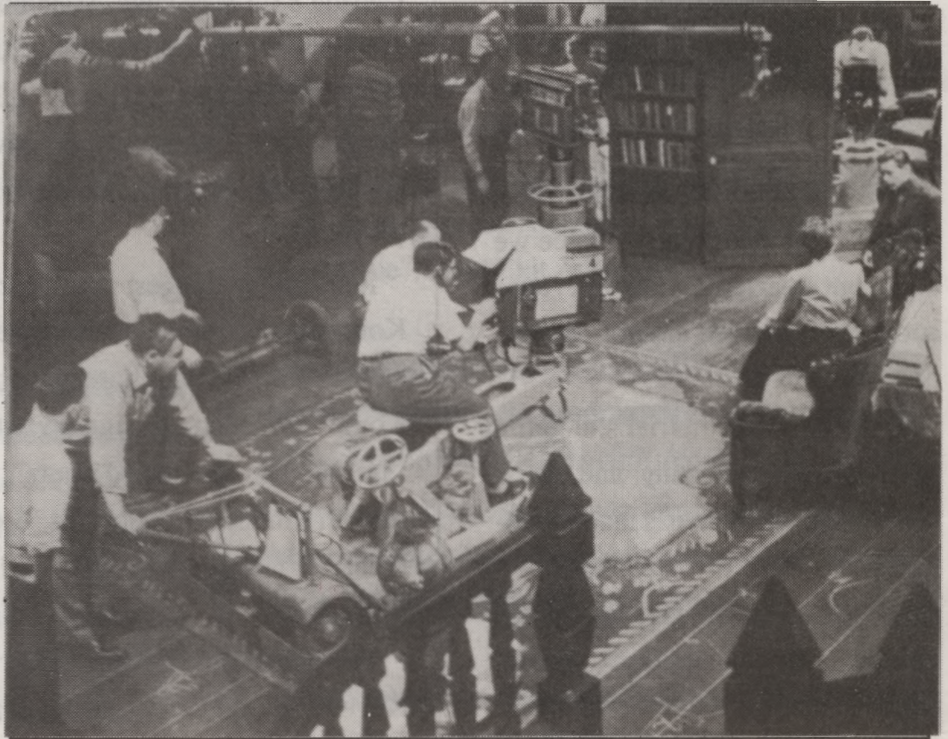
The production took place in the 106th Street studio 2A. It was a Hallmark production. The name of the play was "The Corn is Green".

Directing the play was the now famous Director - **George Schaeffer**. The starring actor was the then rising star **John Kerr**.

In the photo, dollying Pete, was **Dick Davis**. **Don Dunn** was the cameraman at left, and **Cliff Graves** was on the camera seen thru the door frame.

Bet You Didn't Know

that - The cameraman on the dolly camera is **Pete Peterson** ! Well it is. But the "rest of the story is" - - that one day, while at work, Peter picked up his daughter, who was in the city. She came to spent the balance of the day at the studio. She left her books on the dolly, while she wandered around amusing herself as the rehearsal progressed. During a break, Pete browsed through one of the books, when he came upon a photo that looked familiar.

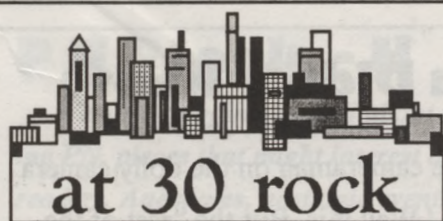


The famous Peter Peterson at work, riding the # 1. camera

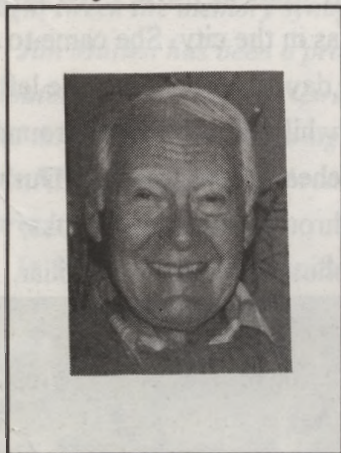
T.D-ing this epic, was our friend **Bob Long**, who did many of the Hallmarks.

And of course you know that **O. Tamburri** became a fixture of that great award winning series.

**HAVE A FRIEND
JOIN THE P.N. PEOPLE**



By Dan Grabel



We trust some of the following is news to you, dear reader. Since we come out quarterly, we gotta report some stories which did not happen only yesterday.

With the Simpson trial still getting media mega-space daily, and every which way we turn, it's nice to discover that NBC owns a piece of Court TV — its viewers are up 800 percent — and in addition, according to a recent interview by CEO **Bob Wright**, the Company is involved with 21 satellite services which owns 100 %, or has partial ownership. Wright puts NBC's worth at \$400-million. The O & O stations add another \$700 million to that price tag, and he figures the overall package brings the value to the \$4-BILLION mark

Wright visited Havana early this year, conferring with top officials.

single line broadcast company into a global network company. He listed NBC's partnerships as including A&E, Thr History Channel (where **Roger Mudd** and **Sander Vanocur** are working), Prime Sports Channel Networks, Bravo, American Movie Classics, NBC Desktop Video, the Interactive Network and others.

Emmy Magazine carried an **Andy Lack** profile in which it said, "Since Lack became President, NBC News' morale has gone up and so have the ratings". Lack certainly revived the department which once saw the company shutting bureaus all over the place. Lack has reopened them in Frankfurt and Tokyo, has added personnel in London and Tel Aviv, has opened in Beijing with Diana, formerly of Canada's CTV as chief Asian correspondent, and has plans for Shanghai. Then too, there's a Superchannel which serves Europe. It was purchased for a measly \$23-million is now reaching 65 million homes. Lack's ideas on the drawing board include a 24 hour news service. **Bill Wheatley**, by the way, is still doing duty as News Vice President.

Petrhaps the biggest new operation of all will be the CNBC Hong Kong-based regional business news service. It will employ 150 and have at least 3 major bureaus around the area. Wharf Cable in Hong Kong was the first to sign on with the new service which will be "all Live, all the time, for 24 hours", says **Patrick Cox**, the managing director. (Hmmm, Cox doesn't seem to be aware of videotape, the usual library of historical material, and packaged stories from outside sources).

The operation, which is called **ANBC**, for Asian, began last November, and Cox coined a phrase to describe it - "**Infotainment**, a mixture of business, news and fact-based entertainment like live material, standup comedy, a lot of things." Business news with stand-up comedy? ? ? Since ANBC plans to have feeds from Singapore, Bankok and Bombay, those places might be likely areas for regular network expansion.

Jessica Savage — there's a name that brings up many anecdotes. The lifestory of the anchor woman who died in a tragic car accident in 1983, is coming up for double exposure — on cable TV and on big screen movies. Cable's Lifetime Net plans a bio to be entitled "Almost Golden: The Jessica Savage story," and Hollywood is currently working on "Up Close and Personal", with **Robert Redford** and

Michelle Pfeiffer

If you try to visit 30 Rock, you may find it now more difficult to get past security. Following the shooting incident at the TODAY show site on 49th street, new, stricter regulations are in place. ID cards must be shown, all guests must sign in, visitors must explain the contents of any packages they are carrying. Also, from 7am to 7pm metal barriers will be in place at the Plaza street from 48th to 51st. Unattended vehicles will not be permitted, but vehicles will be allowed to pickup and discharge passengers. Those streets used to be packed with limos, taxis awaiting their passengers. After 7pm, it will be a no-go territory.

Most of us only walked those areas anyway, so it will mean no change. However, if you're the limo-type, sorry.

HONORS

Three of the Peacock's biggest hits — "E R", "Mad About You," and "Frasier", picked up George Foster Peabody Awards for excellence in the entertainment programs division — the only such programs to be honored this year by the selecting judges at the University of Georgia.

WCBS was the big winner in the 38th annual New York area Emmy Awards, taking 9 of them. WPIX won 8, WABC won 7, WWOR won 6, and WNBC won 4.

NETWORK FOLKS

We watched the Today show the other morning, something we don't usually do, cause we're busy doing other things at that hour, and it looked like Girls-Town. **Katie Couric** sitting in as host(ess), **Giselle Fernandez** doing the news, and a third gal, **Ann Curry** (usually on News at Sunrise) was sitting in for **Bryant**, who was off.

Gumbel, in addition to his NBC chores, will be hosting a new Sports Magazine that will be seen on

HBO. It's a quarterly.

David Doss is the new senior producer on Nightly. He was brought over from "Prime Time" and one local TV coumn offered three explanations for the move.

1. Doss is being groomed to replace **Jeff Gralnick**
 2. He's going to produce more magazine-type pieces for Nightly.or
 3. Gralnick put Doss in the job to cover his flank.
- Both are ABC alumni.

This issue's report on **Steve Friedman**:

Although he had two years to go on his NBC contract when he was eased out of "Today", 48 year old Steve wisely decided to remain visible so he signed a deal to head tv production for Savoy Pictures. That outfit has produced such un-notable films as "A Bronx Tale", and "Exit to Eden."

Alvin Perlmutter, once as NBC News vp, continues as an independent producer for public television. Alvin took on **Newt Gingrich** recently with a NY-Times op-ed essay suggesting Gingrich was aiming in the wrong direction when he announced he was going to zap federal financing for public tv.

Every once on a while we like to watch NBC News to see which talent is still on the roster. Recent viewing has shown the veterans like **Fred Francis**, **George Lewis**, **Kenley Jones** and **Bob Hagar**, among others are still reporting for the peacock. And, of course, **John Palmer** has returned after working for the Christian Science Monitor operation.

Deborah Norville began her assignment with "Inside Edition", a syndicated tab show, in March.

Phil Simms, the former scrambling N Y Giants

worked with ESPN, doing three shows a week, and they were miffed when he signed with the Peacock. ESPN said they had a verbal agreement. But YOU know, they ain't worth the paper they're written on. Simms will do football, of course, and the 1996 Olympics from Atlanta.

Josh Mankiewicz, who had worked for Fox, ABC and WCBS-TV, has been named to "Dateline NBC," operating out of L.A. That show is having its best season ever in the ratings game. Fact is, despite all the flack - the GM truck and all — it has just marked its fourth year and NBC has put the show in a million dollar studio. I just love those figures the PR puts out — million dollar studio. Hey, in a day when they're using daily hires and squeezing out the overtime and they blow a mil on a studio? It's a nice round figure.

Bill Moyers, who provides simple, relevant commentary, is a three times a week addition to Nightly News. Moyers, who has won 30 Emmys, makes observations, we think, which are more folksy than pontifical, and easy for the mass audience to comprehend. I like his style, but the NYTimes critic describes it as "mini-sermons", and like a "Sunday school briefing".

Back in the 1980s, **Steve Bogart**, the son of **Humphrey Bogart and Lauren Bacall**, worked at NBC News, specifically, for "A" News and also the assignment desk. Steve made the papers recently when he objected to HBO's plan to use special effects wizardry to create a "Tales From the Crypt" episode by integrating old Bogey footage into it. The Bogart family wants input and a piece of the action.

When **Bryant Gumble's** 3 year contract expired,

he worked for two weeks without a contract, and there was a news report Bryant was mulling an offer from Fox TV. Then he took two days off.

The upshot: he signed a one year deal with "Today"... Well, maybe the Fox Story was true, but agents have been using that ruse for eons to get some movement on a personal contract. A blinking contest, with the more nervous negotiator blinking first. One report we read put his salary at \$7 million for 3 years, another said it was 2.3 mil. Please, the truth, nothing but the truth. (Then maybe divide 7mil, by 3 yrs, you get 2.3 mil. per yr, guess you have to read the label -er or the contract.)

Success story: When **Debbie Vickers** got a job with NBC in 1976, it was as a page. Latest move: Executive producer of Jay Leno's "Tonight". First move out of the uniformed ranks was to the staff of **Tom Snyder's** "Tomorrow" show in 1978, and then Vickers moved on to the Tonight Show in the 1980's during the Johnny Carson era as a talent coordinator.

Willard Scott is not overworked on NBC. Well, not any more. His new contract calls for a 3 day week. Tuesday to Thursday, instead of 4. Willard is a one-man cottage industry, with lots of irons in the fire. His newest deal is a 26 week series "Willard Scott's Home and "Garden Almanac" for cable TV. NBC News pexy Andy Lack says Scott actually will be doing more schtick for Today with feature stories increased and weather reports decreased. His contract expires in December so that's another cliff-hanger we'll be watching.

While corresponding with a non-NBC chum in Florida, I discovered that we both had been friends of the late **Dave Teitelbaum**, ex news in N.Y.

Two of Dave's 3 sons, he tells me, are making their way in the news business. Son Henry has an important news job in Paris (AP I think), brother Richard is with Fortune, and Ned, as I recall, was trying to make it in films in Hollywood. And my chum tells us that Dave's widow, Bonnie has remarried.

You've heard it said, "It pays to advertise". **John Curry**, a senior at auburn University, did just that when he put up a sign outside the "Today" show window reading, "Janice, Will You Marry Me?" At the same time in her home in Montgomery, Alabama, **Janice Poole** got a phone call from a Today producer suggesting she watch the show. Janice did. **Bryant Gumble** and **Katie Couric** joined the conversation and asked Janice for her reaction. "Yes, I will", she replied.

Late November, another swain visiting in New York popped the question to a girl friend in Orlando on the morning show.

News for New York Folks

John Miller, who was a **WNBC** reporter until he was tapped as the press spokesman for NYPD, is returning to **WNBC** in September, having been severed by police commissioner Bratton. He may write a book based on his year's experiences. The NY Post said he was obligated to return to **WNBC** where he interrupted his 3 year contract to take the high visibility police job. Story said his contract paid one million bucks over 3 years. But do you believe everything you read in the papers? Then again, since Miller is described as a man who dresses in Giorgio Armani rags, that would just about cover his wardrobe expenses.

Reporter **Dana Adams**, who was to have the highest profile among the local reporters covering the Simpson trial, Quit **WENBC** after months of wrangling over her contract and skipped to "Extra", a syn-

dedicated show seen nightly. Ironically, channel 4 NY carries that program, so they still have Ms. Adams on the screen.

The News side replaced her with **Michele Dabney-Perez** who has been on the staff of **WTVJ**, the NBC O&O in Miami. The trial has created a mini cottage industry in commentary experts. Every move must be analyzed.

I haven't seen any announcement of a party, but I think this is **Gabe Pressman's** 40th anniversary with **WNBC**.

Reporter **Perri Peltz** is a mother. She had her first child, a son.

Jane Hanson, who anchors "Today in New York" from 5:30am to 7am along with **Mary Civillo**, was named as a 1995 Outstanding Mother by The National Mother's Day Award Committee. Yeah, and the year's not even half over !

WNBC news retiree **Edie Cahill** writes from Stuart, Florida, after reading our story about **Drew Phillips** memorial service in the spring issue of PN "Drew was an old pal of mine and he and **Tom McCabe** talked me into becoming a stringer before I joined NBC for real. At one time there were 14 news people at NBC who had come over from the old World Telegram & Sun". Edie was invited to join the NBC Florida retirees and attended their March luncheon. Her summer plans are to visit the Catskills and then Ireland. Hmmm, well Edie should find her roots in one of those places.

Ira Joe Fisher is gone. The rotund weatherman (seems many of them are rotund - Scott, Roker) has departed local to join **WCBS** as their weekend and feature reporter. Ira Joe had been at NBC for 6 years

Bruno Cohen sounded friendly, so we hope it was an amicable departure. That's not what the local print press said. Seems Ira Joe's Air time was cut back with the assignment of **Janice Huff** as weekend weathercaster. Ira Joe is now on his third network, the "hat trick", as the writer in Newsday called it. Ira will replace Mark Spfister at Channel 2. Hey, if he gets tired of reporting the weather, there's always the theater. Ira Joe performed for one week in March in the long running off-Broadway show "The Fantasticks." He played the part of the Boy's Father.

Other WNBC departures include **Chef Ashbell McElveen** (I don't know if this person was a chef or a broadcaster). Reporter **Bobby Rivers and Magee Hickey**, also walked to Channel 2.

Longtime local director **Jack Sumroy** left NBC in March to "pursue other projects". Sumroy had spent 35 years with NBC. *(In addition to being a good Director, he is a very likeable and friendly person. I have spent many enjoyable hours working next to this wonderful gentleman. The best of luck Jack. Heino)*

WNBC New Jersey correspondent **Carlos Granda** departed the station in April for personal reasons and returned to his hometown, Miami, where he is now weekend anchor on WCIX. He's been replaced by **Su Keenan**. She sounds like a heavy hitter from the new release we read. A 10 year journeyman, most recently she worked at WPLG, Miami. Prior to that, she worked for CNN, including a stint in Central America, also KRON, San Francisco, KDFW, Dallas and WKRN, Nashville. She has won several Emmys and was the first recipient of the **Ben Grauer Fellowship** offered by Columbia University, where she earned a master's degree. She was *cum laude* at Tufts. My guess is we'll be hearing more about Su. - - And what happened to the "e" in her name?

From the 15 Emmy nominations WNBC received, Five Awards in April.

1. **Steve Dunlop**: Outstanding on-camera achievement
2. **Jim Touhey**: Outstanding Research on "How to Survive a Plane Crash"
3. **Danny Cassano**: Outstanding Editing
4. **Bruce Erik Brauer, Neil Wright, Craig Tozzi**: Outstanding Graphics on "Everybody's Talking."
5. **Dr. Max Gomez & producer Kaluska Poven-tud**: Outstanding Health/ Science Reporting for "Separate Lives"

Remember **Norm Fein** ? He's was vice president for press relations at Cablevision and now has been named v.p. for news development there. His assignment - - expanding the operation to 24 hours a day. At WNBC-TV Fein was News Director. - - Which brings on a comment. I remember years ago, and it may still be true, it was said tv news directors had a high job mortality, usually lasting about a year and a half in the post.

Like a lot of locales around America, NBC at 30 Rock has just become a **Smoke Free Workplace**. And that means everywhere, except perhaps, your own personal broom closet. And for complaining non-smokers who spot someone puffing away, the policy sez, "No adverse personnel action will be taken against an employee for exercising or attempting to exercise, in a reasonable manner, his or her rights under this policy". So speak out if you must, but a punch in the nose is out of order.

When **Michael Jordan** returned to round-ball playing after giving up his baseball career, NBC estimated that 35-million would tune in to the game between the Bulls & Indiana Pacers. As I recall it,

Jordan wasn't too hot that day, but the game averaged the highest for a regular season NBA game in 20 years and double the usual NBA ratings.

Talking ratings, 81 million watched the movies' Academy Award show, despite what some described as a lackluster performance by Davis Letterman. However Letterman still bests Leno. * * *

"**Saturday Nite Live**" has been taking a pummeling from the print tv critics. New York Magazine, which did a cover on the show which is now in its 20th year, asserted the show is in "deep spiritual funk". Over at Newsday critic **Verne Gay** was succinct. He said, "The show stinks". and that Bob wright wants changes. Gay also said the show remains a profitable franchise. At the NYTimes, critic **Bill Carter** said it needs "a creative overhaul". Several critics suggest creator and part owner **Lorne Michaels** take a walk.

Michaels admits that the show did not have "a winning team" this season. He provided a little criticism himself. He said the current cast didn't click together, that they failed to create new characters. Next year, he promises there will be a smaller cast, a smaller budget, and more airtime for the comics who are still working. Yet SNL is still the hottest property on the little screen on Saturday nights. **Dana Carvey** may return and that could give the show a leg up.

Well, comedy is serious business and it 'taint nuff just to add a laugh track as they do in sit coms.

Money Tree

I am writing this on income tax deadline day so it's nice to report that NBC earned \$500-million in pre-tax operating profits in 1994 -- up 30 % over 1993 — and is poised for further growth in '95.

That is not the story at Black Rock. For CBS, net income fell 14% to \$281.6-million, even tho sales were up. CBS had a tough year because of the baseball strike and the loss of NFL football to Fox-tv. First quarter 1995, CBS' earnings were down 68% and being No. 3

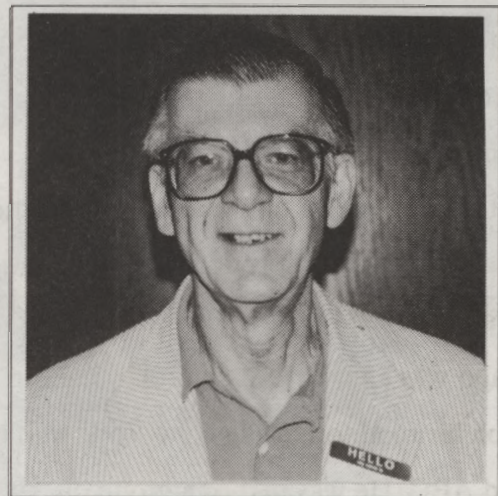
in the ratings race, may be part of the debacle.

Big Screen, Lil Screen

When NBC bought the rights to 2 showings of Stephen Spielberg's "Jurassic Park" and also rights to "Schindler's List" for \$64-million, we knew there would be a big price for commercials. The company sought \$650,000 for each 30 second spot. It was scheduled for a sweeps week to get the biggest bang for the buck. In the buying breakdown, "Jurassic Park" was priced at \$50-million, Schindler" at \$14-million.

Age Discrimination

No problem if you're a star on CBS' "60 Minutes". When Newsweek did a piece on Mike Wallace, they decided to tell all and listed the ages of the veteran staffers, to wit, Mike Wallace, 76, Andy Rooney, 75, Don Hewitt, 73. When Paley was around it seems they gave people their walking papers at 65. However, those senior citizens fit the show's demographics -- 70 percent of the viewers are over age 50.



Roy Silver

Finally, we're indebted, as always, to writer-researcher **Roy Silver** up there in Mohegan Lake for voraciously reading all those papers to find tidbits for "At 30 Rock".

Hugh Downs Story

By MORT HOCHSTEIN



It's not true that Hugh Downs was the announcer on the first network television program. It only seems that way.... Hugh has been around--on camera--

longer than anyone on the screen today. Only 56 years.

He was honored again last month. With him, it seems to happen every couple of months. Just having been around so long would qualify him for the 'survivor' award, and that may happen. He's the youngest 74-year-old communicator in the business.

Last month's award came at a black-tie dinner organized by the Museum of Broadcast Communications in Chicago, April 29. The Museum also scheduled a retrospective of some of Hugh's most memorable programs to run through May 20 at its Ronald McDonald Mini-Theater.

Chicago was a major stopping-off point for Downs on his road to fame in New York with both NBC and ABC. He was part of a group of television pioneers who originated there. Dave Garroway came from Chicago to head up the first Today show. Downs, some NBC old-timers may

remember, was a staff announcer before joining the "Home" show in 1954 and moving on to N.Y.C.

Hugh Downs has always been a quiet, "make-no-waves" sort of guy. He was so quiet that I didn't recall he'd been announcer on "Caesar's Hour" from 1956 to 1957 until I checked his biography. I was staff publicist for that program, but among that wild bunch of raving extroverts that Caesar corralled, Hugh was practically invisible.

In July, 1957, when Jack Paar took over the "Tonight" show, he brought Hugh along as his straight man. Hardly an Ed McMahon type, Hugh managed to survive for five years with the mercurial Paar. In 1958, Downs became host of the daytime "Concentration" and managed to juggle that job with his work for Today, which he joined in September, 1962.

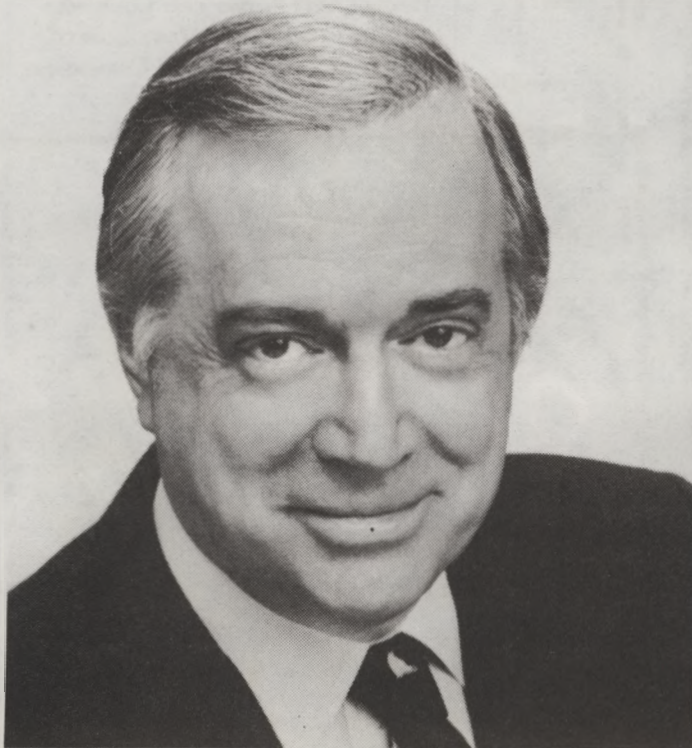
A year and a couple of months later, I came aboard as a writer and that was my closest association with him. The way "Today" was set up, Downs had very little to do with the preparing of the program, and his basic job was to show up and work with the script that had been prepared for him. He was unobtrusive and undemanding, qualities his co-workers appreciated.

It was only when we traveled on assignment that I got to know him. What really made him different, and probably it's what's kept him going for more than a half century in broadcasting, was

his great curiosity. He would try anything. When we did a piece on astronaut training, Downs went into an Air Force weightless training chamber to be bounced around like a ball for a half hour or more. Not for my tender stomach, and I'd also been offered the opportunity.

At Indianapolis in 1971, he climbed into driving gear and roared around the raceway at what was then an enormous speed, about 150 miles an hour. The drivers said he did "a helluva job." He never said no to a challenge and did more daredevil stunts, including diving with sharks, on and off camera, than I can remember.

Downs and the "Today" program parted company in October, 1971 and he went on to writing, teaching, lecturing, and consulting.



Hugh Downs

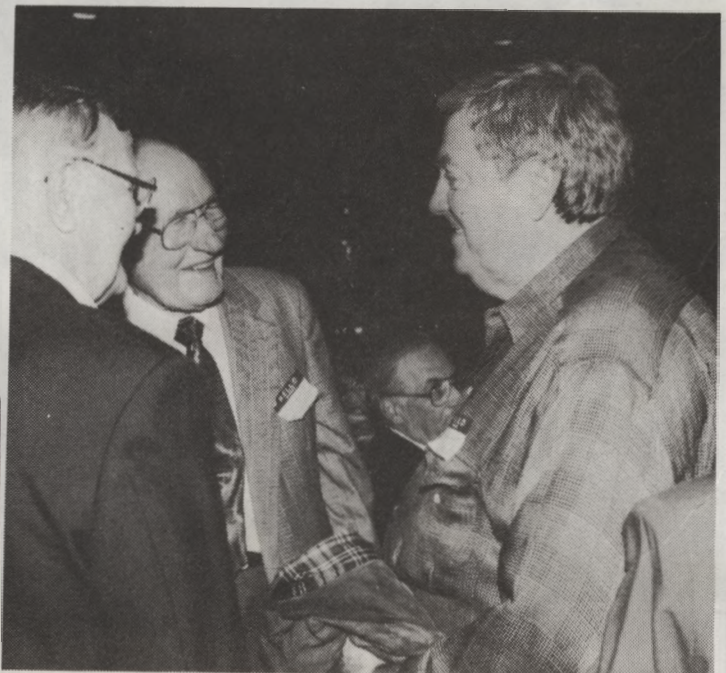
Capital Cities/ABC, Inc.

Later he joined ABC for the "20/20" program and he's now racked up 16 years with that program, where he's been paired with his former "Today" partner, Barbara Walters.

Somewhere along the line, Downs has managed to publish seven books and his eighth, "Perspectives" was released in May by Turner Publishing. He's still satisfying that insatiable curiosity and says he intends to extend that streak of 10,500 hours on commercial network television which got him into the Guinness Book of Records 10 years ago when he hit the 10,000 hour mark.

"There's nothing else I would rather do," Downs says, "so I expect to be here for a long time."

Downs and his wife, Ruth, maintain homes in Arizona and New York City. They have two grown children, Hugh Raymond and Dierdre Lynn.

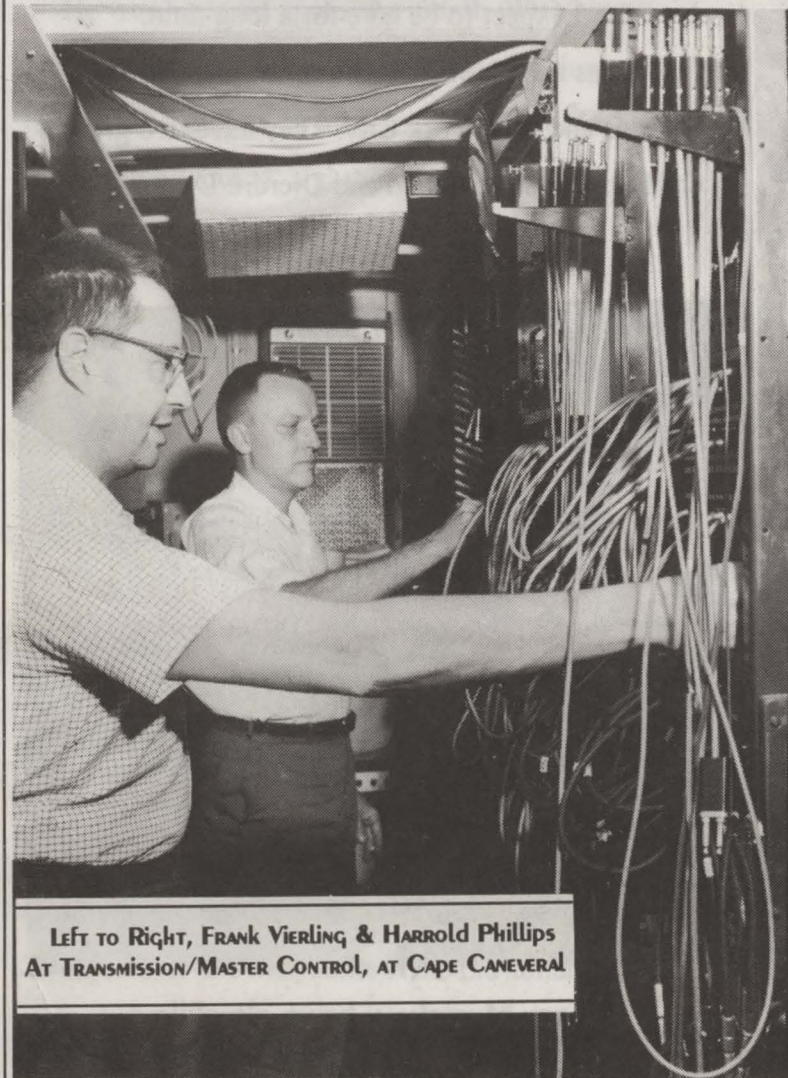


**HARRY MUSSELMAN BEING CHUCKLED
by WALTER MILLER**

P.N.ROTOGRAVURE



← Jim Marshall, Clay Ackerson,
Bobo Bartnik, St Louis 1976



Left to Right, Frank Vierling & Harrold Phillips
At Transmission/Master Control, at Cape Canaveral

↑ 1980 Fishing trip off N.J.
Left: Des McBride (Traffic Mgr.).
Tony Cianetti, Al Baeder behind
fishing poles, Al sent us the photos.

Below : Arty Artino - Fm Communications,
was dispatcher; Tony Cianetti,
Corp 6. Pix taken in Miami Conventions
in 1964.

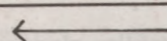




Left to R. Doris Ann, Exec Producer, Lynwood King, Director, Carolee Campbell, Actress
[She won an Emmy for her performance, Show was "This is My Son", Drama for National
Council of Churches, Aired June 19, 1977. Name of fellow at Rt. we don't have]



Left to R: Tony Gianetti, Jim Connor, Arty
Artino, Jack Hilton - taken in Atlantic City
during the 1964 Convention.



Left to R: Charlie Mangano - Traffic, Tony
Gianetti - Traffic. Al believes it was during a
Chicago Convention. - - Charlie told us at La
Mag. that he does 3 "Miss" shows a year,
and just came back from South Africa where
the latest Miss Universe was crowned.
CAMERAMAN AL CAMOIN also does those shows



A DAY TO REMEMBER

by Jim Holton

It was a brisk, bright Friday in late November, 1963. My boss Russ Tornabene and I were returning to the office from lunch and as we passed the 5B radio news operations area, I decided to drop in to see what was going on while Russ went on back to the office area.

One reason was my noticing that the telephone that handled incoming "beeperless" phone spots from field reports was lying, unhooked, on the editor's desk and he was nowhere in sight. Neither was the engineer, who should have been tending his battery of 4 console tape machines on the other side of the room.

As I entered the room I heard a plaintive, disembodied voice calling for somebody to talk to him, and realized it was coming from the inert instrument on the desk. I picked it up, indentifying myself and asking who was calling.

"Jesus, Jim, I'm glad you're there", the voice yelled. "This is MacNeil in Dallas. Somebody shot at the President and he might have been hit. I can do a spot then I have to try to get back in the motorcade".

With that the engineer reappeared and quickly lined up two machines to do a double taping. He gave me the nod and I told Robert MacNeil to go ahead with his spot.

"Shots were fired at President Kennedy as his motorcade drove through downtown Dallas today," MacNeil began haltingly, obviously ad libbing and being careful not to jump to any drastic conclusions. He wound up by saying it was not

known if any of the shots had struck Mr Kennedy. Then he hung up.

I gave no more immediate thought to the missing editor. I got on the intercom to the main TV newsroom and announced the gist of MacNeil's report, asking for an editor to come to 5B to assist in what I knew would be a sudden explosion of activity. Then I got the MacNeil spot ready to broadcast on an NBC News Hotline report. That was a bulletin-type transmission to the network stations which we would be able to carry live, breaking into their local programming. Then I sat down at the editor's desk and began organizing our rapidly expanding coverage.

A minute or so later a bulletin appeared on the UPI wire, followed seconds later by the AP. Both said the President had been wounded and was being taken to Parkland Hospital.

I lined up a newsman to go on the air live and began arranging for reports at other locations, including Dallas and Washington. The next hour was a blur of wire copy; the taut faces of reporters, editors and other managers huddling around the desk where I was running our radio coverage; incoming and outgoing phone calls; the constant drone of anchor men and women on the air advancing details of the grim story and finally, the sad news that President Kennedy had died in the hospital from his wounds.

I can recall the most intensive feeling I had before that moment was the determination -- in the midst of all sorts of wild rumors -- not to go on the air with any hasty and unconfirmed reports of the President's death. Several such reports carried in wire service bulletins in a small pile on my desk were covered by my hand so forcefully that later I noticed my sweat had stained the paper they were printed on.

[I'm sure that all of you remember where you were and what you were doing that Friday, of November 1963. While Jim was agonizing over broadcasting what could have been just rumors, 3,000 miles away here's how another tv group learned about these events. Heino]

I had just left the elevator into the lobby of my San Francisco hotel around 9 a.m. , walking toward the cafeteria to meet my Tech Supervisor, Reid Davis, Unit Manager, Stu MacGregory, Lighting Director Bill Klages for breakfast. As I approached the check in area I saw Frank McGee on TV. I thought it strange seeing Frank at that hour, for it was too early for "Nitely News". A crowd had gathered around the set, so it was a while before I realized what had happened.

Only three hours ago, we had just packed up our tractor trailers with the equipment which we had used to broadcast the live "Perry Como" Kraft Music Hall at the San Francisco Opera House. This morning we were scheduled to go to Dallas, for a survey to set up the next Como Show.

I can't remember even having breakfast, for there was much phoning and discussing whether that was a prudent move. It was decided that we should go .

Some hours later, having checked in at the Dallas hotel, I was in a cab on the way to the theater. By now the President was dead, and Oswald was in custody. As the cab drove slowly past the police station, we noticed quite a crowd. The cabbie said that was the sheriff moving Oswald to another location, and we discussed whether it was the right thing to do to bring him through that mob..

A few minutes later, I arrived at the theater, inquired where our meeting was to be held. Again a somber mood was present, which became even more so. Our host announced, " Oswald has just been shot !

We all managed to do all our survey work, I went to the hotel and drew up some plans for the control rooms.

I guess it was Perry that decided that we should the next show at another location. Eventually we did do a show from Dallas.



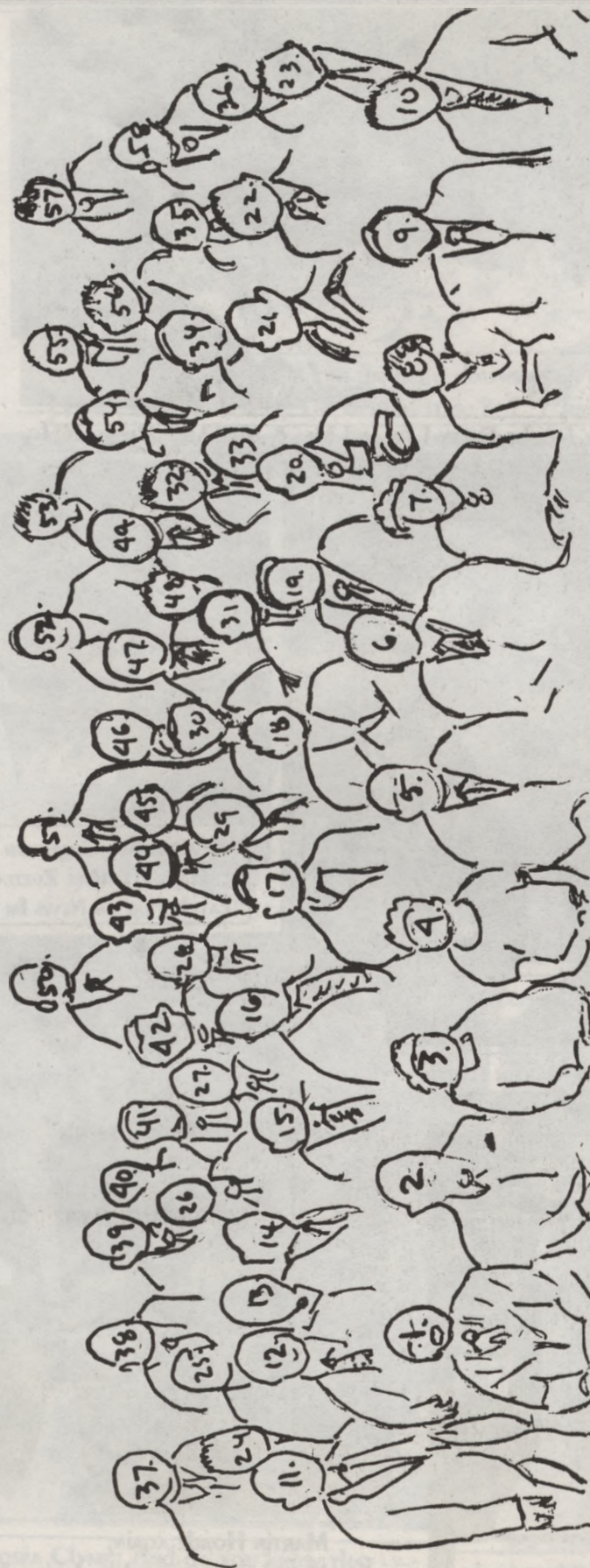
Studio 8H in the Hey-day of Radio, where Toscanini conducted his first simulcast Live TV concerts



The Distinguished Class of 1973

Thanks to Fran De Gennaro for the use of this photo of the Honorees
at the 25 Year Reception. Fran is #4 on the "code"

[Sorry I couldn't remember all the names]



- | | | | | | |
|--------------------|------------------|--------------------|---------------------|-------------------|--------------------|
| 1. Ed Antonioli | 11. Burt Maxwell | 21. ----- | 31. Dan Zampino | 41. Vic Gerson ? | 51. John Rogers |
| 2. George Heineman | 12. Willie Day | 22. Frank Merklein | 32. Clay Kassel | 42. Nat Schuchman | 52. Jack Durkin |
| 3. ----- | 13. ? ? | 23. Bob Henry | 33. Mike Rosar | 43. Arnie Dick | 53. Marty Hoade |
| 4. Fran DeGennaro | 14. Vic Roby | 24. Rick Caro ? | 34. ----- | 44. Jim Sunder | 54. Walt Dresch |
| 5. David Adams | 15. Bill Merrill | 25. Jerry Polikoff | 35. Wilbur Hildreth | 45. Harvey Belair | 55. (fm Film)----- |
| 6. Julian Goodman | 16. Al Savage | 26. Tony Romeo | 36. Bill Delannoy | 46. Bill Kelly | 56. Leo Farrenkop |
| 7. Marge McGlynn | 17. Gary Iorio | 27. Fran DiRienzo | 37. Joe Waag. | 47. Ernie Varga | 57. ----- |
| 8. Ceil Zelak | 18. Al Finelli | 28. Ralph Dichter | 38. ----- | 48. Bill Little | |
| 9. Bill Storke | 19. Frank Martin | 29. Gene Frisch | 39. Mel Brandt | 49. Nick Rawluk | |
| 10. Carl Lindeman | 20. Herb Greeley | 30. ----- | 40. ----- | 50. "Red" Trudel | |

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ONE OF PN'S ROUND TABLES, WITH MARILYN JACOBS FUREY L.fg AND MS. & MRS LILLY RUSSO R. fg.



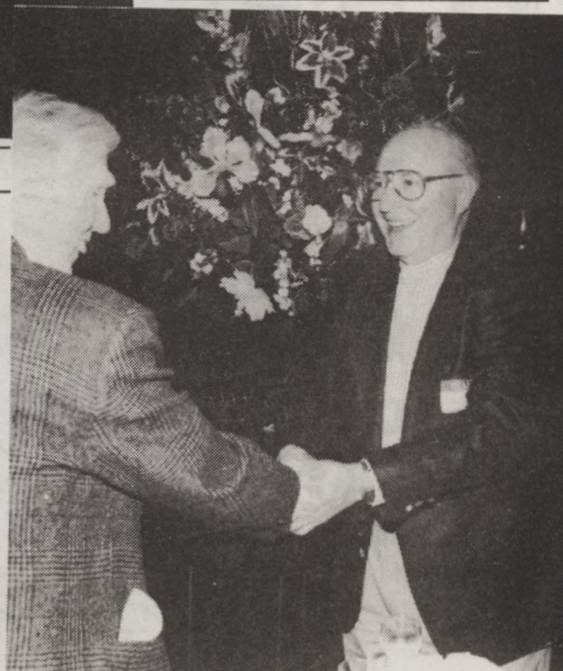
STASH PYKA REUNION-ING WITH MARTIN HOADE



NEW MEMBER, COSTUMER SADIE HALL, LfT. (NEE ZUZZUOLA) CATCHES UP ON NEWS fm PN-ER



TWO EX UNIT MANAGERS GOING OVER THE BUDGET AGAIN
ELMAR GORRY & FRANK MCENENE



MARTIN HOADE AGAIN;
HERE BEING GREETED BY IRVING MESSING



[LESON in Physics: "Light (fm flash) diminishes AS THE SQUARE OF THE DISTANCE"]
ELMER & MRS GORRY, THE RODAMISTAS, ? ? ? JIM REINA, BETTE & STU MACGREGORY



ARIANE MAUTNER, DAVID HANDLER, Rod RodamISTA

I must apologize for not being able to name everyone in the photos. I just don't know everyone.

Also, rather than write up the material from the yellow pages and other sources this time, I thought that you-all might enjoy the pictures. In the next issue I'll try to use that info.

Was real nice to see such a large crowd show up at La Mag. Heino



GLORIA CLYNE: And do you know that ---
SUSAN DRURY : OH, MY !



JOE MEHAN SAW THE SIGN "GENTLEMEN", SO NATURALLY HE WALKED IN; AND SINCE TV IS FLOODED WITH TABLOIDS, I TOOK HIS PICTURE - DRYING HIS HANDS THO..

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by
Ken Arber

Rockefeller Center

Around 1932 Rockefeller Center was starting to come out of the ground, between 49th and 50th Streets in New York City. My father Emil was employed as the foreman plumber by the plumbing concern of James McCullagh and as such would bring home the blue-prints of the construction.

I think it is interesting to learn, that the original plans were titled as Metropolitan Center, not Rockefeller Center, because the major financial provider was the Metropolitan Life Insurance Company. However some where along the line, the Rockefeller family became the principal financial providers, consequently the name changed to Rockefeller Center. As for "Radio City", it had been hoped that all or most of the New York radio stations would relocate to Rockefeller Center, hence the name Radio City was used, however that never came to pass, but only NBC's two stations, WEAJ & WJZ decided to move.

Recently while moving from New Jersey to Florida, I came across the blue prints and was reminded of the times I had spent watching the

excavation of the "hole" in the ground where the RCA building would rise. The entire perimeter between 49th and 50th Streets was surrounded by a six foot high wooden fence or wall having a two foot by two foot opening every so often at eye level, covered by carpenters cloth, a wire mesh to protect the viewers from rock splinters during the blasting. These openings were listed as "Side walk Superintendents Viewing Areas".

The excavation, as I remember it, was about seven stories deep. Tons of earth and rock were blasted out until bed rock was reached. At this point a heavy steel plate was fastened to the rock, which now became the foundation for the massive steel columns going up from the building. I recall the base rock as resembling granite, with small flecks of mica. This I was told was the "back bone" of the island of Manhattan.

In later years when the Eastern Airlines Building was to be built where NBC's "Today" studio, Studio 1A stands, the Eastern Airlines brought in a full sized DC2 airplane and parked it on the place where its building would eventually rise. That was several years after I started working for NBC. I took a picture of the plane from a fifth floor window, because it looked so strange seeing a large plane on the ground in the middle of Manhattan - never knew how it got there.

Before working for NBC I was employed on the construction of the RCA building, so you see I came to NBC right after the company moved from 711 Fifth Avenue.

As the building was going up, the stone masons were putting on the stone slabs that make up the exterior walls. A scaffold about four feet wide encircled the entire buildings. About two or three floors above the stone masons, the stone slabs would be lowered to the masons, who would cement and bronze wire them to the steel structure.

A couple of times an accident occurred. These slabs were very heavy and in one case a slab fell on the scaffold and a mason lost his life, in another incident a slab fell off a set-back and went right down and thru the street between the Promethius Fountain and the RCA building.

When the RCA building, now the GE building, was completed, the Rockefeller family commissioned a famous artist to paint a mural on the wall of the back of the 30 Rockefeller Plaza entrance. There was, and I imagine, still is, a long control desk against this wall, which is the back of the low rise elevator shaft. The artist was a Mexican named Diego Rivera, who covered the entire wall from the 49th Street side to the 50th Street side and up to the ceiling. The mural was composed of many bright colors, however when the Rockefellers saw the subject of the mural upon its completion, they were dismayed. There were many inferences how Communists saw Capitalism in a bad light. This should not have surprised the Rockefellers, as Diego Rivera was a close friend of Vladimir Lenin, whom I read had lived in Mexico with Diego Rivera and his wife.

The mural consisted of a steam lined locomotive, many scenes of burly soot covered workmen, working laying tracks, and working in automobile assembly plants together with a uniformed man with a Swastika on his sleeve, shaking hands with a worker, as best as I remember it.

When the Rockefellers decided to have the mural removed from the wall, a problem came up, something about the fact that a "work of art", even though it is owned by someone, cannot be destroyed. I never learned the outcome of this problem, but the next time I entered the 30 Rockefeller entrance, the mural was no longer there.

I thought, possibly it had been covered over with canvas. To this day, I still do not know and would appreciate hearing from someone who knows what became of the mural. Was it removed from the wall or covered up.

So much for that except to mention that my father was in charge of all the fountain and water displays at the Promethius statue and the channel gardens. He had all the decorative bronze fittings and sprays cast at the New York Brass Foundry at Broome Street in New York City and installed them. So you can understand when I passed the Promethius fountain I thought of my Dad. If he had lived, he would have been 112 years old at this time.

Lastly the building of Rockefeller Center was a boon to labor through out the U.S. I read that it caused the employment of approximately 10,000 workmen, not in Rockefeller Center, but in allied businesses such as steel production in Pittsburgh, stone quarries, brick yards, cement manufacturing, excavation machinery, wire, pipe, glass and many other industries. These were the "Depression Years".



MORE GALA REVELERS

PN People

PART 2 - "J"

Just heard this morning, April 28, NBC News correspondent **Tom Petit** was retiring and Tom said he, was going to Bermuda - to eat too much and drink too much. Anyone who has an address for Tom ? I'd like to send him a copy of the Newsletter. Would like to do same for Jack Perkins if we had an address..

Martin Hoade joined the La Mag celebration. He recalls: A respected colleague once asked me, "Was it worth it?" the work, the commitment?"

"The turnout this day is the answer !"

"These men and women shaped the future of television and cable production. Now the most impressive player in the world today."

Dennise Robinson notes while sipping her coffee at La Mag : " Again - yes this should happen again. - - **Maureen** (Protrato) didn't make it this year. She missed - - but it gave non other than **Dorrette Nelson** a chance to show up. And **Hank**

Heustis, WOW ! I loved it". Dorette Nelson writes "This is my first time, and I enjoyed myself, except I didn't see **Elmer Gorry**". (Dorette, Elmer was 3 tables away from yours, how could you possibly miss Elmer?)

It's nice to see **Harry Fleetwood** getting to be a regular attendee who notices everything! He observes: "Curious how everyone looks older, but nicer. Maybe there's something to be said in favor of the aging process after all" [many times in the past, have I stayed up late nights, listening and enjoying Fleetwood's American Airlines Music through the Night. H.]

Dick Dudley prolific scribe for PN "In regards to ageing. As it comes to all men and women. Last month (April) it came to me. I turned 80. Becoming 80 should not cause traumas - Actually I don't feel any different than I did at 79.

My only problem will be that I will have to learn to spell -

"Akta-jern air e in"

"Grow old along with me -
The best is yet to be -
The second half for which
The first was made"

Robert Browning

Bill & Ruth Hanrahan

continues our poetry mood. Bill says: "The group is like table wine - "Vintage all the way! - Bless us all. "

Don Pardo & Mel Brandt

are the only ones who haven't aged. We Just walk a little slower and breathe a bit faster !

Mel Brandt

The handsomest people -

The nicest people

The cream of Radio & TV

Breeder of the great Page & Guide staff

Wonderful people. And when they die

They don't go to Heaven,

They go to the Rainbow Room

Ed Herlihy

Nancy & Dom Salviola

back from West Palm, to summer in East Hampton. They invited Magdalena, a beauty from Poland, here as an exchange student to PN

Marge McGlynn
Announces the birth of
her first grandchild,
born on March 13
named Mathew !

PN People "K"

Roger Tuttle and Pat

took their "Air Stream" south this winter, stopping off and visiting relatives on the way. One of the highlights was the stop at Lakeland, Florida, for the annual "Fly In". Folks who build their airplanes, helicopters, seaplanes, kit planes, War Birds, and anything else that flies, fly their aircraft for a giant aircraft builder's reunion. There were hundreds of aircraft to be seen, including Ultra Lights. Roger you know has built one.

If you had seen the fellow on TV, who leads the Canadian geese into the US in Spring for some 600 miles in an Ultra Light then returns them every year, you too would fly one. We'll keep you posted.

Dan & Pat Grabel spent two weeks skiing and sightseeing in Alberta, Canada until early April while attending the North American Ski Journalists Convention at Chateau Lake Louise.

Aside from contributing to PN, Dan writes a weekly ski column for the Scarsdale (NY) Inquirer. Their trip took them to Calgary, Nankista, site of the 1988 Olympics Banff, Lake Louise, and finally Edmonton. Dan says they arrived home in one piece.

On the rest of the 1995

travel sked for Dan and Pat — a summer trip to Oregon for an English nephew's wedding to a Portland girl who is now working in London, and to Barbados in December where their son Peter is getting married to fiancée MaryAnn DeRosa. No, she's not a "Bajan". The couple spent a holiday on that Carribean Island last year and it left a lasting impression. The wedding invitations do not include air fare.

Talked to **Dave Wilson** Saturday Nite. Dave directed the season's last SNL Show of the season the previous week. He may not retire, (but Stage Manager **Bob Van Ry** did retire after the last SNL, celebrating his 60th birthday.) but Dave will still edit the seasons shows, for re-runs etc. till the end of July, then plans to enjoy some leisure time. That sort of time, during SNL just doesn't exist, and many times he winds up with an hour and a half of sleep. Think it's fun to be a director?? We reminisced about many fun times we've been through. Next issue for more adventures we've had in TV.

Cathy Vukovich appeared at La Mag in a wheelchair. She is recovering from a hip replacement. Still bright and

cheery as ever, she gave us news about **Doris Ann.** - - As Employment Manager from 1944 - 1951, she might have been your first contact at NBC. Many of you worked with her as Manager and Executive Producer of Network religious Programming.

She has been living in Fort Worth, Texas since retirement, actively involved in various cultural activities there. (Dorothy Shaw Bell Choir, Texas Boys Choir, Ft Worth Stage West, etc). She travelled extensively throughout the U.S., Europe and Australia, including the Vatican and Pope John II, St. Patrick's Cathedral in N.Y., the White House, Washington, D.C., TV programs in Ireland, plus many prominent churches & concert halls. Cathy is sorry to report that

Doris Ann is presently at:

**Broadway Plaza Retirement
Community**

**5301 Bryant Irwin Road
Fort Worth, Texas, 76132**

Last month she suffered several falls - - fracturing her sacrum then her pelvis - - requiring surgery and a rather long period of therapy and recuperation (possibly 8-10 wks)

Doris would enjoy hearing from NBC friends. She loved her job, coworkers and crews. So how about a flood of mail and greetings for Doris.

Many Thanks, *Cathy*

P.N. People - I

Frank and Lois Vierling visited their daughter in Tucson for two weeks in April for Easter and their granddaughter's 3rd birthday. Daughter, Elizabeth, was a winner of an RCA National Merit Scholarship. She received her PHD from the University of Chicago. Now a biochemist, she founded and heads a plant biology lab at the University of Arizona where she does research and teaches graduate students aiming for their PHD's.

Husband, John, works in the Tucson City Managers office and is working on plans for a "self sufficient" housing complex.

Joining the birthday celebration were their son, Donald (N.J.), two of Lois' brothers and wives (CO. and CA.) and their son-in-law's parents (IL.).

While there, Lois and Frank rode Tucson's Old Pueblo Trolley. Who was the trolley conductor? **Stu Rudick**, ex NBC NY engineering. Stu volunteers two or three days a week. Frank & Lois took more time out from a busy two weeks for dinner with Stu and Donna at a local steak house. The Rudicks have purchased a lovely home in the Catalina mountain foothills overlooking the city. * * *



Lois and Frank and #10 Trolley in Tucson

Late word just in from **Walter Himmelberg** (pge 3.): "Here it is only the beginning of May and it's already a hundred degrees in Texas! ... I never thought I'd be living in Texas. The day I changed license plates from Colorado to Texas, they had an earthquake; 5.6 on the Richter scale, the worst one in 60 years... That should have told me something."

"Our grandson is now in college, which means we would have to do the grass cutting, the trimming etc. Our place was big so we decided to sell and rent an apartment here for the winter. My daughter was fixing up a cottage on her property in Colorado Springs, where we'll spend the summer and six months here in Texas.... I heard about high school

football in Texas, but I never heard of season passes to the games in any state, but they have them here.

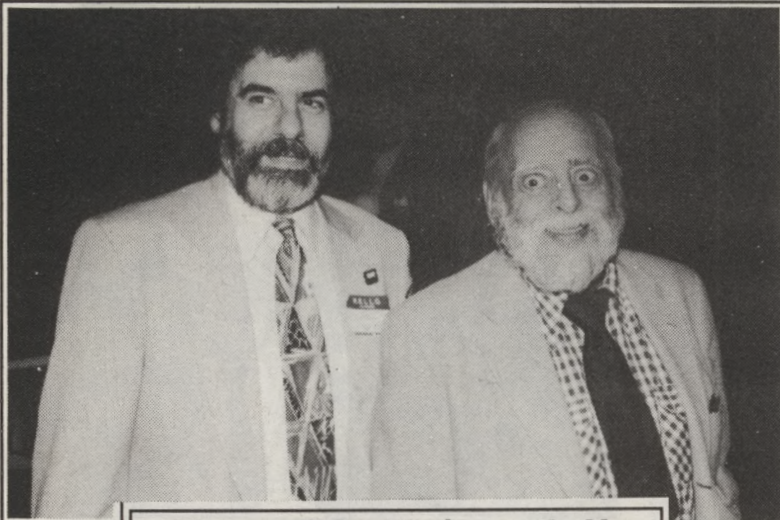
Spoke to **Barbara Zurcher** yesterday. **Joe** was at a meeting, and she is recovering nicely from a hip replacement.

Anita (Mrs) is in Kansas. Her brother-in-law had a stroke and she went to stay with her sister. Brother-in-law is now doing OK, so she'll be back home tomorrow."

Walt wants to say hello to everyone ! (719:686-2474, Midland, Texas. Give Walt a jingle.)



**Have a Friend
Join
Peacock North**



JOEL SPECTOR & SAM KIRCHMAN AT LA MAG.



WALTER MILLER MAKING A BRIEF TALK TO PN-ERS



ROGER TUTTLE, PEG & PETE PETERSON - PAT TUTTLE



JOHN & MRS SCUOPO



CLIFF STEIGELBAUER STANDING FOR A DESERVED APPLAUDED INTRO



JACK & IRENE KEEGAN



Left: ROGER MUIR, Howdy Doody producer, in from New Hampshire, BARBARA MUIR GREET MARGE MCGLYNN



OUR CAMERA CAUGHT ANNCR "FLEETWOOD" ONE OF THE soft spoken GENTS OF THE ANNOUNCER family, with with DAN GRABEL.



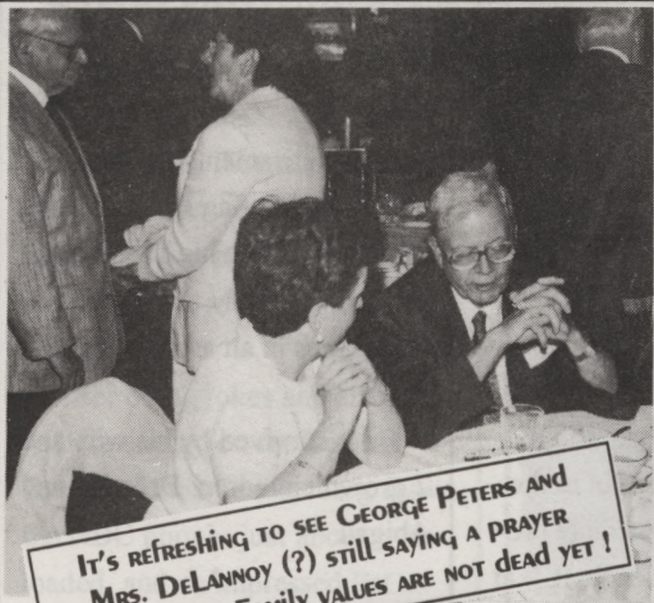
PART of the 180 plus crowd that attended the PN Gala at La MAGANETTE RESTAURANT



DOUG MACINTOSH and Mike Gilligan. DOUG CAME IN FROM NEW JOISEY and Mike FROM NEW HAMPSHIRE



LET'S give a big HAND TO DENISE ROBINSON - SHE LAUGHED A LOT - MUST HAVE HAD A good TIME..



It's refreshing to see GEORGE PETERS and MRS. DeLANNOY (?) still saying a PRAYER before dinner. FAMILY VALUES ARE NOT DEAD YET !



STAS PYKA & BILL SHORTRIDGE. Bill's discussing the EXOTIC SCENES he plans to paint, fm his visit to the MALTESE ISLANDS



NICE TO SEE DON MEANY JOINING THE FESTIVITIES



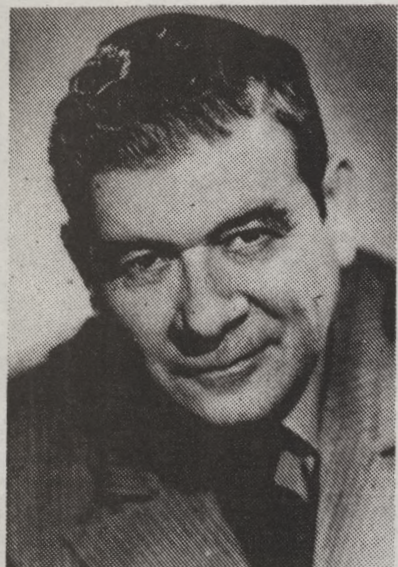
Say hello TO WIN MULLEN and EX U.M. JIM REINA



TWO GREAT "GOLDEN AGE" ANNOUNCERS Dick DUDLEY and Ed HERLIHY - IN THE SAME ROOM !



Lilly RUSSO and daughter, spot AN OLD BUDDY

Frank Blair, newscaster

Frank Blair, news anchor on "Today" for 22 years from 1953 to 1975, died March 13 at his home in Hilton Head, S.C. exactly 20 years to the day after he departed the show. He was 79.

When "Today" began in 1952, Frank was the White House and Capitol correspondent, reporting to Dave Garroway. Jim Fleming was the first news anchor and Frank replaced him in 1953.

While he was a pre-med student he quit college to join a touring theater company and in the 1930's he broke into broadcasting in Charleston, S.C. In 1937 he moved to WOL in Washington.

He was a cool newsman, never rattled, and a quick study. When Dan Grabel was writing "Today" news scripts for him, and later, ra-

dio commentaries, he'd take a quick look at the material and generally recorded it on one take.

During World War II, he was a Navy fighter Pilot. Frank and his wife Lillian had five children.

* * *

Jack Thayer, management

Jack Thayer, a pioneer radio DJ who was so successful in the 1950's that he had two daily programs, died in Providence, R.I. at the age of 72 in January following an undisclosed illness.

Despite that success, Thayer switched from talent to the management side in 1974, eventually becoming president of NBC Radio.

In 1980 he moved on to WNEW-AM, as General Manager. Thayer brought Don Imus to NBC.

* * *

Marv Lorber,
newswriter/producer —

Marv, a veteran employee in news, died March 21st, after a long illness. He did stints on the news assignment desk and on A-News before taking a buyout a few years ago.

Prior to NBC, he worked for UPI and ABC. He was an Army Air Force Lieutenant during the World War II and got shot down while on a mission over Ruma-

nia's Ploesti oil fields. Marv spent 5 months as a prisoner of war.

After retirement, Lorber moved out to Sag Harbor, Long Island to pursue his hobby as a painter, generally turning out landscapes in an architectural style.

He is survived by his wife and 2 grown children, Brendan and Abigail.

* * *

Sam Roth, tv engineer

Samuel Roth was born in Winnipeg, Canada on September 6, 1903 and passed away on January 21, 1995 in California.

Sam was a mild mannered Gentleman. I never saw him irritated, always with a friendly smile. For the latter part of Sam's tour at NBC, he was in charge of keeping track of the vacuum tube department, especially in the early tv era where the "orthicon" tubes used in the cameras had to be closely tested and monitored.

After retiring, Sam moved to Beaumont, California, years ago, near our correspondent and fellow "Ham", Ed Wackernagle, who gives us Calif. news via the radio.

Sam is survived by his wife Mitzi, who is 93 and recently hurt her hip.

* * *

Silent Microphones

Jerry Lester,

early TV comedian, who became the host of the first late-night TV network variety show died in a Miami nursing home, at 85, from complications of Alzheimer's disease.

After doing jokes and antics and endless energy on the Tex McCrary and Jinx Faulkenberg show, the NBC phones just about overloaded, and an impressed Pat Weaver, NBC's president, offered Lester a show of his own. Thus began "Broadway Open House" in 1950, making stars out of Steve Allen, Jack Paar, Johnny Carson Jay Lenno and "Dagmar".

Jerry was born in Chicago and performed in virtually every form of music halls, night clubs, Broadway, radio and TV. You might remember him playing in "Funny Thing Happened on the



Jerry Lester

Way to The Forum," 1965. - In 1969 he was in a Jones Beach production of South Pacific, playing the sea - bee Luther Willis.

Jerry Lester's wife was stricken with Alzheimer's in 1965, who survives with his 3 children.

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

Charles Sprague

From the NBCFR Newsletter we were sad to read the passing of **Charles Sprague**, at Indian River Memorial Hospital, after a long illness..

Charley worked in 30 Rock on the electric crew handling the dimmer boards and all around lighting chores for many of the great shows that came out of the

building.

Mr. Sprague served with the U.S. Airforce during the Korean War.

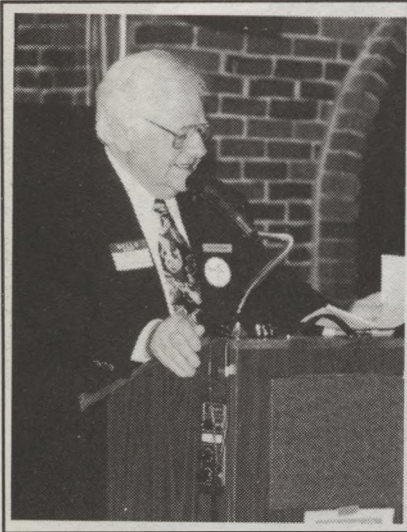
Charley had moved to Vero Beach, Florida seven years ago. We'll miss fellows of his excellent caliber.

He was buried in Hillcrest Memorial Gardens, Fort Pierce.

Surviving is his wife, Maryann

Join Peacock North Today!

A MESSAGE FROM PETE PETERSON



This edition of PN Newsletter was computerized, electronically processed and produced by Mr. Heino Ripp. He once again stepped in to keep your newsletter going.

Frank Vierling who has been doing such a great job, was on hiatus to join a family reunion in Arizona. He will be back to produce the next edition. Rippy offered to take up the slack and keep us on track. It was supposed to be a smaller condensed edition, but as you can see, it grew to full size. Thanks again for a superb job Rippy.

Our spring luncheon get-together was marvelous, seeing all those happy faces, many of whom were at the very start of Television. They were looking so good and happy to rejoin friends. It made many of them seem revitalized and young again. The cheerful clatter of chatter was a tribute to renewed friendships.

It was one of our largest gleeful crowds, over 180 attended. These were treasured moments by many. Our diasporic membership was reunited. In some cases they travelled vast distances to be present. The exclamations of contentment for the days events and repast were gratifying. Some of the news relating to

“what’s happening” to them has been quickly condensed into this edition. There was a lot more we heard about, and we wished more of you could have been there to enjoy the assembly.

Fun stories were told by our guest speakers and others, along with much laughter and happiness. Some of the talk was jubilant greetings, including such as BEING ALIVE AND PRESENT and able to participate. We spoke of things present, and spoke of things past. Everyone spoke glowingly of their fun and happy years working together at NBC.

It was reassuring to see that these TV pioneers felt rewarded in their contribution to the success of TELEVISION. They were in the beginning of an industry that would embellish the lives of everyone. Some of those responsible for NBC television’s birth were in the room. Having helped succeed in the triumph of building that colusses TELEVISION, most of them are now retired. The groups concern could now return to their own personal triumphs and tribulations. They are now working finding ways to survive gracefully as part of an aging reflective group.

There were four main life chapters for our group, as I think of it. We were in our early years during the Great Depression, then we were in WW2, and then we were in a forty year cold/hot war with the Soviets. Lastly, we were in the best days, and the Golden Years of the birth of Television. The people of this special group have every right to be proud of their great dedications and achievement. It was the most dynamic of times for all of us, and it continues to be a pleasure to see all the great survivors at each of these joyous opportunities.

Regards, Pete

PN'ers are :

The Group That Brought Television To America

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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



Above: This looks like the scenic group. Bob Baeder R. Fg. enjoys his first Gala. Norm Davidson's almost a fixture, he's been here many times. Cliff Steigebauer was welcomed with a big round of applause
← ANNOUNCER Vic Roby just doesn't know what one does with his hands while standing. ME NEITHER

Peacock North

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Name _____

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New Member ☐ Renewal ☐

Dues \$20 Per Year are due January 1, 1995

Make Checks payable to Peacock North

Open to NBC Employees with 25 Years or more.

A Special Thanks to Don Vierling for
the Photos taken at La Mag !



New Members

1. Bailey, Vincent : Mont clair, N.J.
2. Burkhardt, Jon : Kihei, Maui, Hi.
3. Cervinn, Tony : New Hyde Park, N.Y.
4. Farinet, Judy : New York, N.Y.
5. Henry, Carl : S. Hempstead, N.Y
6. Sam Kirshman

7. Sadie Hall (Zuzzuolo)

8. Joan Oury

WELCOME to P.N.

PICTURES FROM OUR ARCHIVES



**DECEMBER 1980, Brooklyn Maintenance Shop:
L TO R: TOM FARMER, JERRY RYDA, ARNIE DICK, FRANK SCOTTI,
TONY RIVERA, BILL MILLER, KEVIN KELLY, BOB RILEY, ART KRONE**

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First Class Mail

