

# Peacock North



SPRING, 1994

Volume III Edition 1

## WAS THERE ANYONE FINER

by Casper

While listening to the news on February 24th, I was deeply shocked by the announcement of Dinah Shore's passing. She and I were like brother and sister during our younger days in Nashville, Tennessee. We both graduated from High School in 1934 and for the next two summers appeared in summer stock at "The Old Barn Theater" in Goodlettsville, TN. We both worked at NBC's affiliate WSM and attended Vanderbilt at the same time.

She was Fannye Rose Shore, no one ever called her Frances, and I was Casper B. Kuhn, Jr. We changed to our professional names when we both made our exodus to New York to conquer the entertainment world in 1938. I was responsible for her change from "Fannye" to "Dinah," because I introduced her to a recording of a young Judy Garland singing the song Dinah and when she got her own program on WSM she used Garland's arrangement for her theme song. That led to her adoption of Dinah as her new appellation. At first things did not go well for Dinah and she became discouraged and felt tempted to



Col. Ed Kirby (Ed created "The Army Hour" which appeared on NBC), Dinah, Vick Knight (A director who, for a while, directed the Fred Allen Show), T-3 Sgt. Dick Dudley (Casper B. Kuhn, Jr.)

return home. Then her lucky star began to shine and a gig with Xavier Cugat at the 1939 Worlds Fair, a 15 minute spot with Frankie Laine on WNEW, appearances on "Chamber Music Society of Lower Basen Sreet." with Dr. Gino let to

the Eddie Cantor Show, aired from 8H, and that led to a recording contract with RCA Victor and the rest is history.

Dinah then moved to the coast where she had abrief moment in films, and we did not see each other again until

More →



## SPRING BREAK

Great time was had by all.  
La Maganette story on page 6



a reunion in London during the war, when she came over for USO. She had been to France before alighting in London and had liberated a case of Cointreau Liqueur from which she gave me a bottle. Glenn Miller on his way back from Bedford, where his band was stationed, had picked up a duck. We all met at Colonel Kirby's apartment and I cooked the duck using the Cointreau for basting - the savor of war time rationed food in England made this smee or smew taste like an evening at Lutece.

Dinah had a dixie pixie charm that would have made Ebenezer Scrooge benevolent. I always watched her rise up the ladder of fame outcutting everyone in sight. She was a gracious and effervescent lady, a wonderful cook and I was sorry to see her go to that big studio in the sky before me.

Good-bye Fannye Rose,

Love,

*Casper*

(Dick Dudley)

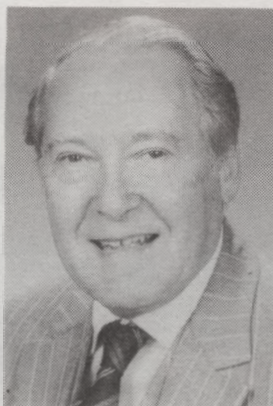
\* \* \* \*

*"and flights of angels  
sing thee to thy rest."*

\* \* \* \*



By Dan Grabel



We had occasion to grab a sandwich recently in the 7th floor commissary which is now called

"The Etc." After showing a "valid" ID and getting 20 percent off on the lunch, we looked around for a familiar face. The only people we recognized was one of the cordial hash-slingers and the manager. New at "The Etc." was the video screen offering bits of information showing the current job postings: executive Producer for "America's Talking," and jobs in corporate finance, a NABET technician, and an executive secretary in New York, Detroit and Burbank. My sharpest memory of the old job postings was that the descriptions of the good ones usually fit the person already picked for the slot. Let's hope the situation has improved.

News, too, about management publications. A newish 8 page glossy tabloid titled "Take One" is full of pictures and arti-

cles about all segments of the organization. Here's some of the info we gleaned: NBC now produces an around-the-clock tv news service for Latin America from the same studios in Charlotte, North Carolina where the NBC News Channel operates. Among the anchors are newspeople recruited from Argentina and Peru. The company is competing with CNN, Univision and Telemundo in that market. Another story reports the CNBC has a think tank over in Ft. Lee, New Jersey, to develop more income producing operations, including these: a monthly investor newsletter, a personal computer product with information on mutual funds and other investment possibilities, a 2-day money symposium for investors, a 900 phone number with investment advice, etc. (It would seem we are becoming a civilization with more information than most of us can handle, can require, or can pay for, so long-time survival will be the problem).

**Bob Wright** has set a good precedent in keep everybody at 30 Rock informed about company plans. It's nicer to hear it from his lips rather than read it in Variety or TV Daily. In a February letter titled "The Year Ahead for NBC," he reviewed 1993 and took a look into the future. Wright made these points: The industry is undergoing rapid and dramatic change,



and we have entered a new frontier in the communications industry. The changes include new transmission regulatory changes and rapid global growth.

Wright noted that three presidential level executives have added strength to the company, to wit: *Don Ohlmeyer* (NBC West Coast), *Andy Lack* (News), and *Roger Ailes* (CNBC). NBC viewership is up, sales have been healthy, and O&Os and affils remain strong.

On the regulatory front, syndication restrictions have been lifted (that can add millions to revenue). The Cable Act of 1992 gave tv stations the right to be compensated for use of their signals by local cable companies. And on the international scene, NBC acquired control of Europe's Super Channel, the continent's largest satellite-delivered tv service which reaches 56 million homes.

Finally NBC has created an employee communications process called "Break Out," by which people with strong interests in new business and business ideas can discuss them with top management for evaluation and approval. Said Mr. Wright, "I believe some of our best assets.....are the strengths and talents of our employees." □

More at 30 rock on page 36

Take a chance on the unknown from time to time. What's the point of a good idea if it is not pursued.

## BENEFIT-SHOW PRODUCER SUING JACKSON FAMILY LOS ANGELES .....

Emmy winning producer Gary Smith filed a lawsuit against the Jackson family charging fraud and breach of contract in connection with the financially troubled "Jackson Family Honors" musical benefit. The thirty page complaint filed on behalf of Smith-Hemion Productions Inc. in Los Angeles County Superior Court alleges that the Jackson family-affiliated firms refused to pay an estimated \$2 million in outstanding bills and misrepresented information regarding past debts that allegedly jeopardize the fiscal state of the production. Ten family members are named individually as defendants, including Michael Jackson.

"Never in my entire career have I had to deal with such an unprofessional mess as this", said Smith, producer of the telecast who along with his partner Dwight Hemion has won five EMMYS since 1962.

"The Jacksons asked me to hire people to work on their show and now weeks later they have refused to pay them. And frankly, they've been very arrogant about it". Smith's suit alleges that the Jacksons pledged the same funds raised from ticket proceeds and foreign broadcast fees at least to two separate entities. It also alleges that members of the Jackson entourage charged \$69,000 in personal expenditures for wardrobe and room services at the MGM Grand Hotel in Las Vegas.

Jermaine Jackson, executive producer of the show and president of Jackson Communications Inc. said he had not seen a copy of the suit, but denied wasting funds.

-FROM NEWS SERVICE REPORTS-

"A town that can't afford one lawyer can certainly afford two."

*A. Lincoln*



## THE EAR BENDERS

by Dick Dudley



In the early days of radio, announcers such as Graham McNamee,

Ben Grauer, Milton Cross, Jimmy Wallington, Don Wilson, Norman Brokenshire, Gene Hamilton, Ted Husing, etc. were listened to as media saints, canonized for their ability to read another man's copy. Later, one who was not even beatified read his way into the White House, but he couldn't ad lib his way out of a gate.

There were no recordings allowed on the air in those golden days ~ everything was

live which added a zest to the radio cocktail. Now computers make station breaks and break off the ends of commercials. All is tape and that is why where there was once as many as 40 announcers on the NBC staff, today there are only 3 live voices.

My favorite story about live TV is when Jack Benny was a guest on the Milton Berle Show. In the midst of a routine between Milton and Jack the sound effects man accidentally rang a telephone bell. Milton and Jack looked at each other with surprise because there was nothing in the script that called for a phone call. Milton picked up the prop phone on stage, said: "Hello", and handed the phone to Benny and said "It's for you."

Robert MacNeil, who worked at NBC before moving to PBS, has this paragraph in his book "Wordstruct": (Pub: Viking Penquin, Inc.)

"I had always assumed that the word "Announcer" was a

term invented for radio, but the Oxford Dictionary shows the verb "to announce" (from French and Latin), meaning to make known or to deliver news, appearing in Caxton in 1485. [Caxton was the first to print books in England]. I suppose the most celebrated announcer ever was the archangel Gabriel, who gave Mary the message that she was to conceive a son, yet remain a virgin. He delivered this improbable news so convincingly that they named the event after his job, The Annunciation, and for hundreds of years the best artists of the time painted it. That left announcing a lot to live up to, but, in 1955 the inspiration was made explicit: Pope Pius XII actually made Gabriel the patron saint of people in radio, television and other electronic communications." □

Dick Dudley lives in Willow Street, PA

## THE EAR BENDERS BASH

by Dick Dudley

For the third February in a row, retired NBC Announcers have re-joined in NYC. This time, thanks to *Arthur Gary* we met at his club, The Metropolitan, which was started by J.P. Morgan when a friend of his was blackballed by the Union League Club. This edifice lies on 5th Avenue across from Central Park and its mile high rooms reek of patinated wood, marble and old money. The Sunday we brunchd there the halls were festooned with gigantic flower arrangements, left over from the wedding of the daughter of a Wall Street tycoon. I was led to understand that the nuptial was a bargain which cost only \$200,000.00.

On hand were *Arthur* and *Gayle Gary*, *Don* and *Kay Pardo*, *Fred* and *Margaux Collins*, *Vic Roby*, *Harry Fleetwood*, and *Joyce Hurley*



~ oh yes, *I* was there, too. The buffet consisted of four long tables with enough delicious calories to enable all of us to become tackles for the N.Y. Giants. The conversation was also replete with nourishment as we reminisced and tried to remember names. □



Joyce Hurley and Harry Fleetwood



☆☆☆ Six Star Lineup ☆☆☆

Pardo - Dudley - Collins - Roby - Fleetwood - Gary

Kay Pardo,  
Dick, and  
Margoux Collins



Dick Dudley - Gayle Gary - Joyce Hurley - Art Gary



Don Pardo - Arthur Gary - Fred Collins

**No \$200,000 affair this!  
Just good times, good friends,  
and good eats!**



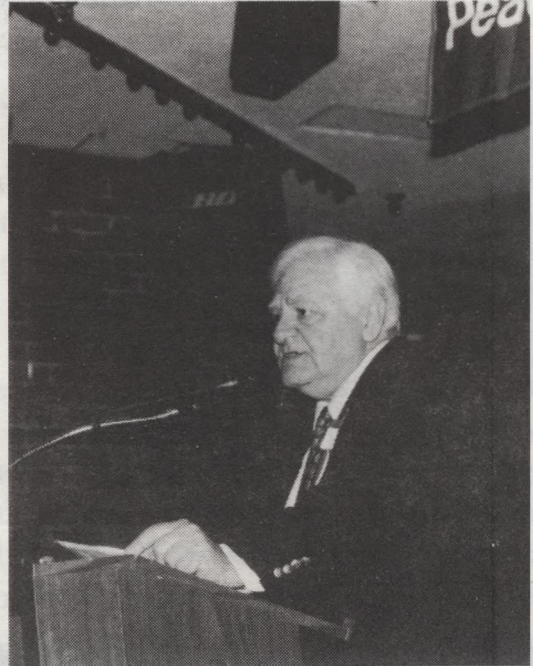


# Spring Break at LaMaganette PN folk remember when!

## BIG CROWD TURNS OUT FOR MAY 22<sup>nd</sup> LUNCHEON

by Joe Mehan

Maybe it was because as *Pete Peterson* said at the outset: "It's not snowing today!" Maybe it was because it had been quite a while since the last get-together. But for whatever the reason, over 160 PEACOCK NORTH members and guests ~ a bountiful turnout ~ filled the party area of La Maganette Ristorante in Manhattan Sunday May 22 for a joyful, and nostalgic annual reunion luncheon.



"It's not snowing today"



Glo-Glo



50 Years Together

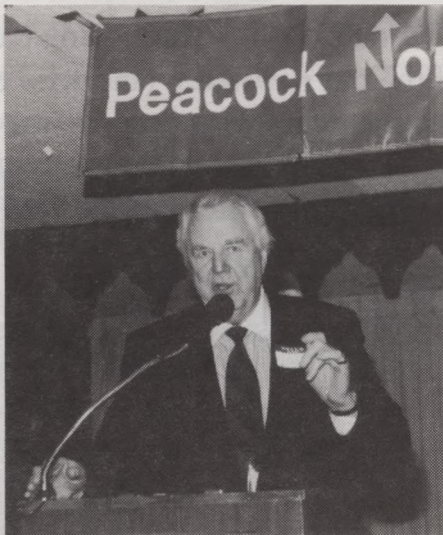
*Gloria Clyne* and *Don Pardo*, who had recently been honored at 30 Rock for 50 years of NBC service, came to the mike separately to the cheers of their cohorts. Glo-Glo told how she started as a "Page" in 1944, how much she misses the late Betty Furness and once again she must acclimate herself to new challenges.



*Don Pardo* told how he actually resigned from NBC shortly after coming to New York 50 years ago because he was so humiliated that he had mistakenly rung the chimes one minute too early, cutting off the commentator in mid-sentence and throwing the network into confusion. "I just thought I wanted to go back to Providence where I came from as fast as possible," Pardo said, but Pat Kelly, the supervisor of announcers told him to forget about it, anyone could make a mistake, and he stayed .... through 106th St., 67th St. and many other milestones familiar to oldtime NBC'ers. Don went on for some length until Roger Tuttle leaped to his feet and said, "Time!, Don!," and Pardo shot back "I know my wife put you up to it .... she always says I speak too long." And he told one more short anecdote and obediently sat down.



Ben Franklin



Pardo on "Over-Time"

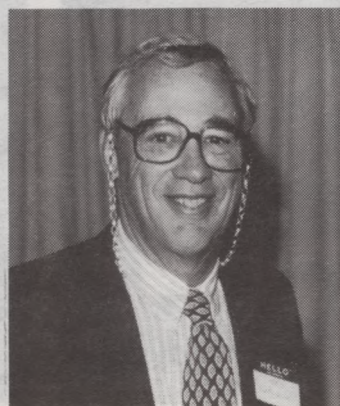


Scotty McCartney and Marg McGlynn

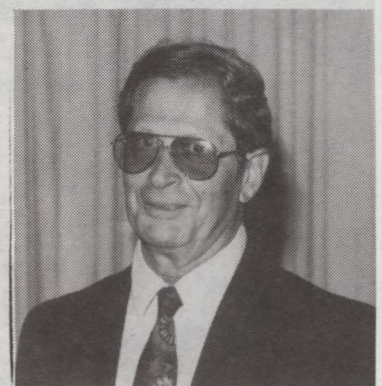
*Ted Nathanson*, erstwhile Sports Dept. director and standout leader, spoke briefly about his reminiscences and a fun story about being fed shots by cameramen of "tractors on the playing field no matter what the score, time or circumstance."



Gary And Dotty Iorio



Ted Nathanson



Dave Handler

More →



**Peg McKinley**, representing Ed Scanlon, VP Employee Relations, gave a short report on the situation now within NBC.

Peg



Irene and Jack Keegan

Photos by Tony Nelle



Jack and Beth Durkin

**Ed Herlihy**, famed radio and tv voice going back all the way to the days of the old newsreels, (and who can forget that golden voice that tempted us into buying Kraft mayonnaise) recollected some of his favorite memories of years gone by. His gentle humor in recounting stories was a return to the quality we don't often find today.

Ed is working the cruise line circuit for Cunard Lines. Retirement isn't in his future. Ed, we wish you well and hope we see you again and again at our get-togethers.



Rita Stipo (guess who?) and Dolores Parylak



Ed gets a hand from Pete



Tables were filled with core groups of the people who made NBC tick over the years: announcers, *Mel Brandt, Dudley, Vic Roby, Fleetwood, and Fred Collins*; TD's, Audio engineers, writers, AD's and directors, and those from various office staffs. Film editor, *George Moyantcheff* representing the editors group promised to get more of his former editor pals to come to the next meeting. Seen wending their way happily through the throng were *Don Meany, Scotty Connal, Freddy Lights, Ed Gough, Jim Holton* (who lives close to *Chet Hagen* in Pa. and says Chet has a whole brand new career going, writing novels), *Jack Marshall, Pete Fatovich* among many others.



Scott Schachter, the Falcon, and Joel Spector



Helen And Ray DiPrima



Dick and Sally Edmondson



Freddy Lights, right on cue!

And from the engineering area, shmoozing took place with many, among which were, *Scotty McCartney* (flew in from California), the *Jack Durkin's* and the *Thienpont's* in from PA, *Joe Gilligan* and spouse down from New England, *Tony and Nancy Nelle*, *Phil Falcone, Bob Higgins* a Sun Bird from Florida, *Gary and Dot Iorio* who also split their time between north and south, *George Peters, Heino Ripp, Leo Farrenkopf* (a New Jersey trio), *Scott Schachter* and so many others. Many planned on continuing with group parties laterer in the evening. A great time was enjoyed by all. By unanimous consent they all agreed to return next year! - □



## p.n. people-#1

by Heino Ripp

**Frank diRienzo** had a short visit to the hospital late in February, and came back home with a new knee joint.

Fortunate for Frankie Di , cause it was put in by the doctor who had invented this type of replacement. Things are healing quite well and he was walking around OK No dancing yet - plans to be playing in the Meadowlands this summer's World Cup Soccer.. Italian team of course.

Sorry to hear about the untimely passing of comedy fellow **John Candy**.



**John**

He was extremely overweight, and died suddenly in his sleep while making a movie in Mexico. Many of you worked with John on SNL and the ill fated "New Show". He was sort of a laid-back person very opposite from Milton Berle. Last time I ran into John was in

Montreal during the celebration of "Just for Laughs" comedy week, where many comedians gather and perform during the week, and on the week end, there usually is on Cable, 90 minute or two hour extravaganza, starring the "best of--".. Seeing John, he came over and gave me a bear hug that I still can feel- ouch... He will be missed and everyone loved him..

**Enid Roth** -- We're a bit late with her wishes for a Happy New year, but use it for the rest of the year anyway. She likes the "new size " of the newsletter - much easier to handle.. She wondered - what happened to the P.N. December gathering?? Thought she missed something. But it's quite a job for Pete to organize the Oktoberfest, and bashes. Most of the time he never knows just how many will attend, and is obligated to pay for a minimum of persons to attend. So far it's worked out, but things do get hairy. Anyway Enid, hope you can find out some of what's happening with the PN group, if you just keep reading.

Speaking of Newsletter

**Frank Vierling** is doing a sterling job taking over the

publishing chores. Everyone finds that their computer is too ancient, and that the newer computer programs are a must. So - Frank now has a 486 DX 33 with Windows, is teetering on the brink of getting a laser printer -- Pete no has replaced his motherboard, to a 486 - 33 and also had windows installed, and he has a ink-jet printer.

More tech notes: My computer started losing modules one after the other. Had to replace three of them, then one day the motherboard died - probably from overwork This column's done on a 486 DX- 40 mc. Quel difference !-- Between Frank's other normal duties, he is trying to learn the intricacies of Windows and another "made for newsletter" program as well. Just watch those late hours Frank, dawn comes rather soon these days!

**Sophie and Walter Werner** could launch the space shuttles, they live so close to the pad, write that all is fine with them and shudder to watch the weather reports from up Nawth! Being close to Port Canaveral, with its many conveniences, they have managed to do some cruising. Besides that, they indulge in golf, **cont'd on PNPeople 2.**



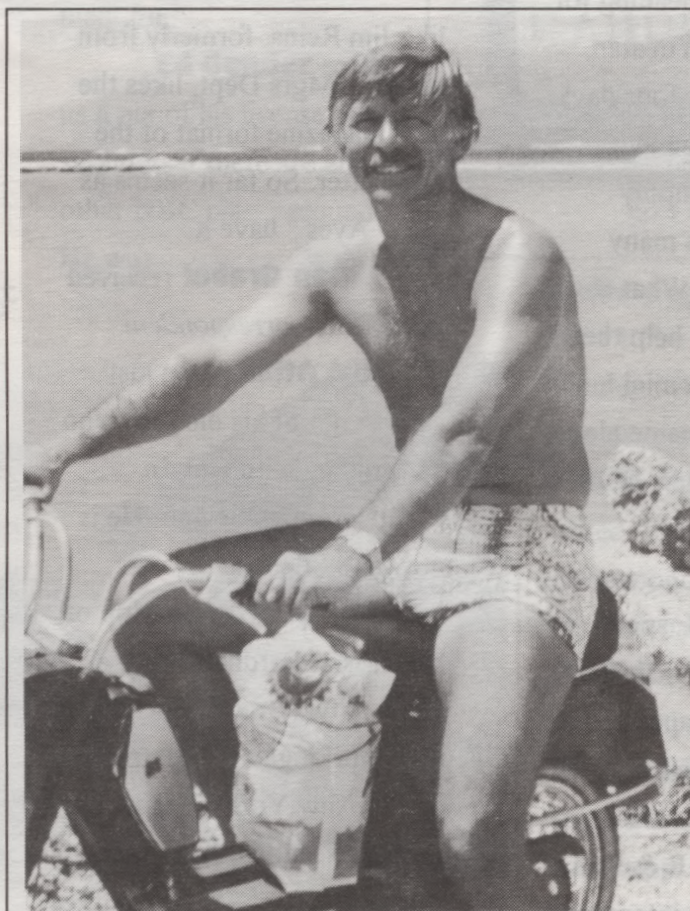
## p.n. people # 2

political activism (can you see Walter and Sophie holding a rally?) -- also lots of social life and just plain lazing around.... They did make a trip up north for thanksgiving and baptism of their 2nd grandson. Spent two weeks helping their kids move from Walt's old house to a larger home. Wishes he could have had more time here to attend some of the mini-lunches. Looks as if the Werners have found the retirement formula. Happy retirement Soph and Walt!

**Marcia Kuyper Schneider and husband Frank**, shortly after Frank decided to leave the hallowed ? halls of 30 Rock, have moved to Florida. Say they will look forward more than ever to the newsletter issues. Where did they move to ? their in the 813 area code....( Dick Dudley made me do that!) **Ernie De Rosa** is back on the golf links again, after a hospital visit for a prostate procedure. He and Gene Martin are still trying for a spot in the Hilton Head Open. Says Gene - If I only could see where the ball landed !

**Don Luftig and wife Sandy** have marked Don's

fifth year in retirement. They celebrated by spending some time at a fabulous resort in - Guess where..(Enchante, Jan Kasoff are you listening?) Where ? In Bora Bora. Their hut was over the water and we could step out the rear doors, down some steps to a deck and then go snorkeling from there. The living room had a glass coffee table that opened up and you could feed the fish below from your room.. Different and



**HEINO, 20 YEARS AGO IN BORA BORA**

exciting ! Says Don... Afterwards, they flew to

Tahiti and took a cruise around the Society Islands.

( I don't have a Luftig pix, excuse me for interrupting your story, Don. I do hope Bora Bora is still as beautiful as I remembered it-H.)

Luftig's travels also included a week in St.Barts, giving them a chance to practice their fractured French. Don's words, not mine. The Luftigs saw David Letterman jogging to the beach. The beach featured

beautiful young ladies who covered themselves only with suntan oil. David did not go *au natural*. Neither did we, adds Don [Another P.S. from H. -Rockefeller has a home at St. Barts, which is located on top of a hill over-looking a horseshoe shaped cove a short trip from Gustavia centrum. The only access to the

beach is by water except for the Rockefellers, for they own it, **CONT'd PN PEOPLE # 3.**



## p.n. people # 3

and no one can get there without trespassing on Rocky's private property... - the most favorite spot I've ever sailed to - a magnificent quiet clean beach, with peacocks flying circles around the sailboat, while enjoying a dinner drink.. Cheez ! I want to go back there again and again and again..... H.) ----

**Getting back to the Luftigs**, they were heading for Guatemala and the Yucatan, followed by three or four days in Cancun. He figures they keep everyone's economy going by going to as many places as they can. (What a Great Idea . Lets all help the economy and have a mini lunch at Bora Bora.. The name alone gives me goose bumps, BORA BORA ! )

**Marjorie Shields** spent New Years in the Far East - Thailand, Bali, Singapore, (didn't receive any "caneing" there), Hong Kong and then some sorely needed R & R in Honolulu. The most interesting part of the trip, she relates, was the northern part of Thailand , visiting the hill tribes and the Golden Triangle. Loved

Bangkok too. It's a shopper's paradise, even more than Hong Kong. She'll give you all the details if you attend the La Maganette bash in May..

### **Gloria & Jim Reina**

write from the Phoenix area that Peacock North gets better and better. Promises to write the Steve Allen Show Cuba Trip story someday. ( Hey Jim, how about getting Steve to Join P.N. ??)

### **Dick Swicker**

also like Jim Reina, formerly from the Unit Mgrs Dept, likes the new magazine format of the newsletter. So far it seems as the " Ayes " have it.

### **Dan Grabel**

received news from *correspondent Howard Atlas* ( Dan just can't let go of his old job) who had spoken with **Calvin Siemer** some time ago. He is now a full fledged lawyer, having graduated at the top of his class at Fordham University. (Bravo!) Siemer is now working as a litigator for one of New York's largest Law firms -- Scadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher, Flom. (Certainly the name on the front door is among the biggies in N.Y.

Howie also spoke to **Eddie Mayer** who is now working for Disney World in

Orlando. He said Disney is going big into nostalgia and he is trying to put a show together for Disney about the golden days of TV. Mayer planned to tape some of the retirees who attended the NBC Florida annual gathering to gather anecdotes.

**Paul Roeder** (one of our "Hams" wished Happy New Year to all - loves the paper. Hope you're feeling great Paul.

**Ray Weiss** happily notes that he's all packed and anxiously waiting for their new house in Boca Raton to be completed. Another new Yorker headed for the snow-less South.

**Jack Winocur** was looking forward to being 80 years old to get his subscription to Peacock North.FREE. He sent his Dues. **He'll get his \$20 back. 80 or over ? You still gets your Newsletters FREE !**

Jack was impressed by **Jim Smart's** story that he, **Jack Dolan, Neil Smith and Pete Peterson** went to sea as radio officers. **John Deeg**, now living in Sag Harbor also sailed during the war.

CONT'd PNPeople 4.



## p.n. people # 4

(Guess who also had gotten his radio licenses, and all the documents to similarly go into the merchant marine. On the day that he got the call to report to the Union hall the following week to sail away, **Ferdinand Wankel** also asked him to come up to report to NBC. After some soul searching, with terrible yen to travel, and the money was great, especially for a very young kid for his first real job, Heino chose NBC)

### Jim Schaeffer & Scotty

**Connal** played high school hockey together in 1944-46. Joined NBC in 1947 - played in old Madison Square Garden at

50th St between assignments at 30 Rock. They were on the Jamaica Hawks of the old Met League that played at One o'clock Sundays, just before the N.Y. Rovers (old Rangers farm club). They both kept active in hockey in Westchester County and quit at age forty... But Jim picked up league play again this year at age 66!

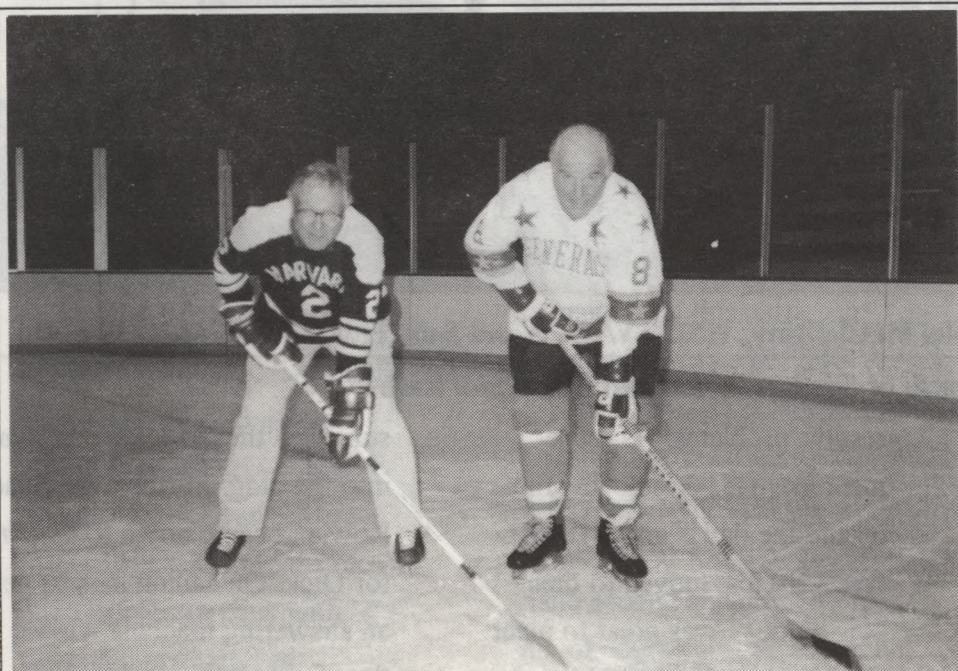
Glad to see youse guys aren't couch potatoes watching TV for retirement fun!

**Ed Gender** sends us a pix of his license plate. Wonders if there are any other NBC plates around.. He was a courier for the News Dept for 35 years.

Twenty of the years were on motorcycle, then they changed over to cars. .. Ed was the fellow that was sent to Bill McAndrews house in a great rush to pick up his pants. No Bill didn't have a bad night and come in pantless, he had dressed in the dark and put on an non matching pair to his



**Ed's Plate**



**JIM SCHAEFFER AND SCOTTY CONNAL AT UNIVERSITY OF VERMONT RINK MARCH/93**

business suit jacket.. Execs have to be in vogue, Ed saved the day !.After seeing the plate, one day someone came to Ed and "busted my balloon" when asked if he was an ex NBC correspondent ! (Everyone has his own parameters.) Thanks to **Irv Sobel**, we now have Ed as a member.

**Marcel Thienpont**, from Pa. (near the Delaware Water Gap is an artist and spends some of his time doing what he likes, painting. Enjoy the samples of his works as you thumb through the Newsletter.

**CONT'd ON PN PEOPLE 5.**



## p.n. people 5

**John LiBretto** who directs the weekend **TODAY Show**, ran into **Vince Vacca**, formerly of Broadcast Communications while John was vacationing in Nantucket, Mass. Vince has made his home on the Island, living there all year round. (and we thought WE shoveled lots of snow this winter).. Vince also acts in local productions as shown here in a photo from the Nantucket newspaper. Congratulations



LEFT TO RIGHT : JOHN McCLAFFERTY, VINCE YACCA AND Sally Elwell REHEARSING

### "MONTH of SUNDAYS ", DIRECTED by WARREN KREBS

**Bob Batsche** is now President of NABET - CIO Local 11. Bob says the only "downer" is not working at NBC. He does miss the job; sees need to change the way do business. The days at the Union fly by- too busy trying to

resolve problems. "Is retirement like This ? Time just flies by and the day is gone! **Dick Aimone** just moved to their new home. T'was great to meet old friends in Florida. Hopes to get to PN luncheons. Visited NBC last summer -

surprised they wouldn't let him into the bldg. Fortunately Gene Rowland came down to *vouch* for Dick. On calling in, you get an answering machine. Guess they fired all the secretaries. Dick sends "My best to all the gang" **CONT'd PN People # 6.**



## p.n. people # 6

**David Handler** retired from NBC in November .At the beginning of the year he enclosed his \$20 to become a member of PN. He declares he be enrolled forthwith in Peacock North, and requests all instruments, documents, badges, bumper stickers and any other paraphernalia to make him a bonafide paid up member in good standing of P.N. etc. etc. Geezz, Pete, do we have all that??

David said that except for an occasional day back at Nightly News, he's been getting accustomed to retirement.. Working a few days has seemed to ease the culture-shock of non-employment, sort of getting your toes wet before you plunge in with the whole body...

David started in 1950 part-time in Guest Relations. Eventually became an AD. Enjoyed 11 years of traveling with NBC Sports, doing Orange Bowls, Super Bows, US Opens etc.. Two European trips with Peacock member Ted Nathanson. Included at the end were three years of directing

Football & Baseball and the Sperry Scoreboard and two stints of World Series Pre-Game Shows.. In 1977 A.D.'d "Another World" and built a house in Water Mill, Southampton... 1979, became AD on "The Doctors" directing 8 episodes and (with tongue in-cheek) probably assisting in the show being canceled in 1981..

**Dave Handler : THIS IS YOUR LIFE !** He and wife Cynthia live on West 84th St, and as soon as she has fully adjusted to Dave's retirement, she too will take the giant step and move their residence to Southampton.

**Joe Callo** Line Producer of some of the episodes of the GO Show had chartered a 41 foot out of Tortola, British Virgin Islands for a week in April, with wife Sally and 4 family. Shortly before the charter date, he was called by the Yacht manager that this particular sailboat had to be put into drydock for repairs, and would he mind terribly if a fifty two foot yacht was substituted. (same price). He thought for a nano second and gulped - er, ah, of course he'd be delighted to take the charter outfit out of their dilemma. Time passed, and soon the other four

couldn't make the sail. Since I had chartered Joe's sailboat twice out of St. Martin, he called me asking if I wouldn't share his *misfortune*. I couldn't make it either, and since one is retired I thought these situations could work out like a breeze, but NOOOOOooooo as Belushi used to say. Have you ever tried to pilot a fifty-two foot sailing vessel with just another crew member??? T'aint easy, for Chris and I once had a 44 footer out of St. Vincent.. Ya Ha ! As of this writing, Don't know how they made out.

I found **Aavo Koiv's** phone number for Joe and I called **Al Camoin**, since he had been to the wreck off Salt Island with Joe. Al shot the show including the underwater sequences for the GO Show. **Irv Ehlich**, Al's assistant, and **Al** went for a familiarization and checkout with underwater scuba gear used in the underwater tv tapings. **Chuck Reisner** did the video, and the color clarity was magnificent. [Al couldn't go sailing with Joe either.]

**Aavo** now, has marched down the aisle with his lovely bride, and is living in Massachussets. (Boston, I think). Keep[ tuned for he Virgin Gorda saga...

**Cont'd PN PEOPLE # 7**



## p.n. people # 7.

This part should be entitled "Letters" From Tennessee, **Marian Eiskamp**, typewrote an epistle of her recent activities. She began with - 1993 seemed to go well with her, and hoped yours went the same.

I Traveled a lot - Florida in Feb, Oregon in May, Montana in July and NYC in October. Loved Montana - am going back to the Big Sky again in June. I attended an Elder hostel there - Eastern Montana College - can you believe I studied about birds - like I didn't meet enough in my life time. Anyway while I was there, the Dean asked me to do a half - hour TV interview program talking about my days at NBC, - for public broadcasting. The show was seen in Montana after I left town - no fool am I !!! It was fun to do - I could not have done it if I still worked at NBC but I am free and easy now. They sent me a copy of the tape and I could have used TV makeup - no, I could've used a face lift. My brother called attention to the bags under my eyes, but I told him it was water retention. (Don't older

brothers ever change?) ... And the set was hilarious - two blue curtains. However, I have shown the tape to friends in Tennessee and they still are friends...

I did go to NYC for an Elder hostel; ( listen on an NBC pension, you think I'm staying at the Plaza ?) - and you know, it was terrific A perfect location- 63rd and Central Pk West. ( the "Y"). The program was good - the coordinators knew from empty classrooms that field trips are more popular when in New York. I must say I didn't attend too many because I wanted to see some friends. Went to the theater - oh I did tourist things, took pictures with a group of Japanese . Well, I worked in NYC all my life and never took a picture so now I have them for my days in Tennessee.

Oh the food was good but listen, if anyone is thinking of going, I must say the room, is well - to put it mildly, depressing and spartan but for \$350 a week , who's to complain? It was clean and we had maid service. Oh yes, I've seen pix of prison cells that look better but what the heck.. And would you believe the Elder hostel coordinator

worked at NBC in the 50's - we were even in the same office together. I told her about the Peacock North - maybe Peter, you could send her a sample copy of the paper? Oh, how I love the new format. You guys are getting so professional now. I can see you taking over the NY Post and showing them how to do it. Oh, back to my friend.. Her name is Louise Panzini.... Another of the coordinators, was also at NBC - she was a dancer on the Kate Smith Hour where I spent my first 4 years at NBC, so you know we went down Memory Lane - and around and up and back again.

Okay, that's it. Off to Arizona in March and then Montana and Calgary in June..

Regards, **Marian**  
P.S. All goes well in the Health Department.

**Mary Stringfield** reports that all continues to go tremendously well at Ernst & Young, and She enjoys the PN Newsletter for keeping up with NBC events. **Gigi Harold** exclaims - always fun catching up with everyone in the Newsletter. In February, Gigi was off to SNOW SKI in Kitzbuhel, Austria. She said we  
**CONT'D ON PN PEOPLE # 8.**



## p.n. people # 8.

had her WATER skiing in a previous issue.... when she can just barely swim! (I hang my head in shame, I misinterpreted my sayer of sooth. Please accept my apologies, H.)

**Betty Noyes** notes that she don't know many of the people, but just love reading about their past and present lives, and the good old years we all shared when NBC was NBC. Also Betty gives another vote for the "magazine style".

Port Richey, Fla.. From ex- MCR and a Stearman pilot! (Forties pilot trainer). Nice to hear from you Bob. It's been too long....

**Dick Williams**, recently moved from Staten Island to Washington state came this photo. Says you never know what you might find when you clean up so the garage door could open (after his moving) In 1933 they managed to travel as far as Tennessee. Not so easy in returning, for they caught up with the midwestern floods.

long term care Insurance Plan as offered by G E would be helpful.. Any volunteers ??

Says he's in need of advice.

**Muriel MacPherson** wonders how she can get hold of the Life mag's wide angle pix of the TODAY window as Pres Truman happened to walk by.. Anyone ?- Muriel says they have moved South - to Barnegat, New Jersey. It turned out to be not far enough South during the barbaric winter of ice and snow, (most of it in our driveway! Maybe their next address will be in Florida. Can



L TO R: FRAN CASTLE, DR. BERNARD HANDLER, CAROLYN STUVE, AND MAUREEN

**Maureen Potrato** found this photo from 1973. taken at Carolyn Stuve's retirement.

**Bobby Hill** reports in from



L TO R : Bill Klages, Bob Calvin, Dick Williams and ?

**Al Buchta** praises those involved with PN, and wonders if we could have an article on the

hardly wait til Spring brings us together at La Maganette.

CONT'd p.n. people # 9 .



## p.n.people # 9 . (Letters)

**Vic Roby** finally got around to reading the last pages of Dec. PN and we wrote to Dick Dudley that he was

sur P rised  
f Lattered  
ov Erwhelmed  
am Azed  
A Stounded  
and spellbound

when I discovered my name included in Dudley's Puzzle Answer on Page 41. I almost went into cardiac arrest upon seeing my name included in a list of such **Big-Name STARS**.

I assure you that Dudley's puzzle has nothing to do with the fact that I feel the publication is VERY good. I like the new format, and, as Pete's "Message" indicates, we are surely lucky to have the Ripp-Vierling team as publishers, aided and abetted by Dan Grabel, Dick Dudley et al. And the "al", is headed by Pete, our CEO.

Your efforts make the twenty bucks for annual dues the best investment available today.

Cheers! ---- (or are cheers cancelled?)

**Ed & Linda Rossi** (Scottsdale, Arizona)

1993 was a busy year for us. Our son, Chris and his wife became the parents of girl triplets, and they live in L.A. Daughter Claudine, was married in November in Sacramento, Ca. Attending the wedding were former NBC-ers **Bill Aulepp** and his wife **Marge**.

**Linda** (Mrs Rossi) is a chaperone with Miss Universe and Miss Teen USA Beauty Pageants, and travels with the shows.

I work with the judges and travel to the foreign locations. Mexico City was our foreign location for 1993, and 1994 will find us in Manila.

We also co-produced the first International Film Festival in Phoenix, Arizona this past October. We will have the second one the end of October of 94 for nine days.

We had 65 foreign and domestic films, and many producers, directors and talent from all over the world. Our partner and creative director of the film Festival is Joe Pier, who also lives in Arizona via Canada. He also is involved with beauty pageants.

I spent a few days in the Hospital having a collapsed artery repaired, first by balloon then by laser.

If anyone gets to this area, please do call. Would love to see old friends..[Tel: 602-585-2887]

□□□□

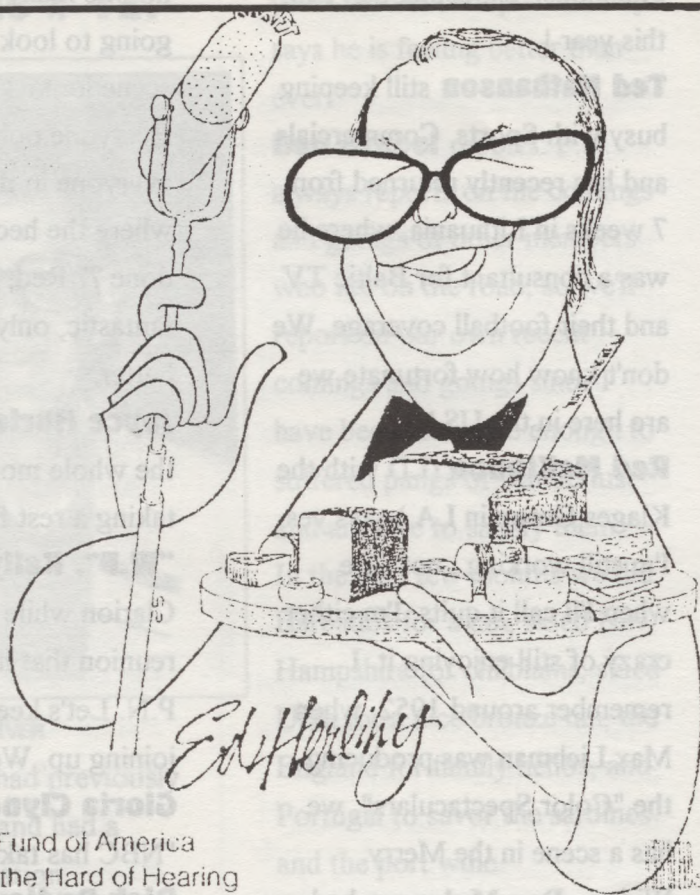
**George Cox** is putting his pennies away in order to finance a trip for a battlefield tour of Europe to be in Rome for the Fiftieth Anniversary of their liberation... Have a nice trip George.

**Ted Everett** comments that it was a sad year for him learning about the passing of many of his friends. Last August, Ted had open heart surgery to repair a mitral valve. He says he feels like a million and owes it all to the staff at Stony Brook. Ted reminds us : **The City of Happiness -**

**is found in the State of Mind !**

**Scott McCartney** writes that he's still vertical. He really loves Palm Springs and plays a lot of golf. - Not getting any better, just plays a lot. You guys have computers - I have a big CD music collection that keeps me busy. Swore that I'd never again shovel snow again, and so far I haven't !! Plan on being in NY in May attending the reunion at La Maganette. **CONT'd p.n. people # 10.**





The Actor's Fund of America  
The League for the Hard of Hearing  
The Friends of Ed Herlihy  
The Benefit Committee  
and

Ralph Edwards  
invite you to an evening of  
nostalgia and entertainment  
in a tribute to

## Ed Herlihy

"America's Voice"

Hosted by  
**Kitty Carlisle Hart**  
at the  
Rainbow Room  
atop Rockefeller Center  
Avenue of the Americas & 50th Street

### p.n. people # 10 .

Who wouldn't recognize this man from Al Hirschfield's caricature our old friend from the days of Kraft and countless other extravaganzas ?

yep, **Ed Herlihy !**

In a tiny note with even tinier writing, that he would attend the La Maganette gathering in the spring if he's in town. For - he is a lecturer now for Cunard Cruise ships. (QE 2, Sagafjord etc.)

Ed will be Eighty Five in August, but still "is at it", as the "Tribute" at left indicates. His last time in the Rainbow Room was with Ray Noble ! Nice to hear from you Ed, which I know I hear echoed many times by your co-workers at the Big Rock.

**Don Blair** from Venice, Fla. boasts that he had sold the snow shovels at his garage sale.

Biggest concern now is "when the hell was that too time anyway?" .. Is planning to attend the July observance of the 25th Anniversary of Apollo 11. Expects **Roy Neal** and very active Jay Barbree to be there. I was the sole radio "Pool" correspondent on the recovery carrier Hornet. Probably will see the 3 TV pool guys, **Ron Nessen**, **Keith McBee** and hopefully **Dallas Townsend**, who lives just a few miles from here, south of Sarasota. Blair & Townsend both belong to the Broadcast Pioneers chapter here and had lunch at the last gathering. Everyone should have this much fun. Don mentioned that **Ray Weiss** now lives in Boca Raton.

It's nice to see **Clark Jones** sticking with us in P.N. Always a pleasure, Clark.

**Garfield Ricketts** is active in Real Estate in Naples, Fl. also dabbles in local cable TV biz.

**Hank Folkerts**, the Florida coordinator of the NBC Ham net will be hit the big "Eight-OH" in June. Even tho it's a bit early, Congratulations, and we wish you many more.

**Milt Wyatt** visiting friends in England April/May. Quote him that last years La Mag was super and expects to have an encore.

CONT'D p.n. people # 11 NEXT



## p.n. people # 11 .

### Frank McGuinness

officially took an early retirement as of Jan 01 1994.

Welcome to a period of freedom for yourself Frank. Do all he things you shudda, wooda, cudda done.

**Arthur Poppele** writes a very glowing report re: the newsletter being the greatest ever.. Thanks Arthur. I often wondered how you were doing and remember those good times in 3H during the early days. PS -[You were the first ever to have a quarter land against the wall and stand on end while pitching coins against the wall during rehearsal lulls. ] You always were a gentleman Art, and I was a hick kid from Staten Island.

**John Walsh** spent 30 years at NBC Washington from mailroom to Unit Manager. Retired now and currently working in real estate, five minutes "commute from home". Always enjoyed my trips to Wash., John and working with you.. Hello to

**Art White** for me also if you happen to bump into him (H.)

**Jean Fitzpatrick** Mrs. Jack Fitzpatrick, L.D.)busy with the

grandkids.. expecting her fifth this year !

**Ted Nathanson** still keeping busy with Sports, Commercials and has recently returned from 7 weeks in Lithuania, where he was a consultant for Baltic TV and their football coverage. We don't know how fortunate we are here in the USA.

**Red McKinnon** (LD with the Klages Group in LA.) says yes, I'm still working., not sure when I'll call it quits. I'm either crazy of still enjoying it. I remember around 1952, when Max Liebman was producing the "Color Spectaculars", we has a scene in the Merry Widow. **Don Mulvaney** had the crane sticking out of the elephant doors to the back yard in Brooklyn One (before BKlyn 2 was built) . It was night at air time . The scene consisted of music & singing while the cast members rode into the set exterior in horse & carriage, then Don dollied back and carried them doing their schtik, for an eternally long and beautiful move and then he widened the shot, craned up to a ballroom filled to the rafters with cast singing + dancing , Great move, but the rest of the story was that we had seen the shot only in the daylight, and

no one really knew what it was going to look like. Well, the scene looked fantastic. Everyone oohed and aah'd and everyone in the biz wondered - where the heck was that scene done ?? Red, you were fantastic, only now you're even better.

**Joyce Hurley** went skiing for the whole month of March, taking a rest from Donahue **"W.F". Kelly** notes from the Clarion while attending a reunion that he'd like to join P.N. Let's keep coming and joining up. Welcome Bill.

**Gloria Clyne** bemoans that "NBC has taken over my life!" **Dick Dudley** had his second cataract operation and it went well.

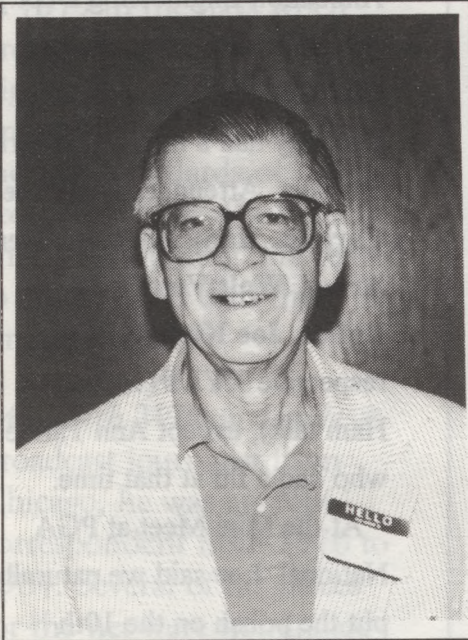
**Carl Rohrer**, went to his 1st NBCFR reunion via the Caribbean. Hopes the snowstorms will be all over by the time he gets back.

**Carl Ricca** reports that he too has moved to Florida. Stay warm Carlo. Melbourne Fla. to be specific--- (Waaaait for meeee !) □ □ □

Retired newswriter/producer **Roy J. Silver** is back with the living! In Mid March Roy, who lives at Mohegan Lake in  
CONT'D ON p.n. people 12 .



## p.n. people # 12.

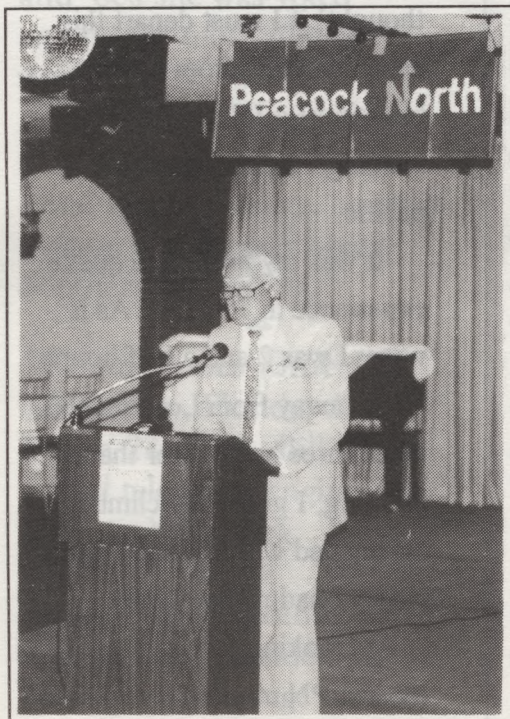


**Roy Silver**

Westchester and had previously suffered a stroke and had a heart bypass operation, suffered an acute heart situation. When his wife Elaine, a nurse, came home from work and noticed his failing condition he was rushed to the local hospital. The culprit was a poorly functioning ventricle. The EMS crew at the emergency room worked on him continuously and literally brought him back to life three times after his heart showed no activity on the EKG monitoring him. When they had Roy pumping and breathing again they inserted a pacemaker and hopeful that the battery will "keep on tickin" for 7 to 14

years before it's replaced. Roy says he is feeling better than ever.

**Dan Grabel** reports: P.N. always reports on the comings and goings of other members who are on the road, so we'll report on our own recent comings and goings since I have been fortunate enough to suffered pangs of wanderlust and am able to satisfy them. In the past few months we did Barbados for a tan, skied New Hampshire for chilblains, skied Utah for a nice bronze tan, did England for family hellos, and Portugal to savor the sardines and the port wine.



**DAN GRABEL**

**Carmen Picioccio** (residing at Spring Hill, Fl.) is still busy

as heck trying to finish his "flood damage" settlements... On the way back from San Antonio visit he had to stop off in Biloxi, Miss. to leave a contribution for the slot machines. Discovered Biloxi has really changed since his WW II, when it was the "hell hole of the Air Corps Basic Training bases. Carmine will be in the New York area in May to celebrate his **BIG 70th birthday..** Asks, "Where did the time go?"

**Bill McCord** scribed this epistle for us.....

It's a pleasure to renew my membership and for the most part a pleasure to read of the adventures of former co-workers and friends. The exception is to learn of the deaths of real friends. There were so many listed in the DEC '93 issue who have joined the Great Peacock in the sky. That list included Wayne Howell really "touched" me. Dick Dudley's tribute to him was beautiful. Dick has always had a way with " words".....

I just reached the age of 77 in December but pleasant

**CONT'd p.n. people # 13 .**



## p.n. people # 13

memories of this particular group touched me.....

Again I want to congratulate **Ripp** for the superb job he's done with our historical tome. He and **Frank Vierling** and their associates certainly continued in style with the new and very readable size Newsletter.....

Not much news from this far south in California. Thank God we missed the huge quake in L.A. I was unable to phone my son and his family, but HE got through to us some 12 hours later, to report "No damage"..

Health wise, blood clots continue to threaten, but occasional hospitalization and blood thinners keep me going though not as actively as in the past..... It's good to see fotos and stories about the "old NBC staffers". Sorry to learn there are only three announcers left and none left of the over 20 men with whom I worked in 1951. In many respects it's depressing, although I've never been happier - living here in this beautiful city... My best to Dudley, Roy Silver,& others who remember me.

**Bill Mc Cord.**

## G. Marilyn Alexander

took pen in hand and in beautiful and clear handwriting, wrote us this letter :

I was in the West Coast for the months of January and February.

On the morning of January 17, 1994 my bed in a California villa shook me awake. I knew instantly it was the earth quaking. A glance at my clock registered 5:30 a.m. on the mind. Reflexes developed years ago from TV production, tapped in this split second decision. I made it , turned over on the left side and went back to sleep (with the thought) if I must depart this earth, why not from here in beautiful La Jolla on a hill ten walking minutes from the pacific.

It was my first earth quake experience in 75 years. As it were, I was 2 and a half hours by car away from Los Angeles, when three hours later that morning, I gratefully climbed off my bed with the same good pieces I had retired with !

Am looking forward to reading PN more this year than ever. Love to all the NBC Family,,, Sincerely ,  
*G. Marilyn Alexander -*

[Marilyn retired in 1985 from Allocation Engineering Dept.]

**Lee Carlton** fills us in a bit that they had a mini lunch early this year. Attendees were **Lee Carlton, Hank Folkerts, Ken Arber, Walt Vetter, Ed Taffee, Joe Kolb** and their respective XYL's (wives in Ham talk), except Ann Taffee who had a flu at that time.

At the Mini Meet at PGA National, Lee said we naturally put the polish on the 10th annual NBCFR. A large group did attend. Stay healthy.....

After 40 years with NBC, **Robert J. Tobin** got laid off. They told him his job was eliminated. Officially he retired in February as payroll manager, with a lump sum pension. He anticipates staying in the labor market if possible. GE moved some of the financial services to Ft. Meyers, Fl... He misses the job, but more importantly, he misses the friendly people at NBC I came in contact with.

**The NBC Ham Net** still continues daily at 9:45 am on 14.223 megacycles. If you're a "Ham", tune us in.....

**HANK FOLKERTS - K4KO** is controller from Florida ☐☐☐



**Herminio Traviesas**, He was the NBC censor from 1969 to 1979 in the days when broadcast standards were higher. As a V.P. he was prominent in establishing industry standards of acceptability for advertising and programming. He retired to Atlanta and died there of a stroke at age 79.



**Meredith Wilson Lewis**, A broadcast journalist from Chicago, he was an NBC correspondent from 1976 to 1984. Several of his pieces for the net were nominated for Emmys and he won an award for international reporting from the National Association of Black Journalists. Among his jobs after leaving NBC was as a correspondent and anchor for "World Monitor" from 1988 to 1992. He was 52 and died of a brain aneurysm.



**Dinah Shore**, "See the U.S.A. in your Chev-ro-let," the melody that helped make singer Dinah Shore a household name in America will be sung no more. Dinah died of cancer on Feb. 24 at the age of 76. Many at NBC met and worked with the likeable star when she headlined the weekly Chevy variety show from 1956 to 1963. Dinah's theatrical career spanned 50 years,

starting with a radio show at WSM radio in Nashville in 1937 shortly after she graduated from Vanderbilt University, and continuing until 1991 when she completed a run on the Nashville tv network as a talk show hostess. In addition to the Chevy show on NBC, Ms. Shore, who is survived by 2 adult children, appeared on "Chamber Music Society of Lower Basin," and the Eddie Cantor show. Dinah recorded 75 hit records and had a million record seller with "Blues in the Night." During her career she won 10 Emmys. In 4 Gallup polls during her heyday in the '50s and '60s she was voted among the most admired women in the world. In summing up her popularity, the NY Times said, "She was loved for her homey, heartfelt singing and for her breezy Southern charm." (DG)



**William James Little III**, 77, DeBary, Florida, died March 22, 1994. Bill was a retired television engineer for NBC in New York.



**James Nolan**, recently retired international president of NABET, died at age 65 after a brief hospital stay in March, just 6 months after he retired. Nolan had been a maintenance engineer and

president of N.Y. Local 16 at ABC television before he succeeded to the international job in Washington. Probably the major achievement of his labor career was merging NABET, with its 9,300 members, with the Communications Workers of America (CWA) which represents 600,000 union people. Ed Scanlon, NBC Executive Vice President of Labor Relations, described Nolan as, "Tough, smart, fair and most of all, a man of integrity."



**Lawrence Spivak**, A television pioneer, and the man who created the Washington interview show (along with Martha Roundtree) died in March in Washington. Lawrence Spivak was the longtime moderator of "Meet the Press," starting in 1945 on Mutual radio, expanding 2 years later to NBC-TV, and continuing in that slot for 28 years. He sold the rights to NBC in 1955 but remained with it. With its 50th anniversary coming next year, "M.T.P." is the longest running program in tv history.

After graduating cum laude from Harvard, Spivak entered the magazine publishing business side, starting with 2 outdoor magazines and ending up as owner of The American Mercury. From its



inception, "Meet the Press" attracted the heavy hitters in government, in labor, and whatever the major headlines were being made. The other nets eventually copied the idea, creating CBS' "Face the Nation," and ABC's "Issues and Answers."

In 1960 Senator John Kennedy was a guest and he asked Spivak, "I suppose you have a long list of callenging questions for me?." Spivak replied, "Knowing my high regard for you, I don't think you'd want me to pull my punches." Kennedy, then the Democratic presidential candidate, quiped back, "No, but I woudn't mind if you lowered your regard a bit.!"



**Jim Quigley**, newswriter. A bit belated, word has reached us from a nephew that Jim, who was a radio newswriter-producer for about two decades, and who, I recall, left NBC News in the late 1970s, probably before retirement, passed away last year. Jim died of cardiac arrest a few days after being treated for a minor eye problem at New York Hospital where he subsequently suffered a stroke. The informant, who said Jim had a "wonderfully positive effect on many people," tells us that Jim and his wife Stevie had completed a book about their life

experiences just prior to this sudden death. Jim worked NBC radio news in its early days and he was an ardent outdoorsman and skier. (DG)



**Carlos Clark**, NBC Field engineer and Studio TD, died March 16, 1994. No details available. Carlos was at Roosevelt Field when Lindbergh took off for Paris. Carlos was one of those early TV Field engineers that held everything together with friction tape and spit.



**Warren Thill**, NBC TV Electronics Maintenance engineer, of Montvale, NJ, died September 1993. He is survived by his wife, Phyllis.



**Richard Wedeking**, NBC Video tape engineer, died of cancer, February, 1994.



**David Hubby**, 75, NBC Electronic Maintenance engineer died December 21, 1993. Dave was a special "can do" guy that kept us "on the air." His wife, Rita, writes to remind us of Dave's numerous contributions to our industry. He worked many of the space launches, traveled with the Perry Como crew, and worked with Arlene Francis on the "Home Show."



**Clem Egolf**, Unit manager, died in the summer of 1993.

**Jake Patent**, NBC Film engineer died in July 1993. Jake was an ardent bridge player and photographer.



**Louise Pappas**, Manager of Electronic Maintenance, died August 14, 1993, of cancer. At one time she worked under Rudy Foglia. Louise lived in New York City.



**Hugh McDermott**, Stage Manager, died October, 1993.



**Jim Whalen**, 69, with NBC for 31 years, worked in the Controller's Department and News Administration, died October 27, 1993.



**Michael A. Pirozek**, Arlington, NJ, NBC Transmitter engineer, died October 5, 1993. He is survived by his wife, Helen.



**Allen Aebig**, NBC Engineering Manager, died in Florida, February 9, 1994, of lung cancer. Al started at NBC New York as a TV Field engineer. Later transfered to Technical Operations management. He worked, for a time, at WRC in Washington, but finished his career in NY.



**Richard M. Nixon**, age 81, 37th President of the United States, died April 22, 1994.





**Jacqueline Lee Bouvier**

**Kennedy Onassis**, 64, died May 19, 1994, wife of John Fitzgerald Kennedy, 35th President of the United States.



**Peter Hackes**, We scrounged for information on Peter after we learned of his death in mid-April but could not find the obit, so we'll try to piece together some memories. Pete, a network radio and TV correspondent for a quarter of a century, retired from NBC around 1985 and moved quickly into only partial retirement in Washington where he was a long time resident. He had a regular assignment with the AARP retirees organization as well as voice-overs and some video work. On one video assignment in New York for the American Bar Association, he worked with retirees Bill Hanrahan and this writer Dan Grabel, (they had roles as lawyers, I was the judge!).

Peter did a lot of work on the space shots at Cape Canaveral and in the New York studios, often sitting beside a mock-up of a capsule as the network kept track of an astronaut orbiting the globe in the 1970's when there was more novelty and more excitement for the audience in space travel. In the days when NBC Radio network was a major news

operation he was a daily contributor to the roundups from the nations capital. He was an excellent and speedy writer and had a true network quality voice. Peter, a great guy, was 69. We'll miss him.



**Ginny Simms:** By Dick Dudley  
More sadness came with the announcement of Ginny Simms death. A million years ago in 1936, I was a part time announcer at WSM, Nashville, TN, while attending Vanderbilt U. Kay Kyser's band had been hired for the BIG DANCE of the year and WSM assigned me to introduce a remote pickup. Being up on stage introducing Kay while my college mates looked on did nothing to lower me in their estimation. But OH, how my esteem rose when Kay asked Ginny to accompany me to my car radio to hear how the program sounded.

I could have taken a short cut out of the Vanderbilt gym, but, when Ginny put her arm around mine, I walked us down through the dancers, nodding at fraternity brothers and smiling at girl friends. "That Was a Very Good Year"

Ten years later, 1946, when I was demobed after 3 years in the Army, Ginny asked me to appear on her

program in Los Angeles. Not only did I get to hold hands with her, I was also paid \$200 and given a free airplane ride back to NYC. Not bad for one who had been living on army pay. I have to sigh as more and more mikes go silent.



Dick and Ginny,  
"Holding Hands Together"

**Betty Furness:**

**CBS LUMINARIES  
REMEMBER FURNESS**

A final tribute was paid to Betty Furness on April 18th when friends, mostly from CBS, and relatives met at NBC's studio 8H to recall moments with the woman who was part of American Television for nearly half a century, from its early days until 1992.

When it appeared that the auditorium of the Museum of Television and Radio would be too small for the event, it was moved by courtesy of

More →



NBC to studio 8H where 200 people attended the hour and a quarter remembrance.

Gloria Clyne, who had worked with Betty on the WNBC Consumer Affairs desk for nearly two decades, described the mourning as "warm, touching, and in very good taste".

The lineup of speakers included Judy Crichton, a producer and personal friend of half a century, Joseph Califano Jr., the cabinet secretary who suggested to President Lyndon Johnson that Betty head up a national "Consumer Affairs Bureau", Barbie Green, her daughter, Charles Kuralt, Liza Snyder, a young actress granddaughter whose career was much in the thoughts of Ms. Furness, Andy Rooney, Jane Pauley, who worked with Betty on "TODAY", and Walter Cronkite, the man who introduced Betty to her husband, Les Midgley, a CBS vice president. Cronkite in closing the memorial service said, "I doubt if we'll ever see anyone like her again."

(Dan Gabel)

### *Remarks by Jane Pauley:*

Thank you for asking me to be part of this. I never failed to feel elevated by association with Betty Furness.

It seems a little silly now coming from a middle aged

woman — but if ever I had a role model it was Betty Furness. And she knew that.

Betty was the interim Today Show co-anchor that summer NBC scoured the country for an unseasoned, inexperienced 25 year old to

take Barbara Walter's place. People used to ask me if Barbara Walters was a hard act to follow — I'd think — not as hard as Betty's.

Her resume — from the movies, to marketing, to motherhood, to consumer advocacy, to consumer journalism — reveals a woman always ahead of her time.

I think Betty Furness was the most modern woman I ever met.

American success mythology created the American Archetype of the self made man — but Betty to me is the hallmark of the late 20th

Century — a self-made woman. Even as a Hollywood starlet in the 30's — she was type cast as a smart girl of independent means. The means of her independence, of course, were her smarts. She was constantly re-inventing herself — and finding meaning — in her work.

By the time the 'women's' movement opened the doors to careers — Betty was already well established in her 4th successful professional incarnation — consumer advocacy.

Several years ago, on the 50th anniversary of her first job, Betty threw herself a party. It was **STYLISH. BOLD. BRAVE.**

Family, friends, colleagues — filled a small ballroom. I'll never forget the three-word theme of her party: **Work is it!** (Which was only a little disingenuous from a woman whose family was so dear). But Betty loved her work. And the people she worked with. The people she who gave her work. Even the plastic surgeon she credited with giving her 20 extra years in the business! (Get that man's name!)

Betty was blessed with brains, beauty, talent and opportunity. She didn't squander any of it. Because she believed in the life-affirming dignity of work — of



Betty Furness



❖ ❖ *Silent Microphones* ❖ ❖

making your own way in the world.

She did it with honesty. Humor. Candor. Humanity. Glamour. And she did it her whole long life! She'll always be a tough act to follow.



**Pat Harper**, departed WNBC-TV at age 55. Pat worked at TV stations in Phila. and Chicago before joining WPIX in 1974, anchoring the news show with her third husband, Joe Harper. In 1980 Ms. Harper gained fame as the first female anchor of a national news cast when she headlined "USA TONIGHT," which was syndicated to independent stations.



Pat Harper

In 1984 she moved to WNBC-TV, and won 5 successive EMMYS for Outstanding Single Newscast. Pat also won an EMMY for a series on the homeless in which she herself spent nights out in the street to get a feel for the story. When Harper exited TV,

she made her home near Granada, Spain. She was 59 years old and is survived by 2 sons, a daughter and 5 grand children.



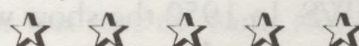
**Henry Morgan**, rapier tongued comedian died of lung cancer at 79. Morgan earned crucial notice for ad libbing his way through his show, "Here's Morgan" with little more than a few notes. He was blacklisted in the 1950s but managed to find work on "What's my Line" and "I've got a secret" which he kept for 14 years.

*It is with great sadness that we report so many departed co-workers and personages that have touched our lives. PN members extend sincerest sympathy to their families.*

## NEW MEMBERS

### Welcome Aboard

William Ahl, Ridgefield, NJ  
 Louis Bauer, Elmhurst, NY  
 Betty Corrigan, New York, NY  
 Edward Gender, Garnerville, NY  
 James Geraghty, McAfee, NJ  
 Joseph Gerardi, New York, NY  
 Dave Handler, New York, NY  
 Reed Hilty, Flushing, NY  
 Marilyn Jacobs Furey, New York, NY  
 Bill Kelly, Hollywood, FL  
 John Koushouris, Stamford, CT  
 Charles Licameli, Hasbrouck Heights, NJ  
 Robert Long Jr., Sparta, NJ  
 John Maurer, Meritt Island, FL  
 Frank McGuinness, Jackson, NJ  
 Frank Merklein, Key West, FL  
 Ed Meyer, Orlando, FL  
 Johnathan Oakley, Peekskill, NY  
 William O'Connell, Bronxville, NY  
 Delma Proctor, Louisa, VA  
 William Reardin, New York, NY  
 Ralph Reel, E. Northport, NY  
 Al Rice, White Plains, NY  
 Rochelle Richilson, Holliswood, NY  
 William Rose, Pelham, NY  
 Walter J. Ryan, Medford, NY  
 Ruth Stiles, New York, NY  
 Bambi Tascarella, New York, NY  
 Len Stucker, Fort Salonga, NY  
 John Walsh, Montgomery Village, MD  
 Frank Weill, Hartsdale, NY  
 John Whalen, Belle Harbor, NY  
 Arthur White, New York, NY  
 Dorothy Zavlick, Fort Lee, NJ





**KEN'S****CORNER**by  
Ken Arber

## TEN YEARS WITH JOHN K.M. McCAFFERY

I first met John K.M. McCaffery in studio 3-E in 1948, where I was the Radio Engineer, and the Director-Producer was Fred Friendly. It was some kind of audition, or voice test for a show that John was doing for Channel 5, WABD, Allen B. Dumont's station in New Jersey. His guest was a young woman, by the name of Eloise Macelhone. The audition was to see how, voice wise, they would work out. I set up a "goose neck" 44BX microphone over a studio table, with John on one side and Eloise opposite him. After a few words, spoken by both John and Eloise, I called from the control room, and asked Eloise if she would please move closer to the mike. She then put one hand under each breast, and lifted them up on the table, and asked, "How's that?" John, Fred, and I immediately agreed, it was fine. I will never forget the look on John's face when she made that move.

In 1949 I was the audio man in the 106th Street studios where John was doing the 11th HOUR NEWS. In 1950 the show was moved to the 67th Street studios, where I was the Video Engineer, and then became the

Technical Director. I mention this only to show how far back we went together. John would arrive in the studio at 10 PM to rehearse at 10:30, but he would always come into the control room to shoot the breeze with the crew. He mentioned the fact that he just had a wonderful steak dinner at a local restaurant, known as Vorst's. One of the engineers, Joe Palmer, a devout Catholic, asked if John did not know it was Friday, a meatless day for Catholics? John replied, he did, but that he had special dispensation from the Pope many years ago. His story was that his great-great-grandfather, had offered some help to the Pope during the Piedmont Wars. The Pope declared that from then on, all male members of the McCaffery family would be excused from having to abstain eating meat on Fridays. I must say that none of the Catholic members of the crew, believed this story, and even I, a non Catholic, also had a hard time believing it. However, John who was a great student of English grammar, taught English Literature at Columbia University, where he met his wife, Dorothy, who was a student in his class.

One day in Studio 8-G he was discussing the correct pronunciation of the word HARASSMENT, he was questioned by his staff announcer, the elate Ray Barrett. John took the stand that it should be pronounced as if it was spelled HARRISMENT. Ray disagreed, saying the letters ASS should be pronounced at it looks. John said he was willing to put money on his pronunciation of the word, and suggested that Ray go down to the Announcer's Office, and look it up in Pat Kelly's large dictionary, which by the way was much too heavy to carry. Ray said he would check it out and if he was proven correct, he would let John know about it.

John said that the past tense of prove was not proven, but proved. John always had an



answer for everything. I can tell you from that day on, I never used the word proven.....

John had made the friendship of the famous Irish playwright Brendan Behan and they spent a lot of time visiting the local "watering places" such as McSorley's, and Moriarity's where Bushmill's Irish whiskey was served. John recounted having taken Brenden Behan to the dog track on Long Island, where one of the racing dogs was named "Bagel Baker," and asked Brenden if he knew what a bagel was. He responded he sure did, saying, "It's some kind of HUNTIN' DAWG."

John told me that the girl AD on the 11th Hour News was after him to introduce her to Brendon and he did not see how it would be possible, since Brenden never came to the studio, and John always met him at one of the places they visited. As I remember it McSorley's did not serve women, I don't remember if Moriarity's served women in those days before "Women's Lib". I do know, that there was no objection of John taking his English Bull dog "Porthos" with him, and Porthos would lay on the sawdust floor in McSorley's.

John would arrive at the 67th Street studios each night at 10:00 PM for rehearsal at 10:15, together with his dog Porthos on a leash, who would then crawl under the desk and sleep. This particular night John did not arrive at his usual time, and by 10:15

everyone was concerned as to where he was. Phone calls to different places did not divulge his whereabouts. The Director, Ralph Peterson, said he would sit in for John, as he had been a newscaster before becoming a director, and the AD would fill in as Director. Someone brought up the fact that the newscaster for WOR, John Wingate, had just



John K.M. McCaffery and Ken Arber at the 11th Hour News Desk

finished his work at "C" down the hall, and maybe we could get him to fill in for John. At 10:45 they asked him, and he said he would be glad to do it, but he had just removed his contact lens, and would have a tough time reading the script, as it was not on "Cue Cards." He was sure the same stories he had

More →



read on WOR were the ones on NBC, and he would fill in those parts that were not in the script, by memory from his earlier newscast. He did a great job of filling for John, what with his voice and looks which reminded me of Gregory Peck. I later spoke to the Technical Director of Wingate's WOR newscast, telling him how great he was, and the TD said he was very good, but a little bit eccentric, which I found to be true a few months later. I was crossing the street at Columbus Avenue when I saw Wingate waiting for a taxi, and knowing he had been let go by WOR, I stopped to tell him how sorry I was to learn about his leaving, and enjoyed his work so much. To my surprise, he turned and said to me, "I don't need anyones sympathy, I will get another job in short order." I knew what the WOR TD had told me was true .....

We would have the same program director for weeks, months, and years. But occasionally, an up-graded AD or Stage Manager would do the show, for vacation or one reason or another. The experienced Directors such as Hal Gurney, Harry Coyle, Mike Gargiulo, John Dorsey, and others would do the show the way it had been going, taking the attitude, "If it ain't broke, don't fix it," however others would make slight changes, in hope of improving the show, and feeling they had made their mark on the show. As one can understand, these insignificant changes annoyed everyone, including the talent. I recall an incident that took place one Sunday night on the 11th Hour News, with John McCaffery. John and the entire crew worked the show Monday through Friday. John and the crew would be off Saturday, but on Sunday only John would be in to do the 11th Hour News, and a new crew would work the Sunday show.

A new up-graded director came in on a Monday and said he would be directing the show from now on. He said he was going to make some changes, but only after having done it the way it had been going for a while. He did very well and anyone looking at the show, would not have been aware that a new director was directing. However, he chose the first Sunday show to institute his changes.



With a new crew and normal rehearsal time, which was insufficient to make shot changes, he proceeded to put the show on the air. When I came in Monday, John asked me how I spent the weekend, and I told him I had watched a show on CBS called "What's My Line," and then switched to NBC where I watched him on a show that must have been called, "What's My Camera." John said that was the last time that director would ever direct his show. Unfortunately the director recently passed away.

One 11th Hour News show directed by John Dorsey, did not go too well, what with film coming up, and various other problems, such as John narrating a film about some old tenements burning down, and mistakenly



preparation for their magical flying scene to that wonderful place called Never, Never Land.

With a warm feeling of nostalgia, I could hear the barking of the children's faithful dog, Nana, in the distance. Again, the light, seemingly drawing energy from anything it touched, cavorted up, down and sidewise, bouncing off the studio wall battens and zooming high up into the light grids, gaining intensity with every contact it made. Then, once more it stopped overhead, and again with its increased energy slammed down with a blinding flash, that spotlighted Ethel Merman and Mary Martin singing a duet, that filled every corner of the studio with great rollicking music. The song was "Anything You Can Do I Can Do Better" and it would be a safe bet to say nobody could do it better than those two.

The erratic behavior of the light continued, as it drew its energy from the very fiber of this spirited place, and soon the studio floor was filled with vignettes of every show that was ever done in the Brooklyn Studios. The light continued to seek out all the energy contained within the studio walls and with one final go round it frantically raced high in to the light grids, slid down ropes, bounced off walls and scenery and finally came to a much needed rest high over the center of the studio.

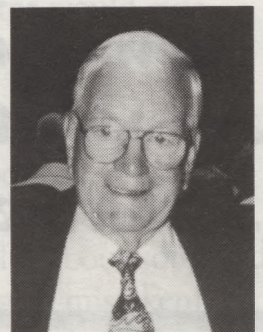
The studio went dark, and when again the light reappeared it dropped part of its energy down to the studio floor in the form of a pool of light, where a familiar man, in a familiar fedora hat, and a very familiar proboscis stepped into the pool of light and doffing his hat, with a familiar wave, he sang "Goodnight" as only the "Schnozz" could. Jimmy then strutted and sang his way through successive pools of light with his head and hat held high and after stepping into the final pool of light he paused, looked up to the heavens, and in his own inimitable fashion, concluded with the heartfelt phrase, "Good night Mrs. Calabash Wherever You Are."



Then, with a sound not unlike that of a very large electrical switch as it breaks a circuit, the studio went completely black. Upon opening my eyes wider to overcome the inky blackness I saw the first hint of dawn coming through my bedroom window, and with a song in my heart and a smile on my face for my many happy memories, reality returned. With a feeling of great joy and satisfaction I realized that my fellow workers and I were privileged to have participated in these wonderful productions and to have been a part of television in its Golden Age.

Humming the song "I Don't Want To Grow Up", I started to turn over for the luxury of another dream when I noticed my pillow. There, with the unmistakable luster of gold, lay a thin, granular coating of "Fairy Dust". Hey guys and girls, "What can I tell you?" - "You Gotta Believe." □

Frank O'Keefe and wife,  
Dotty, live in Margate, FL



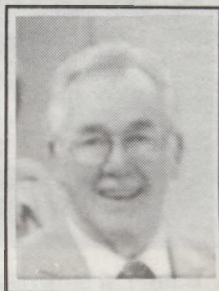


## HIGH TECH GUY GOES HIGHER

PN received a letter from Bill Miller (of Brooklyn maintenance fame). Bill now lives in Port Charlotte, FL, and write - in part...

"Things are all OK here, main hobby now being amateur satellite communications. Have extensive antennas for 2 meters, 455 mhz, and 2305 ghz operations. Antennas are computer controlled and track satellite both azimuth and elevation. This is the new phase of ham radio to come....still hard to believe you can communicate over such extensive distances on these bands.

The Russian Space Station, MIR, call sign ROMIR, makes a number of passes over Florida each day and I have established a voice rapport with Alexander Serebrov the cosmonaut who holds the record for time in space - over one year!! MRI has a robot packet station on board and I started by sending packet messages to it and then one pass Alexander came on voice, which was quite unusual. He had visited in Tampa in November 1992 and made a number of friends and I was able to handle messages between them and Alex. It is a long story but I have been able to handle the traffic. His English is quite good. □



Bill Miller

## Sarasota Herald Tribune: December 12, 1993

Comment Column by Ernest Ernst

### Ham links up bear and his buddy

**D**id you hear the story about the bear and the ham? Here's how the ham tells it: Alexander Serebrov, a Russian cosmonaut, wanted to reach T. Wendell Butler in Washington, D.C.

Butler and a nonprofit organization arrange for astronauts to talk to school classes across the country. Serebrov intended to talk to a class in Seattle.

There was this slight problem, though. Serebrov was more than a phone call away from Butler. He was on duty, 200 miles up, orbiting Earth every 92.38 minutes in the Mir space station.

That's where KK2L came in. KK2L belongs to Bill Miller, 77. It's his radio call letters, sort of like a CB handle, only the Federal Communications Commission assigns it.

Miller is the ham, one of 150 or so in the Charlotte County Amateur Radio Society. Miller's always been that way about radio. When he was 12, he built crystal sets. By 16, he had his FCC commercial license.

Miller spent most of his career at NBC in New York. In 1980, he retired as technical supervisor of the soap opera "Another World," which, Miller says, "is still on and the story's just the same."

Before he moved to Port Charlotte in 1986, Miller sold his 32-foot charter fishing boat. He didn't relinquish his radio hobby.

Miller has ridden the airwaves to places all over the globe. It took a computer, though, to connect the ham with the outer space bear.

Miller has computers. Nothing fancy, just a couple of IBM clones. He bought one used, for \$250. The other cost about \$1,500.

That, the radio equipment and a software program that sells for about \$50 turned an 11-by-11-foot room at Miller's home into a miniature NASA control center. The software tracks satellites by showing where a satellite or space station should be, given the variables fed into the computer.

The computer screen shows the Earth, each country a different color. A satellite appears as a white dot in the center of a circle. The circle is known as a "footprint." With the right atmospheric conditions and the right equipment, a person within that footprint on Earth can communicate with a satellite.

Apparently, there's time to kill in space. After travelers such as Serebrov finish their chores and tire of riding exercise bikes from Australia to Florida, they while away the hours talking to people on terra firma, people such as Miller.

So, one day in May, as Miller's home came into the Mir's footprint, he aimed his 80-watt, directional antenna at the space station and sent a computer message. To his surprise, he got a response. It was Serebrov, and he asked if Miller could call Butler for him. Miller did. It turns out Butler is a friend of the cosmonaut. He taught him passable English during a visit in Moscow.

Since then, the ham and the bear have talked a number of times. They call each other by first names. Just this week, Serebrov asked Miller if he could reach another friend, syndicated columnist Jack Anderson.

Serebrov's tour ends Jan. 14. Afterward, Miller hopes, the cosmonaut will visit acquaintances in Tampa, where the two can meet, or, as the ham puts it, "have an eyeball."



referred to the, "Burning down of OLD TESTAMENTS." At the close of the show, John Dorsey stood up and announced for all in the control room, "Thanks be to GOD the MESS is ended," and even I, a non Catholic, knew the word should be MASS. John Dorsey always had a great sense of humor. □

Ken Arber lives in Boynton Beach, FL



## HAVE A FRIEND JOIN PEACOCK NORTH

**It is only through  
your dues that we  
are able to bring you  
this newsletter.**

## I DON'T WANT TO GROW UP. . by Frank O'Keefe

My wife Dotty and I spent a wonderful afternoon chatting and dining with our good friends and retired NBC co-workers, Don Mulvaney, camera, and Bob Higgins, audio, and their spouses Cay and Gladys. As usual, our conversation was about the good old days and much of the talk centered around the Brooklyn Studios.

Now, after returning home with the warm feeling that only old friends can bring, a remembrance of shows we had worked on at Avenue "M" and 14th Street and a comfortably filled stomach, I drifted off to sleep.

My slumber was soon interrupted by the appearance of a wildly flicker light, which became brighter, as it zoomed erratically all over the room. It finally stopped and hovered high overhead, gaining in intensity, as it stood motionless and gradually it illuminated my surroundings.

Familiar scenery was being moved into place by unseen hands and I found myself transported back in time to the NBC Brooklyn Studios, the home of the Spectaculars and my home away from home for a good part of my working life.

As features of the studios revealed themselves in the ever brightening light, I started to think of the many shows that had originated from here and of all the man hours that were spent in rehearsal and air time.

I was jolted from my reverie, as a burst of energy from the light above, came crashing down to the studio floor and formed a brilliant spotlight. Stepping into that brilliance in the unforgettable role of Peter Pan was Mary Martin. She was sprinkling "Fairy Dust" as she appeared with Wendy, Michael and John in

More →



## GLORIA . . . . . by Bambi

**"LIVE.....FROM.....TOLEDO....."**

the Golden Anniversary of our **"Golden Girl"**  
**Gloria Clyne!**"



**Don Pardo** introduced WNBC-TV News Director **Bruno Cohen** to salute Gloria at her surprise 50th anniversary with NBC at the Toledo restaurant in NYC on March 16, 1994.

Cohen applauded Gloria's WNBC-TV career with the Consumer Unit (a mere two decades of her five!!) and presented her with 50 golden roses.



Gloria.....still in shock from her surprise tribute from **Sue Simmons** and **Mat Lauer** live on WNBC-TV at 5:00P.M, greeted 100 guests with "Oh my God.....  
.....You're here!"...

(shriek, sheak... "I can't believe you came all the way to New York" ..... "Ohhhhh" ....hug, hug, kiss, kiss... "where have you been all these years.... it's SO great to see you." After loving toasts, much applause, laughter and euphoria -

- - Gloria stood on a chair, one golden rose clenched in her teeth, and told us she loved us ... reminded us of the women's movement at NBC ... and gave us her secret for a successful "survival." Her mesmerized audience responded with many cheers, more hugs and kisses and do you remember back in 19~' stories.

The crowd was wonderful. Among those who attended: we had **Gabe Pressman**, **Perri Peltz**, **Magee Hickey**, **Asa Aarons**, and **Carol Jenkins** ~ Gloria's first workmate from the 40's ~ family, friends, neighbors, interns, the Net-desk, and Nightly News alumni, **Les Crystal**, and the "babies" trained by Gloria to go out into the "real (cruel)" world.

Those who couldn't make it sent loving messages ~ **Tom Brokaw**, **Ed Newman**, **Betty Furness**, **Ruven Frank**, (and **Levine Boyle**, **Lord**, **Burrington**, **Bourgholtzer**) (former Bureau Chiefs and correspondents from around the world. And, of course, there was the fabulous 3:00 spot co-produced by **Rita Satz** and **Alan Statsky** ("baby") chronicling Gloria's early and current years at NBC.....her marriage to the handsome young sailor Leonard....



Bambi, a surprised Gloria,  
and husband Leonard Greenberg



...flashbacks to her script clerk days, the Netdesk, Vietnam and political convention days.

We shared great food, great fun, great friendship! But most of all, we shared a great moment in the history of NBC - - one of our pals made it to the top - - half a century at NBC .....

*We love and admire you Gloria*

*(truly our Golden Girl.)* □



Gloria - not yet golden!



Gabe Pressman, Don Meaney, Joan Gifford,  
Lois Marino Enid Roth



Bruce Slone, Katheryn Faulconer, Rick  
Brown, Carol Wendt



(bottom left) Les Crystal,  
(middle) Katherine Powers, Maralyn Shultz,  
Judy Farinet, Bambi, Lois Marino,  
(rear) Jerry Rosholt, Pat Creaghan, Drew  
Phillips, Al Bobbins, Harry Griggs



Alan Statsky , Bambi,  
Gloria, Rita Statz, Magee Hickey

Bambi Tascarella lives in New York City



## REMEMBER WHEN?



*Every room with a view!*

more....at 30 rock

By Dan Grabel

WNBC-tv reporter *John Miller* was "fulfilling a lifelong dream," it is said, in accepting a job as NYPD's Deputy police commissioner for information. The 35 year old reporter took a hefty pay cut from six figures to accept the NYPD job at \$79,000. However, there are some perks, including a car and driver, a staff of 31 civilians and cops, and a speech writer. Now, instead of applying for a press card, Miller's name will be printed on the 7,000 that are provided newsmen. Looks like Miller will get a foot into the door of murder scenes before Gabe! Tabloid news reports on Miller describe him as dining regularly at Elaine's, smoking \$10 cigars, wearing \$2,000 suits, etc. Sounds like the droppings of a manager-press agent but there's probably some truth in it since he was a high salaried bachelor-and a guy's gotta eat somewhere.

And speaking of high visibility jobs, how about *Mary Alice Williams*, she of the sparkling blue eyes. After 25 years in the news business she's become a spokes woman for NYNEX. The company was Williams' first client for her own marketing and communications firm called Ice Blue Productions, and boy does it sound like it in the statements explaining the job. Sez M.A., "I'm furthering the cause of a company because of a higher purpose. This is the technology that will fix a lot of what's broken in our country, etc etc etc." The 44 year old journalist cum pitch-lady says she'll have creative and editorial input in the tv commercials for NYNEX. Yeah, and so will Ogilvy & Mather, the ad agency. But don't get us wrong, we think she was a super reporter. By the way, Mary Alice is the mom of 3 kids and won't be able to use any of the NYNEX services she'll talk about



since she gets Bell Atlantic service in New Jersey.



Mary Alice Williams

In analyzing the Williams assignment, the NY Times recalled that *John Cameron Swayze* did pretty well after he left NBC by shilling for Timex watches ("they take a lickin and keep on tickin"), and *Linda Ellerbee* fronted a campaign for Maxwell House Coffee. I must say I can't recall any of Swayze's news scripts but I sure do remember the Timex catch phrase. I also recall the days when he did his broadcast in the glass-fronted studio on the fifth floor near the building-central elevators. Nicely cut suit jacket, flower in the button hole, complimentary tie and spread-collar shirt, and under the desk - - unseen by the Camel Caravan audience - - a pair of chino trousers!

*John Chancellor* is retired, but not idle. He'll narrate an 18-hour doc on PBS that is being produced by *Ken*

*Burns* (who did "The Civil War"). Jack also is doing some lecturing, is working on another project for PBS and has pinch-hit twice for *Larry King* on CNN. And a nice quote summing up life after NBC - - "My rule of life is to do more and more things for the first time and fewer and fewer things for the last time." Hey, maybe that should go into Bartlett's Quotations?

NBC has signed an agreement with Japan's Nippon TV (NTV), giving NBC access to its material shot in Beijing, Seoul and Tokyo while giving NTV access to NBC's footage from Cairo, Frankfurt and Tel Aviv. *Lucky Sererson* has been named NBC's Tokyo-based Asian correspondent while *Kiko Itaska* (not a household name in Manhattan) will be the Tokyo bureau chief. Sure sounds like a neat way to tighten the News Dept budget as long as we get English titles along with the Nippon Pix.

*John Dancy*, NBC's veteran diplomatic correspondent has been named Moscow correspondent and will take up residence there in June.

*Al Roker*, the local weatherman, is hosting a talk show on CNBC cable. His first guest was right-wing broadcaster *Rush Limbaugh*. More logical, it seems to us,

were those to follow: *Conan O'Brien*, *Don Imus*, and actor *Yaphet Kotto*. That trio would seem more in Roker's league. A one-on-one talk show really is a true test of an interviewer's mettle - especially when the host runs out of questions prepared by the writer and has to do some probing.

*Gayle Gardner*, the first woman to do network play-by-play major league baseball, has gone to pots and pans. She's hosting a show on TV Food Network.

Two names from the past cropped up the other day. We got a phone call from newswriter *Joe Coggins* who is now ensconced on the Jersey shore at Bayhead, and if you don't know where that is, as I didn't its near Point Pleasant. Joe is a ripe 65, enjoys the new perks of senior citizenship, has done a bit of traveling including a trip to London last year. Since leaving NBC he has written five books, -oh you always knew Joe was a bookmaker? What subjects would be grist for this former NBC radio producer? His topics include New Jerseys Pinelands, the ballet, memories of a trip around the United States, and one on Vietnam. The second old name is that of *Rick Ballard*, who was a long time writer on



"Today". Joe said they'd be meeting for lunch at the Players' Club in Gramercy Square.

"*Little Lord Freddie*," is the title of a new musical about and by some one-time NBCers. Freddie is the late child actor *Freddie Bartholomew*, who worked in New York as a tv director in the 1950s and 60s, first at WPIX and later at NBC where he directed "As the World Turns," and other soapers. His childhood story is being created as a musical by announcer-author *Guy LeBow*, an NBC radio alumnus. Guy is collaborating with composer-lyricist *Ronnie Britten*, (winner of 7 ASCAP awards and for his "Greenwich Village Follies" the American Musical Theater Award for "Best Show of the Year"), producer choreographer *Wayne Clark*, and getting help on the book from *Barbara Carlin*.

It will be déjà vous all over again for cable viewers when the VHF networks get their new cable channels into operation thanks to the FCC wind-fall decision which ordered cable nets to compensate ABC, CBS, NBC and Fox for retransmission rights. Three of the four, excluding CBS at this time, have developed new cable properties, so there's a prospective bonanza in view for the nets, and the expectation of re-runs for the viewers.

NBC's new channel will be called "America's Talking," (which seems grammaritically incorrect) and it will be on the air July 4th with former political adviser *Roger Ailes* at the helm. Ailes is not all politician since he was in broadcasting earlier in his career and he also manages CNBC. The déjà vous aspect will be principally at Fox, which will call its new cable effort FX. Half of its programming will be oldies like "Hart to Hart," "Fantasy Island," and "Mission Impossible." No complaint from elderly actors, who will now see more residual payments in their pockets. "America's Talking" studio will be at Ft. Lee, New Jersey, and will offer 14 hours of daily talk shows. The operation is now beating the bushes for show hosts - - hoping to find another Oprah or Donohue. After accomplishing that, all they'll need to put them in the black is a faithful audience! What with 75 channels almost filled on our local Westchester cable op, the audience will be widely split. It may seem that Mission Impossible will become an exclamation, not a show title, and will result in many going out of business.

*Neil S. Braun*, the chairman of Viacom Entertainment, has been named president of the NBC television network. He replaces *Pierson Mapes* who ended almost 25 years

with NBC by announcing early retirement. Citing Mr. Braun's 15 years of experience in the entertainment and television business, Robert Wright, president of NBC, said the network was the company's "most important asset" and that "the network president position should be a highly visible one."

*Richard Brescia*, formerly vice president of NBC Enterprises, which no longer exists, is now vice president of marketing for a publisher who puts out a "Viewer's Guide to the Olympic games." The slick 42 page magazine describes the venues, the competitions, and the names to watch for. Major corporations use it as a promotional give-away with their own names on the cover. The Lillehammer book was published in connection with CBS, and at the time of this writing, Brescia's group was contemplating an alliance with NBC for the summer games in Atlanta. The venture has been on-going since 1984 and previewed the names in L.A., Seoul, Albertville, etc. I'm told NBC Enterprises was doing \$40- million a year profit when GE decided it wasn't enough and dissected the operation. □

Retired NBC newswriter Dan Grabel lives in Scarsdale, NY



# Disney MGM Studio's Present the first NBC Network Pioneers Seminar. . . . . Ed Meyer writes:

"I was a former NBC engineer and NABET member for 22 years. I'm now with Disney MGM Studios Entertainment Department.

I was honored to organize the first NBC Network Pioneers Seminar, March 16, 1994, in Orlando Florida. The first group of honored guests were: Walter Vetter, Allen Potter, Roger Tuttle, O. Tamburri, Arthur Kent, Lee Carlton, Marcia Kuyper Schneider, Frank Schneider, and Harry Katzman.

The seminar was given to all Walt Disney World employees. Discussions were broad in scope, covering the start of television and the excitement of doing "live" broadcasts in the early days. The attendees enjoyed the wealth of knowledge presented to them by the invited guests.

It is my hope to continue programs like this to preserve the "Quality and Class" we all remember from the days of "Live TV." □



←  
Ed Meyer, with mike,  
Lee Carlton, Arthur Kent  
&, Roger Tuttle,  
Walter Vetter, Mickie,  
O. Tamburri, Marcia hiding  
behind Pluto, and ?

Want more info? Call or write:  
Ed Meyer, 7408 Sparkling Lake  
Road, Orlando, FL 32819.  
Home: Phone: 407-352-2289

## Nipper and His Master's Voice

PN member Milt Wyatt writes, in part:

Nipper goes back to the turn of the century when artist Francis Barraud painted a picture he titled "His Master's Voice". Barry Owen, son of a New Bedford whaling captain, "a typical high-pressure American Business man go-getter" (Quote from "The Music Goes Round" by Fred Gaisberg. Memoirs of his career from the beginning of the Gramophone industry before the 20th century.) Owen purchased the painting for the British Gramophone Company.

Eldridge R. Johnson, founder of the Victor

Talking Machine Company, died in 1945. His obituary states that he perfected a motor that was ideal for the crude phonographs being manufactured at the time and that "Determined to perfect the gadget, he persuaded three others to backed his efforts. Together they devised the firm's trademark - a fox terrier listening to a phonograph with the caption, "His Master's Voice."

When the Victor Talking Machine Company was sold to RCA, the trademark went with it. So it was used on both sides of the Atlantic. The English company, at that time, was called "His Master's Voice." □

Milt lives in NYC



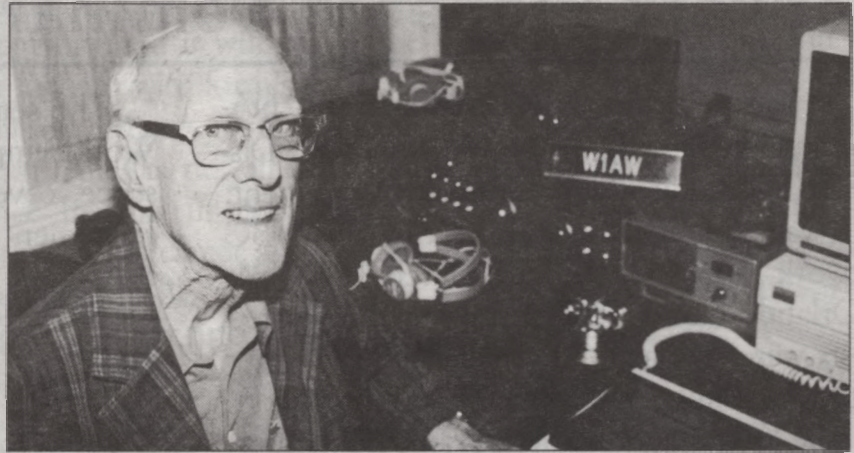
### Still Active at 91 Years Young

In the lobby of ARRL Headquarters is a December 16, 1901 issue of the *New York Journal* proclaiming Guglielmo Marconi's first transatlantic radio message (which actually took place on December 12, 1901). When that historic paper hit the streets of New York, the gentleman shown above, Hal Campbell, W2IP, had already come into the world—on November 27, 1901, to be exact. He recently made a return visit to Headquarters and to W1AW.

The first QST in Hal's collection is from December 1916, and he's been an ARRL Member continuously ever since (put away your calculator—that's nearly 77 years!).

Hal was licensed as 1ABW for a few weeks in 1917, before amateurs were taken off the air for WWI. He used a spark coil and galena detector. He was issued the call sign 1IV after the war, and signed that and later W1IV, until moving to New York and being issued W2IP in 1931. "Someone already had W2IV, so the radio inspector gave me the closest thing he had."

Hal attended Trinity College in Hartford in 1925 and '26, "but I spent more time at ARRL Headquarters than in class," he admits. He knew ARRL founder Hiram Percy Maxim, W1AW, and other early staff members. In fact, Hal interviewed for a job at ARRL HQ.



Hal Campbell, W2IP, during a July visit to ARRL Headquarters and W1AW. (photo by James Cain, K1TN)

After helping build an AM station in Bridgeport, Connecticut, Hal went to work for NBC in 1928, a company he retired from in 1966.

On May 5, 1962, when Navy Cmdr Alan B. Shephard Jr landed in the Atlantic after becoming the US's first spaceman,

Hal Campbell, working the NASA beat for NBC, was on board to welcome him back to earth.

Hal lives in Mt Vernon, New York, and is still active on the air, especially on the Russian RS-10 satellite.—K1TN

Another ex-NBC'er goes HIGH TECH. (see Miller, pg 33). Hal Campbell spent most of his NBC career in Radio Field Operations. In the early days you got your cues from transmission by Morse Code. (QST Magazine Sept, 1993)

## An Artist in Our Midst

If you've wondered about the pictures on Pages 30, 31, and 32, read on ---

Marcel Thienpont writes:

When I retired, Helen May was sure that I'd have time to paint several scenes a week! Well, as it turns out, there are so many things going on, that with luck, five or six works per year actually get done. None the less, they do accumulate over the years and now the place is littered with them.

The Poconos and Delaware Water Gap offer many scenic

opportunities for painters. However, since we both love to hike, we spend more time hiking up and down those hills, than painting them. I prefer to paint on location, but also have an extensive collection of photographs taken during our travels to Europe, Canada, the eastern U.S. to provide the inspiration. I'll save them for my old age! Winston Churchill, who also painted as a hobby, opined that painting was an activity that one could enjoy until the end, or almost the end, of one's days.

Helen May has a dandy

hobby to occupy her while I paint. She makes dolls, actually impersonations, of family members. We now have a collection of dolls representing our four sons, three daughters-in-law and six grandchildren, plus various miscellaneous characters. Some of the dolls get to sit for my still life compositions. I have also painted some recognizable portraits of family members. Hey, there's an endless source of subjects to paint! (Please read that last sentence back to me, whenever you hear me complain that there's just nothing around to paint!). Currently, I am working on a series



of smaller paintings of the scenery we marvelled at, last October, in and around Sedona and the Grand Canyon, in Arizona; and Zion, Bryce and Arches National Parks, in Utah. Red rock spectacular! Also of the Animas River Valley from Durango to Silverton, in Colorado. Fantastic! They deserve larger canvases, but then more of them get done, if the paintings are small. I have also tried my hand at some abstract and contemporary works. That's the time some field mice got in to my studio, took a look around, and then proceeded to chew the bristles (pig bristles) off some of my oil painting brushes. That was their earnest critique of my work!

Some of my works have been exhibited with local art groups in Pennsylvania and on Long Island. I have also contributed paintings to the American Cancer Society and Long Island Youth Guidance for their fund drive auctions.

All our friends at Peacock North are welcome to stop in, visit, and see some of our paintings and the dolls. You may also enjoy the contemporary works, in spite of the negative opinions of those mice. (We got rid of them!) (the mice). We also have a collection of works by other artists from this region that you will love. Just give us a call when you are in the Stroudsburg area.

Helen May and I have enjoyed reading the Peacock North newsletter, it's a great paper! Our thanks, admiration and congratulations to all of you who work so diligently to make it a reality. □

Marcel & Helen May Thienpont  
live in East Stroudsburg, PA  
Marcel is a retired Audio Engineer

Marcel and  
Helen May



Tranquility Meadow - Oil 24 x 36



Corner of Marcel's Studio

Page 30 - Summer Afternoon, Caroga Lake - Oil, 16 x 20

Collection of Mr & Mrs John Bohlander

Page 31 - Red Fox Farm, East Stroudsburg, PA - Oil, 16 x 20

Mr & Mrs Norbert Johnson

Page 32 - Rainbow Dancers, Oil, 30 x 30

Collection of Prof. & Mrs Rudolph Bell



## Pardo - Clyne Feted by NBC

Two legends at 30 Rock - announcer Don Pardo, and consumer affairs major domo Gloria Clyne were honored for their half century of service to NBC and WNBC with a party May 3rd. Two hundred guests mingled in NBC's legendary studio 8H and heard Don's brief remarks ("Its been a short 50 years. I am truly touched.") and Gloria's folksy rambling in which she described the event as "This is my Emmy." CEO Bob Wright, and WNBC-TV president Bill Bolster presented the pair with one thousand dollar gift certificates. □



Don Pardo, Bob Wright, Gloria, and Bill Bolster

## DISASTER . . . . . or - My First Directing Job . . .

by Frank R. Vierling

It was a "dark day" for a few of us in the Long Island City mobile unit garage. The date was July 7, 1951. Time: shortly after 1 PM. Five of us were "brown bagging" it in the field office. Ed Costello, our Group 6, was at the Long Island City "Hurley's" on the corner. We all wondered, aloud, how soon Ed would let us go home? The morning had been busy "figure-eighting" stacks of camera and audio cables, sweeping out trucks, checking camera cases, and other chores needed to keep the mobile units ready to roll. We were ready to call it a day.

WPAT was playing soft music - there was a pause..... "We interrupt our program for a news bulletin." Propane tanks had exploded at the Warren Petroleum Company's 80 acre tank farm in Port Newark. As many as 30 blasts..... eleven people injured.....explosion felt and seen for 20 miles. 400 fire fighters and 100 pieces of equipment responded. The heat was so intense they couldn't approach closer than a quarter of a mile. Three fireboats from New Jersey, two from New York were the first to fight the fire. (NEW YORK TIMES, July 8, 1951)

Like Mark Twain, I can remember things that didn't happen much better than things that did, but the rest of the day went much like this: Only Frank Gibbs (where is he today?), can dispute what I write..... If we were lucky and had "line-of-sight" to the RCA building (needed for the microwave), we could get live pictures back to Radio City. It would be a first! I suggested we go to Port Newark and try our luck. Les Whitehead and Art Goodby could man the RCA roof microwave receiver.....George Madge would operate the power generator (it needed constant adjustment to hold the necessary 60 cycles) This was *BC - Before Color*. I could do video and microwave, Frank Gibbs would be the cameraman (this was his first day on the job), and if we could get telephone lines, and if a reporter could be sent from Radio



City, Ed Costello could TD and do audio.

We loaded Unit 1A while Madge went to get Ed. All was ready to roll when they returned. Ed ok'd our plan and called TV master control to let them know what we were up to, and that we were on our way.

Smoke was thick as we crossed the Pulaski Skyway bridge, it guided us to the fire. Madge, an ex-policeman, talked us through the police lines. We were halted by firemen within sight of the flames and could feel the intense heat.

We worked at double speed. This was what live television was all about - "*vision at a distance.*" The generator came up to speed, Gibbs and I set up the microwave and camera on the truck roof. Gibbs had never done camera. I checked him out on the old field zoom lens. Costello went to look for a telephone we could tap into for a PL and audio line back to RC, or maybe he could find a Telco man, they usually show up at disasters in case cables are cut or lines are down.

Microwave requires the transmitter and receiver dishes (antennas) be in line-of-sight and perfectly aligned in order to put through a usable picture. With nothing visible, but smoke, and no means of talking to the RCA roof, it was guesswork where to aim the dish. We were on a road parallel to Newark Bay, I assumed, therefore, as I panned the dish, I thought the RCA building should be about..... THERE!...LOCK IT! I sure hoped Costello could find a telephone for communications. Back in the truck, I fired the gear, scanned the camera without a test pattern, and made a picture. I turned on the "off air" monitor to stave off boredom - the horse races were on, NBC had a crew there. I called up to Gibbs on the roof to take a break. It would probably be a long wait. But, he wanted to practice with the zoom and camera. As I ducked back into the truck NBC was interrupting the races with a "News Bulletin." The announcer described the explosion.....an NBC mobile unit was on the way to the scene....viewers would have "live" coverage as soon as possible. ("don't hold your breath.") With that, up came our picture! I couldn't believe it! "Your on the air!," I yelled up to Frank. I could see the whole

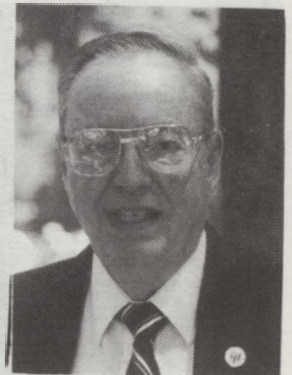
scene, so I shouted directions, "Pan right to the firemen ....zoom in (I can still see the firemen in silhouette against the intense white of the flames). "Widen.....pan left to the smoke and flames.....go in on the fire engines.....pan up, follow the water stream." The studio announcer followed our picture. It was an exciting moment. I don't imagine we were on for more than a few minutes, — that was my first, and last directing job.

We had been "off" for a time when Costello returned. He didn't find a telephone or Telco man. "No chance that we'll get on the air, but it was a good try!," he said We had a hard time convincing him we had *already been "on air."*

Here the memory fails. I think we eventually got audio lines , and were on the air again. I do know that Costello did some fast talking to get a dirty, smoky, tired bunch of us checked into Newark's ("posh", at that time) Robert Treat Hotel late that night, or was it early the next morning.

That, I believe, was the first "live" disaster pickup in TV history. (Don't correct me if I'm wrong.) I do know it was the luckiest microwave "shot-in-the-dark" ever. And it wasn't long after that that we covered three plane crashes at Newark Airport in the space of a few months. *It was 1951 - this was the beginning of "live" TV disaster coverage.* □

Frank Vierling spent 18 years in TV Field, another 6 in Studio Ops plus 10 years in TV Master Control. He lives in Oradell, NJ, with wife Lois. Frank now publishes this PN newsletter.



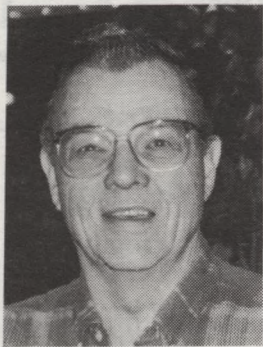
### **Note - Note - Note - Note**

**Nothing is firm yet, but hope we can have a Mini/Maxi lunch/brunch in the fall. Stay tuned.**



## NBC Florida Retirees (NBCFR) Hold 10th Annual Reunion

By Jerry Cudlipp



Jerry

As is our habit, Nancy and I took off by auto on March 9 heading south for the NBCFR reunion in Orlando Florida. Of course, there was tons of snow still on the ground plus we departed in a formidable sleet and ice storm. We went by way of the Chesapeake Bay Bridge Tunnel which is truly an engineering marvel. We made a short stop at Williamsburg and then on to Orlando for the big retiree's reunion.

The early bird cocktail party was in full swing when we arrived at the Clarion Hotel in Orlando. It was

great to see all the old friends again. We capped off the cocktail party with a most enjoyable dinner with Walter and Doris Vetter, Bill and Louise Hildreth, and Roger and Pat Tuttle.

Next day (Tuesday March 15) a one hour reception followed late comer registration. The reunion banquet starting at 1 PM. The food was great but the company better. All present seemed to be having a magnificent time. Everyone received an attractive porcelain coffee mug with the NBC logo and inscribed: "NBCFR 10th Annual Convention." In addition, a number of lucky attendees won some very nice door prizes.

It indeed was an eventful reunion, rekindling fond memories and warm fellowship with "old" friends. □

Jerry is a former NBC TD and Technical Supervisor.  
Jerry and wife, Nancy, live in Old Tappan, NJ



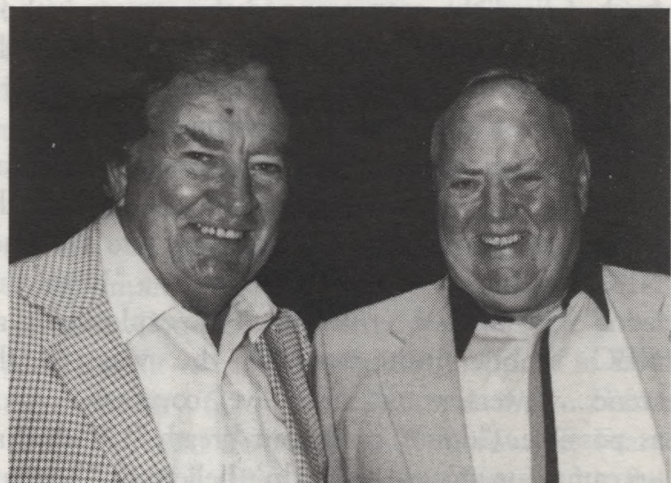
Arnie Dick  
Gary Iorio



Walt Vetter keeps things going.



Nancy Cudlipp, Sophie Werner



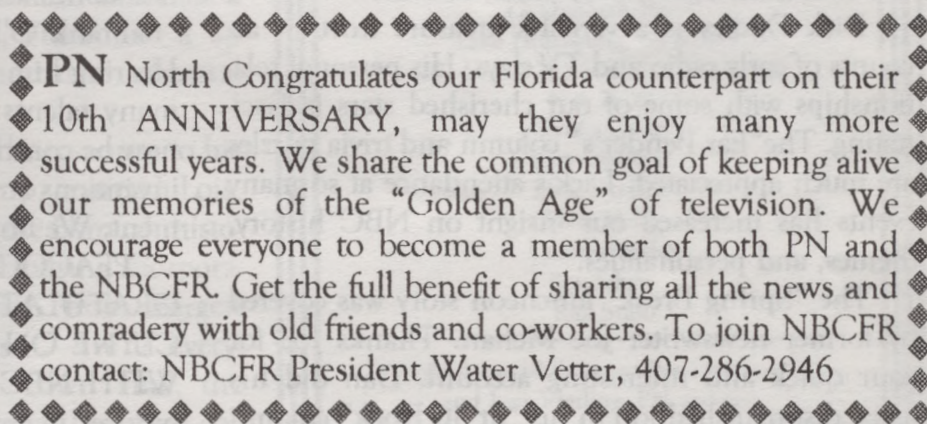
Bob Higgins, Arnold Rand

More NBCFR →

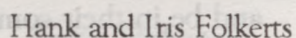
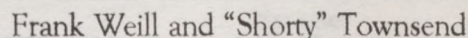




Millie and Ed Stolzenberger, like the pink bunny they keeps going and going.....



Lee Carlton



Ed Taffe reports via the Ham Net that "Shorty" passed away. Melvin Townsend was a NY NBC TV engineer. A fun guy, he will be missed.



## A MESSAGE FROM PETE PETERSON:



This edition of Peacock North is packed with many personalized stories. Some of it becomes a bit like reading TV history. Our contributors have been generous in sharing anecdotes detailing some reflected experiences. They rekindle thoughts and events of our "busy years" at NBC.

Dick Dudley is a veritable treasure trove of accounts of early radio and TV days. His personal relationships with some of our cherished stars is fascinating. The "Ear Bender's" column and trivia puzzles are much appreciated. Dick's attendance at so many events has increased our insight on NBC history, themes, and personalities.

The "Spring Break" luncheon story was covered by former newswriter Joe Mehan. Thanks Joe for your quick and interesting account. Dan did his usual distinguished job in his "at 30 Rock" column and other articles before he departed for Europe. He's vacationing in Portugal and Spain to see if the rain really falls on the plain.

Every year our luncheons prove their importance and desirability. Attendees appear joyously happy in getting together, mostly, and importantly, for sharing news, reviewing the past, and just being blessed by "being there." For those who haven't had the opportunity to be at one of our get-togethers - try to get to the next affair - share the company of old friends.

It is with great regret that our Silent Microphone column includes so many of our old friends and coworkers, and luminaries who have touched our lives through our years in tv. We deeply regret each loss.

H. Ripp put together 13 pages of his "PN People" column from bits of news and pictures members include with their dues. He has a gift of assembling the minutest material into interesting copy. It's all about "What's Happening" recently with our

members. Thanx Ripp for your newsy column.

Ken's Korner is the enjoyable proof that an active mind can recall even the remotest details of happenings decades ago. If Ken had been on Noah's Ark, we might know which animals were smiling or which were discontented with a sea voyage, or if Noah had freckles. We well remember the fun of working with J.K.M. McCaffery. (You never told us what K.M. stood for?!) Thank you Ken (age 80+) for your recollections. Ken has moved from NJ to Florida - we hope he will continue to provide us with these clear as a bell stories. (Ken's dad was responsible for the fountains we enjoy surrounding Prometheus' statue and the Channel Gardens. Ken has stories about that, too.)

Frank O'Keefe has a big beautiful tenor voice! Hearing him sing was always a pleasure. A man of many talents and gifts. We have read his poetry, now he contributes his prose for our enjoyment. His inventions are sincere expressions with positive comment. We hope more will follow.

PEACOCK NORTH'S MEMBERSHIP CONGRATULATE DON PARDO AND GLORIA CLYNE ON THEIR GOLDEN ANNIVERSARY WITH NBC. What an achievement! Stories and pictures in this edition convey only some of the excitement and tributes paid to them And, it's only the *first fifty!* We wish them many more years with NBC, as neither intends to retire.

Technical activity by two of our retired engineers is manifest by the skill and perseverance in the letter and story about good friend Bill Miller, and article about old timer Harold Campbell. Both pioneers in early radio and electronics making contributions we enjoy today as part of our everyday acceptance of communication systems. Our NBC Ham radio net is alive and keeps that area of interest active. (I'm on the air at least once a week - W2UPZ)

Marcel Thienpont is a quiet, steady, tried and true, competent, - one of the most reliable audio engineers any network ever had - and the perfect gentleman. In retirement he continues his artwork which is terrific, and he so underplays anything he has ever done! It's a treat to see his and Helen May's work, and be in their company.

And now about our new publisher: it is hard to



follow in the footsteps of Heino Ripp, his tremendous effort and superb publishing work over the past 5 years has been phenomenal. A record we can only hope to equal. Fortunately Frank Vierling volunteered to relieve Ripp of most of the publishing responsibilities. A few years ago Frank was given a discarded computer. Last month he upgraded his system, and with a new publishing program, to master in a few days, he has composed this issue.

I have known Frank for many years. There was a time we were together on the U.S. Treasury building roof in Washington, back in the days of Dave Garoway's "Wide, Wide, World" show. We were to "track" a train with microwave as it moved through the city. We had a pile of gear that would have taken me a month of Sunday's to assemble. But, Frank had it up and running in short order for the next days rehearsal - it, and the show came off perfectly.

Then, of course, he is resourceful. In response to his community of Oradell (born, grew up, married Lois, and raised their children there). He is the borough historian, and a member of the Senior Housing Corporation. Last year he received a citation from Bergen County for "outstanding volunteerism." He is everywhere when I phone him, at the Town Hall, the mayor's office, or working on the library's historical collection, giving history talks to the Brownies, or school classes. Now he has taken on all the household chores, his dear wife has been diagnosed as having Alzheimer's.

When Ripp wanted relief from some of his PN duties, I asked Frank if he could help us out. Well, you are reading his answer. Thanks Frank, on behalf of all our PN members, for this superb paper.

I am in awe of the number of really talented people we had working at NBC throughout those Golden Years of television. This edition helps to tie together the feeling of that excellence for all to remember. I find it a little discomfoting that today there are no Old RCA/NBC heads of our industry to acknowledge those marks of achievement.... But I know, as you know.....WE WERE THERE!.

Please send in Your stories and pictures, recount those moments of great happenings in TV. (Or even just what happened in the office!)

Regards, *Pete Peterson*

## Peacock North Staff

Peter Peterson, C.E.O.  
30 Ann Arbor Place  
Closter, NJ 07624  
201-768-1009 - Fax 201-768-8727

◆ ◆ ◆ ◆  
Frank Vierling  
494 Prospect Avenue  
Oradell, NJ 07649  
201-261-3669

◆ ◆ ◆ ◆  
Dan Grabel  
31 Cohawney Road  
Scarsdale, NY 10583  
914-723-8625

◆ ◆ ◆ ◆  
Heino Ripp  
12 Elizabeth Place  
Lake Hopatcong, NJ 07849  
201-663-2929 - Fax 201-663-4113

◆ ◆ ◆ ◆  
Gloria Clyne  
Jerry Cudlipp  
Dick Dudley  
Tony Nelle  
Dolores Parylak  
Roy Silver  
Rita Stipo

◆  
And special thanx to Peg Peterson  
and Lois Vierling, PN widows.

## Peacock North

30 Ann Arbor Place  
Closter, NJ 07624

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

At NBC from \_\_\_\_\_ 'til \_\_\_\_\_

Spouse  
Dept \_\_\_\_\_ Name \_\_\_\_\_

New Member ☐ Renewal ☐

Dues \$20 Per Year

Make Checks payable to Peacock North  
Open to NBC Employees with 25 Years or more.



# Pictures From Our Archives .....



**1952 Democratic National Convention (Stevenson)  
Chicago Stock Yard Inn.**

John Norell checks out a "Beer Mug" radio mike.  
Les Whitehead on camera.  
Frank Gibbs on Unit 1P  
roof, ladder man unknown.

**Eisenhower Inauguration  
1953**

NBC was there with our new Cadillac custom fitted to be included in the inaugural parade. We don't recognize the crew members.



**Peacock North  
30 Ann Arbor Place  
Closter, New Jersey  
07624**



**First Class Mail**